



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting

October 20, 2010

Pappert Hall, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Melissa Visnikar opened the business meeting at approximately 8:20 pm. She welcomed everyone and reminded them that this is our 65th anniversary year. The October meeting is traditionally held jointly with the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh (AAAP). Visnikar welcomed the AAAP members and their president, Ed Moss. There were 54 members and 40 guests in attendance (based on sign-in sheets). However, the lecture hall was quite full, and I would estimate there were closer to 130 people in attendance.

I. Greetings from AAAP, by Ed Moss (President of AAAP)

Plans were announced for a digital planetarium projector for the 20 ft dome at Mingo Observatory. AAAP was founded on June 9, 1929, by Leo Scanlon and Chester Roe. Four people attended that first meeting; currently there are approximately 430 members. Monthly meetings of the AAAP are typically held on the second Friday of the month at the Carnegie Science Center. See www.3ap.org for details. AAAP holds public star parties at Deer Lakes Park, Mingo Creek County Park and other venues. They also do lectures and presentations for community/private groups. Pictures of the star parties, observatory and some of the telescopes, including one with a 24 in lens, were shown. The planetarium projector set-up, including how the digital project enhances the image, was described. Moss thanked the SSP for all the support over the years and expressed hope that the annual picnic with the SSP (two years running now) will continue. Visnikar presented Moss with a \$1,500 donation to the AAAP from the SSP.

II. SSP 65 Year Anniversary, by Melissa Viskinar

A picture of Mary Warga, the founder of the SSP, was projected, and Visnikar provided the audience with some background on Mary Warga's professional life. Mary worked at the spectrographic laboratory at the Allegheny Observatory under the direction of J. Keivin Burns. She later became a professor of physics at the University of Pittsburgh, where she laid the groundwork for emission spectroscopy. The SSP was formally established in 1946 under the direction of Mary Warga with 69 charter members, calling Mellon Institute of Industrial Research home. Not only did Mary establish the SSP, but she was instrumental in starting the Pittsburgh Conference. Mary was an amazing and gifted woman scientist for her time, a time when many women were not so well embraced by the scientific community. The technical program was dedicated to our founder, Mary Warga, and all SSP Chairmen who followed her. Happy anniversary SSP!

IV. Liaison Reports

2011 Pittcon Liaison Report, by Penny Gardner

Preparations for Pittcon 2011, which will be held March 13 to 18 in Atlanta, Georgia, are going along quite well. Everything is on schedule, including the Preliminary Program, which should be mailed out prior to Thanksgiving. Gardner encouraged everyone to attend.

SACP Liaison Report, by Fu-Tyan Lin for Pat Bordell

The speaker for next month, November 1st, SACP meeting is Professor Marc D. Porter from the University of Utah. His title will be "Nanomaterial Strategies for Immunodetection." This will be an interesting talk. Everyone is welcome to attend.

V. Executive Council Reports

Secretary, by Helen Boylan

Boylan announced the seven remaining acknowledgements from those that had been received since the April 2010 meeting:

1. Susquehanna University for a College Equipment Grant
2. Westminster College for a College Equipment Grant
3. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for scientific resources
4. Bob Baudoux for a fruit basket while he was in the hospital
5. Edith Birch for a donation to the Birch Scholarship Fund at the University of Illinois in memory of Homer
6. Sacred Heart Academy of Winchester, VA, for year end funds used to purchase molecular model kits
7. Carnegie Science Center for support of chemistry programming in Works Theatre and Kitchen Theatre.

Chair-Elect, by Greg Meisner

- Next month's meeting will be held on November 17. The technical speaker will be Igor K. Lednev from University at Albany, SUNY, who will discuss "Raman Spectroscopy Combined with Advanced Statistics for Biomedical Research and Forensic Applications."
- Garon Smith (University of Montana) "Professor G. Wiz" has agreed to be the Faraday Lecturer for 2011. Thanks to Joe Grabowski for his efforts to select and book this noted lecturer/demonstrator and applied spectroscopist (fluorescence, mass spectrometry).

VI. Committee Reports/Announcements

Committee Arrangements, by Melissa Visinikar

Visnikar thanked Denise Wilkins and her committee for arranging an excellent dinner. Parking chits were offered.

Technology Forum, by Heather Juzwa for Manny Miller

Bobak Karimi of the Geology & Planetary Science Dept. of the University of Pittsburgh presented on "3-Component Seismograph at the Allegheny Observatory: Detecting Ground Motions and Understanding Internal Earth Structures." There were 41 people in attendance.

