



North Jersey Section of the ACS

Activities and Accomplishments of the No. Jersey Section in 2008

Dr. Michael M. Miller, *2008 Section Chair*



2008 Key Values and Chair's Goals

Communication
Responsibility
Energize
Active
Teamwork
Improvement
Value
Execution

The North Jersey Section is the largest section in the ACS. Being so, we see many of the national challenges of the Society at a local level. Several of the most troublesome issues that the NJ-ACS has faced over the past several years include: the relocation of jobs from layoffs or from outsourcing via off-shoring, state budget decreases and reductions in scientific research grants placing local academic professionals at risk, loss of revenue from longstanding sponsors, and reduced personal connections amongst sub-groups of the Section due to years of delegation. These challenges can not be addressed with simple monthly section meetings. They require a larger effort and a sustained commitment by hundreds dedicated volunteers in all areas of the section, resulting in 94 section meetings with open attendance and countless hours of work on special projects and focused committee sessions. These efforts spanned the boundaries of academia, industry, government, and the Society. Thus, the goal of 2008 was to tackle the above outlined challenges head on and positively impact future sustainability of the Section. In a word, the Section's leaders were asked to be "CREATIVE." This call to arms stood for key values for 2008 including: Communication, Responsibility, Energize, Active, Teamwork, Improvement, Value, and Execution.



Communication

Due to the size and diversity of the North Jersey Section, we encounter unique communication problems due to the numerous and almost independent Topical Groups charged with Technical Programming. To insure that everyone was working together around the common good in 2008, the Section continued to hold regular planning and programming meetings with leaders representing every interest, however to augment this effort and attempt to realign the sub-groups we took additional steps. Indeed a focus of this year's administration was to establish stronger ties amongst the Topical Groups which in turn was accomplished via the creation of Executive Committee to Topical Group liaisons. These assigned individuals partnered with Topical Groups to educate these volunteers about the accomplishments and objectives of the Section as a whole, as well as functioned as an avenue to maintain a leadership pipeline for the sustainability of the Executive Committee.





Responsibility

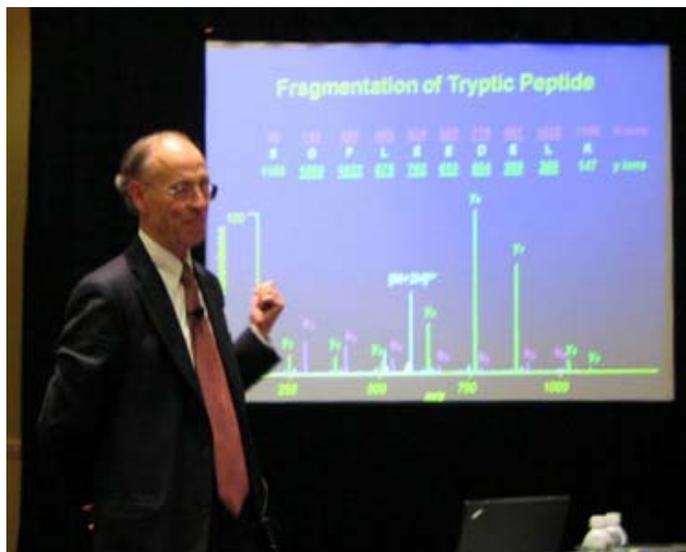
The North Jersey Section continues to build upon past achievements and in 2008 we insured we carried out our key responsibilities. We continued to host the "Chemistry As A Life Symposium" which provided free admission to over 640 registrants through the sponsorship of 26 local pharmaceutical companies. The Section worked through the details of the by-laws and selection process of the "Award for Creativity in Molecular Design and Synthesis" in order to present this honor to the second Award recipient during a hugely successful Fall symposium. As in year's past we participated in the "Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting" (MARM) and thus collaborated with other local Sections to provide speaking opportunities to our members.





