

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Brazosport
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: Brazosport High School Career Workshop

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

A career workshop was held at Brazosport High School in Freeport on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, from noon to 4 pm. The event was sponsored by the Brazosport Section of the American Chemical Society and co-sponsored by the Gulf Coast & Latin American Scientists Organization of The Dow Chemical Company. The workshop featured panelist speakers from a broad cross-section of industries who discussed the challenges, rewards and needs for future scientists & engineers in the many fields of chemical related industries. The workshop featured a Gallery Walk where the students were able to interact and learn in depth about what possible exciting career paths can be pursued and how they need to prepare themselves for choosing a rewarding career. The guest speakers included John Gardner, Wind and Solar power specialist, Appleton Electric / EGS Group; Dr. Scott Gilbertson, Director - Chemical Biology, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; Dr. Ann Killary, Associate Professor, UTMD Anderson Cancer Center; Mr. Oscar Salcedo, Project Manager, Technip Group-Houston; Dr. Angela Taha, NMR Specialist, and Dr. Raymond Jones, Computational Fluid Dynamics Specialist, both from Dow Chemical. In addition, College Recruitment advisors from Rice University, Houston; University of Houston; UT-Austin; Brazosport Community College; and Texas A&M University were present to help the students prepare for pursuing degrees of higher education.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Southern Brazoria County Jr Career Day

On March 6th, 2007, the Brazosport Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) participated in the Southern Brazoria County Career Day at the Brazosport Community College. The annual career day offered 11th graders in local high schools the opportunity to view many different careers as they prepare for their futures. The Brazosport Section of ACS sponsored a booth lined with chemistry experiments, literature on professions in chemistry and chemical engineering, and fun facts about celebrities who have enjoyed and/or

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- studied chemistry. Ten volunteers, comprised of ACS members and local industry professionals, worked various shifts during the day to help answer questions, share experiences, and demonstrate various chemistry principles with over 500 students. The volunteers also incorporated a game testing student's basic chemistry knowledge. The game consisted of asking the student a question about household chemistry, basic laboratory equipment, or chemistry principles. Next year, we hope to include other engaging activities encouraging students to consider a career in chemistry.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

- a) Title Freeport Intermediate School Career Day

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- On November 14th, 2007, two Brazosport ACS volunteers donated 3 hours of their time to operate a booth providing information on careers in the chemical industry, particularly as they relate to science and technology, to 8th grade students (total ~300 students). The students went from booth to booth and asked questions on topics such as interesting facts about their job, salary, education required, etc. The volunteers brought a large variety of plastics based products to demonstrate how the chemical industry impacts their everyday lives for the better.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

- a) Title: Preschool Workshop

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- Brazosport Section continued its support of preschool science through involvement in the Child Care Administrator s Conference, with the 2007 science theme being Insects . Brazosport Section developed and presented the program providing an overview of how to identify an insect, the importance of insects in ecosystems, a comparison of insect senses to human senses, the don t touch list for the area, information on keeping insect terrariums in the classroom, as well as craft and music elements targeted for 3 & 4 year olds. A total of 60 child care professionals were trained in two 1-hour sessions at the Conference held at Brazosport College. Program was well received.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

- a) Title Adult Leader Training for Cub Scouts

Brazosport Section continued its active involvement in the Cub Scout program. We supported Scout leaders with training programs to bring science and the

scientific method to their cubs. One such program was Beyond the Science Belt Loop Program-great activities for intriguing the minds of your Cub Scouts with chemistry and physics" held on Saturday, November 3, 2008. There were 45 adult cub leaders in Sam Houston Area Council trained in two sessions at Spring Woods High School. The program objective was to equip leaders to be able to do the following:
 -Lead cub scouts in 3 different slime activities while having fun and exploring our polymeric world safely!
 -Lead Cub scouts in a scientific exploration exercise following principles of scientific method.
 The training was rated outstanding by the participants! In addition a Brazosport Section officer served as Science Maven for Golden Arrow District Roundtable throughout 2007 developing and teaching science activities for the monthly cub scout themes to adult leaders throughout the year

Description
 (Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Brazosport High School Science Camp

The Brazosport ACS section participated in the Science Summer Camp at the Brazosport HS July 31st - August 10th. Five ACS volunteers participated as lunch time speakers and shared their professional experiences, career choice and highlights, and educational backgrounds. Two ACS volunteers served as judges for an egg-drop competition. The section also sponsored a lunch for the students on August 10th, which included a networking session with several ACS volunteers and local professionals.

Description
 (Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Science Fair Judging at Priv School OLQP

On February 6, 2007, six Brazosport ACS volunteers donated 3 hours of their time to judge the science fair posters at Our Lady Queen of Peace, a local private school. Approximately 150 posters were created by students in grades K- 8. Posters were judged on the use of the scientific method, creativity/originality, and poster presentation. Judges left comments for improvement to the posters as well as words of encouragement in science. Many of these comments were used to make changes to the posters prior to the county-wide science fair.

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.

Our goals for 2007 focused on education and community outreach to help engage and prepare our future chemists and engineers . Our target audience ranged from pre-kindergartners to high school seniors and all in between. Also, to inspire and ignite the minds of our local professionals and members, we invited various speakers to participate in our monthly meetings.

