

# American Chemical Society

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**Form:** Part II - Annual Narrative Report **Optional for EZ Submission**

**Organization:** Eastern New York

**Year:** 2006

## A. Activities

Please describe and rank up to ten of your section's activities during 2006. Provide (a) the title of the activity, (b) a one paragraph description of the activity, and (c) an indication if this activity was new in 2006. If you wish to provide details beyond these paragraphs, please do so in Appendix 1.

### Activity #1

a) Title: Why Plastics? (TM)

The Why Plastics?™ program was created and developed by Dr. Yvonne Akpalu to prepare and inspire underrepresented minorities (URM) and economically disadvantaged students to pursue careers in the physical sciences, engineering and technology. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes that lack of access to high-quality science education is a major factor that limits the participation of URM and economically disadvantaged youths in higher education and in the science, engineering and technology workforce. Since its inception, about 100 pre-college students (over 80 % are URM and economically disadvantaged students) from the Capital District and around the U.S. have completed the program and interacted with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's faculty, staff and students (graduate and undergraduate), and Eastern New York (ENY) American Chemical Society (ACS) professionals from industry and government. The ENY local section obtained a grant to conduct an educational program for minority and economically disadvantaged children. Fifteen elementary and middle school children from the Arbor Hill area of Albany participated in the week long after-school program from October 23rd to October 29th, 2007. They were accompanied by three to five volunteer chaperones from the local community every day. Each day began with a short interactive lecture, computer activities, and written exercises on the basics of plastics followed by a laboratory session where the children explored the properties of plastics like viscoelasticity, flow and elastic properties by making foam, slime, studying rubber bands, and spinning nylon fiber. The final day's program took place at the Molecularium in Troy, NY, where the children received certificates and prizes.

Description

(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

### Activity #2

## a) Title National Chemistry Week

National Chemistry Week was kicked off with a day of demonstrations, hands-on experiments, a poster contest and a chemistry magic show on Sunday October 22nd 2006. The event took place in the New York State Museum, against the backdrop of the historic New York State Capitol building. More than 500 area residents and their children attended the day long event and eleven area colleges and companies set up booths. Local colleges that participated were Hudson

Valley Community College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Schenectady County Community College, Siena College, Skidmore College, Union College along with GE Global Research, The Wadsworth Center, the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center and the Society of Women Engineers from Union College. Hands-on experiments and demonstrations included generation of energy and light from solar energy, colors in vegetables, how water is absorbed in diapers, testing the pH of common household items,

making ice cream and constructing engineered structures from spaghetti and marshmallows. There was

a poster contest for elementary and middle school children, based on the theme Your Home Its All Built on Chemistry . The participants enjoyed a chemistry magic show of light, sound and color based on chemistry and chemical reactions. The magicians

were Drs. Jim Cella and Dan Brunelle for GE Research Center. This event was organized by Dr. Yvonne Akpalu

and several members and affiliate groups of the local section.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

**Activity #3**

## a) Title CareerNet

CareerNet is a committee of the Eastern New York ACS local section devoted to helping members advance their careers and find local employment within the Chemical and Chemical Engineering professions. As a self help group, people give each other encouragement

and practical advice about resumes and cover letters,

interviewing techniques and the local job scene.

CareerNet has information about the wide variety of career services offer by the ACS national organization and by other institutions. The committee

has support from the National ACS organization to put

on programs that include mock interview sessions and seminars reviewing job hunting techniques and the local employment scene. Industrial members participate to provide guidance and help to those who

Description are either looking for a job or trying to advance  
(Please limit their careers.

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #4

a) Title: Egbert Bacon Distinguished Service Award

The Egbert Bacon award is given in honor of and named after Dr. Egbert Bacon, who was the secretary of the local section for 62 years, the longest in ACS history. The purpose of the award is to recognize distinguished service to the Eastern New York Section, by an Eastern New York member over a period of years. It may be given to the widow or widower or child(ren) (as appropriate) of the person recognized. The award consists of a plaque and dinner at the meeting when the award is presented. The award was established in 1999 by the Eastern New York ACS Executive Committee. The ENY ACS Section Executive Committee presented the Egbert Bacon Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Harry Garber in recognition of his outstanding service to the Eastern New York Section over a period of many years. Harry has served in a variety of roles within Eastern NY section, and the section was pleased to be able to honor his service

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #5

a) Title: The Undergraduate ACS Experience

A panel discussion was held on October 16, 2006. Many ACS members begin their interaction with the society as undergraduate Student Affiliates, and several local colleges and universities have SAACS chapters. The Union College Chemistry Club has been recognized as either a Commendable or an Outstanding Student Affiliates ACS (SAACS) Chapter in each of the past twelve years, based on their outreach, professional and social activities. What makes for a successful pre-professional club experience? Three officers of the Union College Chemistry Club -- Gordon Carlson '06 (now working at Biomeasure, Inc.), Aaron Phillips '06 (now a graduate student at Tufts) and Sarah Sparks '06 (now a graduate student at Rutgers) -- presented an overview of their academic-year activities, and highlighted the following:  
(1) Outreach to local elementary schools.  
(2) Seizing opportunities to interact with the ENY ACS section: NCW participation, attending meetings & speed networking, and the Undergraduate Research Symposium, held at Skidmore College.

(3) The ACS National Meeting from an undergraduate perspective - or - how all that speed networking paid off!

