

# A Report on NSYCC Activities

*Connect, Talk and Elect, but are you 35?*

By Laila Dafik – NSYCC Chair (07-08)

## 2008 German-NSYCC Exchange

The German Chemical Society (*Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker*, GDCh), and its Young Chemists Forum (*Jung-Chemikerforum*, JCF), welcomed to Germany 12 representatives of the NESACS Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) who had been selected by the German Exchange program steering committee. The delegates were accompanied by Prof. Ruth Tanner (University of Massachusetts Lowell), Prof. Mort Hoffman (Boston University- Professor Emeritus) Mike Strem (Strem Chemicals) and Dr. Bob Lichter (Merrimack Consultants, LLC). The visit came as the eight annual exchange program between the NESACS-YCC and GDCh-JCF, highlighting the close connection between the NESACS and the GDCh.

The weeklong program began on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, with a day in Rostock and a tour of Rostock University. On Thursday Wendy Iskenderian (MIT) spoke in *Frühjahrssymposium* about her research. At the end of the day, a poster session was held where the American graduate and undergraduate students displayed their research posters and discussed their scientific progress. In addition, on Friday two students, Brett Fors (MIT) and Raymond Moellering (Harvard University), contributed oral presentations while the rest of the American group discussed their posters. At the end of the day, *Frühjahrssymposium* hosted a dinner coupled with a social evening where the American contingent had the opportunity to network with their German peers. On Saturday morning, Patrick Cappillino (Boston University) gave an oral presentation and received the third place award for best oral presentation. In addition, Shuyu Wang (Harvard University) was awarded a prize for best poster presentation.



The participants of the 2008 German Exchange program during their visit to the Dow Chemical laboratories

In addition to the scientific talks, the program included a four-day stay in Hamburg, where students had the chance to visit Hamburg University and local laboratories such as Dow Chemical. At the end of the week, Dr. Kurt Begitt, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Education and Professional Affairs of the GDCh accompanied by representatives of the Young Chemists Forum (*Jung-Chemikerforum*, JCF) hosted a farewell dinner in honor of the American delegation.

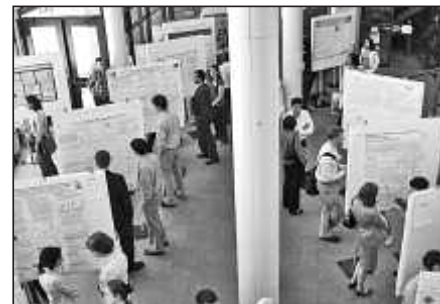
Looking ahead to the 2009 exchange program, the application will be available at the end of the summer. A delegation from NESACS will travel to Essen, March 11-18 for the *Frühjahrssymposium*. We hope that NESACS-YCC and GDCh-JCF exchange continues and we look forward to greeting JCF to Boston in August 2010.



The exchange participants were invited to attend Opera. Back row (l-r) Brett Fors, Adam Schell, Martin T., Carl Christianson, Dominik Margraf, Raymond Moellering, Jens Breffke, and Patrick Cappillino. Front row (l-r) Lynell Skewis, Jolene Schuster, Naho Fujimoto, Wendy Iskenderian, Gülbenk Anarat, and Laila Dafik.

## 2008 Northeast Student Chemist Research Conference (NSCRC)

Following the German Exchange Program 2008, the Northeastern Section Younger Chemists Committee (NSYCC) and its local Tufts YCC organized the tenth annual Northeast Student Chemist Research Conference on Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Chemistry Department of Tufts University. The keynote speaker was Professor Stuart L. Schreiber from the Broad Institute with a lecture titled “Small-molecule Probe and Drug Discovery”. The one day long conference consisted of oral presentations given by the younger chemists from the Northeastern region followed by a poster session where participants discussed their research with their peers and were judged by a NSYCC judging committee. This years NSCRC distributed eight awards (see below for names and affiliation).



2008 NSCRC during the poster session at the Remis sculpture (Tufts University).



Prof. Schreiber during the keynote lecture.

## 2008 NSCRC awardees

Carl Christianson (Boston College) -  
Strem Excellent Oral Presentation Award

Erin Iski (Tufts University)- Vertex  
Excellent Oral Presentation Award

Adam Schell (Boston University) -  
Vertex Excellent Undergraduate  
Research Award

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## Newell Grants

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Whether you are interested in a partial or full grant.

The Lyman C. Newell Grants commemorate a former chair of the Northeastern Section who was a distinguished chemist, teacher, and historian of chemistry. For many years he was chair of the Chemistry Department at Boston University. Lyman Newell served as the first president of NEACT from 1898 to 1900 and expressed a continuing interest in training chemistry students throughout his long career. His efforts are continued by grants that bear his name. ◇

## NSYCC, 08 & Beyond

*Continued from page 8*

tution over the summer. The continuity offered by a functional governing document, coupled with motivated leaders seeking well-defined positions, will keep the NSYCC moving forward. As mentioned, the NSYCC executive committee has devised a plan to integrate our growing networks of volunteers, members, recruiters, and sponsors. This is where we need the most assistance and support from the chemists in the geographic area within and around the Northeastern Section. As many have found, establishing and maintaining functioning networks which include a dynamic membership is a difficult task.

We thank everyone again, and we encourage volunteers, members, sponsors and recruiters to contact us whenever they have a question or comment. We look forward to growing the NSYCC with your help. ◇

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## NSYCC Activities

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*Margaret Thompson (Wellesley College) - NESACS/YCC Excellent Undergraduate Research Award*

*Raymond Moellering (Harvard University)- Vertex Excellent Graduate Research Award*

*Gülbenk Anarat (Boston University)- NESACS/YCC Excellent Graduate Research Award*

*Jeffrey Garber (Dartmouth College) - The Brauner Book Award*

*Wendy Iskenderian (MIT)- GWIS Award*

### 2008 NSYCC elections

For the first time, elections for the 2008-2009 NSYCC officers were held on Saturday May 31, 2008 at the Chemistry department of Tufts University. The elections were organized by the Tufts Younger Chemist Committee. This first round of elections generated new positions such as publicity and social vice-chairs. The publicity co-chairs will be solely responsible for advertising and reaching out to the entire Northeastern Section. Another noteworthy outcome of the election was the appointment a vice-chair who would help with the committee tasks and activities planning. This event marked the beginning of a new tradition, an annual conference followed by a round of elections for future NSYCC officers, who are not necessarily under 35. Being an ACS member and under 35 seems to be no longer a limitation to becoming a position holder in the committee. If the present committee or the future one decides to implement the National Younger Chemist guidelines, the question is, does being older than 35 matter?

For more information about the present committee please refer to our website [www.nsycc.org](http://www.nsycc.org). ◇

**Q. Exactly, how many awards and scholarships does NESACS sponsor?**

A) One    b) Two    c) Many

**[www.nesacs.org/awards](http://www.nesacs.org/awards)**