



Fall 11-30-2001

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Recommended Citation

Kesavan, Anita, "American Chemical Society to Award Illinois Wesleyan University's Student Affiliates Chapter" (2001). *News and Events*. 1249.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/1249>

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Nov. 30, 2001

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American Chemical Society to Award Illinois Wesleyan University's Student Affiliates Chapter

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The American Chemical Society(ACS) Student Affiliates chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University will be awarded an honorable mention for the activities of their chapter during the 2000-2001 academic year.

Twenty-four outstanding, 46 commendable, and 74 honorable mention awards will be presented at the 223rd ACS National Meeting in Orlando, Fla., on Sunday, April 7, 2002. IWU will be recognized at this time and will be mentioned in Chemical & Engineering News, the Society's official national news magazine, and in the Student Affiliates magazine in Chemistry.

ACS is one of the largest scientific professional organizations in the world, and the Student Affiliates(SA) program offers undergraduate students interested in chemistry or related sciences the opportunity to receive pre-professional development in the chemical sciences. The SA program has a current enrollment of more than 7,500 students with over 900 chapters at colleges and universities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Every chapter is required to submit an annual report of its activities, and based on the review of these reports, chapters are selected by the Society Committee on Education for recognition as outstanding, commendable or honorable mention chapters.

Ram Mohan, IWU assistant professor of chemistry and Rebecca Roesner, IWU assistant professor of chemistry advised the ACS Students Affiliates chapter during the 2000-2001 year. Roesner also serves as the current advisor for the Student Affiliates program along with Laura Moore, IWU assistant professor of chemistry.

"Few faculty members are willing to make the great commitment of time and energy that a successful chapter requires of its advisor," said Attila Pavlath, 2001 president of the American Chemical Society. "It takes more than an exceptional effort to be an award-winning chapter...it takes the nurturing attention of a dedicated advisor. Professors Mohan and Roesner's efforts certainly represent the best in undergraduate science and education and mentoring around the country."

Numerous activities lead the IWU ACS Student Affiliates Chapter to receive the award. The SA chapter gave chemical demonstrations at elementary schools where they performed experiments for younger students and then explained the processes behind the experiments. The students also were involved in service projects such as Adopt-a-Highway where they cleaned up a section of Airport Road in Bloomington, several times last year.

During National Chemistry Week, students set up activities in the atrium at IWU's Center for Natural Sciences to make the campus aware of the things that chemists do and how this contributes to society. Upper level students tutored freshman and sophomore students in their chemistry courses, and guest speakers also attended ACS meetings to advise students on career

goals. Students also shared summer research experiences with each other during meetings and performed chemical demonstrations for each other.

"Being a member of ACS is beneficial for students in many ways," said Roesner. "On a local level, it fosters a good social atmosphere that encourages students to get to know each other better. It also is good for career networking and mentoring where older students mentor younger students as well as allowing the faculty to get to know the students on a more professional level. At the national level, being associated with the American Chemical Society also has a lot of advantages. Members have access to scientific publications and receive as well as provide career services, guidance on resume preparation and online job listings. Being a member of the ACS Students Affiliates is definitely a good way for our students to get their professional career started."

About Ram Mohan

Mohan, a faculty member of Illinois Wesleyan University since 1996, received a bachelor of science degree (with honors) in chemistry from Hansraj College in Delhi, India, in 1985; a master of science degree in organic chemistry from the University of Delhi, India, in 1987; and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, in 1992.

A post-doctoral research associate at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1992-94, Mohan also was a visiting assistant professor of chemistry at Coker college, Hartsville, S.C., in 1994-96. A member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Mohan, a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Pharmacognosy, has won a half dozen research grants from IWU and ACS. He also is the co-author of 15 research publications and has made scientific presentations at meetings of professional organizations such as the American Chemical Society.

About Rebecca Roesner

Roesner, a member of Illinois Wesleyan University's faculty since 1997, received her bachelor of arts degree (summa cum laude) in chemistry and history from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1992 and her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Kansas in 1998.

Roesner has been published extensively in journals such as the "Journal of Organic Chemistry," "Journal of Computational Chemistry," "Journal of Inclusion Phenomena and Molecular Recognition in Chemistry," the "Journal of Chemical Society, Chemical Communications" and various other publications.