

# American Chemical Society

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**Form:** Part II - Annual Narrative Report **Optional for EZ Submission**

**Organization:** Georgia

**Year:** 2005

## A. Activities

**Please Note, Formatting codes are specific to the application that you are using, most formatting (including bolds, italics, bullets, etc.) will not be retained by SOLAR. If your document contains bullets, you may wish to replace them with an asterisk or a dash. Please describe and rank up to ten of your section's activities during 2005. Provide (a) the title of the activity, (b) a one paragraph description of the activity, and (c) an indication of which ACS Strategic Thrusts. Please refer to the end of this section for a listing of the ACS Strategic Thrusts or see Part I, questions 3-8. If you wish to provide details beyond these paragraphs, please do so in Appendix 1.**

### Activity #1

a) Title: Expanding Undergraduate Research

The Atlanta Undergraduate Research Association (AURA) consisting of Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Morehouse, Spelman, Clark-Atlanta, Agnes Scott, and Georgia Perimeter College secured an NSF URC planning grant in 2005 to develop undergraduate research experiences for freshman and sophmores. Our Section supported this effort by committing a matching grant to support the work of AURA and up to 2 undergraduates in this program, and including several of our members in its activities. For example, former chair, Bob Lichter, acted as a consultant, and councilor Rigoberto Hernandez was one of the co-PIs on the grant. Surveys of the students indicated a high degree of satisfaction with their experiences. In addition, the Section co-sponsored a very successful Undergraduate Research Symposium at Agnes Scott College involving over 30 undergraduate posters and a keynote seminar by Dr. Richard Zare.

More information is available at [www.aurafellows.net](http://www.aurafellows.net).

These efforts above represent the Section's continuing commitment to develop an interest in chemistry among top quality U.S. students, which began with the astounding success of the Undergraduate Research Symposium at our record-setting 2003 SE Regional ACS Meeting.

Description  
(please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the List of Core Strategies)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

### Activity #2

## a) Title Herty Medal Award Presentation

The Georgia Section annually presents the Charles Holmes Herty Medal to recognize contributions to chemistry by an outstanding chemist or chemical engineer while working in the Southeastern United States. It was the first multi-state regional award, and is the 3rd oldest unrestricted national or regional annual award presented by ACS or any of its units. It has been presented contributions primarily in research, industrial leadership, or a long and unique undergraduate teaching career.

Georgia native Dr. Charles Herty was a most important 20th century chemist who created two major U.S. industries, saved another, twice saved U.S. forests, conceived and started NIH, started the ACS NewsService, crusaded for public recognition of chemists and chemistry, and received a national award for being the chemist most responsible for the explosive 1918-40 development of the (world's largest) U.S. chemical industry.

Professor Dennis Liotta of Emory University's Chemistry Department received this year's medal on May 26, 2005. More than 80 members and guests attended the event, which marked one of the best attendance records for the section activities in 2005. Dr. Lihong D'Angelo, a Section Councilor, chaired the Herty Award Selection Committee whose members came from both industry and academia. A few weeks later, the front page of the July 20, 2005 Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper featured Dr. Liotta because Emory University made a \$525 million deal to sell royalty rights to an HIV drug Emtriva discovered by Liotta and coworkers in the late 1980's. It was the largest known intellectual property deal by an American University approved under the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980. The Herty Medal continues to be the premier award presented to southeastern chemists.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph)

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Strategic Thrusts)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

**Activity #3**

a) Title Careers in Chemistry

A dinner meeting and panel discussion on career choices in chemistry was held at Georgia Tech in March. Panelists represented industry, government labs, and academia. This meeting, organized by chair-elect David Sherrill, drew more than 70 attendees, most of them undergraduates from five local colleges and universities. Some high-school teachers and students also attended. A significant fraction of the program was devoted to question and answer time to ensure that the students' interests were addressed directly. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Alpha Chi Sigma chemistry fraternity at Georgia Tech, and it was significant in furthering the Section's goal to increase participation by students.

