



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting

October 19, 2011

Pappert Hall, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Greg Meisner opened the business meeting at approximately 8:00 pm. He welcomed everyone to the business meeting. There were 48 members and 30 guests in attendance.

I. Welcome, by Greg Meisner

Greg welcomed the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh and introduced their current president, Tony Orzechowski, who gave a presentation on how the support of the SSP over the years has enabled improvements to their facilities and teaching materials for students and event attendees.

Greg then thanked all of the attendees, SSP members, AAAP members and guests for attending the meeting.

II. Liaison Reports

2014 Pittcon Liaison Report, by Jan Pifer

Pittcon 2014 will be in Chicago, IL, March 2-6th 2014.

SACP Liaison Report, by Fu-Tyan Lin

Fu-Tyan announced that the next SACP meeting is November 7, 2011 at Laura Falk Hall, Duquesne University. The speaker is R. Mark Wightman from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the topic will be "Iontophoresis Made Quantitative".

ACS Liaison Report, by Heather Juzwa

The ACS Pittsburgh Section 2011 Pittsburgh Award Banquet will be Wednesday, December 14th honoring 2011 Pittsburgh Award Recipient, Kurt Olson, and 2011 Distinguished Service Award Winner, Michael Mautino at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Registration and payment must be received by December 9th.

The Greater Pittsburgh Area Women Chemists Committee will host an Empowering Women in Science Symposium Saturday, November 5th at Chevron Science Center, University of Pittsburgh. The symposium will address how to become a successful women chemist. The symposium is open to the public, and costs \$15 for professionals, \$10 for students, and includes lunch. Registration is due by October 28th, and flyers are available at the sign-in table.

Carnegie Library/Museum of Natural History, by Dick Obrycki

Dick will be meeting shortly with the Museum of Natural History to determine the programs that need support.

Carnegie Science Center, by Richard Danchik

Processed the grant to the science center to help fund the kitchen, the science and chemistry area and some other student programs that we support every year.

III. Executive Council Reports

Secretary, Stephanie Wetzel

Stephanie announced the acknowledgements that had been received since the September 2011 meeting:

1. We received a thank you card from Ed Ladner for the get-well fruit basket.
2. We received a thank you from La Roche College for the donation for the chemistry department.
3. We received a thank you letter from Ashland University for the College Equipment Grant which was put towards the purchase of a new IR spectrophotometer.
4. The Chemical Heritage Foundation sent a thank you for our continued support of their chemistry-related archival documents.
5. Penn State Mont Alto acknowledged our gift to support science education.

November Meeting, Fu-Mei Lin

Fu-Mei announced that next month's meeting will be held November 16, 2011 and the technical program speaker will be Professor Garon Smith of the University of Montana, presenting "Honey Bees: Flying Chemical Detectors".

IV. Committee Reports/Announcements

Committee Arrangements, by Greg Meisner

Greg thanked James Musolino and his committee for doing an outstanding job on arrangements this month.

James announced that next month's meeting would feature Italian night, starting with Italian orange salad, the main dish will be Chioppino and we will finish with a fruit gelato for dessert.

Technology Forum, by Heather Juzwa

Earlier this evening, Dr. Tom Ferguson from Carnegie Mellon University gave a presentation entitled "The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) - Exploring a New Energy Frontier." There were 42 people in attendance.

Our committee is trying something new this year. Each person who attends the Technology Forum meeting can put their name into a box for a door prize drawing. This month, our prize was a \$25 gift card to Starbucks. Our winner was Eric. Congratulations!

Next month's Technology Forum and Technical Program have an educational theme and will take place on November 16. Our speaker is Clay Morgan from both the Community College of Allegheny College and the University of Pittsburgh, giving a talk entitled "Bridging the Gap: Connecting through Culture in the 21st Century." See you next month!

Continuing Education, by Heather Juzwa

The SSP is having its fall continuing education symposium entitled "The Chemistry of Wine." It will be on November 18th at the Winery at Wilcox in Settler's Ridge in Robinson. As of today, there are no slots left for this event.

Also, save the date – our Winter Lab Tour is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2012 at RJ Lee Group. After the lab tour, we will have a networking luncheon at the Rivertowne Pour House in Monroeville.

Publicity, by Geoffrey White

The committee will be meeting next week to strategize for the year.

Faraday Lecture, by Greg Meisner (for Joe Grabowski)

The 24th annual Pittsburgh Faraday Lecture will be November 15th and 16th at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. Professor Garon Smith from the University of Montana will be presenting "G. Wiz at Work and Play: Freezing Spells, Fractal Music and Flying Chemical Detectors". Volunteers are needed for the daytime presentations on Tuesday November 15th and Wednesday November 16th. If you can volunteer, contact Manny at Manny@pitt.edu.

Herbert Retcofsky Memorial Workshop, by John Varine

Just a reminder about our upcoming workshops & events:

- Exhibiting for SSP/SACP at the Math/Science Resource Fair, Carnegie Science Center, Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011
- Exhibiting for SSP/SACP at the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Assn. Convention in Hershey, PA, Dec. 1 & 2, 2011. Abbreviated versions of the two workshops listed below will be conducted at PSTA
- SSP "Light, Color & Spectroscopy for Kids" workshop for Elementary & Middle School Teachers at NETL, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012
- SACP "Computer Workshop for Chemistry/Physics Teachers", at NETL, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012

Application forms for the above two workshops are available on the registration table outside the lecture hall tonight. Please take any to share with interested teachers you may know. The forms are also available on the society websites.

Elementary School Science Olympiad Program, by Don Antzak

November 15th is the 6th presentation Ceremony of the Science Olympiad and it will be held at the Grand Concourse at Station Square. Don read some thank you letters from the participating students.

V. Old Business

September 2011 Meeting Minutes, by Greg Meisner

There were no additions or changes to the meeting minutes. James Musolino made the motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Dave Vanischack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports for August and September 2011, by Greg Meisner

There were no additions or changes to the Treasurer's Reports. Richard Obrycki made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, and James Manner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business/Announcements

Award Presentation, by Dan Handley

Presentation of an Appreciation Award to the SSP for its support of the production of the documentary "The Story of the Allegheny Observatory" by Dr. Dan Handley, Producer. Dan showed a clip of the documentary and presented the society with a Photograph of the Observatory. Greg Meisner and David Pensenstadler accepted the award on behalf of the SSP.

Adjournment, by Greg Meisner

Rich Danchik motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nick Barsic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm. The technical program followed the business meeting. Fu-Mei Lin introduced Dr. David Lantham, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge presented "Super Earths and Life".

Note: red text denotes actionable items that required a vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie J. Wetzel
2011-2012 SSP Secretary