SSP Workshop, by John Varine

Hub MacDonald and John Varine have several SSP and SACP activities scheduled for teachers in the near future:

- November 3 and 4 – We will be doing the SSP *Light, Color & Spectroscopy for Kids* workshop and the SACP *Computer Workshop for Chemistry & Physics Teachers* at the Math/Science Collaborative located at Clarion University.
- December 2 and 3 – We will be doing abbreviated versions of the same two workshops at the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association Convention in Hershey, PA and participating in the Exposition. Greg Meisner and Nick Barsic will be assisting us in the Exposition.
- We will be doing full-day versions of the two workshops at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park on Jan. 13 (SSP workshop) and Feb. 10 (SACP workshop). Registration forms for these two workshop are available on the Society

websites. Please pass on this information to any teachers that you know who might be interested.

Continuing Education, by Dave Vanischak

- The SSP Continuing Education Committee held a symposium this past Saturday, October 16, 2010 at the Penn Brewery on the North Side. This was a celebration of Ocktoberfest.
- The afternoon consisted of a brewery tour, talk about the brewing process, and an authentic German luncheon buffet.
- There were 99 SACP and SSP members, students, and guests in attendance. A great time was held by all.

Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group, by Heather Juzwa

- The Mass Spectrometry Discussion group held its first meeting entitled 'The Role of MS in Homeland Security' on October 5th at the Priory Hotel on the North Side. 76 people attended, including large undergraduate contingents from Westminster College, Washington and Jefferson, and West Virginia Wesleyan. Thank you to Stephanie Wetzel and Kristin Kronagner for their help with the event.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011. It will be a round-table discussion of mass spectrometry based biomarker discovery.

Publicity, by Bob Witkowski

- By invitation, our chairman, Melissa Visnikar, will represent SSP at the KDKA ("The Pioneer Broadcasting Station of the World") 90th Anniversary celebration at the Heinz History Center on Monday, November 1, 2010.
- An experiment in zero-cost publicity:
 - Dave Pensenstadler prepared a poster detailing our October technical meeting and made an e-mail distribution.
 - Pittsburgh Magazine offered Bob Witkowski the opportunity to post the information on their web site at no charge.

December Meeting Arrangements, by Rita Windisch

The joint SSP/SACP December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7th, at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The open halls for the event include North American Wildlife and Dinosaurs in their Time. Each SSP and SACP member will receive 4 event tickets and 2 parking chits. The event begins at 6:00pm. Santa is scheduled to arrive at 7:00pm, and the business meeting will take place also at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

VII. Old Business

September 2010 Meeting Minutes, by Melissa Visinikar

There were no additions or changes to the meeting minutes. Larry Irr made the motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Bob Witkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business/Announcements

6th Annual Mini Symposium on Metals in Biological Systems, by Partha Basu

The symposium will be held on December 3rd at Duquesne University. Support from the SSP was acknowledged. Five speakers are scheduled, including Dr. Yi Lu, from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Dr. Aaron Barchowsky from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Eric Roden from the University of Wisconsin, Joshua Hayden from Carnegie Mellon University, and Peter Chovanec from Duquesne University. Lectures will be held at the Power Center followed by a poster session at Mellon Hall. Registration is free, but attendees are asked to register online by November 17.

Faraday Lecture, by Melissa Visnikar

The 23rd Faraday Lecture will be held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland on November 16 at 7:30pm. The title of the presentation is "Not Just Another Chemistry Lecture" and will be given by members of Iowa State University's Chemistry Club (informally known among themselves as S.C.U.M.). Please come and fill the hall.

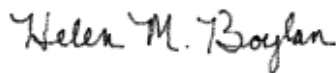
National Chemistry Week, by Melissa Visnikar

NCW is being celebrated Friday, October 22nd, from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Saturday, October 23rd, from 10:00am to 5:00pm at the Carnegie Science Center. SSP and SACP support this event through the ACS Pittsburgh Section. Mike Maltino has been the coordinator of this for a number of years. Please try to attend.

Dave Pensenstadler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry Irr seconded the motion. Visnikar adjourned the business meeting at approximately 8:50 pm. The technical program followed the business meeting. Dave Pensenstadler introduced Dr. Edward "Rocky" Kolb from the University of Chicago who spoke about "Mysteries of the Dark Universe."

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

Respectfully submitted,



Helen M. Boylan
2010-2011 SSP Secretary