



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh October Meeting

Duquesne University – Mellon Hall of Science (Laura Falk Hall)

Wednesday – October 21, 2009

Technology Forum Speaker's Presentation **5:30PM**

Social Hour **6:00PM**

Dinner in the City View Café (6th Floor) **6:30PM**

Business Meeting **8:00PM**

Technical Program Speaker's Presentation **8:15PM**

Deadline for Dinner Reservations **10/16/09**

Carolyn Benga crbssp@yahoo.com or (412) 487-0915

Joint with Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh

TECHNOLOGY FORUM - 5:30 PM

Ronald J. Baillie- Carnegie Science Center

"Robots in the Public"

A look at robots through the ages-both science fiction as well as real robots-and how the technology has evolved. The role Pittsburgh has played in the future of this important industry will be addressed as well as the cross-generational appeal of robots and their ability to enhance work force development in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related fields.

Bio

Ron Baillie has been with Carnegie Science Center for more than 25 years. Serving originally as Director of Science Programs for The Buhl Science Center, he later served as Director for Exhibits, Programs, and Technical Services, leading the development of new exhibitry and education programs for the new Carnegie Science Center which opened its doors in 1991. Since then he has served as Assistant Director for Education, and later as Director of Education and Interim Museum Director during 2003. Mr. Baillie currently serves as the Science Center's Henry Buhl, Jr. Co-Director.



Prior to working with the Science Center, Mr. Baillie spent five years as Curriculum and In-Service Specialist for Math and Science with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, a consortium of 43 school districts in western PA, developing and conducting in-service programs in math, science, and technology education for classroom teachers and school administrators. Mr. Baillie was also a founding member of the Pittsburgh Regional Center for Science Teachers, an organization which assists science teachers to connect with local resources to enhance their curriculum.



TECHNICAL PROGRAM - 8:15PM

Daniel Vanden Berk- Saint Vincent College

"Three-Million Spectra and Counting: Exploring the Universe with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey"

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) is the largest and most ambitious astronomy project carried out to date. Over one-third of the entire sky has been mapped in three dimensions, from our stellar neighborhood to the farthest reaches of the known universe. The SDSS data set, which is publicly available, contains tens of terabytes of information, including several million spectra of stars, galaxies, and quasars. The survey will be introduced, and highlights of some of the most important results will be presented.

Bio

Daniel studied for his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and obtained his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1997. He has done Astronomy research at: University of Texas, McDonald Observatory;

Fermilab, Batavia, Illinois; University of Pittsburgh; and Penn State University. He is currently Assistant Professor of Physics at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA.

Daniel Vanden Berk's research focuses on the evolution and distribution of objects in space, particularly quasars and gamma-ray bursts, which can be seen to the limits of the observable universe. I carry out research with a variety of telescopes on Earth and in space, including the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, the NASA Swift Satellite Observatory, and the Hubble Space Telescope.

Dinner Reservations:

Please email Carolyn Benga at crbssp@yahoo.com or call (412) 487-0915 to make dinner reservations NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, October 16, 2009. In the spirit of Oktoberfest this month's entrée will be Weinerschnitzel (breaded veal) served with Kartoffelpuffer mit apfelmus (Potato Pancake w/ Applesauce) and sauerkraut. Kartoffelsuppe (potato soup) will start the meal and Apfel in Schlafrock (apple dumpling) will be served for dessert. Dinner will cost \$8 and checks can be made out to the SSP. If you have dietary restrictions, please let Carolyn know when you RSVP.

Parking Instructions:

The Duquesne University Parking Garage is located on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, receive parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Pick up a parking chit at the dinner or meeting. If any difficulties arise, contact Dr. Mitch Johnson at Duquesne University.