

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK SECTION FOR 2015

This report is an abbreviated version of the full report submitted to National ACS

SECTION-WIDE CONFERENCE

The annual Section-wide Conference of the New York Section was held on **January 17th, 2015** at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, NY. The Section-wide Conference featured the presentation of awards for volunteerism and achievement, a keynote address by Prof. Wayne Jones of Binghamton University, a planning session for Section activities for 2015, and a luncheon social. Professor Paris Svoronos, New York Section Chair for 2015, presided over the event. The conference began with a delicious continental breakfast and a hearty welcome by Prof. Svoronos.



SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE AWARDEES

At the award ceremony, Dr. Pamela Kerrigan received her past chair pin, gifts of appreciation and an ACS plaque for her outstanding work as Chair of the New York Section in 2014. The 2014 Outstanding Service Award went to Prof. Jill Rehmann of St. Joseph's College, who chaired the New York Section in 2006, has been organizing the annual *High School Research Poster Session* for 20 years and is treasurer of the Brooklyn Subsection. The Section presented the Nichols Foundation High School Chemistry Outstanding Teacher Award for 2014 to Mr. Matthew Christiansen of Islip High School, in Islip, NY. Mr. Stephen Radice, Chair of the Nichols Teacher Jury, introduced Matthew and listed his many accomplishments and inspiring teaching methods. Mrs. Jean Delfiner and Mrs. Joan Laredo-Liddell surprised Mr. Lew Malchick with a gift for many years of service to the High School Teachers Topical Discussion Group. Prof. Ping Furlan and Prof. Zhaohua Dai accepted a certificate of

appreciation for their outstanding work, along with Ms. Erin Rent, as co-chairs of the successful National Chemistry Week event in October 2014. Dr. George Rodriguez accepted the award for Outstanding Volunteer Service at a Local Section, an award sponsored by the National ACS.

Following the awards, Dr. Alison Hyslop, 2015 Chair-elect of the New York Section, presented the names of the candidates for the upcoming 2015 elections and introduced the ones who were present.

Prof. Wayne E. Jones, Professor of Inorganic and Materials Chemistry at Binghamton University – SUNY, gave an excellent keynote address titled “*Capturing the Power of the Sun Using Molecular Wires and Devices: From Photovoltaics to Photocatalysis for Environmental Remediation.*” The audience thoroughly enjoyed his presentation and offered many interesting questions. It was also a pleasure to have Ms. Jodi Wesemann from National ACS make a special visit to the conference to explain the recent grant that ACS received from the NSF to explore methods to better assist graduate students and postdoctoral scholars with their career planning.

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, many members enjoyed lunch at the nearby Brooklyn Public House. It was an excellent conference enjoyed by over 70 New York Section members.



SECTIONWIDE CONFERENCE PLANNING SESSION

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS DISTINGUISHED SYMPOSIUM AND MEDAL AWARD DINNER

The 2015 William H. Nichols Medal Award was presented to **Professor Gabor A. Somorjai of the University of California, Berkeley on April 17** at an award dinner at the Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains, NY. Dr. Somorjai received the Nichols gold medal for “His Outstanding Contribution to the Elucidation of Novel Highly Selective Nanocatalysis.” In attendance were 250 local industrial chemists, students and faculty members. Thirty five colleges and universities of the New York Section were represented.

The William H. Nichols Distinguished Symposium, that preceded the award dinner, was titled “Molecular Surface Science and its Applications: Nanomaterials, the Surface Chemical Bond, Biointerfaces and Catalysis.” It featured internationally known speakers: Professors Omar M. Yaghi (University of California, Berkeley), Paul Cremer (Pennsylvania State University), Steven L. Bernasek (Princeton University) and Professor Somorjai who presented the Award Lecture titled “The Genesis and Integration of Heterogeneous, Homogeneous and Enzyme Catalysis on the Nanoscale.” Dr. Alison G. Hyslop, 2015 Chair-elect of the New York Section, led the symposium - welcoming and introducing each speaker. The attendees enjoyed the high quality of the symposium and the networking atmosphere of the award banquet.



At the Nichols Medal Award Dinner, Dr. Paris Svoronos, 2015 Chair of the ACS New York Section, welcomed the guests, introduced the dais and related the History of the Nichols Medal. The Section was very honored to have Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt, President of the ACS, offer greetings and congratulations from the American Chemical Society. Dr. Kenneth Eisenthal of Columbia University introduced his good friend and colleague by relating the interesting story of Dr. Somorjai's journey to America and his subsequent graduate education at Berkeley. Dr. Svoronos then awarded the gold medal, a bronze replica, and \$5000 to Dr. Somorjai, who was accompanied by his wife, Judith. At the conclusion of the ceremony many students eagerly met with the medalist for conversation and photographs.

Members of the Nichols family also participated in this special event, along with many former chairs of the New York Section and members of the Section's Board of Directors.



The Annual Nichols Medal Award was established in 1902 by Dr. William H. Nichols to honor a chemical scientist for outstanding original research and was first awarded in 1903. Dr. Nichols, a charter member of the American Chemical Society and its president in 1918 and 1919, maintained a deep commitment to research and development and to the importance of supporting science education and students of chemistry. Since its inception, through an endowment fund, the New York Section administers the award. It has been perpetuated through the support of Dr. Nichols, his family and the Nichols Foundation, Inc. The William H. Nichols Medal is the first award presented by the American Chemical Society.

At the Award Dinner, a special announcement was made regarding a student award program that was initiated this year through the generosity of the Nichols Foundation. The William H. Nichols

Fellowship Award will support, annually, two undergraduate students for summer science research in a New York academic institution. The selected winners will be announced each year at the banquet and they will later present their research results at the following year's Undergraduate Research Symposium. This year's recipients are: Sarah Avidan of Brooklyn College – CUNY who will be mentored by Professor Ryan Murelli, Diego Prado of Hofstra University who will be working under Professor Scott Lefurgy and Natalie Thulin of Barnard College who will be conducting her research under Professor Edward Guo of Columbia University.

