



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting

September 15, 2010

Pappert Hall, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Melissa Visnikar opened the business meeting at approximately 8:05 pm. She welcomed everyone to the first business meeting of the year, which marks our 65th anniversary. There were 57 members and 26 guests in attendance.

I. Memorial to Mitchell E. "Mitch" Johnson, by Melissa Viskinar

Visnikar asked everyone to honor the 2007-2008 SSP Chairman Mitch Johnson. "His passing reminds us how precious and short life can be, but Mitch lived life to the fullest through his wife, Laura, his family, his students, his colleagues, members and staff of the SSP and Pittsburgh Conference. He was our shining star and will remain with us as we continue his work through Project Seed and the Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group. I love Mitch's smile and his sense of humor and that special twinkle in his eyes. I adore him. I thank you Mitch and may peace be with you. You will always be with us for you are the embodiment of the SSP. Cheers, Mitch." A moment of silence was held in Mitch's honor.

II. Mitch Johnson Remembrances, by Melissa Viskinar

Partha Basu asked to remind everyone of the following tributes to Mitch:

- Memorial Service on Thursday, September 16 at 6:00 pm in the Duquesne University Chapel
- Potluck picnic on Saturday, September 18 from 12:00-4:00 pm at the Luthuanian Country Club in Jefferson Hills (please RSVP to Ed Ladner)

III. SSP 65 Year Anniversary, by Melissa Viskinar

Visnikar introduced all attendees to the founder of the SSP, Mary Warga. A picture of Mary Warga was projected, and Visnikar provided the audience with some background on Mary Warga's professional life. The SSP was formed under the direction of Mary Warga in 1946 with 69 charter members. Mary Warga was also instrumental in starting the Pittsburgh Conference. The technical program was dedicated to our founder and all SSP Chairmen who followed her.

IV. Liaison Reports

2011 Pittcon Liaison Report, by Penny Gardner

Things are going well for Pittcon 2011, which will be held March 13 to 18 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Plenary Speaker is Dr. Chad A. Mirkin. The numbers since August 31 are: 623 exhibitors with 1681 booths. Penny had recently returned from JAIMA in Japan and acknowledged Mitch's support in getting the first US symposium there.

ACS Liaison Report, by Jim Manner

- National Chemistry Week is October 22-23 at the Carnegie Science Center, and Manner asked everyone to participate and support this joint event which is sponsored by ACS, SSP, and SACP.
- "Outstanding Community Involvement in NCW." This was the 12th Annual Chemluminary Award and the Pittsburgh Section has won 10 NCW awards. This was accomplished by many volunteers from the three societies and the continued

outstanding leadership of Michael Mautino. The financial support of SACP (SSP) has been a major factor in the continued success of NCW in Pittsburgh.

- **Annual Pittsburgh Award and Distinguished Service Award**

- Pittsburgh Award: Dr. Alan Russell
- Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Mordecai Treblow

V. Executive Council Reports

Secretary, by Helen Boylan

Boylan announced 10 of the numerous acknowledgements that had been received since the April 2010 meeting:

1. Riverview Junior/Senior High for support of Chemistry Olympics
2. Kootenai Humane Society in memory of James Michael Newmeyer
3. Breast Cancer Society in memory of Jim Procell
4. Phi Lambda Upsilon at the University of Pittsburgh for support of the Francis Clifford Phillips Lectureship
5. Jane Hudd for invitation to Former Chairman's Dinner
6. Sam Baum for arrangement for brother who had passed away
7. Chemical Heritage Foundation for assistance with Special Collections
8. Carnegie Museum of Natural History for funds to improve interactive experience
9. Penn State New Kensington for support of FIRSTE program
10. California University for support of Southwest Pennsylvania Science Olympiad

Chair-Elect, by Greg Meisner

- Technology Forum was given by Dr. Michael Habib, Assistant Professor of Biology at Chatham University and Research Associate of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, who spoke about the flight capability of giant pterosaurs.
- Next month's technical program will be presented by Dr. Edward W. "Rocky" Kolb, Department Chair and Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics at the University of Chicago, who will discuss "Mysteries of the Dark Universe."
- Meisner thanked the Technology Forum Committee, Manny Miller, and the Program Committee for their efforts in putting together great programs.

VI. Committee Reports/Announcements

Committee Arrangements, by Melissa Visinikar

Visnikar thanked Denise Wilkins and her committee for doing an outstanding job on arrangements. Parking chits were offered.

Technology Forum, by Manny Miller

Miller reminded everyone of next month's program which will be given by Bobak Karimi of the Geology & Planetary Science Dept of University of Pittsburgh. The title of his talk is "3-Component Seismograph at the Allegheny Observatory: Detecting Ground Motions and Understanding Internal Earth Structures"

Continuing Education, by Dave Vanischak

The SSP Continuing Education Committee is sponsoring a symposium on Oct 16 at 11:00 AM, at the Penn Brewery located on the North Side of Pittsburgh. This will be a celebration of Oktoberfest. It will consist of a brewery tour and talk on the chemistry of the brewing process, followed by an authentic German luncheon buffet. The cost for this symposium is \$10.00 for members and guests, and \$5.00 for retirees. The registration deadline is October 7. All SSP and SACP members are invited to attend this event. If interested, registration fliers are outside on the table. I would like to thank Heather for her assistance in setting up this event. "First beer is on us."

Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group, by Heather Juzwa

Please join the Mass Spectrometry Discussion group on October 5th for a symposium entitled 'The Role of MS in Homeland Security.' We have three great speakers, one discussing ion mobility MS, one about Gas Chromatography MS, and one about Inductively coupled plasma MS. The meeting will be held at the Priory on the North Side. Flyers are on the table outside and on the websites! Spread the word! Hopefully you can make it!

Publicity, by Bob Witkowski

- Professor Foil A. Miller has been very helpful in providing us with historical information about early SSP chairmen, especially Professor Mary Warga and her activities at the University of Pittsburgh and also our association with the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research.
- Kurt Rothenberger, Maria Ferguson and Bob Witkowski will work to update the SSP Information Brochure to include mention of our 65th anniversary recognition of former chairmen during the 2011 International Year of Chemistry.
- With help from Hub MacDonald, the Publicity Committee has begun looking into opportunities for participation in Interactive Radio and TV programs and journal and magazine feature articles, especially Pittsburgh Magazine and the Chemical Heritage Foundation bimonthly publication.
- We are making a concerted effort to reduce (and eventually eliminate) paid advertising; emphasis is being placed more on shared or contributory publicity with interested media providers.

VII. Old Business

April 2010 Meeting Minutes, by Melissa Visinikar

There were no additions or changes to the meeting minutes. Larry Irr made the motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Hub MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for June 2010, by Melissa Visinikar

There were no additions or changes to the Treasurer's Report. Karla Monsour made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Eric Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business/Announcements

International Year of Chemistry, by Melissa Visinikar

The International Year of Chemistry, subtitled "Our Life, Our Future" is sponsored by IUPAC and UNESCO. Visnikar encouraged everyone to visit the website www.chemistry2011.org for more information.

Faraday Lecture, by Fu-Tyan Lin

- On Tuesday and Wednesday, November 16 and 17, this year's Faraday Lecture will be presented at Soldiers and Sailors Hall by members of Iowa State University's Chemistry Club (informally known among themselves as S.C.U.M. or the Society for Chemistry Undergraduate Majors). Members of S.C.U.M. are undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Chemistry or related fields, and one of their major activities is presenting chemistry demonstration shows for secondary school students in Iowa to increase interest in studying chemistry. We think that Pittsburgh-area students will find a program presented by students not that much older than they are very interesting and exciting.
- A letter inviting area teachers to request student tickets for these lectures has already been sent out. If you know any science teachers who have not received this letter, please urge them to visit the SACP or SSP web site, where the ticket request form can be down-loaded.

- As usual, we are seeking volunteers to help usher at either or both of these student programs. Please contact Susan Zawacky if interested.
- The evening performance open to the general public will be Tuesday, November 16 at 7:30 PM, also at Soldiers and Sailors Hall. We encourage all members to attend and to invite any interested relatives or friends to come along, too.
- There was a question from an audience member about how to get flyers about the Faraday Lecture. Fu-Tyan indicated that the flyer will soon be available from the SSP website.

SACP Meeting, by Fu-Tyan Lin

The speaker for next month, October 4, SACP meeting is Professor Joseph Hornak from Rochester Institute of Technology. His title is "Keep Magnetic Resonance Imager Knocking." This is a good MRI talk. We welcome everyone to attend.

Outreach Programs, by Hub MacDonald (for John Varine)

- To honor the originator of these outreach programs, the spectroscopy demo has been renamed the Herb Retcofsky Light and Color Workshop, and the computer workshop has been renamed the Herb Retcofsky Computer Workshop. *(Executive note: The computer workshop, as of this point, will not be renamed since the warrant has already been distributed with the workshop listed under its existing name.)*
- MacDonald and Varine held a teacher workshop on Aug. 5 at Edinboro for 11 teachers from the Intermediate Unit in the Erie area. The workshop was well received.
- The next teacher workshop will be held in January at NETL. Flyers are available at the SSP website.

Bidwell Training Center Open House, by Melissa Visnikar

Members of the SSP are invited to the Bidwell Training Center Open House on Wed. Oct. 6 from 2-7 pm.

2010-2011 Proposed Budget, by Melissa Visnikar

- Hand outs of the budget were provided. Visnikar pointed out a few changes to the various line items.
- Visnikar noted that what is proposed is over budget by \$19,800 but thinks this is doable because of carryover and the ability to request additional funding from the Pittcon Board of Directors.
- There were no questions or comments on the budget. Joanne Smith moved to approve the budget as proposed. Penny Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

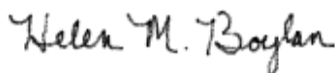
Reservations for Monthly Meetings, by Denise Wilkins

The cut off for reservations for the monthly dinner is 5:00 pm the Friday before the Wednesday meeting.

Visnikar adjourned the business meeting at approximately 8:30 pm. The technical program followed the business meeting. Greg Meisner introduced Dr. John McLean from Vanderbilt University who spoke about "Advanced Structural Mass Spectrometry for Systems Biology – Pulling the Needles from Haystacks."

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

Respectfully submitted,



Helen M. Boylan
2010-2011 SSP Secretary