

# SPECTROSCOPY SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

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

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## SPECTROSCOPY ~SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

January 21, 2009

The joint meeting of the SSP and Optical Society of America, WPA Chapter was called to order at 8:02 pm by Chairman Dave Pensenstadler. Fifty members and guests attended.

The Chairmen introduced the Optical Society of Western Pennsylvania president, Matt Fetterman, Penn State Electro-Optics Center. He noted they meet bi-monthly, and the next meeting is in April. Dr. Masud Mansuripur, College of Optical Sciences, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona - will be coming to talk. They also have a student photo contest that folks may be interested in. Check out this program by Goggling their website. Take pictures and enter them. The prize is a Nikon SLR camera. If students are interested contact Matt at [mfetterman@eoc.psu.edu](mailto:mfetterman@eoc.psu.edu). He thanked Chuck Gardner for arranging this meeting and Dr. Xi-Cheng Zhang for giving our speech tonight. They are really pleased to have him here. His work is fascinating.

Dave Pensenstadler asked where meetings are held. Matt answered that is an open question; they are open to any good suggestions for a site. John Jackovitz mentioned that they may perhaps want to meet at our site at Duquesne University. Dave suggested folks share any good suggestions with Matt, and let us know so we can list their meeting information on our website.

(Secretary note): The OSA meeting will be held on April 10 at Seagate Research, 1251 Waterfront PL, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. **RSVP is absolutely necessary for that event as Seagate is a closed facility.**)

### Technology Program Dedication

Dave reminded the members of the Technical Program Dedication. This year is dedicated to the following:

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

Dave stated that on a sad note we lost W. Dale Richey, PhD 1930-2008. Dale was on staff at Chatham, and was a longtime member of the SSP.

**Old Business** Chairman Dave Pensenstadler asked for a motion to approve the November and December Meeting Minutes. The motions carried.

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## **Liaison Reports**

Pittcon 2009: President Ed Ladner noted that the opening of Pittcon 2009 in Chicago is only 46 days away! We had a very productive General Committee Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and everyone is busy making all of the final preparations for their committees.

We currently have just fewer than 1,000 exhibiting companies, 974 to be exact. Exhibitor Registration numbers are up slightly, and Conferee Registration is down slightly.

Just a reminder, the deadline for obtaining the half price registration fee of \$95 is February 9<sup>th</sup> so if you haven't registered please do so to take advantage of those savings. Students that are here tonight – your registration fee is only \$25, so start making your plans to attend.

I have some good news to report. I received a call from Ray Bacco, and he sounded better than ever, and he and Gladys will be attending the conference this year. Ray asked me to convey their gratitude to everyone for all of the calls, cards, emails, words of encouragement, and especially everyone's prayers – as he went through his difficult ordeal. He went on to say the important role all of those kind gestures had in speeding up his recovery.

We're also going to have the pleasure of having Foil Miller join us at Pittcon in Chicago. Foil will be providing the introductory remarks for the special symposium honoring the late Paul Wilks.

Pittcon 2010: No report.

Pittcon 2011: No report

## **SACP**

Dave noted that SACP Chair Bill Sharpe is not able to be with us this evening. In his place, Charlie Holifield announced that the February 2 SACP speaker is Dr. Lloyd M. Smith, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Genome Center in Madison Wisconsin. He will talk about "New Technologies for Biomolecular Analysis: Surfaces Meet Mass Spectrometers".

Charlie noted that we've heard a lot of talks about Mass Spec over the years, but nothing will have the synergy with surface analysis. Please mark it on your calendar.

**ACS Pittsburgh Local Section: ACS Pittsburgh Local Section:** Fu-Tyan Lin provided the following report. Our new Chair for ACS Pittsburgh Section is Dr. Nick Tsarevsky from CMU. He couldn't come tonight.

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One Symposium coming on March 26/27 is to honor Dr. Aksel A. Bothner-By, who was a pioneer in the NMR field. He was a Professor at CMU. A group of NMR Spectroscopists organizes this symposium. Several famous NMR persons are invited to give talks at this symposium. The information will be put in the Crucible next month also. See Fu-Tyan for fliers.

