

National Chemistry Week Committee Report – 2002

The Philadelphia Section's National Chemistry Week (NCW) Committee planned 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; announcement in the October issue of *the catalyst*, the Section's newsmagazine; and an NCW website (<http://webpages.ursinus.edu/vTortorelli/new/index.htm>). A separate mailing to science teachers in our region was posted in September announcing activities of interest to them and their students. Based on our prior experience we limited our planned activities to those that have been very successful in the past few years.

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 Keeps Us Clean". Prizes were awarded in four age groups (Grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). Winning posters are on public display for following National Chemistry Week at the Franklin Mills Mall. 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/new/poster.htm>



Food Drive Benefiting Philabundance

Attendees to the October 17th Section meeting at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia were asked to bring canned food for collection by Philabundance. Cash donations also were accepted.

Student Affiliates Program

Each student affiliate chapter was asked to participate in the "Chemistry Makes Cleaning Possible" collection drive of personal hygiene products to benefit a local charity.

Philadelphia Cares

On Saturday October 5, 2002, 18 volunteers represented the Philadelphia Section, ACS in the city-wide cleanup activity "Philadelphia Cares Day". Over 20,000 volunteers participated in this day-long event. Our team was titled: Chemists who care about keeping Philadelphia Clean". Volunteers gathered at 8:30 AM at the Mann Music Center in Fairmount Park for muffins, fruit and drinks. At 9:15 AM, our Philadelphia ACS team was deployed to our work location. We joined with two work teams at the Cook-Wissahickon Elementary School and we performed the following activities: washed interior windows in all classrooms; painted cinderblock corridors and painted playground activity centers. Snacks, drinks and a pizza lunch were provided by a local bank representative.

In that one day, chemists and chemistry made a world of difference!



Graduate School Forum

The Twelfth Annual Graduate School Forum was held this year at Villanova University on Monday, November 11, 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 145 undergraduate students attended the forum. Thirty-eight graduate departments participated – up from 34 last year and 30 the previous year.



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

On Saturday, November 2nd, Expand Your Horizons a mini-conference for sixth grade girls was held at Chestnut Hill College. One additional lab was added to the program this year, so that more girls could be enrolled. A record 130 girls from 37 schools performed experiments with 46 volunteers (including 4 sixth grade science teachers). Dr. Marquita Qualls, a research scientist for Glaxo Smith Kline, was an inspiring keynote speaker. Even with the increased enrollment, more girls were rejected (over 150) than accepted by the program. This program was partially funded by The Cabot Foundation.



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.



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. 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 2003, with over 2,000 students reached so far.