

**ACS Local Section Annual Report Part IV
ChemLuminary Award Nominations**

Local Section: CHICAGO

Award Category: Outstanding Performance by Local Section

(Select a category from the list and complete a separate form for each entry)

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Description of Activity/Program: Please provide a synopsis of the activity/program and **state clearly, in 1,000 words or less, why the activity/program merits consideration** for this particular award. Only activities/programs that were held in 2007 are eligible for consideration. You may wish to include the following in your description: Name of Activity/Program; Date Conducted; Site/Location; Number of Participants. Please refer to the specific guidelines for each award. **Descriptions are limited to 1,000 words or less.**

The Chicago Section continued many of its traditional activities in 2007, but expanded to introduce new developments and new activities. The section had ten **dinner meetings** with a wide variety of speakers from all corners of chemistry and chemical engineering. All meetings were well attended and enjoyed. Probably the high points of the meetings were the **Gibbs Medal** presentation to Professor Sylvia Ceyer of MIT, our **Education Night** featuring Professor Roald Hoffman of Cornell University, and the **Basolo Award** presentation (joint with Northwestern University) to Professor Richard Schrock of MIT. Mr. Lee Marek received our **Public Affairs Award**; and we presented our **Distinguished Service Award** to Dr. Barbara Moriarty and Mr. Louis Lerner for outstanding service to the section.

In February, section members participated in **DuPage Area Engineers' Week** showing students about energy and recycling among other topics. In April, local students were selected to take the local and national **USNCO** exams; two students from the Chicago section attended a study camp at the Air Force Academy. In May, 86 nominated students took the ACS Scholarship Exam; seven of those students shared a total of **\$15,950 in scholarship awards**. A major outreach

activity of our section is our cooperative project with the other nine ACS Illinois local sections to sponsor a tent at the **Illinois State Fair**, August 10-19. This was the fourth year of this project; over 10,900 visitors learned about chemistry by doing experiments, taking an on-line quiz, watching chemical demonstrations, reading various handouts and publications, and talking with academic, industrial, and governmental ACS members from Illinois. This year, we invited all the state legislators and constitutional state officials; and some of them visited our tent. In October, we hosted the **Boy Scouts Chemistry Workshop** where over 40 scouts earned a Chemistry Merit Badge.

On October 20, our celebration of **Chemistry Week** took place at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Last year, our event had to be cancelled due to a fire across the street from our planned location. Section members were determined to make 2007 our best Chemistry Day ever. Participants included 23 college volunteers, 29 adult volunteers, 5 speakers, 43 exhibitors, 45 Boy Scouts, 14 high school teachers, 400 students, and about 200 parents, giving a grand total of 760 attendees. There were 16 exhibits, tours of chemistry research labs in IIT's Life Sciences Building, chemistry demonstrations, contests and hands-on-fun for kids, poster making contests, a high school chemistry teachers' workshop, presentations and a panel discussion on "The Many Faces of Chemistry," chemistry career posters on display, and a "Chemistry Idol" student finale by area high school students.

We reached out to our membership in several ways. Our newsletter, *The Chemical Bulletin*, not only informed members of upcoming section events, but also carried informative columns discussing general ACS news, chemistry news, and news about Chicago Section members. The *Chemical Bulletin* has been posted on our website, <http://chicagoacs.org>, for the past couple of years. In 2007, our **New Technology Enhancement Team** set a schedule for converting to primarily electronic distribution of the newsletter. This will allow faster distribution, the use of color in stories and ads, and save the section about \$30,000 per year. We continue to have a monthly **Job Club** at all of our section meetings, where those looking for employment or career development can network with other section members. We offer our unemployed and retired members a significant discount on the dinner price for our section meetings.

In 2007, the Spring ACS National Meeting was held in Chicago. As the **Host Local Section**, we eagerly made plans to help our colleagues enjoy the wonderful environment of the meeting. We published a **special expanded edition** of the newsletter, containing interesting sights and activities in Chicago and the surrounding area. We published a separate **listing of reasonably priced restaurants** near the meeting that would be good choices for lunch or an early dinner. Of course, there was the **Hospitality Center**, where section members distributed information on Chicago and handed out **souvenir magnets with a picture of the world's largest periodic table** (unofficial) at Chicago's Daley Plaza the previous fall. On a social note, we organized the first **ACS Blues Night** on Monday evening, immediately prior to SciMix. The Chicago Kingsnakes entertained over 300 meeting attendees by playing blues music characteristic of the city.

The Chicago Section also contributed to the **National Meeting program with four symposia** organized by section members. On Sunday, "Community College Led Advances in Undergraduate Education" (CHED with CMA, WCC, and YCC) and "High School Teachers Program: Inquiring Minds Want to Know" (CHED joint with WCC) took place. On Wednesday,

the Section cosponsored two symposia with HIST: “Hog Butchers, Tool Makers, and Stackers of Wheat: Chicago-Area Chemical Industry and Government-Sponsored Laboratories” (CHI joint with HIST, I&EC, PROF, and SCHB) and “Educating the Laughing, Stormy, Husky Youth of the Midwest: Chicago-Area Colleges and Universities” (CHI joint with HIST, PROF, and CHED) were held. (Note: the organizing of these symposia has been submitted for a ChemLuminary Award in the Local Section and Division Interaction category.)

We concluded 2007 with our annual Holiday Party Meeting, which is held jointly with the **Chicago Chemists’ Club and Iota Sigma Pi** (national honor society for women in chemistry). Our Hospitality Committee conducted a **food, clothing, and toy drive**. Non-perishable food items were donated to the local Loaves and Fishes Community Pantry. The adult and children’s clothing and toys were donated to the Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc., a social agency in Chicago and Oak Park. The adult men’s and women’s clothing is for their clients to use for job interviews.

Please provide a 2-3 sentence abstract that describes your activity.

The Chicago Section has added some new features to its traditional program of meetings and outreach activities. A tent at the IL State Fair, sponsored by all IL Local Sections, had over 10,000 attendees; and our Chemistry Day celebration was enjoyed by about 760 attendees. Four technical symposia, a Hospitality Center, and ACS Blues Night were Section contributions to the Chicago National Meeting.

Please include a photograph (digital preferred) that shows the event/activity in action. Photos from winning local sections will be displayed as part of the ChemLuminary Awards AV production.