

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: California
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: Monthly Section Meetings - speakers

The California Section host a monthly section dinner meeting featuring an after-dinner scientific talk by a recognized expert in a specific field of chemistry.

The talk titles for 2007 were:

[January] "Unveiling Earth's History with Argon Isotopes"

[February] "Forensic Applications of DART and DESI Surface Analysis Mass Spectrometry"

[March] Sudden Global Warming"

[April] Forensic DNA: The Science and Fiction of Forensic Science"

[May] Applications in FTIR and Raman Microspectroscopy"

[June] Wine Tasting at Rosenblum Cellars]

[September] "Rapid Screening of Toxic Elements by XRF"

[October] "The Fire Retardant Dilemma"

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Project SEED - develop new chemists

Former ACS and California Section President Alan Nixon founded project SEED. This program to introduce dis-advantaged and poor students to chemistry via working in chemical laboratories during the Summer is strongly supported by the California Section and remains a strong program of the section. We are developing new chemists by getting them into laboratories early in their career and thus providing them with a career boosting advantage.

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title: WCC Meetings - speakers and events

The Women Chemists Committee (WCC) has historically been and remains to this day a very powerful and active committee in the California Section. This year their program featured three lecture/lunch meetings, a summer social, and several outreach activities. The winter meeting was held in March at San Francisco State University (SFSU) and featured a talk on The Emerging

Age of Pharmaceuticals and Devices Drug Eluting Stents given by Dr. Nadine Ding, R&D advisor with Abbott Vascular. The second part of this program was a tour of the SFSU grounds and greenhouse given by SFSU professor Dr. Margareta Séquin who described botanical pigments, perfumes and poisons. The summer meeting was a lecture by Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi, UC Berkeley Professor of Chemistry, who described her research on Chemistry in Living Systems: Shedding Light on Glycans. The fall meeting was held at Mills College in Oakland, CA featuring a seminar on science art (From Biophysics to Beautiful Art: Communicating Science Through Visual Expression) given by Dr. Raven Hanna, founder of Made with Molecules. This meeting also included a tour of the new natural sciences at Mills, featuring green building technologies. About 20-30 people attended each of these meetings. The summer social was a tour of The Mysteries of Angel Island with Dr. Alan Miller, where participants learned about the island's natural, cultural and military history. Additional activities this year included 2 science fairs and 2 career fairs, where our members participated as judges and panelists, respectively. Members also presented chemistry workshops at 3 local Expanding your Horizons conferences and at a math/science conference hosted by the American Association of University Women.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: Educational Grants-support chem teachers

In 1995, the California Section established a new committee known as the Educational Grants Committee whose purpose is to provide monetary awards to enhance the teaching of chemistry in schools within the geographic area of the California Section. Due to a serious lack of funds and support for the science curriculum, many chemistry teachers are unable to buy basic equipment and instrumentation for their laboratories. According to the grant guidelines, teachers may request funds for laboratory equipment, instrumentation, books, or computers, as well as expenses related to attendance at ACS or other chemistry related professional meetings. In the first twelve years of this program, 1995 to 2007, over ten dozen schools have received almost \$125,000 in grants. We have received letters of thanks from the recipients, and pictures and copies of students' reports, indicating that the program has been a fantastic success!

The Executive Committee of the California Section continued its support of this successful program by allocating \$5,000 for the current academic year of 2007/2008. Grant applications were solicited from high school, college and university chemistry departments late last Spring, and the members of the Educational Grants Committee (Bryan Balazs, Lee Latimer, Cynthia Leeder, and Daniel Matuszak) decided on a final slate of awardees in September of 2007. The Awards were as follows:

Jenelle Ball
Chico High School
(ph meters)

Jim Blickenstaff
Williams High School
(general lab equipment)

Susann Evans
Jesse Bethel High School
(virtual chemistry lab)

Tom Grace
Arroyo High School
(thermometers)

Brian Green
Shasta Meadows School
(demo supplies)

Ian Robinson
South Fork High School
(graduated cylinders)

Shari Stockwell
Alhambra High School
(conference travel)

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): Candace Sykes
American High School
(electronic balances & JChemEd)

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title NCW Family Science Nights - K-8 outreach

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (Moraga, CA) hosted this year's Family Science Night on Tuesday 23 October 2007. Over 400 students and their families turned out for the Career Fair and a dozen hands-on activities, plus music and science magic with the Scientific Jam. Jeanne Pimentel opened the event, recalling how her late husband George Pimentel organized the first National Chemistry Day at UC Berkeley 20 years ago. With plenty of Slime, Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream, and NCW souvenirs for all, the event was a success worthy of the California Section's ten year tradition of Family Science Nights. Its success has brought multiple requests for additional events, and we have participated in several springtime Family Science Nights, including one hosted by Christensen Middle School (Livermore, CA) in March 2007. Orinda Intermediate School, host of our first Family Science Night in 1997, has gone on to organize two more on their own, with enthusiastic support by ACS volunteers. Through this program, we have reached out to diverse communities across three large, urban counties. This program has challenged us to develop Spanish language programs and presentations, and to work with teachers and students in primarily African-American communities.

