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Cover art: Dreamstime Stock Images: Microscopic background of water crystals. Inset photo: South Texas College (McAllen) members celebrating Mole Day.

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ter members designed a chemistry stole (including buckyballs and a nuclear decay cartoon!) that was presented as a gift to all chemistry graduates as a way to recognize their outstanding achievements during their short time together.

Providing resources

Chemistry isn't an easy discipline; some students need more study time, while others may prefer to have a few chemistry lessons outside of the classroom to stay on top of their course material. To meet these needs, many ACS chapters offer chemistry tutoring as a service to both the students and their department. A tutoring service is one of the fundamental (and less costly) ways for chapters to provide department service.



RPI chapter members created instructional videos for the general chemistry students.

The student chapter at the **University of Southern Indiana** (USI) in Evansville took the concept a step further by piloting a mentoring program called CheMentors. The program began by asking students interested in becoming mentors to apply. Once approved, each student mentor was paired with a freshman interested in majoring in chemistry. After mentors and mentees were introduced at an initial meeting, they stayed in contact with each other individually, as needed. Mentors provided information about classes offered by the chemistry department, and also suggested studying tips and strategies for approaching professors for advice.

In addition, the USI chapter compiled a guidebook that oriented new chemistry majors to their department and invited them to the first ACS chapter meeting of the year. Their "Beginner's Survival Guide for Chemistry Classes" offered tips and guidelines for succeeding as a chemistry major at USI as well as department information, biographies and photos of faculty members, contact information, and a list of the benefits of becoming a student member of ACS.

Chapter members at **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** (RPI) in Troy, NY, are creating a series of instructional supplements for the Chemistry I courses offered on their campus. The group has created PowerPoint presentations and videos that map out conceptual frameworks and applications — specifically for students in the introductory class. These resources will enable RPI chem-

istry students to see each step of a calculation, develop problem-solving skills, and, so the hope goes, struggle less with homework and do better on chemistry exams.

Fun, learning, and productivity?

Yes, it's possible to achieve all three simultaneously!

Becoming an ACS student chapter member should be fun and engaging, so why not plan service activities that also function as social events? the **California State University Fresno** (CSU) chapter hosted a "Meet Your Professor Series" to enhance the relationship between students and faculty. The series allowed students to participate in chemistry activities and discussions outside the typical classroom environment. The chapter achieved its goal of breaking down formal classroom barriers by hosting a night to watch the TV show "CSI" with an analytical/forensics professor. The chemistry department chair also participated in the "Meet Your Professor Series" by hosting a "Chemistry of Cooking" barbecue in his home. Since this service experience was successful, the chapter hopes to expand upon the concept and encourage other departments to take advantage of the "Meet Your Professor Series" idea for their own students.

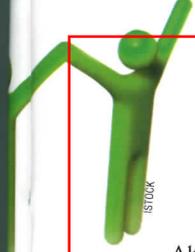
Many ACS student chapters try to conduct more informal meetings to ensure that chapter members enjoy their time



Above: This wall mural in the chemistry department was created by members of the University of South Alabama chapter.

Below: The Utica College chapter designed a chemistry stole for graduating seniors.





spent with the chapter, while also promoting membership and retention. Some chapters offer events, such as liquid nitrogen ice cream socials, as a part of regular meetings to encourage students to become chemistry majors and members of the chapter.

Although the meetings have a social component, the chapter leaders also discuss chapter activities and other business to balance productivity and socializing.

The “Classroom Luncheon Series” was an idea that originated at the **University of Richmond** student chapter. A special guest was invited to each luncheon for a question-and-answer session with chapter members at the Virginia institution. The sessions were exclusively for students to network, learn about chemistry careers, and hear about the career paths of the invited guests while enjoying lunch together.

Local action, global impacts

The impact of some service endeavors extends beyond the chemistry department. To take advantage of a general heightened awareness, some chapters are providing environmentally friendly services to their schools.

Chapter members at **South Texas College** in McAllen teamed up with biology club members to become certified by the Texas Stream Team to test the quality of water in local streams, rivers,



The CSU Fresno chapter made spill kits for chemistry teaching labs.

