

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Southern 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: Girl Scout Outreach Event

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

13 Jan: Girl Scout Outreach Event
The local section hosted chemistry activities at an event that emphasizes science and engineering careers for young women. The primary planner for this event was Jerry Delker. Two other members of the local section helped - Li Zhang (Abbott Laboratories) and Veronica Jaramillo (East LA College). The Girl Scout Kaleidoscope event held at Arcadia Park from 10 to 2. Over 1000 Girl Scouts and parents attended this event. The ACS booth was one of over 60 different activity and information booths. The household chemicals and chromatography experiments were demonstrated.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: NCW 2006 Poster Contest

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

07 Feb: NCW 2006 Poster Contest
Posters submitted to the local section were judged at the local section meeting at Mt. St. Mary's College. The winning entry was taken to the ACS Spring 2007 Meeting in Chicago to compete in the national NCW Poster Contest. The entry did not win a national award.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title: Greater Los Angeles Teachers Sci. Assoc.

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

17 Feb: Greater Los Angeles Teachers Science Association (GLATSA)
The local section hosted a talk about pseudoscience (Paul Shin) which was the keynote talk for the conference. Additionally, Bob de Groot and Paul Shin a community activities workshop was presented. GLATSA is a local K-12 science teachers organization and the meeting was held at Francisco Medical Magnet HS in Los Angeles and it was attended by 350 science teachers from the Los Angeles area.

- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

- a) Title: Sally Ride Science Festival at Caltech

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- 24 Mar: Sally Ride Science Festival at Caltech
The local section co-hosted an activity table and science talks with the Center for the Science and Engineering of Materials (CSEM) at Caltech. Talks were given by student affiliates from Cal State Northridge and Mount St. Mary's College. Attendance at this event was over 800 people.

- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

- a) Title: Chemists Celebrate Earth Day

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- 21 Apr: Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) Event at Cal State Northridge
- Faculty and Staff at Cal State Northridge hosted one of the local section's big events for 2007: Recycling Chemistry Can. The primary organizers for this event were Dorothy Nguyen-Graff and Paul Shin. Paul gave the keynote address for the conference. It was very well attended by ~160 middle school students with ~200 total attendees (parents and teachers comprising the rest). There also were ~50 local high school and college student volunteers. Bob de Groot provided planning support. The local section also provided volunteers, planning assistance, supplies, and public relations support.

- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

- a) Title: Creating Tomorrow's Engineers Today

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- 12 May: Creating Tomorrow's Engineers Today
SCALACS hosted an activity table at this event that is sponsored by the African American Engineers Professional Employees Association of the city of Los Angeles. Henry Abrash and Bob de Groot volunteered. The event was held at the Senior Center in Exposition Park.

- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

- a) Title: Many Faces of Chemistry

Oct 2007 Many Faces of Chemistry - National Coming Out Month
Barbara Belmont's Report:
The LGBT Chemists and Allies is a coalition of ACS chemists who are, well, LGBT or allies. In

recognition of the diversity aspect of the NCW theme, Many Faces of Chemistry, and in recognition that NCW practically overlaps with National Coming Out (day, week, month), it seems appropriate to invite my fellow travelers to stand up and be counted. We are an invisible minority, so the only way to bring awareness to our contributions to chemistry is to come out (and stay out!).

As I am spearheading this project, and am a Southern California Section member, I would be happy for you to make mention of this "activity" in your NCW annual report. I would also be happy for you to circulate my open invitation for participants to join our out list.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph): Details about LGBT Chemists and Allies, and our fledgling Many Faces of Chemistry project can be found at <http://noglstp.net/lgbtchemists/>

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: NCW at California Science Center

21 27 Oct: National Chemistry Week Activities at the California Science Center

SCALACS members (coordinated by Henry Abrash) conducted NCW activities in the Creative World Gallery at the California Science Center.

Henry Abrash's Report:

Sunday's session at the California Science Center went well. I was there from 10 am to 4 pm and saw lots of people and gave away a good bit of the "Celebrating Chemistry" copies. We did "Find the Starch" and "Find the Baking Soda" activities. We also showed how iodine produces a blue color with starch solution and how to remove the blue color with vitamin C, and we also did some simple paper chromatography. It was purely fortuitous, but the science center education staff initiated a chemistry floorshow in the tech review theater. The high point was the demonstration of diet cola - Mentos® volcano.