Description  
Please limit

b) to one paragraph

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #4

a) Title: Girl-Scout Chemistry Event

The Section sponsored, and members participated in TWO Saturday events with the NW GA Council of the Girl Scouts of America. The Section also was awarded a Local Section financial grant to assist with this participation. A total of 25 and 50 girls participated, in the "junior" and "cadet" age ranges along with their adult leaders, in a case study called "The case of the mystery skull." Chemical demonstrations were also presented.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph)

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of core strategies.)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #5

a) Title Establishing Investments for the Future

A new Investment & Strategy Advisory Committee (ISAC) was formed to oversee a revamping of our financial structure and governing Bylaws. As a result, \$110,000 in assets have now been placed in the ACS investment pool. Proceeds from these investments will be used to support and encourage new initiatives in the next couple of years. ISAC consequently established a committee to survey the membership using local webtools and surveymonkey.com to learn about the priorities of our members and to raise awareness of our effort. The survey was extremely successful, garnering more participants than the number of voters in our 2005 officer elections. Because it was completed in late 2005, the results are currently being processed and will result in suggested actions for the future in 2006. At ISAC's behest, another committee was formed to revise the Section Bylaws in force since 1984. This committee drafted a set of proposed Bylaw changes which were approved by a vote of members in September 2005.

Description  
Please limit

b) to one Paragraph

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #6

a) Title: High-School Student Chapter

2005 saw very strong participation in local section meetings by high-school students. In particular, a group of 6-12 students from Dunwoody High School, led by chemistry teacher Barbara Broadway, has been very active in our meetings. This group was excited and encouraged by the visit of ACS President William Carroll in January at Kennesaw State University, and they have contacted ACS about becoming a "high-school chapter" of the ACS. They attended several meetings during the year and were particularly interested in the Herty Award Dinner and Dr. Liotta's talk about pharmaceutical research (see above). We look forward to continuing and strengthening interactions with high-school teachers and students in 2006. One way we will do this is by our sponsorship of an all-day workshop for 100 HS teachers at the March 2006 Atlanta ACS Meeting.

Description  
Please limit

b) to one Paragraph

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this Activity Support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies.)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #7

a) Title: POLY Division Career Day Planning

In December, our local section began planning an event with the POLY division for graduate students in our area. Erica Martin (Rohm & Haas Company) initially approached Councilor Rig Hernandez (Georgia Tech) about the possibility of the local section co-sponsoring an event for Atlanta-area graduate students to provide information about career planning and how ACS divisions can help graduate students. Knowing that grad students would have the best ideas about how to plan an event that would be beneficial for grad students, Prof. Hernandez presented the idea to the Georgia Tech Graduate Student Forum who agreed to help sponsor the event. A great program was planned that included a discussion of research in industry, a panel discussion featuring professionals (academic and industrial) from the POLY executive board, and a networking reception. Our section publicized the event through our monthly listserve, as well as sending announcements to graduate coordinators and professors in our section. The event was also promoted to graduate students in other departments on the Georgia Tech campus, including Chemical Engineering, Materials Science, and Polymer, Fiber, and Textile Engineering. The event just occurred near the end of January 2006 and was a great success, attracting 82 graduate students.

Description:  
Please limit to

b) one paragraph

c) Which Core Strategy (s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies).

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #8

a) Title: Multi-Discipline Green Thumb Garden Club

As part of National Chemistry Week (see below), high school teacher and Section Past-Chair Lillian Johnston taught 4th and 5th graders at an elementary school about chemistry and gardening: the chemistry of fertilizers, the water cycle, temperature scales, and soil chemistry.

This was very popular with the students, and as a result, a multi-disciplinary science Green Thumb Garden Club has been created which meets twice a month. The group has planted winter vegetables (in raised beds built by the group), visited the Lockerly Arboretum in Milledgeville to tour greenhouses, and planted spring bulbs.

A grant proposal has been written to purchase a greenhouse for the elementary students, and plans are also being pursued to implement related programs at the junior-high and high-school levels. If funded, a \$34,000 grant from the Toshiba America Foundation would allow a production greenhouse at the local area high school. This high-school currently graduates less than 50% of students who enter the 9th grade, and innovative projects are required to improve this

situation. If this grant is funded, the county Technical School will provide a horticulture teacher to teach dual enrollment at the high-school and the Tech School. The area features a large number of gated communities and a big demand for educated gardeners, landscape engineers, pest management technicians, and greenhouse management personnel. It is hoped that this project could provide some students with a career path and a reason to stay in school and graduate with a diploma.

Description:  
Please limit to

b) one paragraph.

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies).

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #9

a) Title: Chemistry Olympiad

Having participated since its inception, the Georgia section was involved once again with the Chemistry Olympiad through efforts of Kennesaw State University (KSU) faculty. Students were allowed to take the preliminary exam either at KSU or at their own school. This year there 22 high schools participating in the event and 187 students who took the preliminary exam. There were eight off-KSU sites where preliminary tests were taken. KSU faculty gave tutoring sessions on several Saturdays at the campus for interested students. The national final exam was also given at KSU and 13 students took this exam with two students achieving "exceptional" scores.

