

## American Chemical Society

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Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report  
Organization: South Florida  
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: Science Day at the Mall

On Saturday Oct. 27, 2007, during NCW, students and faculty from Barry University, Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus, Broward Community College, and Dr. Krop Senior High School participated in the South Florida Section's annual "Science Day at the Mall" at a mall which is nearly exclusively frequented by underrepresented groups (African-Americans and Hispanics). Each volunteer group had tables at which they presented several hands-on activities for children and their parents passing through the mall to do. The presentations were classified under the many faces or areas of chemistry indicated by having activities related to biochemistry, polymers, materials, forensic, analytical, and organic chemistry. Some activities that these groups did include: physics of bubbles, making ice cream using liquid nitrogen, tie-dyeing/chromatography, super-soaker (sodium polyacrylate in diapers), making slime, density of diet vs regular sodas, rainbow reaction, genie-in-a-bottle, baking soda plus vinegar, smart & stupid balls, etc. Children visiting the various stations wore safety goggles as did the presenters. All other ACS safety guidelines were followed. The chemistry behind each activity was explained to the visitors in order to give some understanding about what was going on. Not only did the kids and parents have fun doing the activities, hopefully they also learned something about the chemistry. Altogether, we estimate reaching about 200 children and their parents.

Description  
(Please limit to  
b) one paragraph):

The South Florida Section gave out copies of the NCW newspaper, ChemMatters magazine, NCW brochures, "Great Chemistry is Everywhere" stickers, and fuzzy NCW nano-moles. Posters of the "Many Faces of Chemistry" were taped to the wall.

c)  This activity was new in 2007

#### Activity #2

a) Title: Chemical Sciences Symposium

On November 10, 2007 we conducted our 3rd annual "Chemical Sciences Symposium" organized by Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam and Co-organized by Dr. Geroge Fisher. The theme for this event was titled "Elements

of Life". This one day symposium consisted of invited distinguished speakers as well as speakers from universities of our ACS south florida chapter. During the morning session: Dr. Ruma Banerjee, Vincent Massey Professor of Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, gave a talk on the element cobalt titled:" Role of Cobalt in the Chemistry of B-12 (cobalamin)-requiring enzymes. Dr. Stanko Stojilkovic, Section Chief, Endocrinology and Reproduction Research Branch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), NIH, gave a talk on calcium titled:"Role of Intracellular Calcium ion on Neuroendocrine Functions". We had student poster session along with lunch between 11.30 AM-1:00 PM. There were dozen's of posters presented by various (high school, undergraduate and graduate) students. This year students from the affiliated chapters of Florida Atlantic University, Barry University, University of Miami, Lynn University, Nova Southeastern University and Florida International University, attended and participated. The best chemistry poster and the best overall layout on poster presentation by the students were meticulously judged by four different judges on each categories and was identified for ACS certificate and cash awards. For the afternoon session: Dr. Robert J Cousins, Boston Family Professor of Nutrition, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, talked on the element Zinc titled: " Mammalian Zinc Transport, Trafficking and Signals". Dr. Grady Campbell, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, talked on potassium, titled: Potassium ATPases. The session concluded with a talk on the element magnesium. Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam, Professor of Biochemistry, College of Medical Sciences, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, talked on the "Role of Magnesium on ATP and Related Coenzyme Requiring Enzymes". Followed by the speaker presentation we had a mini scientific social and award ceremony at the end. The first and the runner up on two categories of student poster presentations: 1. best chemistry 2. best overall layout that was identified by the judges, were awarded with ACS certificates and cash. This particular segment of the symposium was very well received by the students, public and the overall scientific community. Over the past three years our "Chemical Sciences Symposium" has grown up to be one of the most popular and scientifically very rewarding event for our south Florida ACS community. See attached program flyer and the abstract compendium for details.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2007

### Activity #3

a) Title                      Forensic Sciences Symposium

On January 19 and 20, 2007, the South Florida section hosted its fifth annual Forensic Sciences Symposium. On the evening of the 19th, Dayle Hinman of Farrell and Associates, Inc. and host of Court