Wherever we go, we find that the appeal of science knows no boundaries. This program also helps us cross organizational boundaries, both within the ACS we are preparing to co-sponsor a Family Science Night event with the Santa Clara Valley Section and beyond, as we have collaborated with the Northern California chapter of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, and with a wide range of other science professionals.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

There is no doubt that our Family Science Night program is an outstanding success for both public and professional outreach.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Science Cafes - adult outreach

Science cafes are the newest of the exciting programs of the California Section. This year we hosted a Science Cafe in Orinda, CA on the topic of Chocolate. It was very well attended with not only an enjoyable talk on the chemistry of chocolate but enjoyable samples to taste as well. We hosted our second Science Cafe in Orinda, CA on the topic of Earthquakes - a very relevant topic for the community as they are within a mile or so of the Hayward fault - a fault that is expected to produce a magnitude 7 to 8 earthquake within our lifetime. We look forward to expanding our Science Cafe program over the next few years as we strive to increase our chemistry related public outreach efforts.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Vortex Newsletter - member communication

The California Section has published a monthly newsletter called the Vortex for decades. It continues to this day to be one of the primary connections among the membership and between the membership of the section and their elected leadership. We have science commentary, meeting announcements, ads, articles, meeting reports, and personal and newsworthy notices and comments in the Vortex. It is a major effort in terms of time and cost for the section to produce this newsletter of some sixteen or so pages each month. It is valuable for us as it helps us bring together our 3700 plus members into a community of chemists.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Career Assistance & Transition-monthly

Each month of the year we offer on our schedule a one day Career Assistance and Transition meeting that is open to our members who either are undergoing a career change or are considering a career change. Please see

our website at <http://www.calacs.org/Calendar07.html> for the listing of all of our events for 2007. The meeting consists of five to ten members with two mentors meeting in a discussion group with a focus upon the personal and professional decisions and changes brought about by a career change. This event enables our members to be better prepared to handle personal career changes.

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

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: National Chemistry Olympiad - excellence

The USNCO National Chemistry Olympiad Exam on April 28th was an event that was sponsored by the members of the California Section to bring forth the best and the brightest of our young future chemists into international competition. We assist with this event on a yearly basis as it represents one way of assisting in developing excellence in our future chemists.

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

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Interview Workshops

Four Student Interview Workshops, a joint effort of the California Section, the Santa Clara Valley Section and the NorCal AIChE Section, were conducted in 2007: February 10 at University of California at Davis, April 28 at San Jose State University, May 2 at the University of San Francisco, and October 10 at Stanford University. The workshops were well-attended and received very positive feedback from faculty and students. Student groups on campus, particularly the AIChE student groups, became increasingly involved in making local arrangements for rooms and set up. Over 100 students participated in the 4 events with a typical volunteer to student ratio of 1:2. The Student Interview Workshop program is very volunteer-intensive with over 30 volunteers participating as their schedules allow. Additional volunteer coaches must be trained each year. In 2007, volunteers were trained through one-on-one contact with trainers and by being paired with experienced coaches during a workshop. We continued the practice of having different volunteer coaches do the presentations and handle scheduling and arrangements at individual campuses. The 2007 Student Interview Workshop program was run on funds from a grant to the Santa Clara Valley Section (co-sponsored by the California Section and the NorCal AIChE Section) from the ACS Local Section Innovative Projects Grant Program in the spring of 2006. To ensure the on-going health of the program, funding from other sources will need to be obtained. For 2008, we are expanding the program to campuses further from the San Francisco Bay Area, and to community colleges. Contacts with faculty at 2-year colleges have reinforced our idea that this student population is an underserved community and that the

- Description: workshop would be very much appreciated. (This
(Please limit to report is identical to that of the Santa Clara Valley
b) one paragraph): Section)
- 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.

