MEMORANDUM

To: Monica Barron, Human Resources

From: Amina K. El-Ashmawy, Ph.D.

Re: Sabbatical Report

Date: August 24, 2010

In fulfillment of the stipulations for the sabbatical leave granted me in Spring 2010, enclosed are:

1. My sabbatical leave report;
2. Copy of a Journal of Chemical Education article I co-authored;
3. Copy of email from the White House scheduling staff;
4. Program book from the 21st Biennial Conference on Chemical Education; and
5. Pocket guide from the 21st Biennial Conference on Chemical Education.

In addition, I gave a presentation on August 19, 2010 at the Collin Faculty Development Conference where I shared with colleagues some things I learned while on sabbatical.
Sabbatical Leave Report
Amina Khalifa El-Ashmawy, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry, Academic Affairs Division, CPC

My sabbatical project was multifaceted and consisted of (1) the organization, planning and scheduling of the 21st Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE) technical program, (2) serving as editor of the conference program book and pocket guide, (3) preparing, collaborating, and co-presenting a talk with Collin colleague for the conference, and (4) working to include Collin College student and faculty participation in the conference.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Chemical Education’s (DivCHED) 21st BCCE, held at the University of North Texas on August 1-5, 2010, drew 1231 registrants from all 50 states as well as 26 countries. There were three plenary lectures, up to 15 concurrent technical sessions in each time block and 98 workshops spanning the five-day conference. The conference technical program included almost 800 papers from chemistry educators and researchers in the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, India, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, and Venezuela. Beyond the technical program, there were 63 exhibitor booths and daily social events where informal gatherings and ideas were exchanged.

Specifically, as Program Chair of the 21st BCCE, I accomplished the following:
♦ Determined the appropriate content for the technical program as to best serve the educational needs of DivCHED members and conference attendees.

♦ Composed and sent out the Call for Symposium Proposals and the Call for Papers.

♦ Reviewed the proposed symposia and accepted those appropriate for the conference.

♦ Developed the technical program themes based on the accepted symposia.

♦ Developed an appropriate technical program format.

♦ Co-authored an article in the Journal of Chemical Education (attached) publicizing the conference.

♦ Learned the abstract submission software and how to accomplish various functions within it; met with the software developer to iron out kinks and bugs that arose in the software.

♦ Lead the review of submitted abstracts.

♦ Oversaw the acceptance/rejection of the submitted abstracts.

♦ Enforced the “Rule of Two” for presenters.
Allocated the number of sessions for each symposium based on the number of papers submitted in each.

Conferred with software designers and worked within the abstract submission system to accept symposia and papers, schedule the 112 symposium sessions and almost 800 papers that comprised the technical program, and flagged conflicts.

Scheduled symposia and papers where there were no conflicts for: 1) authors and co-authors in the technical program, 2) workshop leaders, and 3) similar themed symposia. This involved assigning program co-chair specific duties and working and negotiating with many individuals to resolve schedule conflicts that existed for various presenters. The end result was 13-15 concurrent sessions in every technical program time block (excluding the ongoing workshops)! This task alone consumed an intense, densely-packed month worth of time.

Notified all symposium organizers, presiders, authors and co-authors of their symposium/paper status.

In collaboration with the UNT conference services staff, assigned appropriate meeting room for each symposium based on the anticipated number of attendees for each, as determine through consultation with Dr. Maria Oliver-Hoyo (North Carolina State University, program co-chair).

Worked with General Chair (Dr. Diana Mason, UNT) to assign meeting rooms for all other scheduled program components (poster sessions, plenary lectures, and workshops).

Scheduled and coordinated the three poster sessions; worked with the Poster Session chairs to ensure proper themes were developed and conflicts in scheduling were avoided.

Tweaked the master schedule in order to maximize attendance at the technical program sessions and alerted the General Chair of the changes made.

Oversaw and guided the appointment of symposium session presiders; in collaboration with program co-chair worked with presiders of the 112 sessions to make sure everyone was clear on their duties.