In 2007 we introduced lunch meetings that included a light lunch for attendees and a guest speaker talk. This format proved successful by nearly doubling attendance! However, to appeal to all members and schedules, we also incorporated a few evening meetings. We had a total of six monthly meetings in 2007 with guest speakers presenting on various topics of chemistry ranging from food, medicine, and art to public awareness, long life, and career fulfillment.

In January 2007, the local section sponsored a poster contest with the National Chemistry Week theme: It s All Built on Chemistry . The event included awards for the best posters, door prizes, and a chemistry demonstration at the Lake Jackson Museum. There were over 150 poster entries from Our Lady Queen of Peace and Polk Elementary.

The Southern Brazoria County Junior Career Day followed in March 2007 at the Brazosport Community College and is detailed above as Activity #2. In the summer, members and friends of the Brazosport ACS section volunteered and participated as speakers and judges for the Brazosport High School Science Summer Camp in August (detailed above as Activity #6).

The Career Workshop for Future Scientists, Engineers, and Technicians (Activity #1 above) at the Brazosport High School, was an effort co-sponsored by the Gulf Coast and Latin American Scientist Organization of The Dow Chemical Company and held in October 2007.

Throughout the year, to address the needs of our younger community, Wanda Rauscher hosted Train the Trainer workshops for the Boy/Girl Scouts and Pre-school teachers and leaders (Activities #4-5, above).

The section rounded out the year with the Annual Banquet at the Wurst Haus Restuarant and a career day activity at Freeport Intermediate School (Activity #3, above), both in November. The guest speaker for the Annual Banquet, Judith Giordan, gave an interactive presentation on how to Be the CEO of Me . Also included in the banquet were the announcements of the 2007 Scholarship Awardees, the Technician of the Year Award presentation, and the special recognition of a 60-year member.

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:

Increase publicity of local section in the Brazosport Area by appointing a publicity chair/committee

Offered position to two people who declined the position for 2007. A publicity chair/committee was not appointed.

However, meetings and activities were communicated via the Brazosport ACS webpage, Corporate (DOW) newslines, local professional networks, local teachers/educators and local ACS newsletter. Although a publicity chair was not appointed, communication and publicity duties were covered by the board members.

Increase local youth engagement and knowledge of chemistry professions by hosting a workshop for at least 25 future chemists, chemical engineers, and chemical technologists.

This goal was acheived and far exceeded expectations. A career workshop was held at Brazosport High School where the student body is predominately minority. The activity was co-sponsored by the Dow Scientist organization and included speakers from various exciting fields in science. Many of the speakers were from out of town and made the drive down to the event to share their stories/career experiences in an effort to inspire and motivate the students to pursue careers in science and/or engineering. Also, univeristy representatives from University of Texas, Texas A&M, University of Houston, and Rice University

participated in the activity to provide information and advice on how to successfully apply to college. For Rice University, this was the first time visiting the school in over 5 years.

The total number of students that attended the activity was 40. The school science teachers and principals, as well as the local school district science coordinators, were extremely pleased with the success of the activity and hope to see this become an annual event. One Brazosport High School Assistant Principal, Susan Woods, gave the following comment: "It was fabulous! The {ACS and Dow Scientist} team worked so hard and the rewards were great! Thanks to all for everything!!!" The story was covered and distributed by the Brazosport Independent School District Newsletter.

*Increase meeting attendance by 20% by changing time, location, etc. to best meet members needs.

This goal was achieved/exceeded. A new format was introduced for 2007 local section meetings: lunch meetings. Almost half of the meetings were held during the lunch hour and a light lunch was provided. But to accommodate those who cannot get away easily during the lunch hour, the other half of our meetings were held during the evening. Average attendance in 2006 was 10. For 2007, average attendance was 15 (sometimes over 20 during lunch meetings) indicating a 50% increase in attendance. Also, for the year end banquet, largely due to increased publicity, the number of attendees greatly surpassed the attendance in 2006 by 300%!

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

*Complete local section succession plan by Feb 2007.

In 2007, a "succession" plan was needed as the Chair and Chair-elect were temporarily unavailable to serve their positions because of maternity leave. Leave for the chair and chair-elect was staggered such that, the chair-elect could serve as the Chair, in that officer's absence (and vice-versa). A plan, albeit informal, was developed to ensure adequate coverage and smooth transition.

*Complete Officer Elections by year-end banquet, November 2007.

Elections were completed by November 2007, the same month of the year-end banquet.

*Organize a NCW committee to complete event planning by Sept 15, 2007.

National Chemistry Week activities included several community outreach events with the local schools to help promote chemistry to students of all ages from PK3 to seniors in High School. Each activity had a program coordinator.

*Complete event planning for "Workshop for Future

Chemists, Chemical Engineers, and Chemical Technologists", by August 31, 2007.

This event was successfully planned by e-August and executed in October 2007 as per request of the school.

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):

1) Enhance community impact of local section by teaming up with other local organizations to co-sponsor and promote various outreach activities throughout the year.

2) Sponsor an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our local chapter

3) Work with local businesses to sponsor or co-sponsor an event that demonstrates and promotes the impact of chemistry in everyday life

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

1) Organize a Science Café teamed around Earth Day

2) Organize a public event to promote the advancement of chemistry in the past 50 years to coincide with our 50th anniversary celebration

3) Appoint a non-board member volunteer to organize and lead the NCW planning committee by May 1, 2008.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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