

National Chemistry Week Report

In preparation for National Chemistry Week 2012, a volunteer preparation day was held at Museum of Science-Boston on Saturday, September 30, 2012. More than 30 individuals attended this event, which allowed volunteers to practice the hands-on activities and demonstrations in advance of the October celebration. Staff members from the Museum of Science-Boston and the Boston Children's Museum were on hand to choose which activities worked best for their respective venues as well as give volunteers an overview of each facility.

On Saturday, October 27, 2012, the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (NESACS) sponsored a National Chemistry Week 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 in which 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 Salutes to Excellent 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 hands-on activities and demonstrations performed throughout the week included: UV beads and sunscreen formulations, nano-sand & nanofabrics, surface area using alkalseltzer, the powers of ten game, graphene, scented solutions, and gummy capsules.

The High School Science Series, originally scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2012 was postponed 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.

The events would not have been possible without the help of more than 100 volunteers from: Alfa Aesar, Beyond Benign, Boston Children's Museum, Boston University, Emmanuel College, Global Prior Art, Gordon College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Merck-Boston, Museum of Science-Boston, Nantero Inc, NESACS, Northeastern University, Salem State, Soane Labs, Stonehill College, Suffolk University, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Weymouth High School.

NCW events were posted in the Nucleus (local section newsletter), on websites (including www.nesacs.org), via email to an NCW teacher list, on Facebook (NCW & CCED Page – Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society), via various Twitter feeds, and on WBUR (Science Friday).

Respectfully submitted,

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