Worked with the UNT conference management personnel to get the appropriate room setups for the 20+ rooms used for the technical program.

Set the vision for what/who I wanted for plenary speakers based on current hot topics; worked with Dr. Cheryl Frech (University of Central Oklahoma, plenary speakers coordinator) to invite President Barack Obama to be our opening plenary speaker. Unfortunately, after the Gulf oil spill, we were informed by the White House scheduling staff that the President will not be able to make it (see attached
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- Contacted and visited the 2007 recipient of the US National Medal of Science in Chemistry (Dr. M. A. El-Sayed, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA) to be the opening plenary speaker once the President declined our invitation. Unfortunately, El-Sayed had already committed to being a speaker at an international conference.

- Made necessary accommodations and technical needs arrangements for the plenary speakers in conjunction with Dr. Frech, the ACS staff, and the UNT conference services personnel.
  - Dr. James L. Marshall – Professor of Chemistry, University of North Texas. *At last! All the elements have been rediscovered!*
  - Dr. Nizam Peerwani – Tarrant County Chief Medical Examiner, Physicians for Human Rights, and Distinguished Adjunct Professor, Texas Wesleyan University. *International Human Rights: Role of a Forensic Examiner*
  - Dr. Kent Kirshenbaum – Professor of Chemistry, New York University. *Taste Science! Engaged Learning at the Interface of Chemistry and Cuisine*

- Introduced plenary speakers; presented each with their appreciation gift.

- Served as co-host of the conference along with the General Chair.

- Oversaw all symposium session blocks to make sure everything ran smoothly. This included staffing the volunteers in critical areas and troubleshooting throughout the conference.

- Orchestrated the opening ceremonies and thanked the participants during the closing ceremonies.

- Oversaw and gave final approval for the Errata Sheet and daily conference newsletter publication.

- Met with and mentored the 22nd BCCE Program Chair (Penn State University). She shadowed me throughout the conference to see first-hand what the job really entails.

In addition to my Program Chair duties, the General Chair delegated some of her duties to me. Accordingly, I

- Designed, compiled, edited, and oversaw publication of the conference program book and pocket guide.

- Worked closely with the Hayden-McNeil Publishing Company staff to ensure all details were captured and accurately represented in the printed program book and pocket guide.
Spring 2010 Sabbatical Leave Report

- Helped in the arrangement of the conference banquet and corresponding events at Circle R Ranch.
- Designed and made all symposium session and workshop signage; arranged for and oversaw appropriate placement of signage for the conference.

In order to maximize Collin College student and faculty participation in the conference, I

- Followed up periodically with Collin chemistry faculty and lab instructors about submitting their Collin travel request forms and registering for the conference. As a result, six chemistry faculty and the CPC lab instructor were in attendance.
- Recruited Collin students (with the help of my colleagues who were teaching in Spring 2010) and faculty volunteers (with help from Dean Neal, Dean Carter and Dean Coan) and assigned them in needed areas, primarily, stuffing conference bags and working the registration tables.
- Encouraged the chemistry faculty to organize symposia and present papers. As a result, there were two papers presented: one on CASMNS and one on professional development at Collin.
- Co-presented a paper with Fred Jury, Professional development challenges and opportunities, in the Mentoring Faculty: Lengthening and Strengthening the Chain symposium.

I have attached a copy of the conference program book and pocket guide in order to help put in perspective the scope and magnitude of work it took to organize and put on the 21st Biennial Conference on Chemical Education.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Amina Khalifa El-Ashmawy
August 24, 2010
21st Biennial Conference on Chemical Education: 2010—A New Decade for Opportunity

by Diana Mason*
Department of Chemistry, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas 76203-5017
*dcmason@unt.edu

by Amina El-Ashmawy
Department of Chemistry, Collin College, McKinney, Texas 75070

by Maria Oliver-Hoyo
Department of Chemistry, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695

The Division of Chemical Education (DivCHED) is one of the 33 technical divisions of the ACS. DivCHED's mission is to serve the interests and efforts of all constituencies involved in the teaching and learning of chemistry at every level. DivCHED membership exceeds 6000 people from the ranks of prescindary, secondary, two- and four-year colleges, universities, research institutions, and industry associates. All of whom are concerned about education and the training of future chemists. If interacting with one (or more) of these groups appeals to you, please continue to read about DivCHED's upcoming event: the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE).