The California Section of 2007 with some 3700 plus members is a mature yet vigorous collection of chemists working in the most research intense environment on the planet. This is the section where the new chemistry is being invented and developed. Much of it is financed by our legendary venture capitalists - who like their new start-up companies to be near-by where they can keep an eye on their progress. Talk about pressure in the laboratory.

Over the course of the year 2007 we hosted from three to eight different events per month, every month. We have tried to report via the ten activities listed in section A of this report our major activities for the year. However, within each of those activities are multitudes of sub-activities such as Project SEED student research, WCC scientific talks, tours, and the development of new student, mentors, friends, and collaborations.

Consider Lee Nguyen, a sister of a former SEED student, Tin Nguyen who is now in medical school at the University of Wisconsin. From a poor immigrant family and following in her older brothers footsteps, she is also entering the world of science. And what an appreciation the whole family has for the California Section of the ACS for Project SEED and the 'step onto the ladder' that it provided for their children as they made and are making the transition from children to adults with productive careers. Multiply this times the twenty-six students in Project SEED this year and our impact as a section is huge in the community.

Our Long Range Planning Committee was active with three recommendations to [1] make better use of our Councilors in communicating ACS activities to our membership; [2] develop a Program Committee - which we did; and [3] broaden and re-align some of our standing outreach activities to increase their effectiveness. This combination later recommendation of the LRPC would be to broaden the National Chemistry Week (NCW) activities and make the Section's efforts more year-round in scope. The current NCW activities are well done. The LRPC proposes a Chemistry and Community Affairs Committee be constituted and under this committee all the non-chemist or engineer type public activities of the Section be combined. Activities like NCW, Earth Day, the Science Café, Public Affairs,

Governmental Affairs, etc., would each exist as separate activities, but coordination of the Section's efforts as a whole could be improved by the improved communication and cross activity assistance one larger committee could bring to the non-chemical public. LRPC also recommend to establish a media list of local newspapers, with contact persons, for publicity. The aim is for medium sized outlets. A list of members 62 or older will be assembled to help make presentations to civic groups (Lions, senior groups, etc.). More involvement in local schools is in item to be explored in the future.

We also established a Government Affairs Committee in which our Chair of the committee, Marinda Wu, has publicized getting involved in the legislative process at the Western Regional Meeting, in C&E News, and in newspaper articles.

Finally we established a Program Committee to handle the increasing size, complexity, and number of our monthly programs. We are currently at three to eight events per month and would like to take that up into the six to twelve events per month to capture and provide value to a wider range of our membership.

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 goals.

a) Local Section Goals and Assessment:

As Chair of the California Section for the year 2007, I have four goals for the section for this year. These goals are:

- [1] task the California Section to find a long-term financially stable mechanism that would enable Chemical Abstracts and our ACS journals to become fully Open Access;
- [2] increase California Section and National ACS members awareness of the impact that the Open Access Movement is having upon, and our members expectations with respect to, Chemical Abstracts and our ACS journals;
- [3] increase the number of California Section members who participate in section activities; and
- [4] since they are numerically under-represented at present, increase the numerical representation of our younger and newer members on our California Section committees and as candidates for our California Section elective offices.

We discussed the four goals in the chairs message in the Vortex the entire year, increased awareness, increased the number of section members active in our activities - and thus recruited new members to run for elective office, and are working at getting younger members to be active in section activities.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

As Chair of the California Section for the year 2007,
I
have four goals for this year. These goals are:
[1] task the California Section to find a long-term
financially stable mechanism that would enable Chemical
Abstracts and our ACS journals to become fully Open
Access;
[2] increase California Section and National ACS
members awareness of the impact that the Open Access
Movement is having upon, and our members expectations
with respect to, Chemical Abstracts and our ACS
journals;

We discussed the four goals in the chairs message in
the Vortex the entire year, increased awareness,
increased the number of section members active in our
activities - and thus recruited new members to run for
elective office, and are working at getting younger
members to be active in section activities.
[3] increase the number of California Section members
who participate in section activities; and
[4] since they are numerically under-represented at
present, increase the numerical representation of our
younger and newer members on our California Section
committees and as candidates for our California Section
elective offices.

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] new young members
- [2] expand Science Cafes
- [3] expand programming

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

- [1] more new young members
- [2] expand Science Cafes
- [3] expand programming

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

This form could be improved by doing the following:
[1] separate it into sections to be completed by the
typical set of officers in a section, one section for
each officer: Chair, Chair-elect, Treasurer, Secretary,
and Program Chair.

[2] We encountered some difficulties in uploading
certain types of files such as OpenOffice.odt files,
etc.