

National Chemistry Week Committee Report – 2001

The Philadelphia Section's National Chemistry Week (NCW) Committee met twice to plan a large number of activities to be hosted by the Section as part of our NCW celebration. The members of the Section were made aware of these activities by an individual mailing; announcements in the October and November issues of *the catalyst*, the Section's newsmagazine; and an NCW website. A separate mailing to science teachers in our region was posted in September announcing activities of interest to them and their students. Some of the planned activities were very successful while others did not attract large followings; some activities had to be cancelled due to lack of participation.

Listed below are the activities that were planned and a short summary of these events.

Chemistry Poster Contest for Students in Grades 1 to 12

The theme for this year's contest was "Chemistry and Art". Prizes were awarded in four age groups (Grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). Winning posters are on display for four months following National Chemistry Week at the Youth Gallery between terminals D & E of the Philadelphia International Airport. Information about the poster contest, including a list of prizes, contest rules, and entry forms, were made available on our local NCW website: <http://webpages.ursinus.edu/vTortorelli/ncw/poster.htm>

Visit to the Chemical Heritage Foundation

Guided tours of the Chemical Heritage Foundation's (CHF) alchemical paintings from the Fisher Scientific and Eddleman Collections, as well as, the impressionist paintings depicting the Dow chemical works of the 1940s was held on **Monday, October 29th** between 6:30PM and 8:30 PM. This event was poorly attended.

Helping Hands for Habitat for Humanity

The Delaware and Philadelphia Sections had planned to join work crews at two sites (Phoenixville, Chester County, PA and Wilmington, DE) on Saturday November 3rd. Unfortunately the timing of this event was such that Habitat did not need any assistance that particular Saturday. In the past this event has been highly successful and we hope to include this activity in our NCW activities in 2002. Instead, this year the Section participated in Philadelphia Cares (see below).

Philadelphia Cares

The city-wide day of service pairs organizations with various projects. The Philadelphia Section volunteers were sent to a school to help paint a mural.



Graduate School Forum

The graduate school forum was held on Monday, November 5th in the Connelly Center at Villanova University from 5:00 to 8:30 PM. About 110 students and SAACS chapter advisors attended the opening talks. At least 125 undergraduate students attended the forum. Thirty-four graduate departments participated – up from 30 last year and 27 the previous year.



“Expanding your Horizons” Mini-Conference for 6th grade Girls

The conference was held on Saturday, November 10th from 9 AM – 1PM at Chestnut Hill College. The goals of the mini-conference are to increase girls’ interest in science and mathematics, to provide students an opportunity to meet women working in non-traditional fields, and to foster an awareness of varied opportunities for women. The program included a keynote speaker followed by three hands-on scientific activities for the 108 students assisted by 32 volunteer scientists. This program was partially funded by The Cabot Foundation.



Food Drive Benefiting Philabundance

Attendees to the November 15th Concurrent Groups Section meeting at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia were asked to bring canned food for collection by Philabundance. Cash donations also were accepted. Several boxes of canned goods were collected for the needy.

Chemical Activities at the Philadelphia Phantoms Hockey Game

Poster contest winners were recognized on the scoreboard at the Philadelphia Phantoms hockey game. The Section also set up a table in the lobby area for hands-on chemical activities. This was a very successful community outreach activity.



Presentation of the Sections Phoenix Award

A presentation of the Sections recent Phoenix Award took place at center ice just before the start of the Philadelphia Phantoms hockey game. The Philadelphia Section received this award last year for the most unusual site of an NCW activity.



Chemical Demonstration Workshop for Secondary School Teachers

A workshop for teachers was scheduled for Ursinus College on Saturday morning, October 27th. Unfortunately, due to a low response from the high school teachers the workshop was cancelled.

Science and Technology Career Fair

The Science & Technology Career Fair was to be held on Wednesday, November 7th, at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the low response by employers forced rescheduling the event for the Spring. Registration forms and further details were posted on the NCW website: <http://webpages.ursinus.edu/vTortorelli/ncw/careerfair.htm>

Chemist in the Classroom

Teachers could request a chemist to visit their classroom to do a demonstration, talk about chemistry careers, or perform experiments with students. Volunteer chemists were sought from the local Section. A training session was held on Saturday, October 13th for the volunteers. Thirty-eight scientist volunteers came forward to lecture on science topics and careers, perform demonstrations, and teach chemical concepts through various hands-on activities with children throughout the Delaware Valley. There were approximately 70 teachers requesting visits, which could not all be visited during National Chemistry Week. Visits are continuing into 2002, with over 2,000 students reached so far.