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

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: Many Faces of Chemistry Alumni Event

26 Oct: The Many Faces of Chemistry Alumni Event at Cal State Dominguez Hills

This was a Many Faces of Chemistry Event at California State Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), Dominguez Hills, CA. There was a luncheon and panel of speakers (many of them alumni from CSUDH whose professions involved chemistry). The remainder of the speakers are members of the Southern California Local Section. This event was held on Oct 26 on the campus of CSUDH.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph): Dr. Sofia Papatheodorou, a Southern CA LS section member, was the moderator of the panel and the primary organizer for the event.

- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

- a) Title: Girl Scout Science Day at Monrovia High

28 Oct: Girl Scout Science Day at Monrovia High School

The event was conducted by the Mt. Wilson Girl Scout Council and involved about 200 junior and senior high Girl Scouts. Our section participated by having a booth that demonstrated the pH of common household chemicals using the red cabbage indicator solution. We showed the hazard of mixing household chemicals using the vinegar/baking soda reaction. Finally, the separation of colors in ink pens was demonstrated using paper chromatography. Veronica Jamarillo, associate professor at East LA College and several of her students staffed the booth. Jerry Delker also assisted in procuring and setting up the booth.

- 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 have described our events already but I want to add this statement.

Earth Day promotes environmental citizenship and educates the community on the global impact on society. We at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), organized an Earth Day celebration on CSUN's campus to promote this year's Earth Day theme, Recycling-Chemistry Can, on April 21, 2007.

Two hundred middle school students (6-8th graders), their parents, and teachers from Pacoima Middle School, Charles Maclay Middle School, San Fernando Middle School, Community Charter Middle School, all in the San Fernando Valley benefited from this celebration. CSUN students and local high school students helped plan the event and present the workshops and demonstrations.

We obtained sponsorship from Associated Students at CSUN, Longs Drugs, LADWP, American Chemical Society, Biology Club, Panda Express, Western Bagel, Starbucks, and Sigma Xi, in the form of monetary donations, food, or merchandise. Since this was our first time, we depended on cold-calling potential donors and using connections from the school. The students were picked up from their school by buses that were graciously donated from councilmen in the appropriate districts. The local ACS section donated goods and merchandise that were given out to the

participants. Henry Abrash and Paul Shin graciously donated their time and efforts for the event.

We called a number of junior high schools around CSUN area and solicited their participation. Many of the schools we contacted directly were ambivalent until we contacted Project GRAD LA and they helped us with getting participants from those schools.

Within months of planning, we needed a lot of help the day of to direct, coordinate, and interact with the students. I solicited help from Chemistry Club, Biology Club, Geology Club, Physics Club, Student Engineering Association, Arcadia High School, and Cleveland High School. We had about 50 volunteers the day of the even. The Chemistry Club officers did most of the planning and organization of the event.

The day started with the check-in at 9:00 am. During this time, breakfast was available for the students. From 10:00 am-10:30 am, Paul Shin gave an general/opening talk to all the participants regarding the importance of recycling. From 10:30 am-11:30 pm, the students will broke up into groups and attended the first of two workshops. The workshop disciplines include chemistry, physics, math, biology, and engineering. Each workshop was be overseen by a faculty member in that discipline, but was be presented by CSUN students and high school volunteers. The students attended another workshop from 11:45 am-12:45 pm. Lunch, by Panda Express, was served from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm. During this time, they were free to walk around the mall which had booths with hands-on activities relating to recycling, the environment, chemistry, physics, engineering, mathematics, and biology. Tours of the campus/library and the science departments were offered to all participants so that they can get a sense of what college is like.

CSUN students and volunteers presented the workshops to the participants. Materials for the workshops were provided by the departments. CSUN students and local high school and community volunteers will be in charge of the booths and interact with the students.

This was our first time we put this event together and we learned a lot from it. We had a late start in planning, so finding donations and sponsorship was hard. Many other groups and organizations were also putting on Earth Day events throughout Southern California. Getting the participation and commitment from the junior high schools was incredibly hard and challenging. The schools are committed to many other events during the same time so our even wasn t a high priority for the schools to advertise and advocate for. We definitely could have been a little more organized in regards to scheduling. We didn t train the volunteers to adequately direct traffic and the communication between the groups could have been better.

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:**

This was a big year for our section and we managed to pull it off with the help of our fabulous volunteers.

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

My goals were to do more and to do it better. I wanted more and I received more. this was one of our best years ever.

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):

Establish project SEED program
Establish Science Cafe program
Improve section finances
Increase participation in section elections

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

Increase attendance at section meetings
Improve communication with membership
Bring in more new volunteers to section governance

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

Even though we had a great yer we need to find ways to cultivate more volunteers.