Energize

A cornerstone of our Section and key to our impact has been the excellent technical programming that our Topical Groups deliver each year. These events serve to energize our membership as they involve top-flight science and world-class speakers from academia and industry, and this year these symposia have reached a new level of excellence. The Small Chemical Business group explored how the current economic climate affected local companies. The Mass Spectrometry, NMR, Organic, and Chromatography Group organized industry leading events in which presentations spanned the gamut from novel approaches to sustainability and from successful case studies to key discoveries.



NJ-ACS Section Topical Groups

***Chromatography
Drug Metabolism
Lab Robotics
Mass Spectrometry
NMR Spectroscopy
Organic
Polymer
Regulatory & Quality
Small Chemical Business***



Active

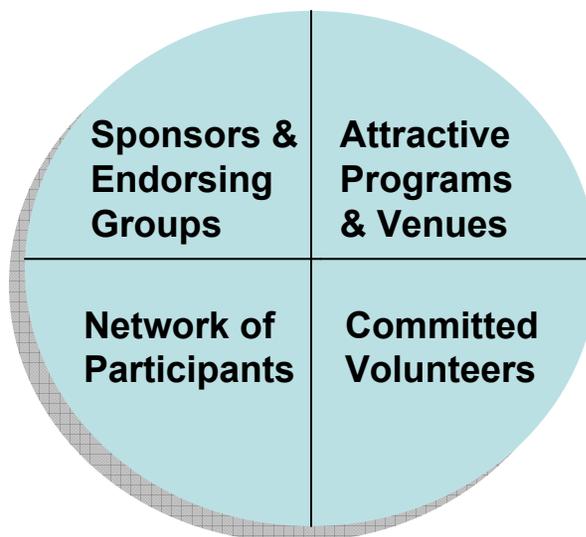
Since the success of the field is dependent on capturing the imagination of today's youth and thus attracting bright individuals to the sciences, our volunteers worked tirelessly to stay active in our communities as we continued to promote and expand programs such as Project SEED and National Chemistry Week (NCW). Specifically, our Project SEED Program supported 98 students from NJ and NY, members gave 2 workshops about how to use the research experience to apply to, succeed at, and choose the right colleges for a career in science, and leaders took 44 students and chaperones from North Jersey and NY City to the Philadelphia National ACS meeting so that these students could attend talks, give posters, and participate in the Project SEED 40th anniversary activities.





Teamwork

A new level of teamwork was achieved this year as we worked to break through old barriers and partnered with other local sections and scientific societies. The fledgling Polymer Group continued to work with the Polymer Division of the ACS as they formed new ties with other organizations such as the NY chapter of the Society of Cosmetics Chemists, the NJ Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers, and ChemPharma. This effort exemplified by the Polymer Group allowed our Section to serve a broader range of local and regional audiences. In addition, the NJ Executive Committee reached out to the Topical Groups within our Section this year to establish a much closer relationship as we laid the foundations for a combined Section-wide meeting, thereby highlighting the connectivity of our fields in one unified event.





Improvement

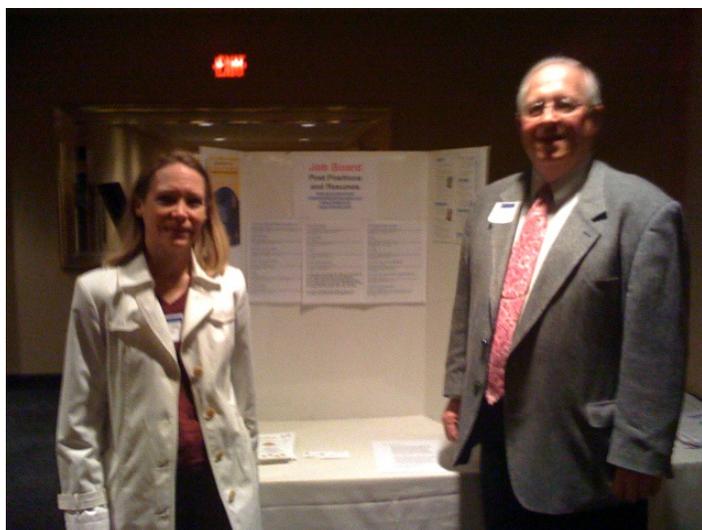
A consistent theme throughout 2008 was the concept of continual improvement. Through a great deal of hard work, we successfully established ways to improve our financial situation, our budget planning process, our leadership pipeline, and our alignment / interaction with local academic institutions and industry. A renewed effort and restructuring of our Long-range Planning (Review) Committee resulted in a concrete plan moving forward with detailed key deliverables. In order to improve our internal leadership, the NJ-ACS applied for an LSAC grant for the leadership system course. We selected a new Section Treasurer and Editor of the Indicator, as well as created an Editorial Board for the Sections publication. Due to these initiatives we are a better run Section which continues to impact the communities within and beyond our boundaries.





