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SSP Monthly Meeting
January 20, 2010 7:45 PM.
Duquesne University, Laura Falk Hall
49 Members and 8 Guests in Attendance

Introduction

Dr. Hub Macdonald, 2009-2010 SSP Chairman welcomed all members and guests present. He announced that this is the annual joint meeting with the Optical Society of America and thanked Chuck Gardner for arranging tonight's speaker. Hub thanked Jim Musolino for the wonderful dinner this evening, and noted that anyone needing a parking chit to please see Jim.

Pittcon 2013

Hub announced that the SSP Executive Committee has chosen Ronald Bargiel as President of Pittcon 2013 in Philadelphia, PA. He noted that this presents many challenges as this is a new city and venue for Pittcon.

Liaison Reports

- **Pittcon 2010:** President Annette Wilson was not in attendance.
- **Pittcon 2011:** President-elect Penny Gardner is in Atlanta currently for Pittcon 2011.
- **Pittcon 2012:** President-elect Jon Peace was not in attendance.
- **Pittcon 2013:** President-elect Ronald Bargiel noted that he and Dick Howe will be traveling to Philadelphia February 18 and 19, 2010 to begin work on Pittcon 2013.
- **SACP:** Dr. Gregg Gould, 2009-2010 SACP President announced that the next SACP meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 2010 at Duquesne University. The featured speaker will be Dr. Royce Murray of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The title of his talk will be "Analytical and Electron Transfer Chemistry of Nanoparticles". All are invited to attend.
- **ACS (Pittsburgh Section):** James Manner, ACS Pittsburgh Section President announced that the symposium "Job Searching for Chemical Technicians" will be held on Friday, February 5 at Bidwell Training Center. The symposium "Job Searching for Professionals" will be held on Saturday, February 6 at the University of Pittsburgh. These are being sponsored by ACS, SSP, SACP, and AIChE. Please see the Crucible for more information. Also, PJAS Region 7 will be held on February 6, 2010 at Keystone Oaks High School. Jim noted that several SSP members will serve as judges and more are always welcome. ACS will be presenting 5 plaques and \$100.00 awards to each student for high school winners, and ten certificates for 7th and 8th graders. Jim thanked Duquesne University for their contribution of several plaques and monetary awards.
- **SAS:** John Jackovitz noted that SSP is the Pittsburgh Regional Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS). This year at Pittcon in Orlando SAS is sponsoring two symposia, one in atomic spectroscopy and the other in molecular spectroscopy. John also mentioned that this will be the first Pittcon that SAS has sponsored a poster session. John noted that these events are evidence of our relationship with the national SAS.
- **Carnegie Library/Museum of Natural History:** Richard Obrycki had no report.



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- **Carnegie Science Center:** Richard Danchik was not in attendance, no report.

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 November: 1) From Partha Basu, of Duquesne University, thanking SSP for supporting the Meals in Biology Symposium held here at Duquesne. 2) From Young Men's Christian Association, Deer Valley Camp, thanking SSP for a donation in memory of William Straub. 3) From Gayle Bauri of the McKean County SPCA thanking SSP for a donation in memory of John Boylan, father of SSP member Helen Boylan-Funari, and a thank you from Helen to SSP for this donation as well. 4) A thank you from the University of Pittsburgh Greensburg Campus, University Relations and Institutional Advancement Dept. for SSP's support throughout the past year. 5) A thank you from Jennifer Aitkin of Duquesne University, and several students who toured the laboratories here at Duquesne as part of the Project SEED program, funded by SSP.
- **Treasurer:** 2009-2010 Treasurer, Greg Meisner: Greg noted the following: Anyone who has warrants that need processing before Pittcon 2010 should be submitted as soon as possible as Greg will be attending the Conference. He requested that these warrants be received by February 20 or so.
- **Chair-Elect:** Melissa Visnikar was not in attendance, no report.

Committee Reports

- **Meeting Arrangements:** Jim Musolino noted that in February we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year by dining on broccoli and shrimp over white rice with a brown sauce at the next SSP meeting on February 10. He again mentioned that anyone needing a parking chit to please see him.
- **February Meeting:** Hub Macdonald for Melissa Visnikar: The next SSP meeting will take place February 10, 2010 here at Duquesne University. The Technical Program Speaker will be Dr Robert Griffin of the Francis Bitter Magnet Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The title of his talk will be "High Frequency Dynamic Nuclear Polarization in Solids and Liquids". All are invited to attend.
- **Technology Forum:** Eli Absey reported that tonight's Technology Forum speaker was James McCarville, Port of Pittsburgh Commission. The title of his talk was "Technology, Innovation, and Economic Development on the Waterways.". The next Tech Forum will be February 10, 2010 at Duquesne University. The speaker will be Dr. John E. Rollins of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The title of his talk will be "Bug Therapy: Discovering How Insects Make Our World Better." All are invited to attend.
- **J. Kevin Scanlon Award:** Hub Macdonald reporting for Tom Conti: The SSP has established the J Kevin Scanlon Award for The Promotion of Science Award to recognize an educator who has promoted and enhanced science education in the geographic bounds of the SSP



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through unpaid efforts above and beyond his/her normal classroom duties. The award will consist of a plaque and \$1500 that the awardee would apply toward a science or science education undertaking of his/her own choosing. Hub reminded everyone that the nomination form is on the SSP web site and that the deadline for nomination is February 19.

- **Spec Demo Series:** Hub reported for John Varine: Hub Macdonald and John Varine conducted the “Light, Color, and Spectroscopy for Kids” workshop at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park on Friday, February 15, 2010. They were assisted by Tom Conti, Nick Barsic, Charlie Holifield, and Bob Witkowski. A total of 10 teachers attended.
- **Job Searching for Chemical Professionals:** Hub reported that the “Job Searching for Chemical Professionals” symposia will be held on Sat., February 6 at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Dan Eustace will be the main speaker covering topics on resume preparation, interviewing skills, and strategies to attack the job market. Food will be provided. There will be a presentation of the local job market by Joe Jolson and resume reviews will take place in the afternoon. Several local companies will have information tables available to provide ideas to the attendees.
- **Continuing Education:** James Manner announced that there will be a joint symposia with SACP on Saturday, March 27, 2010 here at Duquesne. The title of the symposia is “Studies of Alzheimer’s, Dementia, and Sports Related Effects of Concussions”. A potential speaker is Dr. Joseph Maroon, team physician for the Pittsburgh Steelers. A flyer will be available once the program is finalized.

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for October:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the November, 2009 meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Eli Absey. The motion was seconded by Janeth Pifer. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- Michelle Muscatello mentioned the usefulness of Facebook and LinkedIn (more industrial oriented) for posting messages concerning SACP and SSP events and sharing information about the organizations. Michelle is a member and urged others to join-in.

New Business: None

Adjournment

- Hub asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Mark Hubert made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by James Manner. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.
- Hub then turned the meeting over to Technical Chair Chuck Gardner to introduce our speaker for the evening, Dr. Steven Christesen of Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center. The title of his talk is “Detection of Chemical, Biological, and Explosive Agents Using Raman Spectroscopy”.

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