

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Alabama
Year: 2007

A. Activities

Please describe and rank up to ten of your section's activities during 2007. 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 2007. If you wish to provide details beyond these paragraphs, please do so in Appendix 1.

Activity #1

a) Title: National Chemistry Week

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph): For many years, the section has participated in the NCW program. In addition to NCW theme materials being distributed to numerous metropolitan middle and high schools through the Science In Motion program coordinator, the student affiliate chapters or Chemistry Clubs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), University of Alabama, University of Montevallo, Samford University, and Jacksonville State University conducted a variety of NCW activities that highlighted the NCW theme of The Many Faces of Chemistry on their campuses. Posters received with the NCW materials were posted by affiliate members on the UAB campus.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Host 2007 Chemistry Olympiad Exams

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): In the Spring, the Local Section hosted the local and national exams for the 2007 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. Local exams were taken by one-hundred ninety-eight (198) students from sixteen (16) schools within the local section's geographic area. Nine (9) of these students advanced to the National Exam, which was held on the UAB campus in April and involved a multiple-choice/short exam and an extensive laboratory exercise. Plans are underway for the Alabama Section to host the local and national exams for the 2008 National Chemistry Olympiad.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title: Science Cafe Program

Description
(Please limit): Another new activity in 2007 was the hosting of a Science Café, which was funded by a grant from ACS. Jamy Ard (UAB, Department of Nutrition Sciences) and Craig McClure (UAB, Chemistry Department) organized this and did a presentation on Trans Fats. What's the Big Deal? Another Café meeting is planned in

b) to one paragraph): 2008.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: Annual Awards Meeting

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): The May local section meeting is devoted to recognizing individuals (Teacher of the Year, high school students, university students, etc.) who have received awards and permits members to extend their personal congratulations. Over 70 individuals attended the event this year, which was the largest attendance we have had in a long time.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title: Support HS Science Club for NCW

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): For the first time within the Local Section, a high school group developed an NCW event. The Science Club at the Jefferson County International Baccalaureate (JCIB) School designed, advertised, and hosted a highly interactive NCW event at the Irondale Middle School for approximately 200 students. They requested and received \$500 from the local ACS section to purchase gift bags and materials for the event. This extremely successful event consisted of a 45 minute demonstration show and two 30-minute breakout sessions Polymers, They re Everywhere and Chemical Reactions: BOOM! WOW! EWWW! for the students. The Jefferson County school superintendent and a Birmingham News reporter were in attendance, which resulted in a short article and picture for the eastern section of the newspaper.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Statewide Undergrad. Research Symposium

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): For the third year, the Alabama, North Alabama, Wilson Dam, and Auburn Local Sections jointly co-sponsored with the Alabama Academy of Science a Statewide Chemistry Undergraduate Research Symposium in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Academy. Such a symposium provides undergraduates with the opportunity to present their scholarly work in a non-threatening environment, facilitates interaction between chemistry majors from numerous Alabama campuses, provides valuable experience in oral and poster presentations, promotes undergraduate research, and demonstrates the connection between research and education. All papers and posters are judged, monetary awards are presented at the banquet, and abstracts are published in the Academy journal. Award winning presentations/posters are invited to publish these as papers in the Academy journal. The

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

Symposium has been a great success and the 4th annual event in March 2008 will involve all five Local Sections in the state (Mobile Local Section was joined the co-sponsorship).

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title:

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title:

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title:

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title:

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

B. Summary - Overall Section Activities

Please summarize in *1,000 words or less*, the activities of the section in 2007 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.

2007 was a very successful year for the Alabama ACS Local Section with the following comprising our activities:

- " National Chemistry Week Programs
- " Supported a High School Science Club s NCW Outreach Event
- " Awards Meeting
- " Travel Grant Program for Undergraduates
- " Chemistry Olympiad Exam Host
- " Science Café Program
- " Teacher of the Year Program
- " New Web Site Initiated for the Local Section
- " Receipt of an LCAS Innovative Project Grant

" Jointly sponsored with three other ACS Local Sections in Alabama and the Alabama Academy of Science, a statewide Undergraduate Chemistry Research Symposium Those activities marked with a were new in 2007.

The November Alabama Local Section Meeting, which took place the week after National Chemistry Week, was held at the McWane Science Museum and focused on the NCW activities of the student affiliates, chemistry clubs, and the JCIB Science Club. Each group presented a poster on the highlights of their NCW efforts, discussed their activities with attendees, and were presented checks to award them for their successful group activities.

Each year the section receives nominations for the Teacher of the Year award. This year s awardee was Dean Wilson, an outstanding chemistry teacher from Pickens County High School. He received a plaque, monetary award, and subscription to J Chem Ed. In the future, the selected teacher will be the Alabama s section nominee for the Southeast Regional Teacher of the Year program.