Value

A key driver of our work this year has been to continue to add value for our membership. Due to the current environment within our work force, a great deal of effort was placed into career guidance. The Careers in Transition (CIT) team offered assistance to individuals who were employed and considering changing jobs or those that were unemployed and looking for work. At monthly meetings, the CIT attendees were introduced to hiring managers or key contacts. In addition, workshops on resume writing, networking, and general interviewing skills were provided to members. The MetroWomen Chemists Committee sponsored career seminars, which was attended by students and younger chemists. At one of these events, those in attendance enjoyed an informative talk titled "Starting your Career."





Execution

Understanding that it is not only what one does, but how it is done, the Section successfully concentrated on the execution of its events, presentations, and demonstrations in order to provide a new level of excellence. The NJ-ACS Topical Groups and Executive Committee met twice in 2008 to share learnings and improvements which were implemented to better execute their technical programming symposia. Based on the Section's impact, a new level of vendor and industrial donations was achieved in 2008 allowing TGs to hold very impressive events which were well received by our members.

Taken as a whole, North Jersey's accomplishments made 2008 an enormous success and a year of positive change within our Section. This was a year where Topical Group meetings were not considered to be self-contained but part of a greater dialog, and individuals were aligned behind a common vision in order to improve our Section and impact our communities. It is through such continual improvement and the passionate commitment that the NJ-ACS volunteers have demonstrated to the advancement of chemistry and the promotion of chemical research that is paramount for the overall development of the chemical industry and general chemical education in the area and indeed in this country. We are truly at a crossroads within our field and through the continued hard work, combined effort, and partnership with our state and national legislatures we can impact the future success of the chemical enterprise.





2008 NJ-ACS Top Ten Activities

1. **Improving Section Finances and Logistics***
2. **Award for Creativity in Molecular Design and Synthesis***
3. **Chemistry as a Life Science Symposium**
4. **NJ SEED College Scholars / Project SEED***
5. **North Jersey Newsletter Renewed***
6. **Excellence in Technical Programming**
7. **Outreach: NCW, Street Fairs, Awards***
8. **Biomaterials in Medicine / Personal Care***
9. **Careers in Transition Program**
10. **Member Spotlight***

* This activity was new in 2008





NJ-ACS Section Standing Committees

Awards

Careers

Education

Finance

History

General Interest

Government Relations

Indicator

Industrial Relations

Membership

Meetings & Arrangements

MetroWomen

Minority Affairs

National Awards

NCW

Nominations

Long Range Planning

Program Coordination

Project SEED

Public Outreach

Section Review

Web Site / Media



NJ-ACS Section Officers / Leadership



Dr. Michael M. Miller
2008 Section Chair



Dr. Joseph Potenza
2008 Chair-elect



Bettyann Howson
2008 Secretary



Jackie Erickson
2008 Treasurer

2008 NJ-ACS Section Councilors*

2006-2008

Alan Cooper
Anne Kelly
Steve Waller
Jacqueline Erickson
Bill Suits

2007-2009

Maureen Chan
Susan Fahrenholtz
Diane Krone
Stan Hall
Michael M. Miller

2008-2010

Les McQuire
Jeannette Brown
Anita Brandolini
George Heinze

* Elected for 2 Year Terms