

ACS, NEW YORK SECTION'S 2018 SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE, PACE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY

Another successful New York Section Sectionwide Conference was held on January 20th at Pace University in Manhattan, NY. Members enjoyed a deliciously healthy and varied breakfast buffet along with the camaraderie of friends and colleagues. The conference also featured a presentation of awards for volunteerism and achievement, an excellent keynote address, research poster displays by New York Section SEED students, the introduction of the 2019 election candidates, planning sessions for 2018 Section activities and a luncheon social with the Younger Chemists Committee. Prof. Joseph M. Serafin of St. John's University and New York Section Chair for 2018 welcomed the Section's members and thanked them for their outstanding volunteer work in 2017.

At the award ceremony, Prof. Brian R. Gibney received the official ACS past chair pin and an ACS engraved plaque for his excellent and dedicated service as Chair of the New York Section in 2017. Prof. Gibney thanked all the dedicated New York ACS volunteers who made his year as Chair so successful. The 2017 Outstanding Service Award went to Prof. JaimeLee Iolani Rizzo who is a former Section Chair and URS coordinator, current New York Section Councilor, and creator of the annual Chemists Celebrate Earth Week Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge event. The Section presented the Nichols Foundation High School Chemistry Outstanding Teacher Award for 2017 to Mrs. Carol E. Conti of Briarcliff High School. Prof. Joseph Serafin enumerated Carol's very successful teaching methods and achievements, and thanked her for her dedication.

Following the award ceremony, Prof. Serafin presented the names of the candidates for the upcoming 2018 elections and introduced the candidates who were present.

Professor Robert Engel, of Queens College – CUNY, gave a very interesting and informative keynote address titled "*Adventures in Chemical Architecture.*" His talk summarized his laboratories' work on the syntheses and characteristics of polycationic organic species, their anti-microbial properties and indications of future directions of practical significance. Prof. Engel entertained many good questions.

The annual planning sessions for the New York Section's four active subsections, twelve topical groups, and thirty-two committees were held during the last hour of the conference, to discuss goals and activities for the upcoming year. At the same time, the revived Younger Chemists Committee, led by new chair Prof. Joseph Wiener, met to share ideas about goals for the group and upcoming events.

Following the conference, section members and family enjoyed lunch together with the Younger Chemists Committee who were starting their *Building Your Technical Career Through Strategic Networking* event.