

SSP Monthly Meeting
April 21, 2010 7:45 PM.
Duquesne University, Laura Falk Hall
46 Members and 5 Guests in Attendance

Introduction

Dr. Hub MacDonald, 2009-2010 SSP Chairman welcomed all members and guests present. On a sad note, Hub announced that longtime SSP, SACP, and Pittcon Committee member Dr. Homer Birch passed away on Sunday, April 18, 2010. Dr. Birch was former Chairman of SSP, 1980-1981. Hub asked all present to observe a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Birch.

He then thanked Jim Mussolino and his committee for the wonderful dinner this evening. Jim was not able to attend the meeting this evening due to recent rotator cuff surgery.

Liaison Reports

- **Pittcon 2010:** President Annette Wilson was not in attendance. Hub spoke on behalf of Annette, noting that Pittcon 2010 was a success, posting an approximate increase in attendance of 2% over Pittcon 2006, the last time the conference was held in Orlando.
- **Pittcon 2011:** President-elect Penny Gardner had no report.
- **Pittcon 2012:** President-elect Jon Peace was not in attendance.
- **Pittcon 2013:** President-elect Ronald Bargiel was not in attendance.
- **SACP:** Dr. Gregg Gould, 2009-2010 SACP President thanked everyone who has attended SACP meetings throughout the year, and thanked Hub for his job as 2009-2010 SSP President. Gregg invited everyone to attend the annual joint SACP/ACS awards banquet to be held at Duquesne University on Monday, May 24, 2010.
- **ACS Pittsburgh Section:** James Manner again mentioned the joint SACP/ACS awards dinner on May 24, 2010. Invitations have been mailed or emailed to members and awardees.
- **SAS:** John Jackovitz was not in attendance, no report.
- **Carnegie Library/Museum of Natural History:** Richard Obrycki that SSP will be supporting the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in some of their educational areas in the coming year. He noted that SACP also supports the Museum and this year will focus on the research area. SSP will be sending a donation check to the Carnegie Library after a meeting is held with them to discuss their Science and Technology Section. Dick also announced that the final joint committee wrap-up meeting will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010 at Kennywood Park.

Executive Council Reports

- **Secretary:** 2009-2010 Secretary David Vanischak asked that all persons giving a report tonight to please give him an electronic or paper copy of their report. He also reminded everyone to please sign the attendance sheets located outside the lecture hall. He read the following acknowledgements received since January: 1) From Dr. Daniel Vanden Berk, of Saint Vincent College, thanking SSP for a \$1000.00 grant in support of his research in physics and astronomy. 2) From St Bede Catholic School in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh, for SSP's support of the school in the Future City Competition. The School's team did not make the final five in Washington, DC, but won the award for the most innovative infrastructure. 3) From the Alzheimer's Association, for the SSP donation in memory of Margaret Romanishin, sister of Pat Golick. 4) From Walter Sumansky and his daughter Linda, for the SSP donation in memory of Water's wife ,Irene Sumansky, to the Arthritis Foundation. We also received an acknowledgement from the Arthritis Foundation itself for the same donation. 5) From The Visnikar Family, for the SSP donation to St. John Lutheran Church in memory of Marian Visnikar, mother-in-law of SSP Chair-elect Melissa Visnikar. 6) From St John Lutheran Church, for the SSP donation in memory of Marian Visnikar to the St John General Memorial Fund.
- **Treasurer:** 2009-2010 Treasurer, Greg Meisner: Greg thanked all committee chairs submitting warrants for doing so in a timely manner and staying within budget for the year. He noted that we are within budget for the year, and asked that any outstanding warrants please be submitted within the next 4-6 weeks or so. Gregg noted that a treasurer's report was sent to all members, covering until the end of March. Hub added that the vote for approval of the treasurer's report will take place at the end of the meeting.
- **Chair-Elect:** Melissa Visnikar invited everyone to attend the annual SSP Awards Banquet and Former Chairmen's night to be held in the Duquesne University Ballroom on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.
- **Nominating Committee:** Hub announced that the nominating committee has chosen the following candidates for run for SSP Offices: Chair-elect: Fu-Mei Lin and Gregory Meisner. Treasurer: Linda Rukavina and David Vanischak. Secretary: Helen Boylan and Stephanie Wetzal. Ballots have been mailed out and Hub asked for timely submission of the ballots and thy will be counted at the awards dinner on May 19 and the winners announced at the end of the evening.

Committee Reports

- **Meeting Arrangements:** Jim Mussolino was not in attendance.
- **May Meeting:** Already announced earlier in this meeting by Melissa Visnikar.
- **Technology Forum:** Eli Absey reported that tonight's Technology Forum speaker was Gregory Boulos of Slow Food USA-Mid-Atlantic Region. The title of his talk was "Community Based Food Systems". Approximately 31 members and guests were in attendance. Eli thanked all of the members of the Technology Forum Committee for a successful year.
- **Membership:** John Baltrus introduced the following new members: Rick Beideman of ChemImage, Austin Bowen of Labchem Inc., Miriam Deigado-Lopez of Laroche College, Michael Hogel of the Mt. Lebanon Schopol District, Robert Lettan of Chatham Univerisity, William Opperman of Aiken Elementary School, Rena Robinson of the University of Pittsburgh, Carl Roznowski from Crawford Central School District, Mark Sundo from the Brentwood School District, and Geoffrey White of McNees, Wallace, and Nurick LLC.
- **Elementary School Science Olympiad:** Marc Hubert reported that the program funded 26 schools this year and over \$27,000 worth of equipment was funded. Hub noted that the Elementary School Science Olympiad is one of SSP's newer programs and was initiated by Penny Gardner. This program has done a lot of good work for elementary schools in the Pittsburgh Area.
- **Elementary School Science Education Award:** Don Antczak reported the ESSEA Committee met on Monday, April 12, 2010. Don noted that were 70 applications this year. Three teachers were chosen as winners, and each will receive a plaque and a \$1000 honorarium at the May 19, 2010 Awards Dinner.
- **Job Searching for Chemical Professionals:** Hub reported that the "Job Searching for Chemical Technicians" workshop was held on February 5, 2010, the day before the major snowstorm. There were 26 attendees for this workshop at the Bidwell Training Center. Dr. Dan Eustace gave a presentation on resume preparation and conducted mock interviews and resume evaluations. The "Job Searching for Chemicals Professionals" workshop scheduled for February 6 was cancelled due to the snowstorm. It was rescheduled and held on Sat, April 10, 2010. There were 63 attendees at this workshop held at the University of Pittsburgh. Resume preparation and job interview techniques were covered in the morning session, and resume reviews were conducted in the afternoon. Hub noted that both programs were very successful.
- **SSP Light and Color Workshop:** John Varine was not present. Hub reported that he and John conducted two half-day short courses at the National Teachers Association convention in Philadelphia last month. This was a national convention. The SACP computer short course drew 25 teachers, and the SSP Light and Color Workshop for kids drew 47 teachers.

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for January:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the January 2010 meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Karla Zaar. The motion was seconded by Dean Tzeng. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- **Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the latest Treasurer's Report. The motion was made by Eli Absey and seconded by Marc Hubert. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business: None

Adjournment

- Hub asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Janet Pifer made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karla Zaar. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.
- Hub announced that tonight's speaker, Dr. Graham Fleming will need time to setup before his presentation begins. Dr. Fleming is Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of California, Berkley. The title of his talk was "Energy, Spectroscopy, and Photosynthesis".

Respectively submitted,
David G. Vanischak,
2009-2010 SSP Secretary