

# THE SCOPE

A publication of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

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### **Year of the Water Dragon: Predictions suggest an ever growing need for microbiologists**

Joan B. Rose, President of the Michigan Branch of the American Society of Microbiology

Hello Fellow

Microbiologists. Well, 2012 is upon us and as some of you may know this is the Year of the Water Dragon. According to Paul Ng who makes global predictions this could be a busy year for microbiologists.

The "analysis of world climate" has suggested to Mr. Ng that there will be more earthquakes and volcano eruptions (not sure what that has to do with climate but oh well) and fire disasters (drought and lightning) floods and thunderstorms. Thus microbiologists should be prepared for displacement of people into shelters where microbiologically safe water and food, as well as sanitation and hygiene (hand washing) facilities will be needed. The contamination of beaches and drinking waters due to rain and

flooding will need more monitoring and this may mean more beach closures and more boil water orders for communities.

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### Corporate Partners

- BD Diagnostics
- Corning
- Coy Laboratory Prod.
- Dot Scientific
- EMD
- Emergent
- Fisher Scientific
- Hardy Diagnostics
- Innovative Solutions
- Jade Scientific
- Mager Scientific
- Midwest Scientific
- Morton Publishing
- NSF International
- Pall Life Sciences
- Pfizer Animal Health
- Promega
- Remel
- Sigma Aldrich
- USA Scientific
- Whatman

# Extremophiles on Earth and Beyond

March 23-24, 2012, Central Michigan University

## Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:00 –8:00 pm	Student Mixer/Reception	<b>The Brass Café and Saloon</b> 128 S. Main Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Board Dinner	<b>Camille’s on the River</b> 506 W. Broadway Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

## Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

7:45-8:45 am	Breakfast and Registration	EHS Building Lobby
8:50 - 9:00 am	Introduction and Welcome	French Auditorium
9:00 - 10:00 am	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> <b>Deric Learman, Ph.D.</b> Institute of Great Lakes Research, Central Michigan University <b>"Bacterial production of reactive oxygen species and its environmental implications on redox metal cycling"</b>	French Auditorium
10:00 - 11:00 am	Poster/Vendor viewing Coffee break	EHS Building Lobby
11:00 - 12:00 pm	<b>Student Speakers</b>	EHS Building Lobby
12:30 - 1:15 pm	Lunch and Business Meeting	EHS Building Lobby
1:15 – 2:15 pm	<b>Plenary Session 2</b> <b>Tim Lowenstein, Ph.D.</b> Department of Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies, Binghamton University SUNY <b>"Microbes buried alive"</b>	French Auditorium
2:30 – 3:30 pm	<b>Plenary Session 3</b> <b>Melanie Moremile, Ph.D.</b> Department of Biological Sciences, Missouri University of Science and Technology <b>"Are there Martians in Australia?"</b>	French Auditorium
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Board Meeting	EHS 120

More information for the meeting including directions and hotels, can be found online at  
<http://www.mi-asm.org/>

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In his “Analysis of World Health”, upper respiratory diseases will be prominent (we have not heard the last of Bird Flu). However it will be contagious diseases that will cause more problems and foodborne diseases will be on the increase. Norovirus seems to be a good candidate as a cause for all this mayhem and already this year has impacted a number of hospitals and cruise ships, making national news. In Michigan this year has started out with a bang.

By January 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>, cases of gastrointestinal illnesses consistent with norovirus were circulating around Holland and Kent County Health Department had a 3% increase in GI cases with up to 700 in one week. By January 24<sup>th</sup> reports were coming into Muskegon County where Norovirus was confirmed and the disease began spreading across Mid Michigan causing an increase in vomiting and diarrhea. This included Barry County with reports from schools and day care facilities. (<http://www.flutrackers.com/forum/showthread.php?t=179753>). Thus Michigan is seeing a rising and rapid spread of a highly contagious virus which will require clinical and

environmental microbiologists to tackle prevention strategies.

Now back to the predictions:

“Favorable businesses” include education (YES!) and food businesses, especially those targeting weddings (go figure that must be where all the foodborne disease is going to come from). However, “Unfavorable Businesses” include water-oriented businesses, fishing, and travel.

This may all be converging and telling us to watch our Great Lakes carefully this year.

Whatever the year brings us, it is certain to be one full of rewards for those of us belonging to the MI ASM. Within our Branch we have clinical, environmental, and industrial microbiologists. We have those who are dedicated to imparting knowledge about the world of microbiology and those who are learning and bring their youth and enthusiasm to their scientific enquiries. I am looking forward to 2012 and seeing all of you at the Spring

meeting. So fellow microbiologists, get ready for the Year of the Dragon.