SUBSECTIONS:

The BROOKLYN SUBSECTION, chaired by Theresa Cea, continued its excellent activities in 2015. On Feb. 7th The Brooklyn Subsection co-sponsored the **20th Annual High School Poster Session at St. Joseph's College**. Prof. Carlo Yuvienco of St. Joseph's College presented the keynote lecture on

'Protein-Based Drug Delivery Agents. On **May 14**, the Subsection co-sponsored the Brooklyn College's H. Martin Friedman Lecture. Prof. Tom Muir of Princeton University Albert Einstein College of Medicine presented 'Houdini Proteins: Discovery and Applications of Ultrafast Inteins' to a crowd of 136 attendees. On **Oct. 20th** The Brooklyn Subsection hosted the Program-in-a-Box event entitled 'Tales of Lab Safety: How to Avoid Rookie Accidents'. The Student Member Chapter at Brooklyn College handled the Brooklyn College event for undergraduate and masters students, while Prof. Brian Gibney hosted the Graduate Center event for PhD students. On **Oct 29th** the Subsection sponsored the **30th Annual Brooklyn High School Chemistry Day**, as part of National Chemistry Week. An audience of 117 high school students from the borough was entertained with a chemistry demonstration magic show performed by Prof. Mark Kobrak, tours of chemistry research laboratories and the presentation of awards to outstanding chemistry students. On **Dec 3rd** Dr. Marco Leona of the Metropolitan Museum of Art presented the **5th Annual Brooklyn Frontiers in Science Public Lecture** at The Tandon School of Engineering of New York University. A public audience of 264 people heard him discuss conservation at the Met and ground-breaking research in "The Science and Art of Color."

HUDSON BERGEN, chaired by Mr. Thomas Drwiega, sponsored many successful activities in 2015. A meeting, jointly with the Sigma Xi chapter of Ramapo College, was held at Ramapo College of New Jersey on **Feb. 20**. Dr. Robert Clarke delivered a talk entitled "What can we learn about breast cancer



by combining mathematics and computer science in a systems biology approach to research?" Attendance: 5 faculty and 75 students. On **Feb 24**, there was a talk by Dr. Bumjung Kim on "Synthesizing new organic semiconductor materials for organic transistors and on **Mar 24** a seminar given by Dr. Christopher Boyce on "An Overlook of Drug Discovery". A meeting, jointly with the School of Natural Sciences of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey City University, and the **17th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium and Student Award Night** (presented to the chemistry senior with the highest GPA from each participating colleges), was held on **May 1**, at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Certificates and books were presented to the awardees and all the student presenters. 11 posters were presented. Attendance: 90. Dr. Catherine Royer from RPI delivered a talk on her research entitled "Mapping Protein Folding Landscapes with High Pressure NMR". Also, in celebration of National Chemistry Week, a meeting was held at Fairleigh Dickinson University on **Oct 22**. The invited lecture, "Transition Metal Catalyzed Functionalization of Alkynes and its Applications" was delivered by Dr. Yalan Xing from

William Paterson University. Attendance: 4 faculty and 50 students. A meeting, jointly with the Sigma Xi chapter of Ramapo College, was held at Ramapo College of New Jersey on **Oct 28**. Dr. Amy M. Balija delivered a talk entitled "Modification of Macromolecular Scaffolds for Water Purification Using Concise Synthesis and Polymerization." Attendance: 4 faculty and 20 students. The Executive Board and the Board of Directors of HBCS meeting was held on **Oct 28**. The 2016 meetings schedule was discussed.

LONG ISLAND SUBSECTION, chaired by Dr. Kevin Kolack, was also very active in 2015. It held 7 board meetings, 8 seminars, the 26th High School Awards Night and the 15th Annual Chemistry Challenge. The **26th annual Long Island ACS High School Awards** program was held at Nassau Community College on **May 14**. Approximately 90 students, family, teachers, school administrators and LI-ACS members attended.

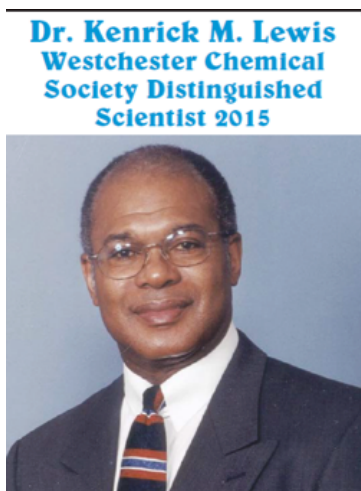


LONG ISLAND SUBSECTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The **15th Annual Chemistry Challenge** was held on **Apr 24** at Queensborough Community College, where 74 students in 24 teams from 10 local college and universities used clickers to answer 45 multiple-choice questions testing concepts from General and Organic Chemistry. Awards were given to the top three teams in each student category (2-and 4-year teams were formed based on the students' standing). For the second year, the subsection held a networking event at **Palmer Vineyards**. On **Sept 19**, ACS members and their guests received a tour of the vineyard and the facilities, learned about the science of wine-making from professional winemaker Miguel Martin, and sampled various wines. There were 20 attendees at the event. The LI Subsection's 2014 program ended with its **Networking Seminar/Dinner Holiday Social** on **Dec 3**.

The **WESTCHESTER SUBSECTION**, chaired by Dr. Rolande Hodel and Dr. Paul Dillan, held 7 monthly seminars, 3 board meetings and the **Distinguished Scientist Award Meeting** on **Apr 30**. The

Award was presented to **Dr. Kenrick Lewis, Corporate Research Fellow Momentive Performance Materials, Inc., Tarrytown, NY** in recognition of “his contributions to the catalysis of reactions of silicon and silicon compounds, especially slurry-phase direct reactions of silicon with nanosized copper catalysts.” In addition to the Distinguished Scientist Award, the Westchester Chemical Society also presented 16 undergraduate Student Awards (our most ever).



The Student Awardees with the WCS Co-Chairs and Education Director.

