



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

This year has been a busy year for the Division of Professional Relations (DPR). It was truly an honor to be chair of the division in 2004. I didn't realize that 2004 marked the 30th anniversary of our founding. At that time, we were established to be the members' division, to focus on the non-technical skills needed to be a successful chemical professional. I believe that this is just as important today as it was thirty years ago. We held a joint reception with the Younger Chemists Committee to celebrate our joint 30th anniversaries at the Philadelphia national meeting.

When I became chair at the beginning of 2004, I had a number of items that I wanted to focus on in my year as chair. I want to take this opportunity to tell you what has been accomplished during the year. While we did work towards improvement in many areas, there still is a long way to go. I will be continuing to push towards improvement in those areas that we have made a start in, so that we can continue to thrive and be as relevant as we were when we were founded thirty years ago.

One of the two major areas that I wanted to focus on was the number of members in the division. Over the past few years, DPR has seen a steady drop in membership. At the same time, the average age of our members has increased. There was a definite need to recruit new members to increase our size, but more importantly to revitalize our division. I am happy to report that our membership numbers have increased, albeit by a small amount, during the last year. We ended 2003 with 794 members. As of June 30, 2004, we have 813 members. This increase is a result of a number of factors. First, members of the executive committee have been actively recruiting at ACS national meetings, most notably at SCI-MIX. Fran Kravitz, with help from other members of the executive committee, revamped our brochure to highlight the division's activities. We also made an effort to recruit younger chemists, with the joint 30th birthday celebration with the Younger Chemists Committee. Finally, we spent some of our resources on a banner for the division, which has already seen use at the national meeting in Philadelphia. Obviously more work needs to be done to grow our membership, but we have made a start.

The other main issue I wanted to focus on was programming. I am happy to report that 2004 was an outstanding year for programming. The Division was the primary sponsor for a number of well-attended symposia at both the Anaheim and Philadelphia national meetings. These included symposia entitled, "Non-Traditional Careers for Chemists," "Surviving, even Thriving during Periods of Prolonged Unemployment," "Alternative Careers: The Road Less Traveled," "Secondary Science as a Secondary Career: Why and How" and "Visa and Outsourcing Needs and Impact on the Chemical Process Industries." Many of these symposia were cosponsored with other divisions and committees of ACS, showing the breadth of the division's timeliness throughout all of our professional lives. In addition, DPR was a co-sponsor of at least 10 other programs. Thanks to all those who organized and attended these symposia. A big thank you goes to Tom Kucera and John Borchardt, the DPR Program Co-Chairs, for all their hard work, working with the symposia organizers to arrange for these fine symposia.

Increasingly, not all division members can attend these fine symposia at national meetings. Therefore, we are trying to push for programming at regional meetings. To that end, in 2003, Susan Shih was asked to be the regional meeting coordinator. Again, if you would like to chair a symposium at a regional meeting, please contact Susan or myself. In addition, one of our members, Diane Kneeland, has

volunteered to generate a CD of some presentations made at recent national meetings, that could be used as a way to generate ideas for regional meeting programming and make it easier for members to provide programming at regional meetings. It all starts with you the members. With your help, we can bring these fine programs to more ACS members, as well as attract new DPR members.

One final note, the Division along with the Chicago Local Section were awarded the first annual ChemLuminary Award for Joint Division/Local Section Programming. Congratulations to Susan Shih and Seymour Patinkin, who co-organized the symposium at the Great Lakes Regional Meeting in 2003.

Those of you who are computer savvy will have noticed that our web page is not very helpful. I am happy to report that I will be working on this, to try and have a newly designed web page by the end of 2004.

Other activities that I have undertaken this year, while not very noticeable to the outside world, should be useful to members in the future. We updated our division's bylaws. One article that we updated was the process by which elections are held. Since the Council of the ACS passed an amendment to the national ACS bylaws, allowing electronic balloting, we may be able to use this form of ballot in future elections. Of course, this will depend on our membership. In addition, with the help of many of the Executive Committee, and following the draft developed initially by Jim Shoffner, I drafted a Procedures manual for the division. This is in its final stages of review. If you are interested in this manual, please contact me.

Before closing, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members of the executive committee. Without the help of these individuals, the past year would not have been as enjoyable. They include Allison Aldridge (secretary), Chris Bannochie (Treasurer), John Borchardt (Councilor and Program Co-Chair), Tom Kucera (Program Co-Chair), and Linette Watkins (Member-at-large). Thanks for all your help and ideas.

