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SSP Monthly Meeting
September 16, 2009, 7:45 PM.
Duquesne University, Laura Falk Hall
53 Members and 5 Guests in Attendance

Introduction

Hub MacDonald, 2009-2010 SSP Chairman opened by welcoming all members and guests in attendance. He noted that this is the 64th year of operation for the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh.

Liaison Reports

- **Pittcon 2010:** President Annette Wilson was not in attendance.
- **Pittcon 2011:** President-elect Penny Gardner was in attendance but said she had no report.
- **Pittcon 2012:** President-elect Jon Peace was not in attendance.
- **SACP:** Gregg Gould, 2009-2010 SACP Chairman was not in attendance. Manny Miller, 2009-2010 Secretary spoke on behalf of SACP: Manny announced that the next SACP meeting will be Monday, October 5, 2009 at Duquesne University. The Technical Program speaker will be Dr. James P. Landers. Dr. Landers is a Professor of Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Virginia, and an Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Virginia Health Systems. The title of his talk will be "A Generic Microfluidic Platform for Ultrafast Genotyping: Sample – In/Answer-Out Capabilities That Revolutionize Clinical/Forensic Diagnostic Analysis." All SSP members are welcome to attend.
- **ACS (Pittsburgh Section): PITTSBURGH SECTION ACS-NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK-CHEMLUMINARY AWARD:** At the August 2009 ACS meeting in Washington, D.C., the Pittsburgh Section received a Chemluminary Award related to NCW at the Carnegie Science Center



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(CSC) on October 24-25, 2008 (winner of national award). The award was for “Outstanding Event for a Specific Audience”. With the help from its financial partners (Including SACP and SSP), the Section reached out to underrepresented minorities to promote science education and science literacy. General admission was provided to the CSC for 1491 students and 141 chairpersons from 25 schools. A “passport” activity was developed and piloted to engage the students in the NCW various activities. This report was submitted by James Manner, Councilor of the Pittsburgh Section ACS.

- **ACS (Pittsburgh Section):** Fu-Tyan Lin reported that Dr. Theodore Cohen of Pitt Chem is the recipient of the ACS Pittsburgh Section 2009 Pittsburgh Award, and Mildred Perry of DOE is the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Service Award. They will receive their awards at a dinner November 12 at the University Club at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend. More information is in the September Crucible.
- Hub thanked Jim Mussolino and his committee for the delicious meal served this evening. Anyone needing parking chits was to see Carolyn Benga
- **SAS:** John Jackovitz reported that SAS will have it’s annual governing board meeting Tuesday October 20. John will be there representing the local SAS section. The regular SAS report will appear in Specks in December.
- **Carnegie Library/Museum of Natural History:** No report. Richard Obrycki is at the Pittcon site trip.
- **Carnegie Science Center:** No report. Richard Danchik is at the Pittcon Site Trip.

Executive Council Reports:

Secretary: 2009-2010 Secretary David Vanischak asked that all committee members giving a report this evening to please give him an electronic or



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paper copy of their remarks. David reported that we received the following acknowledgements over the summer:

- 1) Free Methodist Church of Ellwood City for donation by SSP and SACP in memory of Jack Graham. From Nellie Brown.
- 2) Marjorie Gapp, Curator of Art and Images, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia: for SSP's past continuing line-item support of special collections. A special thank you goes out to Robert Witkowski, SSP advocate.
- 3) Patricia McGovern, for invitation by SSP to committee wrap-up at Kennywood Park on June 12, 2009.
- 4) Sheryl Imler, thanking SSP for the wonderful awards dinner on May 20, 2009. She was a recipient of the Elementary Science Award.
- 5) Dr. Antoine Garibaldi, President, Gannon U, for SSP donation of \$6000.00.
- 6) Al Sharkins, for the many condolence cards, personal messages, and planter in honor of Al's brother Raymond.
- 7) Dr. Samuel Taylor of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for grants to help purchase equipment.

Treasurer: 2009-2010 Treasurer Greg Meisner was not in attendance. On behalf of Greg, Hub mentioned that anyone needing warrants, warrant information, or procedures that need to be followed can find all the information in the Members Area of the SSP website. If anyone doesn't have web access, please contact Emily Concannon at the Pittsburgh Conference and she will mail the information.