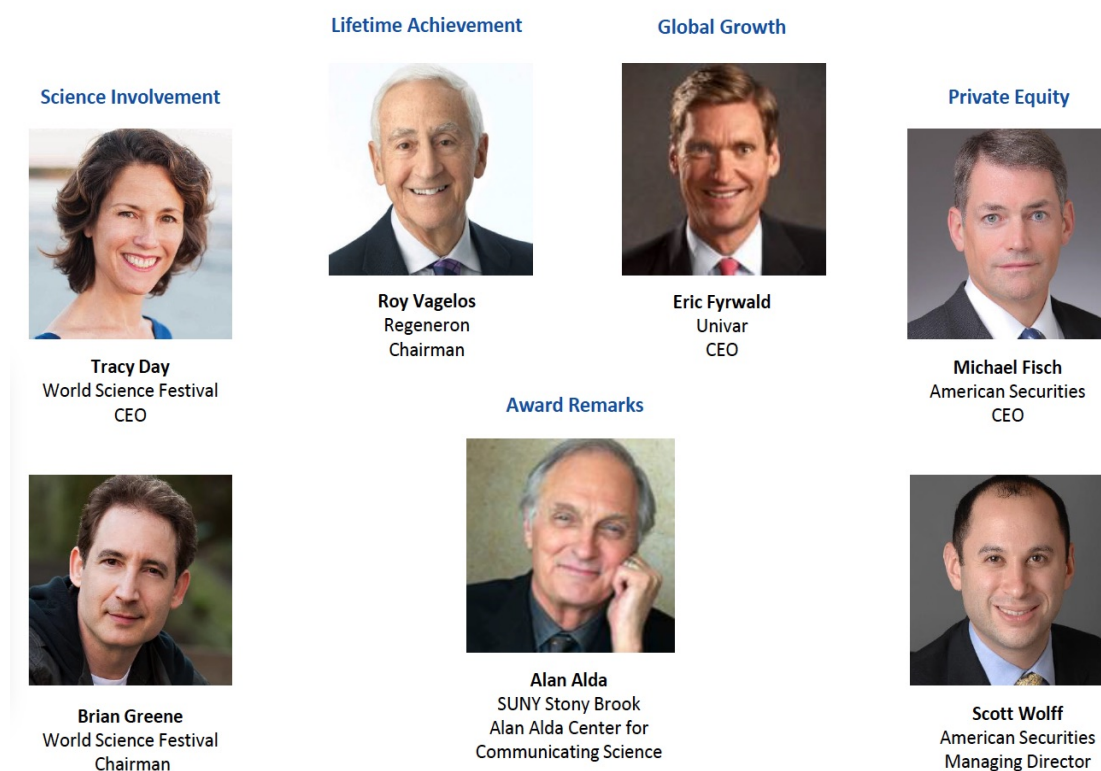
(Photo courtesy of Paul Dillon)

TOPICAL DISCUSSION GROUPS:

The **ANALYTICAL TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Dr. Robert Nolan, hosted 3 seminars in 2015 with the participation of the forensic science faculty and students from John Jay School of Criminal Justice and invited faculty and students from other NYC area forensic and analytical programs to attend our seminars. The dates and titles are: **Mar 19** by Dr. Cyril Muehlethaler - “Spray Paint Examination And Multivariate Statistics: The Benefits Of A Common Approach”; **Apr 2** by Dr. Robert Nolan - “Health Effects of Asbestos: Where are we now?”; **Oct 22** by Dr. Rich Mendelson - “Vibrational Spectroscopy, Microspectroscopy And Imaging: Applications To Skin Physiology And Pharmacology.” The seminars had attendance around 30.

The **BIOCHEMICAL TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Dr. Thomas Franke, had another very active year in 2015. The Biochemical Topical Group of the NY ACS and the Biochemical Pharmacology Discussion Group (BPDG) of the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) collaborate. Together, they sponsored **8 Symposia**. The topics and speakers were selected from proposals submitted to the Steering Committee. The scientist who suggested the topic then chaired that meeting. The symposia were held at NYAS, 7 World Trade Center NYC. Half- day symposia had 4-5 speakers and full day symposia had 7-8. Coffee breaks in the middle of each session enabled interactions. Full day symposia included a subsidized lunch and a reception follows, enabling discussion and interactions. More than 100 scientists attended each symposium.

The **CHEMICAL MARKETING AND ECONOMICS TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by George Rodriguez, had another extraordinarily active year. The Group had **monthly luncheon meetings that took place September through June** on the first Thursday of each month. At these meetings the presentation lasted usually for 45 minutes, followed by a question and answer period. Luncheon and the presentation were preceded by an informal social hour for networking. On Dec 8, CM&E presented its **2015 Leadership Awards**, marking the fourth annual celebration of leadership in the chemical industry. The lifetime achievement award went to Roy Vagelos, former Merck CEO and current Regeneron Chairman, for his work in the pharmaceutical industry over three decades. The Global Growth Award was presented to Dr. Erik Fyrwald of Univar. Univar holds the top position in North America for the distribution of chemistry and related products, and No. 2 in the world. The Private Equity Award was given to Drs. Michael Fisch and Scott Wolff of American Securities; and the Science Involvement Award to Tracy Day and Briane Greene, Founders of the World Science Festival, one of the world's largest annual events with 1.5 million attendees since 2008. The Section was pleased to have actor Alan Alda present the award remarks at the event. He has hosted the PBS Scientific American Frontiers program for 12 years. ACS speakers attending the event were Dr. Thomas Connelly Jr, CEO of ACS and Dr. Diane Schmidt, 2015 ACS President.



YALE CLUB • TUESDAY • DECEMBER 8, 2015 • 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

CM&E has brought the spotlight to STEM education by making it an integral part of its Awards presentation. CM&E subsidizes student luncheons. Over 20% of attendees at our largest event were students from high school to college (undergraduate and graduate levels). CM&E had an excellent year.

The **COMPUTERS IN CHEMISTRY TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Seogioo Jang, held its annual New York Theoretical and Computational Chemistry Conference (NYTaC³). This is a one day professional conference where local experts in theoretical and computational chemistry give talks on recent advances in their fields of research and students also present posters. The theme of the conference held on May 19 was “Reconciling Practicality And Theoretical Correctness From Quantum Chemistry To Biological Simulations.” Attendance was 70. the meeting served as an important networking event for both professors and students alike.

