

## **NCW 2008: Having a Ball With Chemistry!**

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For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Pittsburgh Section's National Chemistry Week (NCW) celebration was held at the Carnegie Science Center. For 2008, the event was conducted on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25 and featured the theme "Having a Ball With Chemistry." Major sponsors for the event included the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, the PPG Industries Foundation, the PPG Science Education Council, Bayer Corporation, and the Carnegie Science Center.

A total of 283 volunteers, from 30 groups and organizations, conducted hands-on experiments, activities, and demonstrations that focused on the chemistry and science of sports. Once again, PPG Industries presented their "Reactions in Action" theater-style show, with two performances on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Of the 283 volunteers, 151 (53%) were ACS members or affiliates (students, teachers, technicians, etc.). Total attendance for the two-day event was 4441 (2538 on Friday, 1903 on Saturday).

For the 2008 NCW celebration, the Pittsburgh Section reached out to underrepresented minorities in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area to promote science education and literacy. Through financial support provided by the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, the PPG Industries Foundation, and the PPG Science Education Council, 1491 students and 141 chaperones from 25 schools were provided an opportunity to participate in the NCW celebration. Without the generous support from the above mentioned financial sponsors, these students would not have participated in a science-related school field trip during the 2008-09 school year. In all, over 1724 students attended the NCW event.

The Pittsburgh Section wished to thank its NCW sponsors, the organizations that sponsored hands-on experiments and activities at the NCW celebration, and the 283 volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts to make the event a success. Working together with these dedicated partners, the Pittsburgh Section is able to accomplish the mission of the NCW program; to communicate to the public positive messages about the contributions of chemistry to our quality of life.

## **Mark Your Calendar: NCW 2009**

The Carnegie Science Center has been reserved for Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2009 for the Pittsburgh Section's 2009 NCW celebration. The 2009 NCW theme is "Chemistry – It's Elemental!"