

REPORT FROM

SE-MA Area Event at UMass Dartmouth October 3, 2013

by Mort Hoffman



Madeleine Jacobs, Executive Director and CEO (ACS) with Emmanuel Ojadi, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth).



Madeleine Jacobs (ACS) with students from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Approximately 80 people came to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMD) on Thursday, October 3, to hear Madeleine Jacobs, ACS Executive Director and CEO, speak on "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about ACS, But Were Afraid to Ask" at the first Southeastern Massachusetts (SE-MA) area event organized by the Subsection Task Force (STF). Among those attending were former and current NESACS members from industry and academia, nonmember chemists and teachers from the area, representatives from the Rhode Island Local Section, and guests. The meeting also attracted a significant number of UMD faculty and students.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of exploring the feasibility of establishing subsections within NESACS to help connect and engage members in areas that are remote from our Boston/Cambridge/environs core in which almost all the Section's activities take place, specifically, SE-MA (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, and Plymouth Counties) and New Hampshire (NH). At the present time, STF has the following membership: Morton Hoffman (Boston University), Ruth Tanner (University of Massachusetts Lowell), Robert Lichter (Merrimack Consultants), Jack Driscoll and Jennifer Maclachlan (PID Analyzers), Robert Howard (Weeset Advisors), Jerry Jasinski (Keene State College), Gary Weisman (University of New Hampshire).



Mohammad Karim, Provost,
University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth.

The meeting began with a reception with light refreshments that was sponsored by the UMD Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, which is chaired by Emmanuel Ojadi; he and Liming Shao, NESACS Chair, gave welcoming remarks, and Provost Mohammad Karim brought greetings from the administration of the University. Jack Driscoll then spoke about the purpose of the event, described the many activities that NESACS has sponsored and cosponsored in SE-MA over the past several years, and provided a blueprint for the future.

Robert Lichter introduced Ms. Jacobs, who spoke about the vision (“Improving people’s lives through the transforming power of chemistry”) and mission (“Advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people”) of the ACS, the structure of the Society (local sections, technical divisions, committees, publications, staff, and volunteers), and its core values (passion for chemistry in the broadest sense, focus on members, professionalism, diversity and inclusion). She then explored in detail the current strategic plan:

- *Provide information:* Be the most authoritative, comprehensive, and indispensable provider of chemistry-related information;
- *Advance members careers:* Empower an inclusive community of members with networks, opportunities, resources and skills to thrive in the global economy;
- *Improve education:* Foster the development of the most innovative, relevant, and effective chemistry education in the world;
- *Communicate chemistry’s value:* Communicate chemistry’s vital role in addressing the world’s challenges to the public and policymakers.

After a question and answer period, the attendees mingled and spoke with Ms. Jacobs while enjoying a reception of heavy hors d’oeuvres provided by Jeannette Riley, Dean of the UMD College of Arts and Sciences.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Jacobs met with members of the faculty and students in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, toured the research and teaching laboratories, and participated in the inauguration of the new 400-MHz NMR facility.

Plans are now being developed for further events in SE-MA and an inaugural one in NH during 2014. Modest funds to support the program into the next year were received by NESACS as an innovative project grant from the ACS Local Sections Activities Committee (LSAC). A survey of the attendees at the October 3rd event indicated a strong interest in future activities in SE-MA and a willingness of many to become actively involved.

[See photos from the event](#)