What Is BCCE?

The first BCCE was held at Mt. Holyoke, MA, in 1972. Since that first conference, the BCCE has developed into the largest gathering of chemical educators in the world. What makes a BCCE exciting is the opportunity to gather in an informal setting to socialize and to share ideas, expertise, and experiences with colleagues committed to excellence in chemical education. You might sit down for lunch with someone you just heard give a presentation of interest. Or, you might end up chatting with an author or publisher of a publication you are using, plan to use, or have an interest in contributing to. (That includes this Journal.)

If variety is what you seek, we've got it! (And before you ask: Yes, we do understand the concept of air conditioning, and we've got it, too!) The BCCE experience includes renowned plenary and keynote speakers, symposia and poster presentations, workshops, demonstrations, and a great setting for all to exchange new ideas, strategies, and techniques for improving students' learning. The 2010 BCCE, held at the University of North Texas (UNT) Denton campus, will offer 16 concurrent sessions of symposia in eight time blocks. We have accepted 66 symposia with nearly 800 papers; this means that we will be hosting 112 sessions running from Sunday afternoon through Thursday at noon. If listening to papers is not enough, then check out the list of more than 70 workshops, some with multiple sessions. Around lunchtime each day Monday through Wednesday three packed poster sessions will feature the latest and greatest in chemical education research. Other events taking place will be sure to engage your interest as well.

Conference Facilities

Our largest plenary sessions will be held in the auditorium, which seats 1500 people. Most of the symposia will be held in the University Union, which houses a food court, ATM access, a convenience store, a coffee bar, a mail center, a bookstore, and printing and copying services. The fabulous BCCE Exhibit Hall and multiple poster sessions will also be held in the University Union.

The residence halls selected (Legends and Traditions) are two of the newest on campus. These halls feature single-occupancy rooms with connecting baths at a rate of $30.25 per night. Also, BCCE attendees can use the residential lots and parking places at Fouts Field for free. The Denton Chamber of Commerce has been supportive and instrumental in persuading local hotels to offer rooms at the special rate! (Just make sure to mention that you are with the "chemistry" conference to receive the special deal.)

The Chemistry Building is a short walk from the University Union and will host some of the symposia and workshops, with others being held in buildings close to the Union in Wooten Hall. For an interactive, searchable map of the UNT Denton campus, browse here: http://www.unt.edu/pais/map/campusmap.htm (accessed Apr 2010). For a reference, the campus is about 0.5 mi from north to south and 0.75 mi east to west. All attendees will be assigned wireless access codes that are operational all over campus in nearly all the buildings, including the dorms. Make sure to check out BCCE Web site for updates at http://www.bcce2010.org/ (accessed Apr 2010). You can also join our online listserv at http://chemed.tamu.edu/bcce2010/ (accessed Apr 2010).

Getting to the UNT Campus

The University of North Texas student body exceeds 36,000 students, making it the third-largest university in the
state of Texas. Highways I-35E and I-35W meet just north of the city of Denton, forming the apex of what we call the Golden Triangle; the base of that triangle, formed by I-30, links the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. Denton is home to more than 70,000 residents and two major universities: UNT and Texas Woman’s University. The UNT Denton campus is located about 35 miles from two major airports (Love Field, home to Southwest Airlines, and the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport), so know which airport you’ll be landing at! Make your own airport shuttle reservations; one provider, Roadrunner Charters, https://www5.mylimobiz.com/ntxt/reservations/login.asp (accessed Apr 2010) takes reservations online, or call them at 940-565-9936 and pay them directly for your trip with a credit card. The conference hotel is the Holiday Inn and Suites, Denton University area: find out more from their Web site, http://www.ichordsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/droth?stopredirect=true (accessed Apr 2010). The conference hotel will provide shuttle service back and forth from campus, including some nighttime service.

