

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Puerto Rico
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: 31st ACS Senior Technical Meeting

November 2-3, 2007 at Mayaguez Resort & Casino, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. The Local Section celebrated its 31st ACS STM entitled "Chemistry is Electrifying, Molecular & Life (E.M.L.)". More than 300 attended the two day meeting, which included 30 oral presentations from our Colleagues and Graduate students. We also had three Plenary Lecturers: 1) Electrochemistry Surface Probes by Dr. Juan Feliu from University of Alicante, Spain; 2) Using multiple methods to assess and improve problem solving by Dr. Melanie Cooper from the University of Clemson and 3) Chemical and Electrochemical Properties of Fullerene Derivatives and Endohedral Fullerenes by Dr. Luis Echegoyen, Director of Chemistry Division NSF. There were approximately 70 poster presentations. Most of the poster presentations were from our Graduate Students and a section from our Student Affiliate Chapters. In addition, the meeting included mini workshops for Science Education. This meeting was announced to all members and scientific community through email, normal mailing and our web page:

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

www.acsprsection.org.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: 42 ACS Junior Technical Meeting

March 10, 2007 at Interamerican University at Bayamon Puerto Rico. This is a traditional event between efforts of the ACS Local Chapter and the Puerto Rico Louis Stoke Alliance for Minority Participation. At this event, every March over 300 undergraduate STEM majors from the different universities in Puerto Rico present their research projects to an audience of over 600 faculty members and peers. The event opens with a plenary conference by a nationally recognized scientist. This year, the plenary conference was by Dr. Ramon E. Lopez from the Department of Physics and Space Sciences at Florida Institute of Technology. Additional information can be obtained at the site:

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

www.prlsamp.org.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title 2007 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Dr. Agnes Dubey coordinated the 2007 USNCO. This event was announced by mail to the Principal or directors of approximately 160 High schools (Public and Private). In the first phase, 154 students participated of whom seven (7) achieved a score above 65% and qualified for the second phase. This second phase was celebrated on April 24, 2007 at Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Metropolitan Campus. Certificates signed by the Local Section Chair, the ACS Director of Education and the Chair of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad were given to all students that participated. Other certificates with the signature of the ACS President, ACS Director of Education and the Chair of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad were given to the teachers and volunteers that worked at the different sites where the test was given. Results of the tests and a copy were sent to each participating teacher at the corresponding schools.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: 2007 National Chemistry Week

Puerto Rico Local Section coordinated an event called "Festival de Química" that was held at the "Paseo La Princesa" in San Juan, Capital of Puerto Rico, to promote the Student Affiliates interaction and participation. This event joined the efforts of the Puerto Rico Section with all the ACS Student Affiliate Chapters from Puerto Rico, the Younger Chemist Committee, two Chem Clubs and the Puerto Rico Chemist Association joined us during this event. More than a thousand kids and general public participated in this activity that was designed around this year's theme "The Many Faces of Chemistry".

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title 1st Science Cafe 2007

November 8, 2007 at La Gladiola Café, Ponce Puerto Rico. The topic was "From Science Fiction to Reality: The Role of Nanotechnology in the Development of Humanity" by Dr. Miguel Castro from University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. He started his presentation asking the audience to think about something we have that we never thought that at this day and time we actually have. Some of the answers of the audience where: internet, cell phone, microwave etc. His presentation about nanotechnology developed by using Power Point presentation promoted an active dialog and participation of the audience. It was a

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

successful activity with a number of attendees of 42. This event lasted approximately two hours of science conversation. The event was advertised by email and delivered invitations.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Science Education Mini Workshop

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

November 2-3, 2007 at Mayaguez Resort & Casino, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. The Local Section celebrated in its 31st ACS STM a concurrent mini workshop entitled "Miniature Fiber Optic Spectroscopy for Science Education" by Monde Qhobosheane of Ocean Optics. This workshop was specifically designed for High School Teachers. The audience in this event was approximately 15 attendees. Ocean Optics has launched a division that focuses on science education manufacturing low-cost spectrometers for science learning which can be implemented in the chemistry lab curriculum in the High School Institutions. Teachers that attended were sponsored by the Project AlaCIMA.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: 60th Anniversary of ACS-Local Section

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

November 3, 2007. A Saturday free luncheon celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the ACS-Puerto Local Section was celebrated at the 31st ACS Senior Technical Meeting. This luncheon was an invitation to all current and previous members. All the Puerto Rico Student Affiliate Chapters and their advisors were also invited. At this luncheon special and personal thanks were given to the three main activity coordinators of the ACS Local Section: Agnes Dubey-USNCO; Elsie Pares-STM and Ingrid Montes-NCW. A special recognition award was given to each Student Affiliate Chapter and their Faculty Advisor for their efforts in promoting chemistry in their Institution and the community. A video of past members, chairs and local section activities of the past 60 years was presented.

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.

This year the Local Section brought back the ACS-PR local section webpage it had a long time ago. We contacted a web designer: Mr. Roberto Lopez and worked hand in hand to upload the website. In the webpage events such as the STM, Newsletters and links with other scientific communities in and out of the Island were published. A space is reserved for Student Affiliate Chapters. This site is found at www.acsprsection.org.

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:

- (1) Increase member s participation and recruit qualified members to ACS and ACS PR-Local Section.
- (2) Collaborate with the Puerto Rico Chemist Association in a series of activities to combine efforts in the academic and industry field.
- (3) Help the Student Affiliate Chapters in an activity or activities that they have coordinated.
- (4) Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Puerto Rico Local Section.

All four local section goals were accomplished. In the description of activities you can see what has been done in each.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

- (1) Provide better communication between members, other science affiliations and the community.

(2) Provide activities to encourage community participation.

These goals have also been accomplished. Electronic email communications has been encouraged between members and other scientific communities. Regular mailing has also been effective. The community has participated in various events such as NCW, Science Cafe and workshops.

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)The PR ACS section will play an important role in the 2008 FLAQ and will increase its presence in the PR Board of Chemists

2) The PR ACS will continue to sponsor the activities that have had a positive impact in the development of scientists and engineers. These activities include the celebration of the National Chemistry Week, the Junior Technical Meeting and the Senior Technical Meeting.

3)The PR ACS local section will also have an active participation in the preparation and organization of the SERMACS 2009 meeting.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

1)We will use the Science Café initiative to promote chemistry education in the general community, involve ACS members in the local industries and increase the participation of chemical engineering faculty in the PR local ACS section

2)The ACS PR Silver Group will be constituted by active and former members of the local PR ACS section that have seniority status or are retired. This group will play a central role in assisting the local section in fund raising activities;

3)A committee will be created to name an award given by the PR ACS that honors excellence in education. This award is given to exceptional educators every other year. The committee will make recommendations related to the guidelines for consideration to grant the award and will provide a list of possible names of distinguished faculty that may be suitable to carry the name of the award.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

ACS National has an excellent voting process. It is our suggestion that the Local Section Activities Committee can provide recommendations and links on the processes that can be done for more members to vote and/or an electronic voting submission.