

National Chemistry Week



The California Section sponsored Dr. Marvin Lang and Dr. Don Showalter in presenting eight chemical demonstrations to the public during National Chemistry Week in 2010. We invited the Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Section to participate, and two of the presentations were performed in that Section. The six demonstrations within our Section were held at locations within our Section and two within the SCV Section. College chemistry professors, high school chemistry teachers, middle school science teachers, and college, high school, middle school, and grade school students attended the events as well as Section members and the public. It was a highly successful outreach program, and we re-connected or made new contacts at many of the colleges and universities in our area as well as with high school chemistry and middle school science teachers in our Section.



Over 800 people attended the events and over 40 volunteers assisted in selecting and preparing the venues, and publicizing the events.

Photos from one show were featured on pages 14 and 15 of the December 13th, 2010 issue of Chemical and Engineering News:

http://www.cendigital.org/cendigital/20101213?sub_id=KhIVFFzULnxb&folio=12#pg16 Postings for the shows were made on the scientific events website:

BayAreaScience.org. Postings were also made on both the California and Santa Clara Valley section websites: calacs.org and www.scvacs.org

Film footage of the one shows is now posted on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAn9tJbZFnl>. Additional photos of the event can be found at:

http://www.dropbox.com/gallery/10824645/1/Lang_Showalter_LowRes?h=029153

The first presentation was at the University of California at Santa Cruz was on Sunday afternoon, October 17. This was co-sponsored by the SCV Section and was the most southern point of the circuit. Bakthan Singaram, Professor of Chemistry, made the arrangements and provided invaluable assistance to Dr. Lang and Dr. Showalter in preparing for the demonstrations as well as prompting an enthusiastic response from the Chemistry Club students. The classroom with a capacity of 250 was filled with some attendees standing in the aisles. On Monday evening, Jeanne Pimentel joined us at St. Mary's College in Moraga, the eastern most point of the circuit. There were over 90 people in attendance. Dr.

Valerie Burke, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, went out of her way to make sure that necessary glassware and other supplies were available and that students were available to assist. On Tuesday, Chico State University hosted the event to a completely filled room with over 85 attendees. Chico State is part of the Chico Subsection and was our furthest point north. Dr. James Postma, an Alternate Councilor, our 2011 Chair-Elect, and one of our Chico Subsection members, lent us much of the equipment that was needed for all the demonstrations and arranged for accommodations at Chico State, including having students available to assist. We also were able to again acknowledge Jenelle Ball, one of our two 2010 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teachers who attended the demonstration. Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park hosted the Wednesday night event and every seat in the room was filled with over 80 people in attendance. We were able to present our first annual Outstanding Community College Teacher award to Galen George, and we were also able to again acknowledge Lee Boyes, the other of our two 2010 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teachers who attended the demonstration. We had to turn away many who wanted to attend the demonstration because of room capacity limitations. Dr. Jennifer Whiles Lillig, an Associate Professor of Chemistry, made the arrangements for the events, including providing supplies and other assistance. Dominican University of California in San Rafael hosted our Thursday night event, and we also had to turn away many who wanted to attend the demonstration with a capacity limit of 100. . This was our first time in connecting with Dominican University, and we are already planning another event with them in 2011 – a Family Science Event that will be held at a nearby middle school after meeting a middle school teacher at that school who attended the demonstration. Dr. Ken Frost, Instructor, made the arrangements and assisted with the demonstrations. Our Friday event was held in the evening at California State East Bay with over 65 in attendance. It was the first time we held an event on that campus, and Dr. Danika LeDuc, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, made the arrangements with supplies and other assistance. On

Saturday morning, the demonstrations were held at the Exploratorium, a science museum in San Francisco. This was the first such cooperative venture with the Exploratorium and we plan to work more closely with the Exploratorium. The Exploratorium hosts the Exploratorium Teacher Institute for high school and middle school science teachers on Saturdays, and the teachers attending the Exploratorium Teacher Institute attended the demonstrations. There were over 140 in attendance including over 50 teachers. Because of space limitations, we were not able to accommodate all the public that wanted to attend. The last event was held Saturday afternoon at San Jose State University in the SCV Section. The Chemistry Club students assisted in making arrangements and in assisting Dr. Lang and Dr. Showalter with the demonstrations.