

# 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](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) • [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

## SPECTROSCOPY ~SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

**November 19, 2008**

The November SSP Meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm by Chairman Dave Pensenstadler. Dave welcomed all our members and guests. There were 33 members and 13 guests present.

### Technology Program Dedication

Dave reminded the members that he introduced the Technical Program Dedication in September. Both Al Sharkins and John Jackovitz updated the list of scientists that received both the Spectroscopy Award and the Nobel Prize with a fourth scientist.

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

**Old Business** Chairman Dave Pensenstadler asked for a motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

### Liaison Reports

Pittcon 2009: Ed Ladner noted there are only 109 days left until the opening, and it's a busy time. Everything is coming along very well. There are 2,120 booths to 859 companies. Ed said that is a good number, but not as good as last year or the previous year. If we go by this date in previous years, it doesn't look so good. Given the current economic situation we might understand. There is the need to provide signage information, and for those that did not make the September trip, to lay out their offices. This is a reminder to the Pittcon Chairman who did not yet submit their signage requirements, tonight or tomorrow is the deadline. If you can't submit the information, the cost goes into the next tier prices, which are very high. Please submit tonight!

On the serious side, Ed mentioned that Christine McCreary has had 2 operations and is fighting off a serious infection. Please keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Curt Radcliff had successful gall bladder surgery, and we're sure he would appreciate a call or getting a card.

Pittcon 2010: No report.

Pittcon 2011: Penny Gardner stated its 2 yrs and 109 days. She had no report.

# 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](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) • [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

**ACS Pittsburgh Local Section:** Fu Tyan reported that the new Chair will be Nick Turbeski of Carnegie Mellon University. Secondly, he would like to have one volunteer ACS member to chair our young ACS committee. We need a chair to get more new members.

**SAS Annual Meeting:** John Jackovitz attended the annual meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He represented the SSP, which is the Pittsburgh Section of the SAS. He will have a written report in next month's Specks.

**Carnegie Library:** Dick Obryki noted that he had had a meeting with Carnegie Library's Rich Caflin, where the Science and Technology section was brought into discussion on using the SSP Grant money.

**Carnegie Science Center:** No report

## Council Reports

**SSP Secretary Report:** Maggie Hall reported that we received two thank you notes, one from the Mrs. Helen LaRue. Helen thanked each and every member for the wonderful cards, wishes and prayers which made her recovery speedy.

Maggie passed around a thank you card and attachments from the Ohio River Watershed Celebration Planning Committee. She highlighted the following:

- The SSP has sponsored us since the very first year, thank you Penny Gardner and Dean Tzeng, and Jan Pfeiffer.
- Special thanks to Dave Pensenstadler for supporting us this year and for providing a beautiful award for our very first Energy Conservation award.

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

Dave Pensenstadler added that the Treasurer's Reports will be sent out. We are a little behind because we don't get the information from the bank back in time. The July report will be sent to every member in the next week or so. You'll have the October report before the next meeting.

Also the By-Laws say that the Chairman will provide the Pittsburgh Conference Annual Financial Summary report to the Executive Council. The SACP Chairman and I (DFP) thought we should also show this summary to the members.

## Committee Updates

# 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](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) • [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

**Meeting Arrangements:** Dave thanked Jan Pfeiffer and her committee for tonight's excellent dinner to applause. If you need a Parking chit see Jan. He added that for Hub MacDonald's students, Hub has your parking chit.

**Technical Program:** Hub MacDonald reported that everyone should know that December 3, a Wednesday night, is the joint meeting with the SACP at the Carnegie Museum. Everyone should have received their tickets by now. If not, please call the office so they can send them out to you. He added that he has it on good authority that there will be the appearance of a man in a red suit with a white beard.

On January 21 we will have a joint meeting with the Optical Society of America. The speaker will be Dr. Xi-Cheng Zhang from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The title is "Recent Progress of Broadband THz Wave Sensing and Imaging." It is a delightful topic, please come.

**Technology Forum:** Dave Vanischak reported that tonight's Technology Forum speaker was Dr. Daniel Wagner of Nutrifarmacy on "Natural Medicine from Three Continents." There were 26 members and guests in attendance

The next Technology Forum on January 21 will be right here at 5:30 pm. The speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Peterson, and the title of his talk is "Dark Energy".