Description:  
Please Limit to

b) one paragraph

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

#### Activity #10

a) Title: National Chemistry Week

The Georgia Section has participated in National Chemistry Day and National Chemistry Week since their inception in 1987. The Section was active again this year, furnishing about \$700 to provide NCW supplies to various secondary, college, and industrial member volunteers making presentations and performing demonstrations at a variety of venues including museums and K-12 group settings.

Description:  
Please limit to

b) one paragraph

c) Which Core Strategy(s) does this activity support? (Please refer to the list of Core Strategies)

1  2  3  4  5  6

This activity was new in 2005

## B. Summary - Overall Section Activities

Please summarize in *1,000 words or less*, the activities of the section in 2004 which have not been already described. Outstanding events should be described in some detail and appropriate attachments included in Appendix 1. Programs described here may be featured in publications produced by the ACS Membership Division and/or at the ACS Leaders Conference.

Councilor Rigoberto Hernandez oversaw significant improvements and updates to the local section website. In addition, COLGA chair Austin S. Lin added a new, COLGA-specific website for the local section. The COLGA-specific site included new graphic design and layout in an effort to better market Committee activities and participation by potential members.

The October section meeting on "Professionalism and Ethics in Chemistry" by Professor Jeffrey Kovac, University of Tennessee, was held on Monday, October 10, 2005 at Emory University. This meeting helped in keeping our section members interested in this topic that is taking increasing visibility within the national ACS.

Councilor Lihong D'Angelo did an excellent job concluding her tenure as Chair of the Herty Awards Committee last year. The awardee, Dennis Liotta, from Emory University gave an excellent lecture discussing the commercialization of chemical technologies, particularly some of the pharmaceuticals he had helped develop. Coincidentally, a few weeks later, Emory University concluded a \$525 million royalties deal with Gilead Sciences and Royalty Pharma for rights to the HIV-fighting drug Emtriva developed by Liotta and his coworkers. It is the largest known intellectual property deal by an American University since authorized by the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980. Also, it validates the benefits of long term research. Truly this awardee represented the Herty ideal!

Councilor Rigoberto Hernandez took over as Selection Committee Chair for the 2006 Herty Award. This year's announcement was initiated earlier, posted at the ACS section website in early December, and printed in C&EN on page 34 of the January 2, 2006 issue. The deadline for this year has been pushed back to February 28, 2006 so as to give the committee more time to stage the Section Awards Meeting in early March. The application procedure has also been moved on-line using a web-based form that will enable an automated procedure for receipts of applications, and initial electronic screening by the committee. The final selection will continue to take place during a panel meeting. The deadline for the 2007 Award will be pushed back to December 15, 2006 so as to provide ample time to possibly stage an additional awards symposium at a local undergraduate institution including the awardee, the nominator and local section members as speakers.

In January, ACS President Bill Carroll came to our section as part of his inaugural tour. In addition to giving a presentation at a dinner meeting on January 18, he also visited several high-schools while in Atlanta. This made a very positive impression on

several local high-school students, who have formed an unofficial "ACS high-school chapter" (see activity 6 above).

In keeping with our section's tradition, one meeting this year (November) was held jointly with AIChE. This year, we were fortunate to have the National AIChE chair-elect, John Chen. Dr. Chen spoke on the future of the chemical enterprise and the changing face of chemistry and chemical engineering.

Chaired by Councilor Don Hicks, the Section History Committee has supplied information about the unique history of the Section and its Herty Award to be included in the special issue of the Filter press newsletter that will be produced in connection with hosting the 2006 national ACS meeting in Atlanta.

Dr. Hicks also chairs the 2006 Atlanta ACS Meeting Host Committee which plans the special Filter Press newsletter edition, souvenir magnetic car stickers promoting the value of chemists and chemistry, and visual enhancements to the Section's Host booth at the ACS Meeting in March 2006. The Section member survey ran from October 15, 2005 through December 15, 2005 on surveymonkey.com. It had only 12 questions and attracted more participants than voted in the 2005 Section officer elections.