Chair-Elect: Melissa Visnikar thanked her committee as well as Eli Absey (Technology Forum Chair) for all of their hard work in arranging the speakers for the year. She also thanked all the monthly Technical Program Chair-people for taking the responsibilities of making contacts and



arranging for the speakers. She noted that the SSP meeting is October 21 and asked all members present to invite their colleagues and co-workers. The Technical Program for that evening will be Dr. Daniel Vanden Berk of St. Vincent College and the title of his talk will be “Three-Million Spectra and Counting: Exploring the Universe with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey”. The Technical Chair for the evening is David Pensenstadler, immediate former Chairman of SSP.

Committee Reports

- **Meeting Arrangements:** Jim Musolino was not in attendance, no report.
- **October Meeting:** Melissa Visnikar noted that the October 21 meeting is a joint meeting with Amateur Astronomer’s Association.
- **Technology Forum:** Technology Forum committee Chair Eli Absey reported that the Tech Forum Speaker for this evening was Dr. Jeffrey Hurst of from Hershey Foods in Hershey, Pa. The title of his talk was “Ethnobotanical uses of Cocoa in Mesoamerica or Take Two Kisses and call me in the morning”. The Tech Forum speaker for next month will be Ronald J. Baillie of the Carnegie Science Center. The title of his talk will be “Robots in the Public”. Eli also reported that the Tech Forum committee is working on a potential Lab Tour of the Hofbrau House on the South Side of Pittsburgh for the late fall or early winter on a Saturday.

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for April 2009:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the April 2009 meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Charles Holifield. The motion was seconded by Bob Baudoux. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote, no opposition.



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- **Approval of June 2009 Treasurer's Report:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the June 2009 Treasurer's report. The motion was made by Melissa Visnikar, seconded by David Vanischak. This was approved by a unanimous vote, no opposition.

New Business

- **Faraday Lecture:** The Faraday Lecture will be held November 17-18, 2009. A flyer will soon be available on the SSP Website. Flyers will be sent out to teachers and students in the area. Another flyer will be prepared for the general public. Any SSP members willing to volunteer to help with the Faraday Lecture will be appreciated, and may contact Maria Ferguson for more information.
- **National Chemistry Week:** The dates for National Chemistry Week are Fri. Oct 23 and Sat. Oct. 24. The event will be held at the Carnegie Science Center. Hub asked for volunteers to represent the SSP at this event. Anyone interested should contact anyone on the Executive Council. The SSP helps this event financially and with help from society volunteers.
- **Chairman's Pass:** The Chairman's Pass program will be active again this year. Any member can bring someone to a monthly SSP meeting and receive a complimentary dinner. This generates interest in the society and the potential for membership growth. Anyone needing a chairman's pass can contact Hub MacDonald or Emily Concannon at the office. Committee chairs also have chairman's passes.
- **Proposed Budget:** Hub presented the 2009-2010 SSP



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budget. The budget for this year has been reduced by the Pittsburgh Conference. Several committees had funding decreased, increased, or status quo. This was based on last year's spending by the committees. The total budget for the year is \$530,000. Hub asked for a motion to approve the budget. David Pensenstadler made the motion, seconded by James Manner. Hub asked if there were any questions or discussions about the budget. Chuck Gardner asked what are the objectives of funding advertising under the General Operations section of the budget? Hub responded by saying that this gives a presence in the community and makes the SSP more widely known. He also noted that SSP will be running advertising on WPGH Channel 53 10:00 news, as this is a good demographic for us to target. This advertising is meant to promote the Society to the community as well as science education. With no other discussions, the motion to approve the budget was unanimously approved with no opposition. Motion passed.

Adjournment

- Hub asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. David Pensenstadler made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Vanischak. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.
- Hub then turned the meeting over to Technical Chair Melissa Visnikar to introduce our speaker for the evening.

Respectively submitted,
David G. Vanischak,
2009-2010 SSP Secretary
9/28/2009

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