**Membership:** Dave Pensenstadler reported that Manny Miller is not able to make the meeting; he did leave membership badges however. If you're here and your name is on the list displayed, please see Hub MacDonald. Hub added that he will have them in the lobby.

## **Committee Updates**

**Faraday Lecture:** Charlie Holifield reported that we just concluded the Annual Faraday Lecture and there were 2,500 students, with only 50 to 100 seats left in this large auditorium. There were also about 500 for the evening General Public session, which is very good. On Tuesday morning we had a mixture of High School and secondary school students. There were between 1,800 and 2,000 folks. So we had a very successful lecture.

Bob Becker from Kirkwood High School in St. Louis gave us a very good lecture. Thank you to all those who volunteered, we're very happy with the results. Dave Pensenstadler added that if you've never attended, you really ought to do so, if even to see the large amount of students!

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

# 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](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) • [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

**Employment:** Hub MacDonald noted that each year we join with the SACP, the American Chemical Society, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and put on a workshop on job searching for professionals. It is on finding opportunities, resume writing, and interviewing opportunities.

**Job Searching for Chemical Professionals:** On February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ashe Auditorium at Pitt. Again, Dr. Daniel Eustace (correct?) will be the Principal speaker at both Workshops.

John Varine provided the following report.

The SSP and SACP will have a booth in the Exhibits Area of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association Convention in Hershey, PA on December 4 and 5. We will publicize the society programs, distribute computer software and conduct two workshop sessions for teachers.

The SSP Light, Color and Spectroscopy for Kids Workshop will be conducted at the National Energy Technology Center in South Park on Friday January 16, 2009. The workshop is for elementary and middle school teachers. Application forms are available on the websites of the two societies.

**Membership:** Dave Pensenstadler introduced our newest members:

- Heather Juzwa, from Shimadzu Scientific Instruments
- Rachelle Hergenroeder, from Clark Labs
- Dr. Damodaran Achary, from the university of Pittsburgh
- Dr. Tim Saveski, from Pitt Greensburg; and
- Dr. Tom Anderson, from the University of Pittsburgh.

He asked that we welcome those new members.

**Old Business:** Dave said that the October Minutes were posted on the web site and asked for a Motion to Approve. Richard Danchik moved and Karla Zaar seconded. Dave asked if there were any questions or comments. The motion carried.

**New Business:** Dave reminded members of the Chairman's Pass. He stated that if anyone needs any, to bring a colleague or coworkers to a monthly dinner and meeting, to please see him after the meeting.

**Directory Update:** Dave asked that folks look in their present directory, if there are any changes in their work location, or the status of their job to send those to Jennifer, and copy our new Administrative Assistant, Emily Concannon ([concannon@pittcon.org](mailto:concannon@pittcon.org)), who will be taking over for Jennifer.

# 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](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) • [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

**SSP Boundaries:** Dave noted that we've been talking about changing our boundaries. Our current boundary does not include Erie County, which is the same distance from Cleveland as it is from Pittsburgh. The By-Laws state that one can only be an active member if he/she resides within our boundaries. So, people residing in Erie County can only become Associate (non-voting) members. Dave is working with the SAS to change our boundaries to include Erie County. He even considered changing our boundaries to include some counties in Maryland, but that would infringe on other SAS boundaries, so we're not able to do that. He will update us later.

**Elementary Science:** Don Antczak noted that on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> the Elementary Science Olympiad meeting was held at the Grand Concourse at Station Square. He is hoping it will be another banner year for the teachers participating in the Science Olympiad program.

Dave Pensenstadler noted that it is one of the fastest growing programs in the SSP.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Dave asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Hub MacDonald moved and Dave Vanischak seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Dave then turned the meeting over to the Technical Program Chair, Hub MacDonald, who introduced Partha Basu who, in turn, introduced this evening's speaker, Dr. Gary L. Glish, from the University of North Carolina. His talk was "Photons and Electrons as Alternatives to Collisions for Obtaining Chemical Structure Information Using MS/MS."

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Marie Hall  
SSP Secretary 2008-2009

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

# 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](mailto:sspinfo@pittcon.org) • [www.ssp-pgh.org](http://www.ssp-pgh.org)

