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SSP Monthly Meeting
November 18, 2009, 7:45 PM.
Duquesne University, Laura Falk Hall
37 Members and 5 Guests in Attendance

Introduction

Hub Macdonald, 2009-2010 SSP Chairman opened the meeting on a somber note, noting that longtime SSP, SACP, and Pittsburgh Conference member William Straub had recently passed away and asked all present to observe a moment of silence in Bill's memory.

Liaison Reports

- **Pittcon 2010:** President Annette Wilson was not in attendance.
- **Pittcon 2011:** President-elect Penny Gardner was in attendance.
- **Pittcon 2012:** President-elect Jon Peace was not in attendance.
- **SACP:** Gregg Gould, 2009-2010 SACP Chairman was not in attendance, no report.
- **ACS (Pittsburgh Section):** Fu-Tyan Lin announced that James Manner will be the 2010 ACS Pittsburgh Section President, effective January 1, 2010. He also noted that Heather Juzwa is the new ACS Pittsburgh Section Chair-Elect.
- **SAS:** John Jackovitz reported that the SAS Governing Board Meeting was held October 20, 2009 in Louisville, KY. John represented the Pittsburgh Section (SSP). A written report will appear in the December issue of Specks.
- **Carnegie Library/Museum of Natural History:** Richard Obrycki noted that SSP and SACP both donate to the Carnegie Library and Museum of Natural History. He noted that in light of the recent financial problems of the library, SSP's donations do not go to the general operating fund of the library, but to the Science and Technology Branch.
- **Carnegie Science Center:** Richard Danchik was not in attendance, no report.

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 paper copy of their remarks. David reported that we received the following acknowledgement:
 - 1) A thank you for the \$50.00 donation made by SSP in memory of Dr. Mildred Perry to the Breast Cancer Society.
- **Treasurer:** 2009-2010 Treasurer, Greg Meisner: Greg noted the following: The treasurer's report will be posted with the minutes of this meeting. A new fillable and saveable warrant will be available shortly. This was forwarded to the SSP Webmaster. For those wanting to fill out a warrant and keep it for themselves, that will be available shortly as well.
- **Chair-Elect:** Melissa Visnikar had no report.



Committee Reports Webmaster

- **Meeting Arrangements:** Hub thanked Jim Musolino and his committee for the wonderful dinner served this evening. Jim noted that there were 66 people in attendance at the dinner this evening. There will be no dinner in December as this is the joint SACP/SSP Christmas party at the Carnegie Science Center. The menu for the January dinner will be an Italian theme. Hub mentioned that anyone needing a parking chit to please see Jim.
- **January meeting:** Melissa Visnikar: The next SSP meeting will take place January 20, 2010 here at Duquesne University. The Technical Program Speaker will be Dr. Steven Christesen of Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center. The title of his talk will be "Detection of Chemical, Biological, and Explosive Agents using Raman Spectroscopy." All are invited to attend.
- **Technology Forum:** Eli Absey reported that tonight's Technology Forum speaker was Dr. Gerry Gettman of Biosafe. The title of his talk was "Chemistry and Applications of Biosafe Products" and 24 members and guests were in attendance. There will be no Technology Forum in December due to the joint SSP/SACP Christmas Party. The next Tech Forum will be January 20, 2010 at Duquesne University. The speaker will be James McCarville, Port of Pittsburgh Commission. The title of his talk will be "Technology, Innovation, and Economic Development on the Waterways."
- **December Meeting:** Richard Greco was not present. Hub Macdonald noted that the Joint SSP/SACP December meeting will be held on December 8 at the Carnegie Science Center. Information will be coming soon via email/mail.
- **Elementary School Science Olympiad Program:** Mark Hubert: Mark noted that the Elementary Science Olympiad Program (ESOP) held its annual informational meeting for teachers on November 13. 37 teachers attended this year's workshop from 28 schools. 20 of these schools were new to the program this year. The informational meeting contained information presented from Central Elementary School in the Hampton Township School District and from Heritage Elementary in the Franklin regional School District. The workshop was well received from all attendees. The attendees also received grant applications for up to \$3000 to implement a science Olympiad at their school.
- **Employment Workshop:** Hub Macdonald: The Employment Committee will be presenting along with ACS, SACP, and AIChE a job hunting workshop on Feb. 6, 2010. The Job Searching for Chemical Professionals Workshop will be held at the University of Pittsburgh. A flyer will be available at the next meeting and is available on the SSP website now. The workshop consists of a morning session discussing resume preparation and interviewing skills. There also is a presentation on the local job market. In the afternoon, each attendee can participate in a resume review and information tables will be set up and are staffed by people from industry to answer questions about their companies. Hub read a brief excerpt from one of last year's attendees.
- **Faraday Lecture:** Maria Ferguson was not in attendance. Hub reported that the Tuesday sessions were well attended and featured speaker Lee Marek did an excellent job with the 22nd annual Faraday Lecture. People attending enjoyed the presentation.



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- **Membership & Directory:** John Baltrus reported that over the last few months, the following new members of SSP have been approved: 1) Jason Bennett, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, 2) Don Fujitio, Laroche College, 3) Alexandra Kavoulakis, Pinnacle Foods Group LLC, 4) William Lucas, 5) Kristy Scalise, Kiski Area High School. 6) Patrick Vander Wel, University of Pittsburgh, 7) Thomas Vayansky, PA DEP, 8) Eric Wilkins, and 9) Dr. Maumita Mandal, Carnegie Mellon University.
- **Spectroscopy Demonstration Series:** John Varine was not in attendance. Hub pointed out that the “Light, Color, and Spectroscopy for Kids” Workshop will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010. Also, the “Computer Software Workshop” will be held on Friday, February 5, 2010. Flyers for these workshops are on the registration table in the lobby. Hub asked all present if they know anyone who might benefit from these workshops to please take a flyer and pass it on to them.

Old Business

- **Approval of Minutes for October:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the October, 2009 meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Carolyn Benga. The motion was seconded by Mark Huber. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- **Approval of Treasurer’s Report:** Hub asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Reports for July, August, and September 2009. The motion was made by David Vanischak and seconded by Eli Absey. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business: None

Adjournment

- Hub asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. David Pensenstadler made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karla Zaar. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.
- Hub then turned the meeting over to Technical Chair Melissa Visnikar to introduce our speaker for the evening, Geraldine Richmond of the University of Oregon. The title of her talk was “Going Nonlinear to Study Environmentally Important Processes at Surfaces”.

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