

SPECTROSCOPY SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH



300 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 332, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5503

Phone: (412) 825-3220 • FAX: (412) 825-3224

Email: sspinfo@pittcon.org • www.ssp-pgh.org

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February 18, 2009

The February SSP Meeting was called to order at 7:58 pm by Chairman Dave Pensenstadler. 56 members and guests attended.

Technology Program Dedication

Dave reminded the members of this year's Dedication of the Technical Program to those who won the Spectroscopy Award and a Nobel Prize, as follows:

	Spectroscopy Award	Nobel Prize
• Gerhard Herzberg	1962	1971
• Kai Seigbahn	1982	1981
• Paul Lauterbur	1987	2003
• Ahmed Zewail	1997	1999

Liaison Reports

Pittcon 2009: Mitch Johnson reported for President Ed Ladner that everybody's busy and it looks like everything is pretty much done, things are going well. There are 1,002 companies registered, and 2,247 booths to date. Given the current state of the economy, registration is looking pretty good. We received a lot of last minute registrations. Advanced Registration was extended to the 23rd of February. We also expect drive-in's since we will be in Chicago this year, and that is a single day drive for a number of people. We are cautiously optimistic that the final number will be acceptable.

The program consists of around 2,400 papers and all of the sessions. That number is pretty consistent with the last several years. The organized contributed sessions seem to be pretty good. There have not been a lot of withdrawals.

We hope to see you at Pittcon!

Pittcon 2010: No report.

Pittcon 2011: No report.

SACP: Dave noted that Bill Sharpe is not able to be with us this evening. The next SACP meeting is Monday April 6th and is the Former Chairman's Night. The speaker is Dr. Charles M. Lieber, PhD, Harvard University, and his talk will be on "Merging

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Nanoelectronic and Biology Systems: Powerful Tools, Functional Interfaces and More". We hope to see you there.

ACS Pittsburgh Local Section: Fu Tyan provided the following report. There is an event on March 26/27th to honor Professor Aksel A. Bothner-By, who was a pioneer in the NMR field. He was a Professor at CMU. You can visit the SSP website or see Fu Tyan for flyers.

SAS Annual Meeting: John Jackovitz noted that for those of you who read the SAS Journal, Joel Harris is stepping down as Editor, he was replaced on January 1 with Peter Griffiths, the new Editor. Joel is plain tired out after 20 years of service.

Dave Pensenstadler noted that Peter has been a good friend of the conference.

Carnegie Library: Dick Obrycki reported that he met with Carnegie Library's Rich Kaplan. They identified some issues in use of the library for high-level science and technology, like we support there. He has some other ideas that he will discuss with our Chairman and the Chairman of the SACP in the future.

COUNCIL REPORTS

SSP Secretary Report: Maggie Hall noted that there is no report, except to thank Mitch Johnson for his help, and Jane Chan, Hub MacDonald, Dave Vanischak, and Larry Irr for emailing their reports.

SSP Treasurer: Melissa Visnikar thanked the members for cashing their committee program checks. She added that she appreciates it when there is a meeting at the Conference Office and people send her their meeting minutes.

Dave Pensenstadler asked for a motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Hub MacDonald moved and Rick Danchik seconded. The Motion carried.

Dave asked for a motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes. Dave Vanischak moved and Tim Manka seconded. Approval of the vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Meeting Arrangements: Dave thanked Jan Pifer and her committee for a wonderful job with the dinners. These dinners are excellent dinners. He added that if anyone needs a parking chit, please see Jan Pifer.

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Membership: Manny Miller report that there were no new members from last time. He added that if you requested an SSP name badge and have not yet received it, please raise your hands. Manny then passed badges out.

Dave Pensenstadler showed the list of members who have not yet picked up their name badges.

Aids to Education: No report

Employment: Hub MacDonald reported that he Employment Committee, working with the SACP, the ACS and AIChE, sponsored employment workshops in February. Dr. Dan Eustace, an ACS Career Counselor, was the featured speaker for the workshops. There were 2 sessions, one on Feb. 6 at the Bidwell Training Center in which 22 Chemical Technicians attended, and one on Feb. 7 at the University of Pittsburgh, with 51 Chemical Professionals in attendance. Along with resume preparation guidance, mock telephone interviews, mock face-to-face interviews, resume reviews were offered to the attendees. Evaluations by the attendees indicated that the workshop was valuable to their job searching efforts.

Dave Pensenstadler thanked Hub his work in coordinating these events.