[http://www.paulng.com/CM\\_S/uploads/2012-geo.pdf](http://www.paulng.com/CM_S/uploads/2012-geo.pdf)  
*PREDICTIONS FOR 2012*

*(Year of Water Dragon) By Paul Ng Geomancer and Philosopher*

*24 Hyde Park Drive,  
Richmond Hill, Ont, Canada  
L4B 1V1*

## Fall 2011 Awards

### Best Poster

**Jodi Boer**, Michigan State University, graduate  
**Philip Kaseska**, Grand Valley State University, undergrad

**Katelyn McKindles**, U of Michigan-Dearborn, undergrad

### Best Talk

**Elizabeth Cameron**, U of Michigan Medical School, graduate

**Matthew Flood**, U of Michigan-Dearborn, undergrad

**Elected Officers**

- PRESIDENT, Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.edu)
- PRESIDENT- ELECT, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)
- PAST PRESIDENT, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- SECRETARY, Jennifer Hess**, Aquinas College, [hessjen@aquinas.edu](mailto:hessjen@aquinas.edu)
- TREASURER, Alan Hudson**, Wayne State University, [ahudson@med.wayne.edu](mailto:ahudson@med.wayne.edu)
- COUNCILOR, Susan Bagley**, Michigan Technological University, [stbagley@mtu.edu](mailto:stbagley@mtu.edu)
- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Steve Gorsich**, Central Michigan University, [gorsi1sw@cmich.edu](mailto:gorsi1sw@cmich.edu)

**Appointed Officers**

- EDUCATIONAL CHAIR, Kris Baumgarten**, [KBaum11944@aol.com](mailto:KBaum11944@aol.com)
- CORPORATE LIAISON, Michael A. Cohen**, [mbcman@charter.net](mailto:mbcman@charter.net)
- UNIVERSITY and COLLEGE LIAISON, Jeff L. Ram**, Wayne State University, [jeffram@med.wayne.edu](mailto:jeffram@med.wayne.edu)
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- WEBSITE MAINTENANCE, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- ARCHIVE REPRESENTATIVE, Richard Bell**, Macomb Community College, [bellr@macomb.edu](mailto:bellr@macomb.edu)
- COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIAISON, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)

**Board Members-at-large**

- Kris Baumgarten**, Delta College, [KBaum11944@aol.com](mailto:KBaum11944@aol.com)
- Mary Ann Cardani**, UM-Flint (retired), [mcardani@comcast.net](mailto:mcardani@comcast.net)
- Dan Clemans**, Eastern Michigan University, [dclmans@emich.edu](mailto:dclmans@emich.edu)
- Carol Hurlburt**, Lansing Community College, [hurlbuc@lcc.edu](mailto:hurlbuc@lcc.edu)
- Ola Olapade**, Albion College, [oolapade@albion.edu](mailto:oolapade@albion.edu)
- Britt Ranson Olson**, Lake Superior State University, [branson@lssu.edu](mailto:branson@lssu.edu)
- Silvia Rossbach**, Western Michigan University, [Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu](mailto:Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)
- Michael Ryan**, Ferris State University, [ryanm@ferris.edu](mailto:ryanm@ferris.edu)
- Jim VandenBosch**, Eastern Michigan University, [jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu](mailto:jim.vandenbosch@emich.edu)
- Judith Whittum-Hudson**, Wayne State University, [jhudson@med.wayne.edu](mailto:jhudson@med.wayne.edu)

**Student Chapters**

Check them out online, <http://www.mi-asm.org>.  
Most have links to their own websites.

- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University Microbiology Club
- Grand Valley State University Microbiology Club
- Michigan State University Microbiology Club
- Michigan Technological University Microbiology Club
- Tri-Cities Microbiology Club
- University of Michigan - Dearborn
- University of Michigan - Flint
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University

**\*\*\* Student Chapters,  
remember to apply for  
funding to help defray  
costs of attending  
Meetings!**

## Fall Meeting 2012

Plans are in the works for our Fall meeting at ???? in ??????. Can you tell we are still trying to work it out? We'd love to hear from you if you institution would like to host our Fall meeting or if you have suggestions for where our Fall 2012 meeting should be held. Stay tuned for updates at the meeting and on the website.

## Student Info.

*John Geiser*

### Student Chapters

Currently the branch sponsors ten student chapters. This makes us one of the most student-oriented branches that ASM has. The following Schools and Universities throughout the State have student chapters: Michigan Tech, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Michigan State, UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, Wayne State, Delta College and Grand Valley State University. Student chapters are a great place to meet up with like-minded people. If you haven't already checked yours out, please do so; you will not regret it. No chapter

at your school? Then maybe you are the one to begin a new chapter! Contact any board member to learn more about starting your chapter. We would be happy to work with you to make this a possibility.

### Research and Travel awards

Through the generosity of Dr. Philipp Gerhardt and his wife Vera, the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology is able to provide substantial support for student research and travel. The Gerhardt Endowment is used to enhance the microbiology research training of undergraduate and early stage graduate students within the State of Michigan. Information for applying for funding can be found on the branch website, <http://www.mi-asm.org>.

We encourage all of our students to apply for these resources. Feel free to discuss it with any board member or your chapter advisor.

**See you at  
MI-ASM**

## Finance Report

*Alan Hudson*

At last report, our current bank account balance is \$16,296. We have two CD's that are currently collecting interest.

## Videos from Past MI-ASM Meetings Available

*Jen Hess*

All videos of past meetings have been uploaded to our website. To access each video, you will need to use the following password combinations: "MI-ASM Semester Year". For example, the past fall password would be "MI-ASM Fall 2011".

**Board Officer Elections** (cut off and bring with you to the Spring Meeting)

**President-Elect** (1 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Gorish, Central Michigan Univ.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Secretary** (2 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Hess, Aquinas College  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Treasurer** (2 yr. term)

\_\_\_\_\_ John Geiser, Western Michigan Univ.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

If you are interested in nominating yourself or any other faculty/staff member for one of these positions, please contact the [current board officers](#). If you are interested in serving as an appointed officer in one of the many service opportunities, please contact the board as well.