



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting

November 17, 2010

Pappert Hall, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Melissa Visnikar opened the business meeting at approximately 8:16 pm. There were 45 members and 29 guests in attendance (based on sign-in sheets).

I. Welcome and 65th Anniversary

Melissa Visnikar, 2010-2011 SSP Chair, welcomed everyone and reminded them that it is the 65th Anniversary year for the Society. The Society is over 400 members strong, and there are 42 people serving on committees and outreach programs. Visnikar reminded everyone that the future of the Society relies on the members and their involvement and commitment to the Society. The technical program this year is dedicated to the SSP founder, Mary E. Warga, and all the chairmen who followed her. Happy Anniversary, SSP! You are 65 years strong!

II. Liaison Reports

2011 Pittcon Liaison Report, Penny Gardner

An update on the statistics as of November 15: there are 1869 booth sales and 790 companies registered for Pittcon 2011 which is up a little from the 2010 statistics. Starting last year, Annette Wilson, Pittcon 2010 President, pushed technology for Pittcon. This trend is continuing and mobile apps will be available at Pittcon 2011. Good things continue to happen with the web and social media for Pittcon. I hope to see everybody in Atlanta!

2012 Pittcon Liaison Report, Jon Peace

No report.

2013 Pittcon Liaison Report, Ron Bargiel

The headquarters hotel will be the Marriott, which is connected to the convention center. Still waiting on a labor contract; there is hope that a new governor will improve this situation.

SACP Liaison Report, Pat Bordell

--The joint meeting will be held at the Carnegie Museum on Dec. 7th from 6:00 to 9:30pm, with a business meeting at 7:00pm. Members should have received their passes and parking chits in the mail. If you have not received them, please contact Rita Windisch. Children under 13 do not a ticket if accompanied by an adult.

--The SACP January meeting will be held on Mon. January 10th. Dr. Megan Smith from the University of Pittsburgh will present "NMR and Cell Membranes."

ACS (Pittsburgh Section) Liaison Report, Jim Manner

No report.

SAS Liaison Report, John Jackovitz

The SSP is the Pittsburgh section of the Society Applied Spectroscopy. The annual board meeting was held in Raleigh, NC. A full written report will be included with the next minutes.

Carnegie Library/Natural History Museum, Dick Obrycki

No report.

Carnegie Science Center Liaison Report, Rich Danchik

The International Science and Engineering Fair will be held in Pittsburgh in 2013. More information on this at a later date.

III. Executive Council Reports

Secretary, Helen Boylan

Boylan announced four acknowledgements that had been received since the September 2010 meeting:

1. University of Pittsburgh for support of the Phillips Lecture Series
2. University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg for a College Equipment Grant
3. Carnegie Science Center for underwriting school field trips for underserved students in the surrounding community
4. Family Hospice and Palliative Care in memory of Dr. Mitchell Johnson

Treasurer, Linda Rukavina

No report.

Chair-Elect, Greg Meisner

The next Technical Program event will be held on January 19, 2011 and will include Richard Dluhy, the Director of the University of Georgia's NanoScale Science and Engineering Center as the speaker. Title TBA.

IV. Committee Reports/Announcements

Committee Arrangements, Melissa Visinikar

Parking chits were offered. Visinikar thanked Denise Wilkins and her committee for arranging a wonderful meal.

Technology Forum, Manny Miller

Dr. John Rawlins from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History presented an interesting talk on "Bug Therapy: Discovering How Insects Make Our World Better." There were 40 in attendance. Please don't miss the January SSP Technology Forum. On January 19th Dr. Bill Acheson will speak about "Nonverbal Communication: The Hidden Message".

December Meeting Arrangements, Rita Windisch

Reminder to the December Meeting Arrangements Committee that a meeting will be held on Tues. Nov. 23rd. If you do not respond regarding this meeting, Rita will assume that you are not coming to the meeting and that you are not available on Dec 7th.

Employment Workshop, Hub MacDonald

No report.

Faraday Lecture, Karla Monsour for Susan Zawacky

The 23rd annual Faraday Lectures were presented on Nov. 16 and 17, 2010 by the Iowa State University Chemistry Club. The program was a great success with over 4,000 students from 105 school districts attending. Many thanks to all the numerous and hard-working volunteers for all their help in getting the program to run very smoothly once again.

Membership and Directory, Stephanie Wetzel

Four new members were announced:

1. Thomas Puharic
2. Mike Fuller
3. Nancy Sapko
4. Mike Sapko

Visinikar welcomed the new members.

Herb Retcofsky Spectroscopy Demonstration Series, John Varine

No report.

Continuing Education, Heather Juzwa for Dave Vanishak

The committee met on Nov. 15 and discussed three possibilities for a spring 2011 event: 1) financial planning seminar, 2) lab tour of the new Allegheny County Crime Lab, and 3) symposium on food and its relationship to diabetes.

Educational Networking, Jack Greenberg

This is a new committee charged with contacting the numerous schools that have not applied for the middle and high school grants. Jack will be emailing committee members in next 1-2 weeks to set up a meeting in early Dec. At that meeting, the committee will determine which schools need to be contacted.

Publicity, Bob Witcowski/Geoff White

No report.

Tripartite, Joe Grabowski

No report.

Improving Laboratory Practices, Karla Monsour

This is also a new committee, and the first meeting will be held on Tues. Nov. 30 at 6:30 pm at the Conference Office. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. The committee will be planning its first workshop for the spring and also planning for next year. There was also a suggestion that a database of schools be created for all the relevant outreach committees.

VI. Old Business

September 2010 Meeting Minutes, Melissa Visinikar

There were no additions or changes to the meeting minutes. Larry Irr made the motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Tim Manka seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

VIII. New Business/Announcements

Updates on Members, Melissa Visinikar

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for Debbie Hrehra and John Timbario.

Undergraduate Poster Session, Melissa Visinikar

The Chemistry Department at the University of Pittsburgh will host an undergrad poster session on Friday, December 10th from 4 – 6 pm at the Connolly Ballroom in Alumni Hall. Contact Michelle Muscatello at muscat@pitt.edu or 412-624-8064 for information.

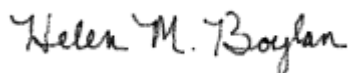
Long Term Planning, Adrian Michael

No report.

Visinikar made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Eli Absey seconded the motion. The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:36 pm. The technical program followed the business meeting. Greg Meisner introduced Professor Sandy Asher who introduced Dr. Igor K. Lednev from SUNY Albany who spoke about "Raman Spectroscopy Combined with Advanced Statistics for Biomedical Research and Forensic Applications."

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

Respectfully submitted,



Helen M. Boylan
2010-2011 SSP Secretary