I am sure that some of you remember the movie, "Field of Dreams", in which a notable line was, "If you build it, they will come." We need your help in building the division. The activities I have described are a start. The division needs you to help "build" it. I hope that you will join me in making our DPR Field of Dreams a reality.

Barb Moriarty
DPR Chair, 2004

FROM THE EDITOR

The DPR has been a leader in the professionalism area in ACS for 30 years. That's quite an accomplishment, and the "veterans" who have been involved for many years recognize the major advances that have occurred over the years, not least because of the leadership of the officers, members and supporters of the DPR. But there is much yet to be done, including prevention of backsliding (e.g., the restriction on free speech engineered by the Nominations and Elections Committee this year in reducing the maximum length of the very important candidate statements). The current DPR leadership is full of enthusiasm and energy. They need your help to keep the DPR relevant and influential. You can do two things. First, use the form on the back page (and as many copies as you wish) to enroll your colleagues in DPR, "The Member Oriented Division." Second, become more involved yourself. The Division is always looking for good programming for the national and regional meetings. Organizing a symposium is an enjoyable and very rewarding activity. Contact any of the officers to offer your ideas, and get the ball rolling! If the Red Sox could roll over the Yankees and win the World Series, anything is possible!

Dennis Chamot

A FIRST! DPR RECEIVES INAUGURAL AWARD

A new category was added to the ChemLuminary Awards for activities in 2003 – Local Section and Division Interaction - and presented for the first time at the Philadelphia meeting in August. The Division of Professional Relations, in partnership with the Chicago Local Section, received this inaugural edition of the award! Congratulations to everyone involved. The nomination submitted for consideration is included below:

National ACS is strongly encouraging collaboration between divisions and local sections, especially on local and regional levels. We found working together on a symposium for a regional meeting a natural interaction. If you are interested in co-sponsoring a symposium at an upcoming regional meeting, the process is very simple. It is easiest if you know someone in the Section who is willing to work with you in organizing it. Then all you need do is contact the Program Chair of the meeting and ask if their committee is interested in having this symposium. If you do not know anyone in the Section who is willing to work on the project, the Program Chair may be able to give you some suggestions. As far as possible topics are concerned, many of those sponsored by the Division at national meetings will draw attendees who are unable to attend the national meetings but can get to a regional meeting.

If you have any questions about this or need suggestions for possible topics, feel free to contact me via the e-mail address below.

“After the January, 2003 *C&EN* article on adjunct faculty and their plight, the Chicago Section and the Division of Professional Relations decided to co-sponsor a symposium at the Great Lakes Regional Meeting on the various issues surrounding the use of part time faculty by institutions of higher education. The Division is always concerned with conditions affecting chemists working in any venue and the Section has a very large number of chemists working in education. The Chair of the Section and the Chair of the Division served as co-chairs and organizers of the symposium.

The four individuals chosen to present at the symposium came with different perspectives on the issues involved. They included a former part time instructor, a full time faculty member, a former dean and a union representative. Following these presentations, a very lively question and answer period took place with active participation by members of the audience as well as the presenters. Everyone agreed that the symposium was both informative and thought-provoking.

Attendance at the session was very good all afternoon, averaging about 25 even though there were several other concurrent sessions. They ranged from experienced teachers to retired chemists to graduate students.

Shortly after the meeting, SOCED contacted us with a request for information on the symposium and adjunct faculty issues was put on their agenda for the New York meeting. At that meeting, they set up a subcommittee to look further into this matter. If guidelines for adjunct faculty eventually come out of this, both the Section and the Division will be extremely satisfied with their collaboration. This is an issue that needs more attention.”

Susan Shih, Past Chair, Chicago Local Section
Regional Meeting Program Liaison, DPR

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DPR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join the ACS Division of Professional Relations – the *member* oriented division. In addition to enjoying a newsletter, special symposia and other programming, sponsorship of the prestigious Henry A. Hill Award, and other activities with your colleagues throughout the chemical profession, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting the premier division within ACS that is concerned with the *chemist* rather than chemistry. Professional chemists belong in the Division of Professional Relations!

Send this form (or a photocopy) with \$8.00 annual dues, to the address below.

Name (please print)

Address

ACS number (if known)

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