The **HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHERS TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Mrs. Jean Delfiner and Mrs. Joan Laredo-Liddell, co-sponsored with the Physics Teachers Club of New York, **8 excellent meetings** that included seminars, presentations and the very popular **Demo Derby on Apr 17**. It was an evening of nonstop demonstrations by the 35 attendees. The talks covered a wide range of science subjects, such as “Materials Chemistry in a Virtual Laboratory: Structure, Transport, and Functionalization” by Prof Mark Tuckerman of NYU, and “X-Ray Crystallography: From the Discoveries of the Past to Designed Structures” by Dr. Peter Corfield of Fordham Univ. on Dec 11.

The **INORGANIC AND ORGANOMETALLIC TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Dr. Kathleen Kristian and Dr. James Camara, hosted the 4th annual Frontiers of Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry lecture symposium on Sept 18 on the campus of Columbia University. The event attracted an audience of more than 60 academic and industrial chemists. Presenters included Xavier Roy (Columbia University), Maria Contel (Brooklyn College), Michael Williams (Merck), and Jenny Lockard (Rutgers University). Timothy Warren (Georgetown University) delivered the keynote address, “Copper Catalyzed C-H Functionalization: Method Development via Enabling Intermediates.”

The Inorganic and Organometallic Group also hosted the ION (Inorganic, Organometallic, Nanoscience) Poster Session on Sept 18. The event featured informal poster presentations by graduate and undergraduate students from institutions within the NY Local Section. The poster session was generously sponsored by Merck.

THE **METROWOMEN CHEMISTS TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Dr. Rita Upmacis, held a seminar on Apr 2. Dr. Marta Concheiro (Assistant Professor of Forensic Toxicology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York) was invited to give a talk on “Drug of Abuse Bioanalysis During Pregnancy: Recent Advances and Novel Sampling Strategies” at Pace University. The speaker was also invited to lunch with the Department of Chemistry faculty at Pace University.

The **NANOSCIENCE TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Dr. James Canary, held **two excellent symposia** in 2015. The meetings took place at New York University on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 7:00pm with greetings and refreshments, followed by science at 7:30pm. Each speaker presented for 25 minutes, and entertained questions for 5 minutes. The atmosphere was informal and collegial. The **Feb 3rd** symposium featured speakers Drs. Brian Gibney “Fundamental Studies of Heme Electrochemistry towards the Design of Biomimetic Solar Cells”; Cindie Kehlet “NMR Investigations of Artist Materials: From Oil Paint to Synthetic Resins” and Kayvan Keshari “Interrogating Biochemistry with Hyperpolarized MR”. The **Apr 7th** Symposium had 3 speakers – Drs. Marilyn Gunner “Changing Proton Affinity (pKas) and Accessibility in Proteins”; Richard Bonneau “Synthetic Folded Oligomers: Computation Guided by Experiment”; Kent Kirshenbaum “Synthetic Folded Oligomers: Experiment Guided by Computation.”

The **ORGANIC TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Dr. Paramjit Arora, hosted two outstanding symposia in 2015 in collaboration with the New York Academy of Science's Chemical Biology Discussion Group. The goal of the meetings is to enhance interactions among local-area laboratories working in chemical biology and to feature forefront research in chemical biology to the wider community. The meeting traditionally covers a range of current topics in chemical biology, including chemical probe development, organic synthesis, biosynthesis, protein engineering, nanotechnology, and drug discovery. The **Sept 29** Symposium was titled "Visualizing Cellular Messengers" and had 5 speakers and a keynote lecture by Dr. Amy Palmer of the University of Colorado. On **May 18** the annual **Year-end Meeting** featured distinguished keynote speaker Dr. Scott J. Miller of Yale University. This was followed by shorter, cutting-edge talks by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows selected from participating tristate-area institutions, and a poster session.

The **SENIOR CHEMISTS TOPICAL GROUP**, chaired by Frank Romano and Dr. Ralph Stephani, organized and hosted a very successful **50 and 60 year ACS Member Celebration and Luncheon** on Saturday **Nov 21** at Petrossian Restaurant, NYC. Pictures were taken of the awardees holding their plaques with Dr. Ralph Stephani. The awardees enjoyed describing their careers in chemistry and appreciated meeting their colleagues. They felt honored to be recognized on this milestone.



EDUCATION COMMITTEES:

CHEMAGINATION:

The 12th Annual Chemagination contest of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society (NYACS) was hosted by NYACS at St. John's University on April 25, 2015. *Chemagination* is a science essay and poster contest for high school chemistry students, grades 9-12, that asks them to

address the question, “What innovation or breakthrough in the field of chemistry will be important in the lives of teenagers 25 years from now?” Students choose one of four categories: Alternative Energy Resources, Environment, Medicine/Healthcare, or New Materials and their entries are written as articles of 1000 words or less that might appear in a future issue of *ChemMatters*, a science publication for high school students. Students make a poster presentation of their articles on the day of the contest. The written entries were received through web submission and then made available to the judges prior to the day of the contest. Judging criteria included scientific thought, creativity, clarity, thoroughness, and teamwork. The first and second place winners in each category were given trophies. All participants were given certificates of participation. This year’s event had approximately 32 posters and 75 students from six different high schools. The event was coordinated by Dr. Vic Cesare and Dr. Gina Florio of St. John’s.

EARTH DAY EVENTS:

Walk the Brooklyn Bridge April 25, 2015

On Sat., **April 25**, Pace University and the New York Section hosted its 4th annual Chemists Celebrate Earth Day “Walk the Brooklyn Bridge” event, coordinated by Dr. JaimeLee Rizzo. There were more