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #6

a) Title: Focus on Industrial Speakers

One of the major ongoing initiatives of the Eastern New York Section is to involve more industrial members. The plan involved bringing in speakers from local industries with topics that would be of interest both to academia and industrial members. Four of the eight meetings in 2006 involved speakers representing local industries.

January, 2006 Dr. Vinny Sastri from Winovia LLC spoke about Plastics in Medical Devices

March 2006 Dr. Judith Stein from the GE Global Research Center spoke about Why don t Barnacles stick to Silicones?

October 2006 Dr. Steven Bahr from Cyclics Corporation, spoke on Cyclic Thermoplastics Chemistry and Commercial Applications .

November 2006 John Pietrangelo, Registered Patent Agent, Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C, spoke about It Works, but what will it take to Patent it? - An overview of the patenting process with a discussion of changes proposed by the U.S. Patent Office.

Attendance for these meeting did indeed bring in a wide cross-section of members many of whom had not attended a meeting in years. Average meeting attendance for these was about 35 people. We plan to

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph ):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #7

a) Title: Undergraduate Symposium

Students from the local area colleges gave presentations or had posters on their undergraduate/ summer research. The event was held at Skidmore College on March 4, 2006. Dr. Steve Frey organized the event. About 40 students and members attended.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #8

a) Title: 50-Year Members Recognition

Seven members were awarded their 50 ear certificates at an awards and appreciation dinner, held at Skidmore College on May 17th , 2006. The Eastern New York Section was proud to honor the following 50-year members: Ms Therese Ast, Mr. Maryde King, Dr. James Bennett, Dr. Howard Littman, Dr. Joseph Bevak, Dr. William Vullo and Dr. Charles Weick.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #9

a) Title: Speed Networking

Speed networking is a way to meet new colleagues at meetings in an informal setting. Each person is instructed to speak with another meeting attendee for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, the leader blows a whistle, and each person looks for someone else to talk to. This gives everyone a chance to meet more people, and allows for increased and potentially improved networking. Attendees were asked to find someone they do not know to talk to for 10 minutes per round for five rounds. The idea was essentially similar to "speed dating" in which a person is forced, by the set-up of the event, to meet and interact with people they might not otherwise interact with. In the case of the Eastern NY Section, we often had students, faculty and industrial members attending meetings. But commonly, each group would only interact with the people they knew thus limiting the networking opportunities. Additionally, any new members would not generally meet that many other members through shyness or simply lack of opportunity. This even was held in lieu of a speaker for the October ENY local section meeting. The Speed Networking was timed to 10 minutes for each round, followed by exchange of business cards. And there were 5 rounds during the October meeting. The Speed Networking was a phenomenal success, such that one or two rounds have been instituted as part of the general networking time preceding all monthly meetings.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #10

a) Title: March Meeting at the Brew Pub

The meeting was an opportunity to socialize and network amongst local section members. A tour of the brewery was given to the members by the brew master including a crash course on the chemistry of beer making. About 35 members came out for an evening of fun and socializing. The Evans family was in the commercial brewing business for three generations. The original brewery was built in Hudson, NY in 1786 and continued production until prohibition in 1920. Its award-winning ales were known throughout the Northeast and were even exported to England and France. Production levels peaked in 1915 when 65,000 barrels of beer were produced. The brewery bottled its own beer in Hudson at one of the country's earliest bottling facilities (1889). They later expanded and bottled beer at a plant in New York City. The family also produced much of their own malt at the Hudson facility. Neil Evans revives this rich heritage here at The Albany Pump Station. Surviving C.H. Evans Brewing Company memorabilia, including pictures of the old plant, can be seen in the restaurant. Pictures of the Pump Station as it appeared at the turn of the century are also displayed.

Description:

(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

## B. Summary - Overall Section Activities

Please summarize in *1,000 words or less*, the activities of the section in 2006 which have not been already described. Outstanding events should be described in some detail and appropriate attachments included in Appendix 3. Programs described here may be featured in publications produced by the ACS Membership Division and/or at the Local Section Leadership Conferences.

The major activities of the section were the National Chemistry Week and the Why Plastics program. Local section meetings continue to attract a diverse membership and local section meeting attendance has gone up.

## C. Local Section and Chair Goals

**2006 Goal Attainment.** The Local Section Activities Committee strongly encourages local section planning. As a result, the 2006 local section annual report should follow-up on the attainment of goals. Please list the goals you

1. set at the beginning of your term for your section and yourself, and report on the attainment of the goals.

a) **Local Section Goals and Assessment:**

Meeting attendance has gone up in the second half of the year. The National Chemistry week was a big success. We continue to find way in trying to involve more members.

b) **2006 Chair's Goals and Assessment:**

1. Due to the mid-year change of the Chair the Newsletter was not a major focus.
2. Website was rejuvenated using ACS templates and a new webmaster.
3. New section awards not given

**2007 Goals.** (This section should be completed by the 2006 local section chair.) Please list below at least three goals that you and your local section plan to accomplish during your term as local section chair.

a) **2007 Local Section Goals (Include at least three goals):**

1. Continue to involve industrial members in local meeting with local industrial speakers and topics of broad interest
2. Publish a quarterly newsletter
3. Media and community outreach and education

b) **2007 Chair's Goals:**

1. Reactivate newsletter
2. Continue to increase meeting attendance and member involvement
3. Membership survey to better understand member needs
4. Proactive and planned events to local community, schools and improved communication to the local media.

## **D. Suggestions/Concerns**

List any suggestions you have for the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC). How can LSAC specifically help your section?