

## **ACS, NEW YORK SECTION'S 2016 SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, QUEENS, NY**

Each year the New York Section sponsors a Sectionwide Conference for all members to meet with colleagues and new members. This year, the conference celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the New York Section. The conference, recently held on January 16 at St. John's University in Queens, NY, began with a continental breakfast and featured award presentations for volunteerism and achievement, a keynote address by Prof. John Sharkey, poster displays of Project SEED research, planning sessions for Section activities for 2016, and a luncheon social. Prof. Alison Hyslop of St. John's University and New York Section Chair for 2016 presided over the event and opened the conference by thanking all volunteers and welcoming new members.

At the award ceremony, Prof. Paris Svoronos received the past chair pin and an ACS plaque for his outstanding work as Chair of the New York Section in 2015. During his tenure as chair, planning was initiated for MARM (Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting) 2016. The 2015 Outstanding Service Award went to Mr. George Rodriguez, who, while chairing the Chemical Marketing and Economics Topical Discussion Group, created the Global Leadership Awards Program. He has greatly enhanced the visibility of CM&E and has developed a vibrant series of events and presentations related to the chemical industry. The Section presented the Nichols Foundation High School Chemistry Outstanding Teacher Award for 2015 to Ms. Yolette Wright of Roosevelt High School, Roosevelt, NY. Mr. Stephen Radice, Chair of the Nichols Teacher Jury, introduced Ms. Wright and listed her many accomplishments and inspiring teaching methods.

Following the awards, 2016 Chair-elect Prof Brian Gibney of Brooklyn College – CUNY and City University presented the names of the candidates for the upcoming 2016 elections and introduced the candidates who were present. He also distributed a calendar that he developed in honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the section that showcases the outstanding activities of the Section and the dates of 2016 events.

Since the New York Section is celebrating its 125 year Anniversary in 2016, a "trip through time" of the Section's 125 years proved to be an excellent keynote address for the conference. Prof. John Sharkey, the New York Section's Historian for many years, delivered an interesting and thorough recounting of the years from the Section's formation to the present day. Numerous slides showed the notable chemists who were instrumental in its development and success over the years.

The annual planning session for subsections, topical groups, and committees was held during the last hour of the conference, to discuss goals and activities for the upcoming year. The MARM (Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting) Committee held a special meeting to continue planning the MARM meeting scheduled to be hosted by the New York Section in 2016. Following the conference, a group of attendees enjoyed lunch at a nearby restaurant.