

The difference a year makes....

By Debbie C. Crans, Chair of Colorado Section of ACS

We have now survived 6 months of COVID lockdown and most of us are still here. However, now this week we are entering a new stage – students are going back to school and college students are coming back to Colorado State University and other campuses. Many wonder if this is a risk worth taking and some have already turned to a virtual situation. As a professor I am teaching wearing a mask, and to students that are sitting 6 feet from each other and also wearing masks. We are given disinfectant and directed around campus. I was surprised it seemed like it might work – the students follow the guidelines and life seems to move ahead.

So, what has this done to the activities in the Colorado Section of ACS? Several good things have happened although I have been silent so far about them but am about to let you know. We still have milestones to celebrate and members to honor – maybe now more than ever! After all – it is the 100-year anniversary of COACS. Boy – why did COVID-19 had to hit this year?

In the coming month I would like to celebrate several events – and will do so by sending these emails at a biweekly frequency until caught up. In this email I will tell you about the plan for the upcoming messages, that together will make a Newsletter.

First, I am going to inform you that the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting 2020 is going virtual. Carlos Olivo-Delgado and I, the chairs of the Regional ACS meeting have been able to successfully convert the conference that was supposed to happen at Colorado State University instead will be going virtual. This is very important, because several milestones for the region are to be celebrated and we are going to host several events focusing on “Laboratory Safety in Academia and in Industry” and a particularly for graduate students. In addition, we will host an event for Iota Sigma Pi and Woman Chemists Committee.

For technical programing, we are going to have four mini-symposia celebrating activities in the region. In the symposium “Young Talent in the Rock Mountain Region” where assistant professors and young scientists at similar level in industry and government demonstrate the quality of our young and upcoming scientists in the region. Similar, in a symposium celebrating “senior chemists” (which if you are above 50 years of age, you qualify) will be held again documenting the quality and diversity of our scientists in the region. This symposium will be followed by our award celebration were we among other celebrate our seniors and the 50-year members of the region. We will also host a symposium on Sustainability and Medicinal Chemistry with world class scientists making this a state-of-the-art symposium. In addition to these events we invited contributed presentations which will be presented by prerecorded presentations and for which best “posters”- “flash talks” will be honored. I have enclosed a flyer and encourage those so inclined to submit an abstract before the Aug 31st deadline.

Finally, I promise in the next coming versions of this announcement to celebrate the many accomplishments of our newly elected COACS officers, newly elected National Officers and other announcements of relevance to the COACS members.