#### Summary of 2005 Georgia Section Meetings

- 1) January 18, William Carroll, President, ACS. "Vinyl Chloride, Cancer, and Technology."
- 2) February 22, Pierre Laszlo, Universite de Liege, Belgium. "Could Chemophobia Feed on the Self-Esteem of Chemists?" Thoughts on the chemists public image.
- 3) March 29, David Collard, Georgia Tech; Stephen Quirk, Kimberly-Clark; Mary Robinson, CDC. "Careers in Chemistry"
- 4) April 21, Conrad Stanitski, University of Arkansas. "Chemical Literacy: An Oxymoron?" On chemistry's public image and scientific literacy.
- 5) May 26, Dennis Liotta, Emory University, Herty Medal Award Dinner. "Commercializing Long Term Pharmaceutical Research in Universities"
- 6) October 10, Jeffrey Kovac, University of Tennessee. "Professionalism and Ethics in Chemistry."
- 7) November 8, John Chen, Lehigh University and AIChE chair-elect. "The Chemical Enterprise, AIChE, and ACS."

## C. Local Section and Chair Goals

**2005 Goal Attainment.** The Local Section Activities Committee strongly encourages local section planning. As a result, the 2005 local section annual report should follow-up on the attainment of goals. Please list the goals you

1. set at the beginning of your term for your section and yourself, and report on the attainment of the goals.

### a) Local Section Goals and Assessment:

1. Upgrade the Section's Web site to make it the primary source of information for the members and the area chemical community. This was achieved, and additional updates to the website will continue this year.
2. Conduct a major survey of Section members to elicit member priorities, encourage participation in emerging committees, and develop new leadership. Done; results to be analyzed this year.
3. Explore the feasibility of distributing the Filter Press largely electronically for both efficiency and cost. Expand our modest electronic communications. Done. We increased our email list from ~1000 to >1700 members(almost all local section members). We also add special announcements to the emails that distribute the Filter Press.
4. Develop an investment strategy for Section funds. Done. A committee was formed and an investment strategy was formulated (see activity #5).
5. Enhance engagement with the ACS Scholars Program.
6. Establish a small-grants program with investment earnings to stimulate and seed innovations, especially in education at the high school and undergraduate levels and in public communication about, and awareness of, chemistry. Some progress, but still working on this goal; money was allocated to an undergraduate research symposium(activity #1) and to sponsor teachers to attend special HS teacher CHED programming at the 2006 Spring National Meeting.
7. Broaden programmatic collaborations with local industry, government facilities, and academic institutions. Good progress, as several meetings were held at universities this year, and the March program featured a careers panel with academia, government labs, and industry all represented (see activity #3).

### b) 2005 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

1. Increase involvement and participation by students. This was successfully implemented by holding more meetings at universities and featuring student-oriented programming (see, e.g., activities 1,3,6 above).

**2006 Goals.** (This section should be completed by the 2006 local section chair.) Please list below at least three

2. goals that you and your local section plan to accomplish during your term as local section chair.

a) 2006 Local Section Goals (Include at least three goals):

1. Increase participation by and outreach to K-12 students and teachers.
2. Enhance Chemistry Olympiad and National Chemistry Week
  - \*Recruit more membership involvement
  - \*Document procedures
  - \*Feature extensively in Filter Press
  - \*Develop and enhance participation from other societies
3. Implement the ISAC strategic plan.
4. Successfully host the National ACS Meeting in March 2006.
  - \*Man a booth
  - \*Provide funding for high-school teachers to attend the CHED program.
  - \*Provide local information to meeting participants
  - \*Provide local souvenirs to meeting participants
5. Host a COLGA-related section meeting in August 2006, and use it to drive additional greet-and-meets with local congressional staffs.

b) 2006 Chair's Goals:

1. Re-assess programming and activities in light of the results of our 2005 member survey to ensure that a wide range of members' interests are represented (consistent with Core Strategy #5).
2. Identify new volunteers for new programming.
3. Identify officer candidates by May 2006, in order to continue the momentum of on-time elections.

## D. Suggestions/Concerns

List any suggestions you have for the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC). How can LSAC specifically help your section?

## Listing of Core Strategies

**Please refer to the numbers below when identifying activities as they relate to the ACS Core Strategies**

- 1 Providing Timely State-of-the-Art Chemical Information.
- 2 Serving as a Premier Professional Organization for Practitioners of Chemistry.
- 3 Elevating Public Appreciation of Chemical Sciences and Technologies.
- 4 Changing the Definition of Chemistry to Encompass its True Multidisciplinary Nature.
- 5 Delivering a Dynamic and Integrated Portfolio of Products and Services.
- 6 Promoting Inclusiveness throughout the Chemical Enterprise.

**For more information on the Core Strategies or the ACS Strategic Plan 2004-2007 please visit [www.chemistry.org](http://www.chemistry.org).**