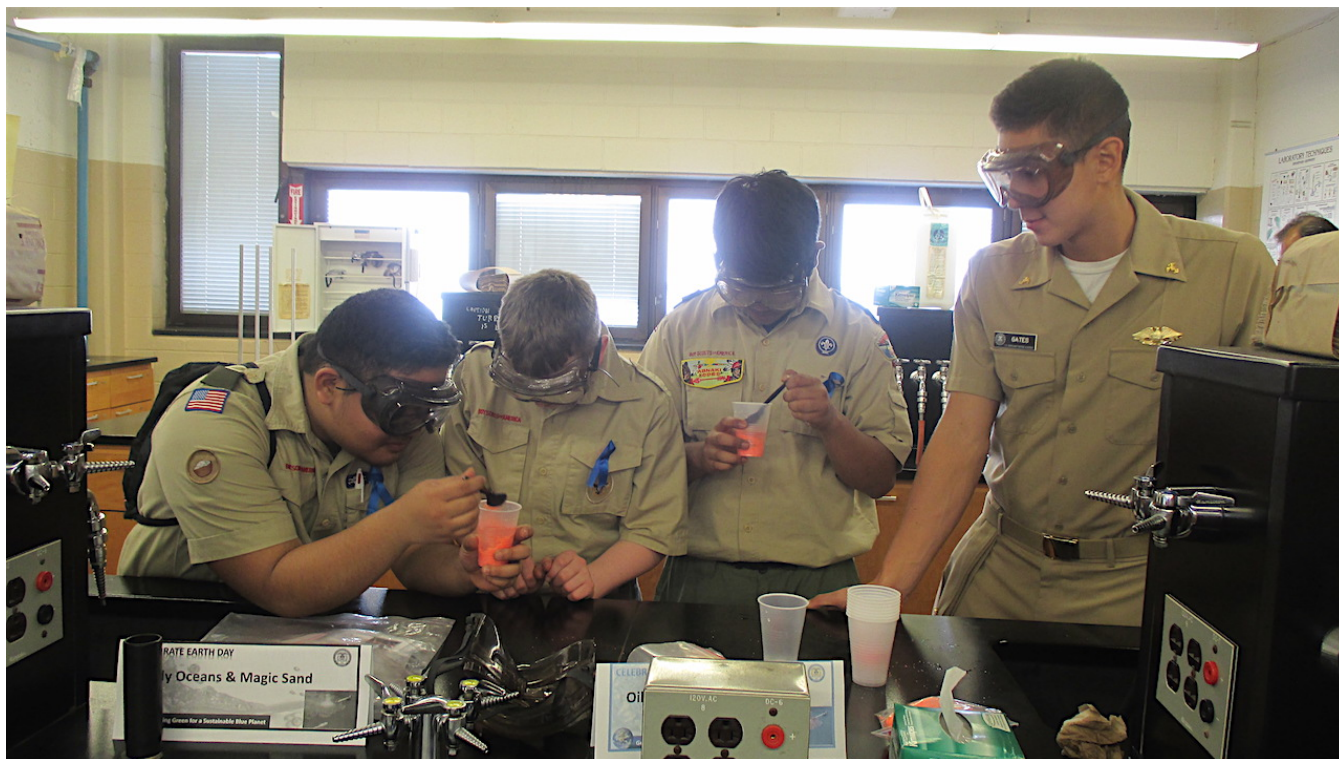


than 200 people in attendance who gathered at Pace University (the host institution) at 10 am to begin the celebration. The morning started with a welcome by Dr. JaimeLee Rizzo, Earth Day Coordinator, Professor of Chemistry, and 2012 Chair of the ACS-NY Section followed by opening remarks by Dr. Neil Jespersen, St. John’s University, representing the ACS-NY Section. The keynote speaker, Prof. Spiro Alexandratos, Hunter College, CUNY delivered an enthusiastic, eye-opening, and informative talk entitled, “99 is not 100: A Call to Action.” Each participant was provided with breakfast, snacks, and earth day gifts (recycled Earth Day rubber duckies and reusable water bottles). We had an Earth Day Banner which was carried to lead the way for our parade route from Pace University across the bridge.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Earth Day Celebration Event April 18, 2015

For the 4th year in a row, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) celebrated 2015 Green Earth Day with fun-filled and “green” focused science demonstrations, displays, and hands-on experiments on Saturday, April 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The program took place at USMMA Chemistry Laboratories and engaged more than 400 regional boy scouts (from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania), their parents, and their troop leaders with twenty earth-friendly activities. Twenty-five USMMA faculty, staff and midshipmen volunteered for the program. The event, sponsored by the USMMA Math & Science Department, USMMA Science Club, and the New York Section of the American Chemical

Society (ACS), were well received by all who were involved. All volunteers received Certificates. Coordinated by Dr. Ping Furlan



HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD:

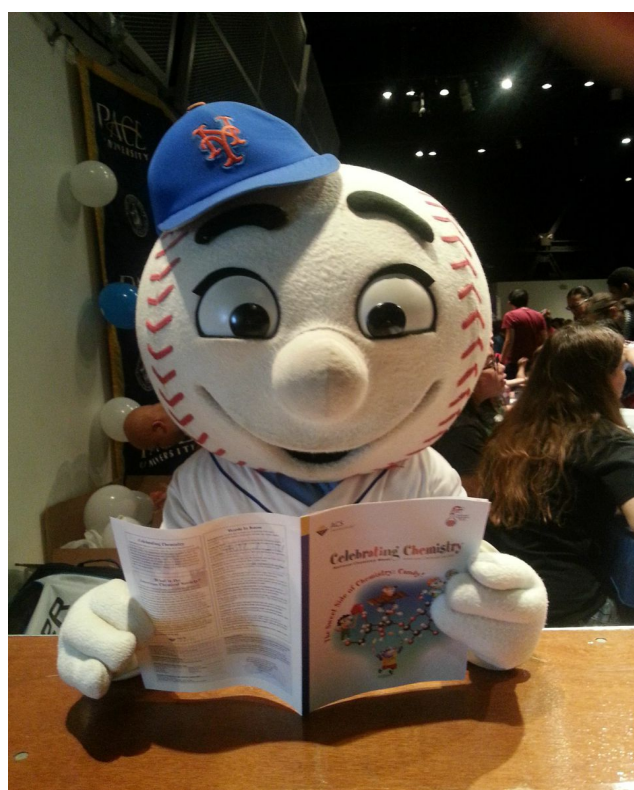
Nationally, more than 16,000 students from 144 local sections took the local exam. In the New York Section a total of 365 students from 57 different high schools registered to take the local exam. The local exam was administered on March 7 (8 sites) and March 8 (3 sites). There were no changes in sites from 2014. The continued support and cooperation of the site coordinators is very much appreciated. Of the students who registered, 313 actually took the exam. Again this year the National Exam was administered at Adelphi University on Sunday, April 19. Coordinated by Dr. Stephen Goldberg.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK AT THE NY HALL OF SCIENCE:

On Sunday, Oct 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the 11th consecutive year, around 260 volunteers from 20 area universities, nonprofit organizations, business centers and industries joined in the Local Section's effort and celebrated 2015 National Chemistry Week at the New York Hall of Science, located in Queens, NY. Through 41 tables of 50 fun-filled hands-on activities, the program showcased the chemical principles relating to "Chemistry Colors Our World!" and demonstrated the values of chemistry in our everyday lives. This year, the section set a record for having the highest number of sponsoring organizations and the highest number of tables of activities. Admission to the New York Hall of Science was once again FREE on the event date from 10-11 a.m., allowing the New York Local Section to effectively reach and engage over 1,000 museum visitors, especially students in grades K-8, with this highly interactive outreach program.

