

March 2012 Councilor Report #1

I represented the Middle Georgia Section at the national meeting in San Diego from Saturday, March 24 to Wednesday, March 28, 2012. It was a pleasure to have students & faculty representatives from Georgia College & State University and Mercer University presenting their research and service efforts.

On Saturday I worked on the Regional Meetings Sub-Committee of the Meetings & Exposition Committee and on Sunday the main committee met. Some work of this committee which I think you'll find interesting are:

- Over 11,000 papers were presented at the meeting with an attendance of over 16,000 members including nearly 5,800 student members.
- The 2009 Southeast Regional Meeting in Puerto Rico will receive the Outstanding Regional Meeting ChemLuminary award.
- Everyone is invited to attend the 2012 SERMACS meeting to be held in Raleigh, NC next November.

Future national meetings and their themes are as follows:

- ✓ August 19-23, 2012 Philadelphia- *Materials for Health & Medicine*
- ✓ April 7-11, 2013 New Orleans- *Chemistry of Energy & Food*
- ✓ September 8-12, 2014 Indianapolis- *Chemistry in Motion*

One of the most interesting reports to Council came from Past-President Nancy Jackson. During her term, she traveled extensively to many countries around the world representing the ACS during International Year of Chemistry. She said:

"I want to share with you the top ten things I learned during the international year of chemistry.**

****Number 10:** The term "chemical free" is used globally for items that are filled with "chemicals" such as filtered water, meat and even vitamins. (e.g., chimique libre, libre de quimicos, kimia free, kiyasalsiz...)

****Number 9:** In the Middle East, there are significantly more women than men studying chemistry these days at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

****Number 8.** Young people all over the world want to grow up and make a difference – help the poor, reduce pollution, enable sustainability, and a lot of times these young people don't realize that chemistry and other sciences and engineering can be the route to making an impact.

****Number 7.** Every developing country I have been to seems to understand that government investment in science, engineering, STEM education, and research is the route to economic development and growth.

****Number 6.** A deeply disturbing number of U.S. Congressional members and voters don't understand that federal investment in fundamental research is a required investment for long-term economic growth for our country.

****Number 5.** The rest of the world, particularly much of the developing world, is investing heavily in science and research and the quality and quantity of science from around the world is very much on the rise.

****Number 4.** The U.S. is the only country in the world where global climate change is widely considered a political issue.

****Number 3.** American culture is exceptional at enabling innovation. The trait that enables our remarkable innovation is our belief that science should be a meritocracy – only the best science should be rewarded regardless of age, gender, race, religion, and scientific reputation.

****Number 2.** The U.S. still has the best science in the world.

****And Number 1:**

A remarkable and inspiring number of chemical scientists dedicate so much of their lives to the betterment of others – as educators, volunteers, mentors, researchers, and advocates – that it has been humbling and uplifting to spend my year among so many people, many in this room, whom I consider heroes.”

I will continue my report in a subsequent email.

Thank you once again for permitting me to be your representative on Council.

Bob Hargrove