TV's "Body of Evidence, From the Case Files of Dayle Hinman" delivered the keynote address. Research posters were also presented that evening. The following day, six invited oral presentations were made. Dr. Kenneth G. Furton of Florida International University spoke on Forensic Chemistry; Philip Levine, a practicing dentist in Pensacola, Florida, spoke about Forensic Dentistry; M. Bonner Denton of the University of Arizona discussed the latest advances latest technological advances in electronics, physics, optics, astronomy, acoustics, mechanical engineering and computer science toward developing new and improved chemical instrumentation and analytical methods; Lenore Walker of Nova Southeastern University spoke about Forensic Psychology; René J. Herrera of Florida International University discussed characterization of human populations, the development of genetic markers for human identification and the study of recent human evolution; and Joe Schwartz of the State of Florida Fire Marshall's Office's Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigation finished off the round of talks.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2007

#### Activity #4

a) Title: Forensic Workshops

One week prior to the Forensic Sciences Symposium, on January 13, 2007, the South Florida Section conducted three workshops in forensic techniques. The three-and-a-half workshops were "Basic Blood Stain Pattern Recognition" by Stuart James of James and Associates, Forensic Consultants, "Introduction to the field of Forensic Document Examinations" by Howard Seiden of the Broward Sheriff's Office Crime Lab, and "Basics of a Forensic DNA Analysis" by Drs. Joshua Loomis, George Duncan and Jason Rosenzweig. These three workshops were available for the small registration fee of \$10 and were limited to 20 participants each.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2007

#### Activity #5

a) Title: Science Cafe

On the evening of September 14, 2007, our section hosted its first Science Cafe. We were fortunate to have Dr. Joseph R. Dwyer, Professor of Physics and Space Sciences at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, come down and present "The Mysteries of Lightning." Dr. Dwyer had been featured on Nova Science Now and he shared that segment of the show to introduce the topic and then took questions from the audience for roughly an hour. The event was held at a Borders Bookstore in Fort Lauderdale, which is centrally located within our section. The Science Cafe was attended by roughly 40 people, many of whom do not ordinarily attend our section's programming. We felt that this program was successful and intend

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph): to host another Science Cafe in 2008.

c)  This activity was new in 2007

**Activity #6**

a) Title: National Chemistry Olympiad

Throughout March, the South Florida Section offered the local competition of the National Chemistry Olympiad at several sites across Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Of the 150 participants, 12 (based upon the size of our section) were selected to take the National Examination, which took place at Nova Southeastern University on April 21, 2007. Two of those students received "Honors" for their performance on the National Examination.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph ):

c)  This activity was new in 2007

**Activity #7**

a) Title: Earth Day

Zaida C. Morales-Martinez, Councilor for the South Florida Section, recounts here her story on the program she performed for Earth Day.

"On Tuesday, April 17, 2007 I visited the classroom of Ms. Silvia Jackson, first grade teacher of my grandson Noah Ryan Malkin, in the Winston Park K-8 Center School in Miami, Florida to do demonstrations and experiments to celebrate Earth Day.

"We started by me explaining that telling them a little bit about me (even though they all know me as Noah's ABI). I told them about what Chemists do and that I was a Chemist that used to teach, that I was a member of the American Chemical Society, etc. Then I pointed out the way I was dressed: closed shoes with socks, lab coat with long sleeves, safety glasses, etc and this took me to SAFETY and the rules we were going to follow to be safe.

"I followed by giving them the Earth day magazine from ACS and we went over the vocabulary printed in there. Then we talked about polymers and we "played" making polymers of straight-line, circular, etc. Following that I talked about the symbol of recycle material and what it means. I brought different plastics with different numbers to show.

"We talked about conserving energy by turning down the lights when you leave the room, conserving water when washing hands, conserving paper when going to the bathroom, and the importance of recycling in their houses.