Social Events and Family Activities

The opening ceremonies will begin on Sunday night at 6:02 p.m. in the auditorium, followed by the opening of the BCCE Exhibit Hall in the Union. For a taste of Texas, the Sunday night Raisin’ CaNe gala will include great drinks and grub; the gala will also feature the recently Grammy-nominated UNT One O’Clock Lab Band.

On Tuesday morning at 6:02 a.m., the Mole Fun Run Challenge will begin. This will be followed on Tuesday night by a big BBQ bash, armadillo races, and rodeo events with live Texas music by the Grammy-nominated Crawfish Band.

The Mole Day breakfast, held at the Gateway Center, will begin at 6:02 a.m. on Wednesday morning, followed by the long-awaited Al D. Hyde and the Key Tones’ pachanga.

Other family friendly events to consider include the JCE–2YC3 Ice Cream Social, as well as field trips to the Nuclear Facility at Comanche Peak, Billy Bob’s Texas Dance Hall, Brushy Creek Vineyards, and the Denton Horse Country Tour. Yes, Texas summers are hot, so you’ll need to dress accordingly. To help everyone stay a little cooler, we’ve got some really cool cowboy hats for sale at only $12 (if you purchase online when you register). This may be the best money you have ever spent!

Check Out Our Web Site

Information about all facets of the 21st BCCE can be found on our Web site, http://www.bcce2010.org/ (accessed Apr 2010). Early registration began online in February and goes through June 2, 2010. The registration fees are $250 for regular registrants, $200 for secondary educators (with a valid school ID or a letter from your principal), and $125 for graduate or undergraduate students (with a valid school student ID). After June 2, 2010, you may still register for the conference, but a $50 late fee will apply for each of the registration classifications. Guest registrations are available at $20 for the conference; registration for children (under the age of 17) is available at $10 for the conference. There will also be Li’l Wrangler events at the rate of $15 per day. All attendees must be registered as a participant or guest in order to take part in any of the BCCE events or tours.

The year of $^{26}$Ca$_{10}$Ne is here! The deadlines to submit your ideas for a workshop or symposium have passed, but in just two years Penn State will be leading us onward and upward to new and exciting heights. Now it is time to make your plans to attend the BCCE at UNT, August 1 – 5! We look forward to seeing all of our colleagues in Denton this summer. It is going to be a great Texas experience! Y’all come on down, now, ya hear!

Diana Mason, BCCE program chair, is in the Department of Chemistry, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76203-5017; dmason@unt.edu. BCCE program co-chairs are Amina El-Ashmawy, Collin College, ael-ashmawy@collin.edu, and Maria Oliver-Hoyo, North Carolina State University, maria_oliver@ncsu.edu.
This just in. So sorry, it was a gamble we took.
cbf

Cheryl B. Frech
via iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: FN-WHO-Scheduling <Scheduling@who.eop.gov>
Date: June 16, 2010 10:14:09 AM CDT
To: Cheryl Frech <cfrech@uco.edu>
Subject: White House Scheduling Request

Dear Ms. Frech:

Thank you for inviting President Obama to deliver the opening plenary lecture at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education.

President Obama values each and every invitation he receives. However, the constraints of his schedule and the volume of requests are such that the majority must be declined. It is with sincere regret that the President will be unable to speak at this year's conference.

Thank you for your interest in including the President in your plans, and we appreciate your understanding.

Sincerely,

The White House Office of Appointments and Scheduling
Please note that for each inquiry or invitation, the White House Office of Appointments and Scheduling considers not only the stated request but also the possibility of additional forms of Presidential or White House involvement. This includes, but is not limited to, greetings, messages, proclamations, videos, and the attendance of the First Lady, the Vice President, Dr. Jill Biden, or White House staff at an event or meeting. Replies to this email regarding additional or alternative requests or reconsideration cannot be answered.

**Bronze+Blue=Green** The University of Central Oklahoma is Bronze, Blue, and Green! Please print this e-mail only if absolutely necessary!

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