College Equipment Grant: There were 22 proposals Bob Baudoux reported. Since there were only a few applications in by the end of January, they extended the deadline. They will judge them after the end of March. They will be awarded at the May Awards meeting. This program is one of the signature programs for 40 years and one of the best programs.

Continuing Education: Jane Chan reported that the Continuing Education Committee had a joint symposium with SACP on Saturday January 31 here at Duquesne University. The title of the symposium was "Shedding Light on the Chemistry in Photochromics". There were 45 people registered. We had a slate of great speakers and presentations were informative and inspiring. We would like to thank the Executive Council for their support. Jane would also like to thank Fu-Tyan Lin for his assistance to print one of the speaker's lecture notes at the very last minute. Jane invited one of the speakers to give a talk at Pittcon 2010.

Dave Pensenstadler thanked Jan for all of her efforts.

Dave also reported on behalf of Carnegie Science Fair Chair, Maria Ferguson. The Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be held at Heinz Field on the 3rd of April. The SSP Carnegie Science Fair Committee will meet members from the SACP at Heinz Field to judge projects from middle school and high school students.

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Also, Lisa Kosick, the director asked Maria to pass along information about another event. She is looking for alumni of the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair and the Buhl Science Fair to attend a special event for alumni. Please check with Lisa Kosick at the Carnegie Science Center for details.

Elementary School Science Excellence Award Report: Larry Irr provided the following report for Elementary School Science. Our society sent about 2,000 letters in September 2008 to schools in the Tri-state area soliciting nominations for Excellence in Science Teaching in grades K-8. The deadline for returning these nominations is March 16, 2009.

This committee will meet either Tuesday, April 14 or Wednesday April 15 at 6 pm at the Pittsburgh Conference Office to decide on the winners. Our committee will present a maximum of three awards, each consisting of a plaque and \$1,000, to each of the winners at the SSP Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

Dave Pensenstadler thanked Larry.

Technology Forum: Dave Vanischak reported that tonight's speaker was Gregg Smith from American Pyrotechnics Association. The title of his talk was "Fireworks: Practices and Principals". There were 39 members and guests in attendance.

The final Technology Forum for the year will be held on April 22, 2009 at 5:30 pm in Laura Falk Hall. The featured speaker is Bonnie Sanford of Meadowcroft Rock Shelter. The title of her talk is "Meadowcroft: 19,000 Years in the Making". All are invited to attend.

Dave Pensenstadler noted that there was a very good turnout for the Tech Forum and that it was an excellent presentation

Dave Pensenstadler asked for a motion to accept the January Meeting Minutes. Eli Absey moved and Jim Manner seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

Dave reminded members about the Chairman's Pass. He stated that if anyone needs a Pass to invite their colleagues or coworkers to the dinner and a meeting, please see him.

Old Business: Directory Update: Dave Pensenstadler noted that we are in the process of putting a new directory together. About to go to press next week.

SSP Boundaries: Dave noted and read the change to the boundaries. It will be the same as in the past except for the wording excluding Erie County. That was deleted.

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In response to the vote, approximately 30 voted in favor of the change. Any opposed? No one was opposed. The motion passed.

New Business: Hearing no new business Dave Pensenstadler asked for a motion to Adjourn. John Jackovitz moved and Al Sharkins seconded, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Dave Pensenstadler then turned the meeting over to the Technical Program Chair Hub MacDonald.

Hub MacDonald thanked us all for coming to the February 18th meeting. He said that next month we will be presenting a lot of papers, but not at Duquesne University. We'll be in Chicago for the Pittsburgh Conference, where there will be many, many, valuable papers.

Hub added that the Technical Program for April will feature Dr. Gabor Somorjai from the University of California at Berkley. The title of his talk is "Molecular Studies of Surfaces under Reaction Conditions: Sum Frequency Generation, Vibrational Spectroscopy, Scanning Tunneling Microscopy, and Ambient Pressure X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy".

Hub MacDonald reported that this evening's Technical Program will be presented by our own Dr. Sanford Asher from the University of Pittsburgh. The title of his talk is "Development of UV Raman Spectroscopy for Incisive Investigations of Simple Questions in Complex Systems: Can We Study the Reaction Coordinate in Protein Folding".

Hub then turned the meeting over to Jane Chan to introduce Dr. Sandy Asher, SSP Spectroscopy Award winner for 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Marie Hall
SSP Secretary 2008-2009

cc: D. Pensenstadler, H. MacDonald, Melissa Visnikar, M. Johnson, file