



Chemistry Week & Tom Kucera

A Symposium In Honor of Tom Kucera

David Crumrine LU Chicago

22 August 2010

History of Chemistry (Day) Week

- **ACS President George Pimentel proposed in 1986.**
- **Primary Purpose**
 - To Communicate the benefits of Chemistry
 - To respond to apprehensions about chemical risks
- **Board approved**
 - \$100k funding from Society Reserves
 - New office with one full time and one part time person
- Joint Resolution HJRes 265 introduced by Rep Doug Walgren (D PA) in May 87 to designate Natl. Chem. Day.
- Approx. 164 out of then 182 ACS Sections signed on.
- Ref. C&ENews 29 June 1987 pg 44 & J.Chem.Ed. July 2007 pg 1092.

Locations of Chicago ACS Chemistry Week Program from 1987 to 1996:

Location

Chairperson

- 1996 Adler Planetarium Tom Kucera
- 1995 Adler Planetarium Tom Kucera
- 1994 Adler Planetarium Tom Kucera
- 1993 Adler Planetarium Tom Kucera
- 1992 Adler Planetarium Tom Kucera
- 1991 Harold Washington College Tom Kucera
- 1990 Museum of Sci. and Ind. Tom Kucera
- 1989 Illinois Institute of Tech. Tom Kucera
- 1988 Museum of Sci. and Ind. Tom Kucera
- 1987 Museum of Sci. and Ind. Tom Kucera & Lou Sacco

Chicago Section Chemistry Day Celebration 1989 at IIT



“Chemists are the Human Element” by Peter Lykos

Tom Kucera at 1989 Chemistry Day Celebration
with Jewel Nicholls and Jim Doheny



Planning for the Celebration

- Tom emphasized early & often
- For convenience, meetings were at Tom and Dorothy's home in Skokie.
- Dorothy supported the work with donuts, coffee, and her time and space.
- Usually 7 to 12 attended & all participated.
- Site selection was generally done before May, sometimes while the previous event was underway.

Locations of Chicago ACS Chemistry Week Program from 1997 to 2006:

Year	Site	Chair(s)	Topic
• 2006	Columbia College	Tom Kucera&DC	Your Home-It's Based on Chem
• 2005	DePaul University	Tom Kucera & DC	The Joy of Toys
• 2004	Loyola University	Tom Kucera & DC	Health & Wellness
• 2003	U of I – Chicago	Tom Kucera & DC	Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond
• 2002	U of I – Chicago	Tom Kucera & DC	Chemistry Keeps us Clean
• 2001	Adler Planetarium	Tom Kucera & DC	Celebrating Chemistry & Art
• 2000	Loyola University	Tom Kucera & DC	Get Cooking with Chemistry
• 1999	Museum of Sci.&Ind.	Tom Kucera & DC	A Salute to Polymers
• 1998	Loyola University	Tom Kucera & DC	World of Color
• 1997	Loyola University	Tom Kucera	Planet Chemistry (10th Anniv)

Planning Meetings for 2006

- March 18 Summary of last event DePaul & discussion of nine possible sites. 7 People
- April 15 Narrowed site choices & discussed: Boy Scout MB sites; National materials; Speakers; Exhibitors; Student volunteers; possible PR choices.
- May 6 Discussed: Sites; Contests; Speakers; Demonstrations; & Individual assignments.
- June 3 Columbia College site discussed with details that need work.

Planning meetings 2006

- July 1 Site details are firm. Activities details & coordinators set. Boy Scouts ready. PR ok. Speakers ready. LSA/NCW teleconf 7/13.
- August 26, Site, Scouts, Speakers, Exhibitors are all ready. PR, Demonstrations, Flyer, & Finale are still unfinished.
- Sept 16 Mostly on Flyer, Floor plans, Assignments, etc
- October 14 Final details of assignments, etc.

Planned 28 October Celebration

- On October 26 major fire in building across the street from Columbia.
- October 27 All streets blocked off with unsafe buildings & we had no backup plan.
- October 27 After consulting with Tom & the whole committee, we cancelled the event. We considered moving one week later, but it would still require another site.
- Only cancellation in 23 years.

Celebration at DePaul October 15, 2005

- The usual 8 planning meetings at Tom & Dorothy's home & two meetings at DePaul
- Lovely event held without incident.
- We counted: 750 students; ~200 adults; 15 exhibitor groups (24 people); 100 volunteers-many ACS members and affiliates; 17 HS teachers at workshop; 14 B.Scouts; 14 HS teacher demonstrators gave outstanding finale; and 4 speakers.

Tom Kucera & Frank J. at 2007 Chemistry Week Finale at IIT



Locations of Chicago ACS Chemistry Week Program from 2007 to present:

- **Year Site Chair / Topic**
- 2010 Loyola University I.Cesa & A. Litin
Behind the Scenes with Chemistry
- 2009 DePaul University I.Cesa & A. Litin
Chemistry-It's Elemental
- 2008 Loyola University I.Cesa
Having a Ball with Chemistry
- 2007 Illinois Institute of Tech. I.Cesa & DC
The Many Faces of Chemistry

Margy Levenberg & Mike Heinz with students at 2007 Celebration at IIT



NCW 'Chemistry Idol' Finale 2008 at Loyola with Niles North Students



Chicago NCW 2008 at Loyola Univ.



LU ACS 2008 Affiliate in front of Periodic Table

Fran Kravitz & Bob H. with Boy Scouts NCW 2009 at DePaul



Avrom Litin at 2009 NCW



Students and Exhibitors at 2007 NCW at IIT



Milt Levenberg at NCW 2009



NCW 2009 'Chemistry Idol' Finale at DePaul with Irene Cesa



Thank you Tom!



Acknowledgements

- Tom Kucera for his legacy of enthusiasm & organization
- Dorothy Kucera for all of her support for NCW
- Barb Moriarty for planning this Symposium
- Irene Cesa for becoming Chair of Activities
- Fran Kravitz for the BSA Chem MB Participation
- Avrom Litin for years of dedicated work on the committee with site planning and exhibitors
- Milt Levenberg for Pictures and Chicago Section Website
- Richard Cornell for his continuing support for NCW
- Chicago ACS Section Board and ACS National Board for their continuing financial & personal support of NCW
- Carl Moore for encouraging DC to volunteer with the ACS