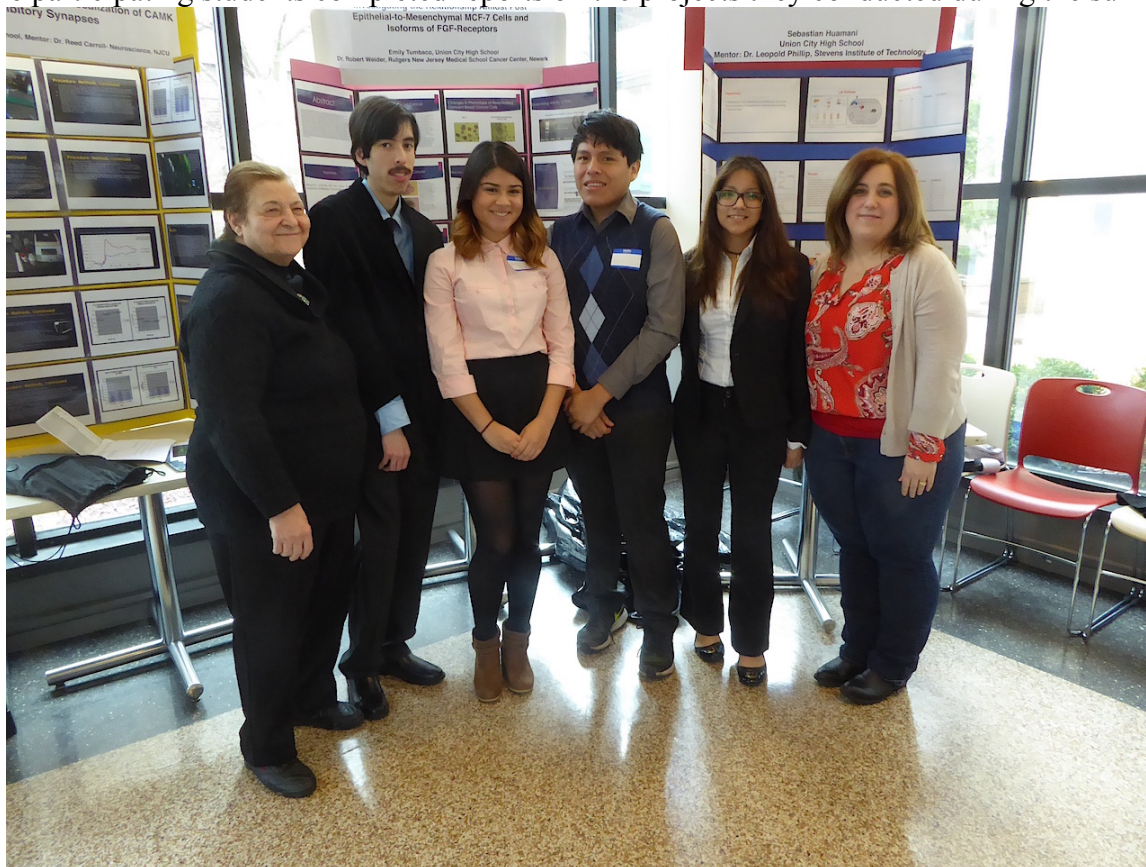
Inside the Hall of Science, NCW balloons and ACS banners were seen everywhere in the hallway and stairs leading to the Viscusi Gallery where the event took place. At the admission table in front of the

Gallery entrance, volunteers welcomed the children and other participants with program brochures and ACS giveaways, ensured they had eye protection and answered questions. There also was a large-screen slideshow celebrating the chemistry of light and color, and highlighting the Section's people and upcoming events. During the whole day, the activity tables were crowded and swamped with the enthusiastic museum visitors. Children, parents, and the presenters alike obviously enjoyed their time spent together learning about and exploring the chemistry and science of dyes, rainbows, firework, and more. As the volunteers closed down the program, all were pleased with the day and felt gratified for being part of this terrific program. Many agreed – a year in advance – that they would be back for National Chemistry Week 2016!



PROJECT SEED:

The New York Section Project SEED, coordinated by Mrs. Nadia Makar, is one of the largest programs in the country and is functioning very well. It has produced great scientists, engineers, mathematicians, teachers, physicians and entrepreneurs. Professors from colleges, universities, research centers and hospitals served as mentors to 80 SEED I and SEED II students from economically disadvantaged families. Participating higher learning institutions were Columbia University, New York University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Saint Peter's University, New Jersey City University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers Medical School, the Center for Cancer Research, Susan Lehman Cullman Laboratory for Cancer Research, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, Beth Israel Health Center Hospital, Fairleigh Dickinson University and Montclair State University. In 2015, all of the participating students completed reports on the projects they conducted during the summer.



The students participated in several Research Poster Competitions including:

1. North Jersey Research Posters Competition that took place at Seton Hall University. NY SEED students won 4 out of the 5 top awards
2. North Jersey Science and Humanities Symposium that took place at Rutgers University and NY section students won several awards.
3. South Jersey Science and Humanities Symposium that took place at Monmouth University and NY SEED students won several awards and prizes
4. The Regional Intel ISEF that took place at Liberty Science Center and NY SEED students won 4 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 10 bronze medals and several awards and prizes

5. The Research Posters Competition at Montclair State University and NY SEED students won several awards and prizes.
6. ACS NY section annual research posters competition that took place at St Joseph College

Six SEED II students represented the New York Section at the 250th National American Chemical Society Meeting that took place in Boston in August.