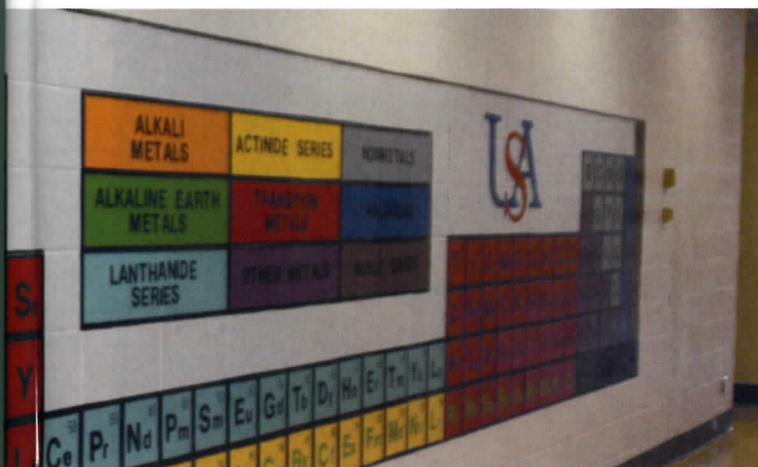
and other bodies of water. Periodically, the chapter also received requests from citizens of the greater McAllen area to test lakes on their ranches.

The CSU Fresno chapter made spill kits for chemistry teaching labs, hoping to eventually expand the program by providing spill kits to labs in other departments on campus. In doing so, the members wanted to have a positive impact on their campus community as well as the environment, and consulted with their campus Department of Environmental Health and Safety about how to include only eco-friendly contents in the kits.

Of course, if you don't have the resources to assemble entire spill kits, there are more basic ways to help your department reduce its carbon footprint. Setting up recycling stations in places that previously did not have the means to recycle, or introducing more environmentally safe alternatives to disposing of chemical waste are simple initiatives that help your department, your campus, and the environment.

No better time to start

The ideas offered here for department and college campus service are some of the activities collected from the 2009-2010 chapter reports. Some of these may be effective on your campus, or perhaps they will help to stimulate new ideas that you can adapt to your own needs and capabilities. Regardless of the activity, these examples demonstrate the importance and benefit of introducing multiple service activities on your campus. We hope to see some more rewarding accomplishments in the coming year! **IC**



South Texas College members became certified by the Texas Stream Team to test the water quality at local streams and rivers.



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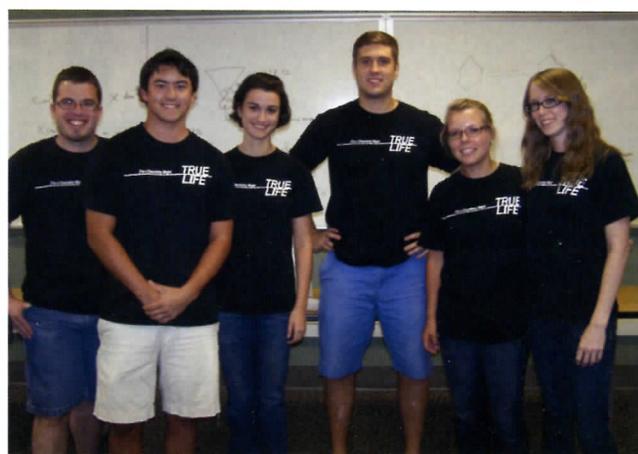
"Chemically Dependent" — Northern Kentucky University (Highland Heights) members posing with Past ACS President Tom Lane at the ACS national meeting in San Francisco, CA



"Fellowship of the Ring" — California State University Fresno members enjoying a few Wii moments



"Chemists Keep It Hot" — Catawba College (Salisbury, NC) members discussing demos in a chapter meeting



"True Life – I'm a Chemistry Major" — Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) members gathering at a chapter event



"UST ACS" — University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX) chapter members and organizers of the Education Rainbow Challenge math contests enjoying a light moment after appearing with Deborah Duncan, host of the KHOU "Great Day Houston" television program



Be Candid!
Get Your Chapter Photo in
inChemistry Magazine!

To get your picture published in a future issue of *inChemistry* magazine, send your high-resolution photos of ACS student members engaged in chapter activities to Lori Betsock at L_betsock@acs.org.