

## Philadelphia Area Girls Enjoying Science™ Continues to Excite Girls

For almost twenty years, the Philadelphia Section of the ACS has been sponsoring hands-on science days for sixth grade girls at Chestnut Hill College. Philadelphia Areas Girls Enjoying Science™ (PAGES™), originally known as Expand Your Horizons, attracts ~ 125 girls and ~ 50 volunteers each spring and fall.



The goals of these mini-conferences are: (1) to increase girls' interest in science and mathematics, (2) to provide students an opportunity to meet women working in non-traditional fields, and (3) to foster an awareness of varied career opportunities for women.



The program begins with a 45-minute talk by an inspiring scientist about her career path and passions. The girls are then given safety glasses and head to the labs for three 45-minute experiments. The experiments at each event vary and have included making slime, soda pop, lava lamps, Cartesian divers and ice cream; separating the colors in M&M® candy coatings; separating the components in over-the-counter analgesics; exploring surface tension; testing water; making polluted water and trying

to clean it up; discovering the properties of dry ice and liquid nitrogen; learning about the technology used in making disposable diapers; making circuits with conductive polymers; using fossil records to determine if various dinosaurs ran or walked; and being amazed by the flame chemistry of inorganic salts.



The day ends with goody bags, lunch, decorating a banner, and door prizes. There is plenty of opportunity for the adults to network with other volunteers at lunch. It is inspiring to see so many women giving up their Saturday to be chaperones and perform experiments with the girls. There are always many new volunteers and dozens of program veterans.



Check out our web site at <http://PAGESprogram.org>. You may even find a picture of someone you know. There are some great photos from the previous sessions.

We would also like to thank our sponsors and collaborating organizations. These include: The Makefield Area and Northeastern Montgomery County (NEMCO) Branches of AAUW (American Association of University Women); Philadelphia Chapter of Association for Women in Science (AWIS); Chemical Heritage Foundation; Fisher Scientific; and VWR Scientific.

Mark your calendars for November 3, 2012 and March 23, 2013 for the next PAGES™ mini-conferences. Please contact me at 215-736-9285 or [katt@verizon.net](mailto:katt@verizon.net) to volunteer.



Kathy Shaginaw  
ACS Philadelphia Section WCC Chair

..... turning the page to a bright chapter in the future of our girls.