During the summer, a completely new web site (<http://membership.acs.org/a/alabama/>) was developed for the section using the templates available from ACS and the completed site was transferred to the ACS server. This has provided much needed stability to the web site, which was defunct for almost two years, and now serves as an important source for information on the section and its activities; has links to numerous ACS resources, regional/national ACS meetings and chemistry departments; and provides broad access to the Alabama Local Section Bylaws. A booklet on the early history of the section through the mid-1970 s, which many members were unaware existed, is available on the site in PDF format.

A Travel Grant Program for undergraduate students was initiated and several students received financial support to attend SERMACS 2007 and present their research. Information on the program and application forms are available on the web site. Because these students have no other source of travel funds, the local section support is crucial in permitting them to interact with other students and chemists and develop a scientific network.

The local section also received a \$3,000 Innovative Project Grant from LSAC to develop high school demonstration program to be integrated with a Café discussion setting that follows with refreshments. Faculty and Student Affiliate groups will organize and conduct the events for 20 targeted high schools in the Jacksonville, Anniston, and Gadsden, Alabama areas. The goal is to heighten student interest in chemistry by focusing on emerging areas of chemistry and involving Student Affiliate members.

Another innovative grant is being developed to support a two-week summer Chemistry camp at UAB. This is being modeled after other successful science

camps previously conducted by UAB's Center for OutReach Development (CORD) that focus on a diverse group of rising 9th and 10th grade students ranging from inner city students to affluent students from the suburbs. The camp will include laboratory sessions, short presentations, and seminars with scientists discussing their research and careers and university representatives discussing what it takes to get into college. Partnering with Birmingham City School teachers and Student Affiliates will occur.

Attendance at the meetings has more than doubled from the previous year and the involvement and enthusiasm of the students has been great. With the increased attendance, we hope to also increase the volunteer involvement of our members. 2007 resulted in a good momentum and got more people interested in the section.

C. Local Section and Chair Goals

2007 Goal Attainment. The Local Section Activities Committee strongly encourages local section planning. As a result, the 2007 local section annual report should follow-up on the attainment of goals. Please list the goals you set at the beginning of your term for your section and yourself, and report on the attainment of the

1. goals.

a) Local Section Goals and Assessment:

The Alabama Local Section targeted the following 5 goals for 2007. The attainment of each goal is given in []'s.

Goal 1. Host 3-4 speaker-focused local section meetings. [The local section held 3 speaker-focused local section meetings in 2007.]

Goal 2. Host an awards banquet for high school students. [An awards banquet for high school students was held in May, 2007.]

Goal 3. Sponsor a student affiliates meeting for National Chemistry Week and give awards for best presentations on their NCW activities [A National Chemistry Week focused meeting was held the week following NCW in which student affiliate/chemistry club chapters in the AL local section region presented posters on their NCW activities and awards were given.]

Goal 4. Initiate a Student Travel Grant Program for student affiliates members attending regional and national ACS meetings [A Student Travel Grant Program was initiated and travel grants were given to students attending the SERMACS 2007 meeting and presenting papers.]

Goal 5. Co-sponsor with the other Alabama Local Section and the Alabama Academy of Science the Statewide Chemistry Undergraduate Research Symposium [The Statewide Chemistry Undergraduate Research Symposium was held in conjunction with the 84th annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science at Tuskegee University. Paper and poster competitions were held and monetary prizes presented to 6 students at the meeting banquet.]

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

Facilitate the achievement of the five targeted 2007 Alabama Local Section Goals.

[Assessment: As summarized above, all the local section goals and thus the Chair's goals were achieved. The Alabama Local Section had a very successful year. In addition, the local section has successfully transitioned its web site to the ACS Local Section website server with a much improved look and greater information availability for the members.]

2008 Goals. (This section should be completed by the 2008 local section chair.) Please list below at least 2. three goals that you and your local section plan to accomplish during your term as local section chair.

a) 2008 Local Section Goals (Include at least three goals):

The following are the seven 2008 goals for the Alabama

Local Section:

Goal 1: Host 3-4 speaker-focused local section meetings

Goal 2: Host an awards banquet for high school students

Goal 3: Sponsor a student affiliates meeting for National Chemistry Week and give awards for best presentations on their NCW activities

Goal 4: Initiate a program to increase the number of volunteers involved in the local section committees.

Goal 5: Initiate a Volunteer Recognition Award Program

Goal 6: Promote great interactions between student affiliate groups and chemistry clubs in the local section

Goal 7: Co-sponsor the Statewide Chemistry Undergraduate Research Symposium with all the ACS local sections in Alabama and the Alabama Academy of Science

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

The Chair's goal is to facilitate the achievement of the 7 stated local section goals.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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