**Technology Forum:** Our Technology Forum speaker was Professor Jeffrey B. Peterson from Carnegie Mellon University. He gave a very nice talk about dark energy and universe expansion with his special radio telescopes. The audience applauded the speaker who joined our meeting. About 42 people attended. Hub MacDonald noted that Dave Vanischak couldn't come tonight.

Hub continued that at the next monthly meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Greg Smith, of the American Pyrotechnics Association, who will speak on "Fireworks: Principals and Practices".

**SAS Annual Meeting:** John Jackovitz reported that SSP is the Pittsburgh Section of the SAS and one of the Founding Members more than 50 years ago. It is traditional at Pittcon that the SSP Chair, Dave Pensenstadler, and Conference President, Ed Ladner present comments at the Tuesday Night Reception and they will be doing that. John will report on the SAS Governing meeting in writing in Specks as we go along.

**Carnegie Library:** No Report

**Carnegie Science Center:** No report

## Council Reports

Dave Pensenstadler announced that Charlie Holified will be the 2011 Pittcon Treasurer. He is a long-time SSP member and will do a wonderful job.

## SSP Secretary Report: Maggie Hall

Maggie thanked the folks who submitted their reports in writing prior to this meeting, such as Hub MacDonald and Manny Miller, John Varine and others in the past such as Dan Wilson.

She acknowledged the thank you cards and letters received as follows:

- Christine Auses for the gift to St. Joseph H.S. in memory of her Mother,
- Marian and Phil Nardozi for the gift basket honoring Phyllis DiLeo,
- Jennifer Aitken, Duquesne University professor for the contribution to Project SEED. The program hosted four high school students.
- David Wolf from the University of Southern Mississippi for the \$5,000 support of the Chemistry 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Endowment fund. (Note, this was received in 2008 but not previously reported).

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**SSP Treasurer:** Melissa Visnikar noted there is no report at this time.

Dave Pensenstadler added that the Treasurer's Reports from July through September had been sent to us.

Dave called for a Motion to accept the reports. John Varine moved, and Jim Manner seconded. Dave asked if there was a need for any discussion. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Dave asked for a Motion to accept the October Treasurer Report. Hub MacDonald moved and Eli Absey seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

## **Committee Updates**

**Meeting Arrangements:** Dave thanked Jan Pfeiffer and her committee for another wonderful meal that they put together for another wonderful evening. Applause! He added that if you need a parking chit, please see Jan Pfeiffer.

## **Technical Program:**

Hub MacDonald reported that the evening's Technical Program speaker will be Dr. Xi-Cheng Zhang from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The title is "Recent Progress of Broadband THz Wave Sensing and Imaging".

He added that the Technical Program for February will feature our very own Dr. Sanford Asher from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Asher is also the recipient of the 2008 Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award. The title of his talk will be "Development of UV Raman Spectroscopy for Incisive Investigations of Simple Questions in Complex Systems: Can We Study the Reaction Coordinate in Protein Folding"

Hub noted that Fu Tyan already gave us information on Dr. Jeffrey Peterson's "Dark Energy" presentation.

## **Membership:**

### **SSP MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 1/20/2009**

Manny Miller reported that since our October 2008 meeting, several new people have joined the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP). These people are as follows. Please stand when your name is called.

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First	Last	Company	Member Start
Damodaran	Achary	University of Pittsburgh	12/1/2008
Thomas	Anderson	University of Pittsburgh	12/1/2008
C. Erik	Bauer	Seagate Technology, LLC	1/15/2009
Agnes	Chartier	Valspar	1/15/2009
Jorge	Genovese	UPMC	1/15/2009
Rachelle	Hergenroeder	Clark Laboratories, LLC	12/1/2008
Heather	Juzwa	Shimadzu Scientific Instruments	12/1/2008
Laura Ashley	Miller	Hampton Township School District	1/15/2009
Lisa	Reilly	Bethany College	1/15/2009
Tim	Savisky	University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg	12/1/2008
Dwight	Tshudy	Carnegie Mellon University	1/15/2009

If you see any of these folks, please introduce yourself!

Also, if you requested a SSP name badge and have yet received it please see me after the talk. The badge can be used with your name lightly inscribed in script, or with dark print with the additional name plate that can be attached. A word of caution, once you attach the additional name plate, it is not meant to be removed.

Manny thanked us for the get well cards for his recent surgery. We applauded and Dave said welcome back Manny.

