

Tri-State CACS Successfully Holds New Year Celebration and Annual Elections

Every year, Tri-State CACS organizes a New Year party to celebrate a year of accomplishments, to welcome the New Year with hope and new activities, to recruit new members, to hold annual elections, and to honor recipients of the Tri-State CACS Outstanding Service Award and Young Chemist Award. This year's New Year celebration and annual election party was successfully held in Sunny Palace in East Brunswick, NJ on Sunday, January 18, 2009 and was attended by over 140 members and friends. This year's party was emceed by Sunny Wang, the President for 2009, and Duxi Zhang, the new President-Elect. The party featured music, dances, and vocal performances by members and their families and friends. The evening was both productive and entertaining.

Prof. Longqin Hu, President for 2008, summarized the past year's activities that included collecting donations to help the Victims of Sichuan Earthquake, sending a delegation to participate in a meeting at the Yangtze River Triangle, and organizing the successful June CACS Annual Symposium. On June 7, 2008, the Tri-State CACS organized the 2008 Tri-State CACS Annual Symposium at Rutgers University. The theme of the June symposium was "Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Pharmaceutical and Chemical R&D." Keynote and invited speakers included R&D leaders from such international chemical and pharmaceutical corporations as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Schering-Plough, sanofi-aventis, and Rohm & Haas. The Annual Symposium attracted around 300 chemical professionals and students from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Delaware. At the end of his speech, Prof. Hu thanked all members and board members, especially, Guang Cao, Yuguang Wang, Xiaoqiu Wu, Fangbiao Li, Guodong Chen, and Sunny Wang, for their contributions to 2008 CACS activities. He acknowledged the many sponsors of 2008 Tri-State CACS activities including the long-time corporate supporters like Schering-Plough, Merck, Wyeth, and ExxonMobil and several new ones like Rohm and Haas, Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner, Scully Scott Murphy & Presser, and Agilent. He also thanked the student volunteers, Lingfeng Zhou, Connie Yang, Tracy Wang, and Andy Xu for their help with the registration during the Annual Symposium.

Ms. Sunny Wang, the new President for 2009, presented an outlook on activities planned for the coming year. In addition to the June Annual Symposium, Tri-State CACS is planning two international conferences in Beijing: one is the Second Beijing International Pharmaceutical and Chemical IP Forum on August 5-8, 2009 and the other is the Third Beijing International Pharmaceutical R&D Forum on August 11-13, 2009. She asked for active participation and support from members and board directors in these activities.

At the New Year Party, five new Executive Board directors were elected: they were Dr. Jinquan Dong from Johnson and Johnson, Dr. Wenni Li from Catalent Pharma Solutions, Drs. Quinn K. Tong and Bin Wei from Henkel Corporation, and Dr. Teng Xu from ExxonMobil. Each will serve a three-year term. Dr. Duxi Zhang from Bristol-Myers Squibb, who has been a member of the Board of Directors with the Tri-State CACS for the last two years, was elected the President-Elect and will become the President in 2010. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Zhang encouraged all members to actively participate in the Tri-State CACS activities and use our society as a platform for networking and career development.

Dr. Yuguang Wang, President for 2005, presented the Tri-State CACS Outstanding Service Award to Dr. Guodong Chen, President for 2007, for his outstanding contributions to the Tri-State CACS. Under Dr. Chen's leadership, the Tri-State CACS successfully held the 2nd Beijing International Pharmaceutical R&D Forum, which provided a platform for scientific exchange and discussion of the latest development in pharmaceutical R&D in both China and the US.

Dr. Duxi Zhang, the President-Elect, announced the recipients of this year's Young Chemist Award. Among the many highly qualified candidates, four outstanding high school students, Lingfeng Zhou from West Windsor Plainsboro High School South, Kenneth Pu from John P. Stevens High School, Erica Lai from Holmdel High School, and Monica Yang from Montgomery High School, were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements in chemistry-related disciplines. This annual award encourages interest in chemistry and science among high school students, and has been a popular program since its inception in 2003.

The event provided entertainment as members and their families and friends performed songs and dances. The entertainment portion of the program included vocal performances by the well-known singer and now lifetime member Mingzhen Gu, a Mongolian dance by Wei Li (a member), two Chinese folk dances "The South of Rainbow" and "Pretty Actresses" by children of our members, a Spanish dance by Boya Xia, ballroom dancing by Tao Ying, and mini harmonica performances by George Chiu. Special gifts were also presented at the party to members who were the first to arrive at the party, who drove the longest distance to the party, who brought the youngest child to the party, and who has been a member the longest.

The New Year Party ended with the happy music and dances by members. Sunny Wang, President for 2009, wished everyone a happy Niu Year and hoped to see everyone in future CACS activities in 2009.