

REPORT OF THE PHYLLIS A. BRAUNER MEMORIAL LECTURE COMMITTEE - 2012

Doris I. Lewis, Chair

Members of the Phyllis A. Brauner Memorial Lecture Committee in 2012 were:

Chris Jaworek-Lopez, David Sittenfeld, Bassam Shkhashiri, Susan Brauner, Catherine Brauner, and Doris I. Lewis, chair

As agreed by the Northeastern Section and the ACS, the Phyllis A. Brauner Lecture is held in the Northeastern Section's territory in conjunction with National Chemistry Week and named in memory of Dr. Brauner. As envisioned and established by Phyllis, and presented by the Northeastern Section since 1986, the Lecture will be for the general public of all ages. The endowment goal is a \$140,000 endowment fund with income supporting the lectures.

The Phyllis A. Brauner Memorial Lecture Committee notes with sadness the passing of founding member Steven Allen on April 13, 2012. Steve and his wife Inka Allen, long-time friends of Phyllis Brauner, worked tirelessly in the many planning meetings that resulted in the Brauner Committee, some of which were hosted at their Wayland home. For years they had a primary role in preparing the chemicals and materials that were used in the annual Lectures, until the Museum of Science staff assumed those tasks.

We welcome to the Committee David Sittenfeld, program manager at the Boston Museum of Science, who has had a major role in bringing the Brauner Lectures and associated activities to the Museum, and who performed the 2012 Lectures when Dr. Shkhashiri was unable to do so as impending Superstorm Sandy forced him to leave Boston Sunday morning. His extraordinary and well-received presentation performed at a moment's notice attracted full and enthusiastic audiences at both morning and afternoon events, even as the impending storm drew closer and closer to Boston.

The Museum of Science hosted The Brauner Lecture and associated activities, an especially appropriate site since Phyllis Brauner was active in promoting joint activities with NESACS and the Museum of Science. The Northeastern Section web site www.nesacs.org features the National Chemistry Week activities, summarized here:

NCW theme for 2012 was Nanotechnology – The Smallest Big Idea in Science. In preparation for National Chemistry Week 2012, a volunteer preparation day was held at Museum of Science-Boston (MoS-Boston) on Sunday, September 30, 2012. More than 30 volunteers attended this event and had the opportunity to practice the hands-on activities and demonstrations related to nanotechnology in advance of the October celebration. Activities included making gummy capsules, learning about the color of butterfly wings, testing fabrics and sand for hydrophobicity, and exploring the science of sunscreens.



National Chemistry Week participants at the Museum of Science - Boston engulfed by a giant model of a carbon nanotube.

On Saturday, October 27, 2012, the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (NESACS) sponsored a National Chemistry Week event at the Boston Children's Museum (BCM). Approximately 600 of the 1000+ visitors to the BCM participated in the hands-on activities. On Sunday, October 28, 2012, a second NCW event was held at the MoS-Boston. Even though Hurricane Sandy was approaching, more than 400 individuals participated in the hands-on activities and demonstrations held in the well of the museum that afternoon. A particular favorite for visitors was building a life-sized carbon nanotube from balloons. A photograph of this giant tube was featured in the December 17, 2012 issue of Chemical & Engineering News. Among the highlights of the day were the two Phyllis A. Brauner Memorial Lectures, presented by David Sittenfeld, a 2011 Salute to Excellence Award recipient. David filled in for Dr. Bassam Shakhshiri, ACS President and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These captivating lectures were enjoyed by approximately 200 individuals.

The High School Science Series, originally scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2012 was postponed and rescheduled as numerous schools remained closed in the aftermath of the hurricane. Approximately 200 students attended the rescheduled High School Science Series event at the MoS-Boston on November 20, 2012. These students participated in a number of hands-on activities and demonstrations related to the yearly theme and heard lecture demonstrations given by David Sittenfeld and Karine Thate. Students from Fenway High School served as facilitators for a number of the hands-on activities.

Special thanks to the Boston Children's Museum, Alissa Daniels, Emily Flaherty, Lucy Green, Sharon Horrigan, Museum of Science-Boston, Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society, David Sittenfeld, Dr. Bassam Shakhshiri, Karine Thate, and the Phyllis A. Brauner Memorial Lecture Committee.



David Sittenfeld of the Museum of Science Boston doing his best impersonation of Bassam Shakhshiri presenting his annual chemical magic show. Photo by Doris Lewis

The events would not have been possible without the help of over 100 volunteers. Individuals participated from the

following organizations: Alfa Aesar, Beyond Benign, Boston University, Emmanuel College, Global Prior Art, Gordon College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Merck-Boston, Nantero, Inc., NESACS, Northeastern University, Salem State, Soane Labs, Stonehill College, Suffolk University, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts-Boston and Weymouth High School.

Subcommittees met throughout the year to organize experiment preps, to organize volunteer activities, and to coordinate activities with the Museum of Science. Activities for the day were led by over forty undergraduate volunteers from local colleges along with other Northeastern Section, and are described in the National Chemistry Week report by Chair Chris Jaworek-Lopez. Dave Sittenfeld of the Museum prepared the reagents and technical arrangements for the Lecture. Volunteers at the event included Brauner Committee members Doris Lewis, Susan Brauner, Cathy Brauner, and Cathy's daughters Hyacinth and Katherine. This year once more a long-time objective of the Brauner Lecture Committee and the National Chemistry Week Committee was realized, as the National Chemistry Week activities included a High School Science Series at the Museum of Science. Due to the storm, The Monday event was postponed until Tuesday, October 30, 2012. NCW mentors including Brauner Committee members Chris Jaworek-Lopes and Doris Lewis assisted Fenway High School sophomores in presenting nanotechnology activities.

Once again this year our designated lecturer was Brauner Committee member Bassam Shakhshiri. We were delighted to learn this year of Bassam's election as President of the American Chemical Society, and regret that Superstorm Sandy prevented him from performing the Lectures.

Susan Brauner arranged radio advertising on WBUR in conjunction with the NPR Science Friday show.

The proposed bylaw amendments to the NESACS constitution incorporating the Brauner Committee into the constitution and submitted in November 2006 have yet to be reviewed by the national ACS C & B Committee.

On 12/31/12 the Brauner Memorial Lecture account contained cash and investments totaling \$42,158.48. The Brauner share of the Consolidated Account was \$38,266.80, so the total value is \$80,425.28. During the year, \$3000 was transferred to the Section operating account to reimburse 2011 expenses (\$2000 honorarium plus \$1000 toward travel). On 12/31 there was \$7,050.16 in cash in the account. A check for \$928.70 for Bassam's 2012 travel was outstanding on 12/31. That will leave 6,121.46 available for 2013 expenses, and in addition, \$4888.54 of the investment balance is designated income that could be used. Since Dr. Shakhshiri was unable to perform the Lecture as planned, the customary honorarium of \$2000 may be used in recognition of David Sittenfeld's extraordinary performance at both Sunday lecture events. We are indebted to James Piper, NESACS treasurer, for supervision and reporting of these accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris I. Lewis, chair