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

## **Committee Updates**

Aids to Education: Chuck Gardner noted there is no report.

Employment: Hub MacDonald reported that the Employment Committee is conducting its annual workshop "Job Searching for Chemical Professionals" on Saturday Feb. 7 at the Ashe Auditorium of the University of Pittsburgh. Even if you have not registered, you can still participate. Please use the registration form found on the tables outside this room to indicate that you will attend. Parking, continental breakfast and lunch are provided. This is a program sponsored by the ACS, SACP, SSP and AIChE.

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Continuing Education Jane Chan reported that an SSP/SACP workshop entitled “Shedding Light on the Chemistry in Photochromics” will be held on Saturday January 31 at Duquesne University. The symposium will cover the history, the recent developments and the chemistry aspects of Photochromics by 4 experts in this field. The registration deadline has been extended to January 27. Jane noted that believe it or not, Pittsburgh is the birthplace of Photochromics.

Dave Pensenstadler added that Photochromics do a lot to replace electrochromic materials, such as in automobile rear view mirrors. He added that we hope to see you folks there.

Dave noted that Amit Ghosh has shared a call for nominations for the SAS Local Section Undergraduate Award. The information is listed here and on the [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org) website. If you know a student who is a good candidate for this award, nominate someone.

Spectroscopy Demonstration Series: John Varine reported that we conducted a full-day Teacher Workshop (“Light, Color and Spectroscopy for Kids”) at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park, PA. Six teachers attended the workshop and John was assisted by Hub MacDonald, Bob Witkowski and Nick Barsic.

Dave added that while Herb Retcofsky started it, he wanted to provide John with recognition for the excellent job he and his committee are doing in continuing the workshop.

## **Old Business:**

Dave noted that there is an error in the December Meeting Minutes. While Jan Pfeiffer usually plans the meetings we thanked her in error. The December meeting was hosted by the SACP and therefore we will thank Rich Greco and his committee. They did an excellent job, with help from Carolyn Benga on the SSP side. With that change he would like a motion to approve the December Meeting Minutes. Jim Manner moved and Chuck Gardner seconded. The motion carried.

**New Business:** Dave reminded members about the Chairman’s Pass. He stated that if anyone needs any, to bring in their colleagues or coworkers, to please see him after the meeting. We’ll give them some information on the SSP and a free dinner.

Directory Update: Dave Pensenstadler noted that we are in the process of putting a new directory together. If there are any changes to your employment or if you are retiring, please send changes to Emily Concannon [concannon@pittcon.org](mailto:concannon@pittcon.org) or Jennifer Cassidy at [cassidy@pittcon.org](mailto:cassidy@pittcon.org).

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SSP Boundaries: Dave noted that we've all received a copy of the suggested By-law change to the boundary of SSP. There has been a longstanding interest in changing it to include Erie County. We've worked with the SAS and they are OK with the change.

The By-laws say we need to propose the change, followed by a vote at the following meeting.

A discussion was held in response to a question on the history of the Erie County issue. Joann Smith noted that in the past Erie was part of the Cleveland SAS, so we never included it in our boundary, since we serve as the local section for SAS. It made a difference to her when she took a job in Erie County. There are 4 colleges that have members that would like to participate in our programs; however, they are not able to do so since they do not reside within our boundaries. They include Mercyhurst, Gannon, and Edinboro. This county is a good base for membership.

In response to a question regarding whether she was saying no money has been given to those colleges, Joann answer "no". We have had different chairmen over the years that would say yes let's include them for college grants, while others answered no. This boundary change would eliminate that issue. This change would also be in line with the SACP boundaries. Under SAS rules residents of Erie County can choose which of the Chapters they want to join, either Pittsburgh or Cleveland.

Dave noted that we will vote on that change at the next meeting. He also asked if there was any other New Business.

**Motion to Adjourn**: Dave asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Hub MacDonald moved and Bob Witkowski seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Dave then turned the meeting over to the Technical Program Chair, Hub MacDonald, who introduced Chuck Gardner who, in turn, introduced Dr. Xi-Cheng Zhang from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The title of his talk was "Recent Progress of Broadband THz Wave Sensing and Imaging".

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Marie Hall  
SSP Secretary 2008-2009

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

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