All of the seniors in the NY SEED program were accepted to college and several of them received full scholarships. One was accepted to Yale and he also was named a Millennium Bill Gates Scholar. Another student was accepted to Columbia University. All of them will major in the STEM fields. Some past SEED participants have become teachers themselves and are now encouraging students to participate in the program. It is a very successful program!

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES – UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM:



The Student Activities Committee of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society held its **63rd URS on Saturday, May 9**, at Queensborough Community College, Bayside, NY. **Around 164 papers from 33 different colleges and universities were presented in 27 concurrent sessions.** The areas covered were analytical, biochemistry, environmental/green, inorganic, organic, nano- and surface chemistry, physical and polymer chemistry. Opening remarks were given by Sharon Lall-Ramnarine, Paul Sideris, Paris Svoronos, and Sasan Karimi to begin the program. Sharon Lall-Ramnarine then introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. JaimeLee Rizzo from Pace University, a Queensborough Community College Alumnus. Dr. Rizzo's keynote address was titled – "Constructing Killer Surfaces."

After several questions from the audience, pictures were taken and the students were then directed to their presentation locations. During the luncheon, Yolanda Small introduced the sponsor presentation



speakers, Lauren McLean discussed Using Mastering Chemistry in the Classroom – a Pearson Education sponsored discussion. A second presentation was given by Dr. Roy Lacey – a chemistry professor at Stony Brook University, on the ALEKS learning solution – a McGraw-Hill sponsored discussion. Following the luncheon, the URS co-chairs distributed participation certificates and commemorative gifts to the students, moderators and sponsors. At the conclusion of the day, there was an ice cream social, during which a Kaplan sponsored raffle drawing for a free MCAT or GRE course was

held. The winning raffle ticket went to a student from York College CUNY.

Announcements for this event were made electronically by e-mail as well as advertising in the Indicator issues of January, February, March and April. Submission of abstracts was done using e-mail and web technology. The program for the day and a complete listing of all student abstracts were published in the book of abstracts distributed to all attendees. The website for submission was developed and maintained by Brian Gibney the Web Master for the ACS-NY section. Five registration webpages were used to estimate the number of attendees to the program (registration of presenters, mentors, moderators exhibitors and guests).

MEMBER AFFAIRS COMMITTEES:

EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS:

The committee, chaired by Dr. HESSY Taft, has an article printed in the Newsletter *the Indicator* and on the New York Section website for employers seeking employees. Activities for this Committee consisted primarily of email exchanges regarding interest for a position by job-seeking candidates and the availability of jobs in industry and /or academia. Linda Atkins, managing editor of the Indicator, has placed a permanent announcement in the web-based Indicator encouraging Human Resources departments in Industry and Academia in the NY metropolitan area to contact me to post their job openings with the Employment and Professional Relations Committee electronic roster. It is hoped that the web-based option will provide more visibility and thus more enhanced contact for job placement.

FELLOWS:

The ACS Fellows Program recognizes “Members of ACS for Outstanding Achievements in and Contributions to Science, the Profession and the Society.” The NY Section posted a notice on their website and in the Indicator requesting nominations for the ACS Fellowships. The Committee is chaired by Dr. Robert Nolan.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD:

In 2015, the OSA Committee met and chose Mr. George Rodriguez of Agilent Technologies and Chair of the Chemical Marketing & Economics Topical Group of the NY Section as the award recipient. Mr. Rodriguez received the award at the January 2016 Sectionwide Conference. The award is given each year to recognize the efforts of members of the New York Section who provide their time, leadership skills and dedicated service in promoting quality programs that contribute to the excellence of the Section. Mr. Rodriguez greatly enhanced the visibility of Section's Chemical Marketing and Economics (CM&E) Topical Group and developed a vibrant series of events and presentations related to the chemical industry. While chairing CM&E from 2009 to 2015, George created the Global Leadership Awards Program, honoring outstanding figures in industry and finance related to the business of chemistry. Under his leadership, the activities of CM&E led directly to two ChemLuminary Awards for the NY section. The 2012 Global Leadership Awards event won the ChemLuminary Award for Global Engagement. In addition to his leadership of CM&E, George has served on the NY Section Board of Directors since 2010, as an Alternate Councilor, as Co-Chair of the Public Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Information Technology Committee. In 2014 he was named the New York Section's Outreach Volunteer of the Year.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

In 2015 the activities of the Government Affairs committee made its first forays into discussions with congressional representatives. It was proposed that the New York Section of the American Chemical Society establish an interaction with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Office. This interaction would be initiated by the Committee on Government Affairs of the New York Section. We believed that Senator Gillibrand's sponsorship of STEM bills was within the purview of the NY Section of the ACS. We believed that it was within the interests of our members to highlight government affairs relating to STEM, and the activities of our representatives in this vital area.

As a first step a call was made on June 5th by Dr. Marc Walters, chair of the Government Affairs Committee, to the office of Senator Gillibrand to express the Section's interest in her work on the behalf of students and teachers of STEM. A message was left with her assistant. Other calls were made on June 15, July 15. But no responses materialized.

On October 28 Dr. Walters telephoned the ACS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) office and spoke with the director Mr. Anthony Pitagno. He explained that local section members should encourage their congressional representatives to join the Congressional Chemistry Caucus.

In a subsequent telephone discussion with Mr. Pitagno (November, 3) we discussed the activities of the ACS regarding the Chemistry Caucus and the approach that local section members could take with their congressional representatives. His office sent talking points and a biography sheet on Representative Eliot Engel (NY 16th congressional district, GAC chair's district).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES:

COUNCILOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

The Councilor Coordinating Committee, chaired by Dr. Ron D'Amelia, consisted of all Certified Councilors and Alternate Councilors for 2015. There were two National ACS meetings held in 2015: one was held in Denver CO, March 20-25, 2015 and the other was held in Boston, MA, August 14-19, 2015.