"I prepared a Ziploc snack plastic bag for each student with cuttings of paper, aluminum foil, cotton balls, rice, beans, card board, etc. and asked them to separate the items in their bag. They kept track of the time it took them to separate their "garbage".

We took the same pile of garbage from each student and mixed them together in a big pile. We did some math approximation on how much time it will take someone to separate this pile. From there I extrapolated on how much time it will take to separate a full truck of garbage, and so on...

"Each student took home a copy of the Earth Day magazine, an Earth Day balloon, an Earth Day sticker and an Earth Day tattoo. We finished by having mini cupcakes decorated with green colored icing.

"The next day, Ms. Jackson asked them to write what they learned in my presentation and I am enclosing some of their responses and some pictures. I heard from some of the parents that the kids went home and told them that "Noah's ABI came to class and taught us about recycling and not being wasteful".

"I had extra magazines, stickers and balloons and took them to my granddaughter's third grade teacher to distribute them to her class. They did the experiment of making paper that was found in the magazine."

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2007

#### Activity #8

a) Title: Annual Banquet

The South Florida Section conducted its annual celebration of the end of the regular academic year with a banquet at the Biscayne Bay campus of Florida International University on April 21, 2007. This event is always well-received and well-attended and this year proved to be no exception to the pattern. Roughly 100 attendees enjoyed a talk by Dr. Richard Swatloski of the University of Alabama on ionic liquids. The section also acknowledged the accomplishments of students at Florida International University, Barry University, the University of Miami, and Florida Memorial University by recognizing Outstanding Chemistry Graduates as well as other awards chosen by each individual institution. Two 50-year members were also honored at the banquet.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2007

#### Activity #9

a) Title: Section Meetings and Seminars

In addition to the other programs outlined above, the South Florida Section hosted four other seminars during the course of 2007. The first of these was on March 15, in which Dr. Ralph Mead of the University of Miami Rosentiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science spoke on "Organic Matter Cycling on a River Dominated Margin." Shortly after the Annual Banquet, on April 23, Dr. Richard Swatloski of the University of Alabama presented "A Green Solution: Ionic Liquids and Their Utilization in the Processing of

Cellulose." In the fall, Dr. Peter Reilly of Iowa State University spoke on "The Wonderful Enzyme Zoo" at two venues on September 26. Our last meeting of the year was cohosted with the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Florida International University. Dr. Ernest Simpson of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, presented the "Chemistry of Wine" on November 7. This event was unusual for us in that it involved a wine tasting and was attended by a large outside audience, primarily hospitality students. Roughly 60 people were in attendance and many felt it was the best seminar that we had presented in a long while.

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.

I believe all of the major events have been covered in the preceding 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:**

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

Well, to be honest, I was not the original chair of the section at the beginning of 2007. I was not even chair-elect. I sort of "inherited" the position after a couple of resignations took place. However, the original chair did indicate some of his goals for the section in the 2006 annual report: (1) to build upon those programs that are leading to community outreach and establish more programs that will bring the profession of chemistry to an even broader audience, (2) to see a more active lecture series and that the lectures and seminars are available to professionals and the public in a broader set of

venues, and (3) to establish better ties with the chemical industry in the area. My impression is that with the addition of the Science Cafe, we accomplished goals (1) and (2) at least in part. The Science Cafe we put on was a very successful event, in our view, and we are planning another Science Cafe to take place this year. We have not been as successful with goal (3) as our section still has not made inroads into the chemical industry in the area, but we will continue to work in this direction.

**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):

We have not formally set any goals for the section, but in our conversations at Executive Committee meetings, several themes appear.

- 1) Bring "new blood" into the Executive Committee.
- 2) Increase participation in section meetings and events.
- 3) Further our support of K-12 (and beyond) educational programs.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

- 1) Resurrect our section's one major social event, the Family Day, we once had. Several members have e-mailed me that they had enjoyed this event and would like to see it revived.
- 2) Reach out to area high school teachers.
- 3) Create programming of interest to our retired members in the area.

## D. Suggestions/Concerns

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