

## 2010 SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE HELD AT ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

The annual Sectionwide Conference of the New York Section was held on January 16 at St. John's University and was enjoyed by over 80 members. Mr. Frank Romano, 2010 Section Chair, hosted the event. Highlights of the conference included a slide show review of the 2009 activities, presentation of awards, keynote address by Dr. David Harwell of the ACS, poster presentations by Project SEED students, breakout planning sessions for year 2010 and lunch at Fame Diner. Chair Frank Romano displayed photos of a number of the past year's activities including the Nichols Medal Events, the Undergraduate Research Symposium, NCW at the Hall of Science, College Chem Challenge and more.

At the award ceremony, Dr. David Sarno of Queensborough Community College and General Co-Chair of MARM 2008, received the New York Section's Outstanding Service Award for 2009 and Mr. Steven Borneman of Byram Hills High School was awarded the Nichols Foundation High School Chemistry Teacher Award for 2009. Dr. Sarno and Mr. Borneman were cheered on by their colleagues and families. Awards were given, also, to two students to recognize their achievements in chemistry. They received personalized certificates, Merck Indexes and ACS souvenirs. The two awardees were: Anna Chithelen who qualified for the prestigious summer camp for the Chemistry Olympiad competition – two years in a row, and Courtney Bissonette of Division Avenue High School who won second place in the high school category of the National ACS' poster contest for National Chemistry Week. It was a pleasure having them at the conference to accept their awards. The Section recognized the contributions of Dr. Anne O'Brien and Office Secretary Marilyn Jespersen with beautiful bouquets of flowers. Dr. O'Brien had recently completed nine successful years as District One Director for the ACS. Dr. Hiroko Karan, 2010 Chair Elect, next presented the names of the candidates for the upcoming 2010 elections and introduced those who were present.

Dr. David Harwell, Assistant Director of Career Management and Diversity Programs at ACS, gave a timely and interesting keynote presentation titled "ACS Careers: The Best Secret That You Never Knew." Dr. Harwell presented an excellent overview of the career services that can be accessed as a member of the ACS, with emphasis on the considerable number of benefits specifically for unemployed members. Attendees acquired a wealth of useful information on ACS career services and especially enjoyed the virtual interview.

Project SEED students, along with Project SEED coordinator Nadia Makar, traveled far to attend the conference and to present their research results. Their posters were excellent and their appreciation of the support from the section was evident. Project SEED student Elaine Gomez spoke on behalf of the students to thank the Section for its Project SEED funding and for the opportunity of doing research with chemists throughout the Section. Break out planning sessions followed. The conference concluded with the traditional luncheon with colleagues - this year at Fame Diner.