Summary of Activities from the Denver Meeting:

The New York section had all its councilors at the council meeting held in Denver. The council meeting took place on March 25th at the Hyatt Regency Denver Colorado Convention center hotel - Grand ballroom. The District I caucus took place on Tuesday March 24th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the same hotel. In addition, many of our councilors attended the Local section Officers and Tour Speakers reception held on Tues afternoon. The ACS council dealt with several major issues important to all ACS members. The meeting hosted 13, 940 registrants. The council received extensive briefings on the Society's finances which showed that in spite of the economic challenges; the Society's operating performance held up well. The Council voted to set member dues for 2016 at the fully escalated rate of \$162. The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2016-2018 term. As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED unanimously to continue the Committees on Ethics and Science. Continuation of these two committees requires Board concurrence. A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. The Council requested that the Board of Directors delay the implementation of the technical meeting additional fee to the meeting registration of \$15. All councilors are reminded to complete their online committee preference form for 2015. SOCED reported the more than 1.9k individuals have joined AACT. M&E recommended that the early member registration fee for 2016 national meeting be 415. The District 1 director held a region caucus on Tuesday March 24th. The meeting agenda included the current council agenda items and any other issues within the region. Joan Laredo-Liddell reported on her activities on the SOCED committee and the development of High School Chemistry Clubs

Summary of Activities from the Boston Meeting:

The New York section had all its councilors at the council meeting held in Boston. The council meeting took place on Wednesday August 19th at the Sheraton Boston hotel. The district I caucus took place on Sunday August 15th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the same hotel. Some of our Councilors attended the ChemLuminary awards ceremony on Tuesday August 18th. The New York section won three ChemLuminary awards this year. As is standard at fall national meetings, the council elected some members to the Committee on Committees (CONC), the Council Policy Committee (CPC) and the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) for the 2016-2018 terms. The council voted to approve the Petition on Preferential voting and on a Petition on Member Expulsion. N&E announced the candidates for the fall 2015 election for President-Elect, Directors at-Large and for District 1 and V Directors. Total attendance for the Boston meeting was 13,888 registrants. CPC was asked to review the way Local Sections and Divisions are currently represented on Council. The task force is examining issues that effect Divisor formulae set out in the Bylaws. SOCED voted to approve revisions to the ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year Colleges. Membership Affairs (MAC) reported that the ACS membership was over 156K slightly less than last year. Joan Laredo-Liddell reported on the activities of the Society Committee on Education (SOCED). Dr. Ronald P. D'Amelia reported on his activities on the Committee of Community Activities (CCA). As part of the Program Development and Promotion subcommittee (PDP) guidance was developed for National Chemistry week for 2015.

LONG RANGE PLANNING:

The Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Dr. Brian Gibney, met to discuss the William H. Nichols Fellowship program implementation. The applicants were discussed and the proposed recipients were identified. These were forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval.

NICHOLS MEDAL JURY:

The Nichols Medal Jury, chaired by Dr. JaimeLee Rizzo, met in a one-day in person meeting on June 19 to determine who will be honored with the William H. Nichols Medal Award for 2016. Dr. Stephen Buchwald of MIT was chosen to be the Medalist for 2016.

MARM 2016 PLANNING:

The MARM 2016 Committee, chaired by Dr. Dan Amarante and Dr. Pamela Kerrigan, held monthly meetings to plan and make arrangements for the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting that was going to be held in June 2016 at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Chairs of various committees were selected. Publicity, fund raising, room arrangements, socials, etc were discussed. It set up 50 sessions and made a continued effort to fund raise through exhibitors. Professor Ronald Breslow was selected as one of the keynote speakers. The meetings dates were Jan 9, Jan 17, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 10, May 29, July 10, Aug 21, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13 and Dec 4.

EASTERN ANALYTICAL SYMPOSIUM:

The NY Section is a sponsoring organization of the Eastern Analytical Symposium (EAS) which is the 2nd largest analytical symposium and exhibition serving the analytical chemistry community held each year in the U.S.A. This year's EAS was held in Somerset, New Jersey on November 16-18. There were 7 sessions for oral presentation, and 30 short courses and a total of 295 exhibitors. There also were numerous awards given for professionals and students. The plenary lecture was given by Nobel Laureate Prof Kurt Wuthrich. NY Section members volunteer during the Symposium. The New York Section has a information table at the symposium.



DR. ROBERT NOLAN MANNING THE NY SECTION TABLE AT EAS



STUDENTS AWARDEES AT EAS

MORE EXCELLENT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

STEM NIGHT AT BAKER SCHOOL:

On January 14, 2015, four midshipmen and three faculty members from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) and three faculty members participated in the **First Annual Family STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) **night** at E.M. Baker School in Great Neck. The event, running from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., actively engaged one hundred 3rd and 4th graders and their families with interactive hands-on Science activities and fun math challenges. The ACS banner was seen at the USMMA stations that featured the following themes: Water, Water, Everywhere; Harnessing Green Energy; and Chemical Products Are Going Green! The activities were prepared to educate the students about the importance of using and searching for green and alternative energy and products. During the entire night, the USMMA stations were flooded with the enthusiastic youngsters, who were obviously enjoying themselves exploring the magic of science while asking lots of questions!



HOME SCIENTIST WORKSHOP FOR DAISY AND BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS:

35 Daisy Girl Scouts and 50 Brownie Girl Scouts came to St. Peter's University for a 3-hour science program. The girls carried out 5 sets of experiments: exploding colors explored immiscible liquids; yucky stuff included slime and oobleck; bubbles in your food prepared carbon dioxide with yeast and with baking soda; floating and sinking explored density; static electricity involved balloons and separating salt and pepper. Daisy scouts earned a Science Fun patch; Brownie scouts earned the home Scientist badge. Co-sponsors included the Heart of New Jersey Girl Scout Council (3 representatives participating) as well as St. Peter's University. Twenty-two student volunteers (3 ACS members among them) taught the experiments, under the supervision of Dr. Patricia Redden of the chemistry department. The students represented elementary education students as well as science majors from Collins Chemistry Society, Mendel Biology Club, and Gamma Sigma Epsilon chemistry honor society). These students worked from 10 am to 5 pm that day. The program was supported by a CCA outreach mini-grant of \$500, which paid all the expenses