The Arkansas Laserbacks SPIE Student Chapter Annual Report

Compiled by 2014-2015 Chapter President: Avery Hill

List of Active Due Paying Members:

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- Jonathan Mishler: jhmishler@uark.edu
- Jeremy Dunklin: drdunkli@uark.edu

- Avery Hill – President
- Stephen Bauman – Vice President
- Gabi Abraham – Secretary
- Cameron Saylor – Treasurer

Newly Elected Officers: (2015 – 2016)
- Gabi Abraham – President
- Avery Hill – Vice President
- Stephen Bauman – Treasurer
- Secretary – Currently Unfilled

Activities:

1) October 2014, the SPIE student chapter participated in the annual physics haunted house at the University of Arkansas. The purpose of this event is to demonstrate physical phenomenon for children and the general university population. The student chapter demonstrated a paraxial cloak or colloquially known as an ‘invisibility cloak’. The event was successful and attended by ~75 people. Seeing as this was an event catered to small children and college students and with both groups being incredibly similar in their love for candy/treats, $30.00 was spent on candy in order to pull in people.

2) General meeting/Student Research Presentation. The second official event that was held for the group was a general meeting and a student led presentation. For the general meeting,
information was given out regarding what SPIE is and some of the perks of purchasing a student membership. The student led presentation was given by Stephen Bauman and detailed his research on nanofabrication. Food was provided for the meeting because the meeting’s time closely aligned with that of dinner. Approximately $145 was spent on the catering for the event and roughly 25 people were in attendance.

3) In the spring semester, another student-led presentation was had. It was used to provide a practice honors thesis defense for one of the SPIE members, Jonathan Mishler. He gave his talk over applications of diatoms (algae) exhibiting similar traits of photonic crystals, and the implications of his research. Pizza and drinks were provided for the event. Approximately $75.00 was spent on the event and roughly 15 people were in attendance.

4) The student chapter applied for and was awarded a visiting lecturer grant where Dr. Reuven Gordon came to the University of Arkansas to give a talk. With a great advertising effort on the part of the student chapter, his talk was very well-received. The auditorium where the event was located had a maximum capacity of 75 people and there were no more than 10 empty seats in the entire room.

5) Following Dr. Gordon’s talk, there was an end of the year event with the University of Arkansas Physics Department, the student chapter helped with the event and provided some food supplies. Approximately $55.00 was spent on the event to provide a portion of the food. Roughly 40 students and faculty members were present at the event.

6) The day of Dr. Gordon’s departure, the student chapter held our end of the year meeting and had lunch at a nearby restaurant. Almost the entire student chapter was in attendance as well as Dr. Gordon and our faculty advisor Dr. Herzog. The remainders of the activity grant money went to financing the end of the year lunch.

Future Activities:

1) The most pressing activity is the election of a student chapter member to the position of secretary, upon completion of our executive board, more events shall be planned for the year.

2) The student chapter will again be present at the annual physics haunted house and will volunteer/hold a table for an optics demonstration.

3) We plan to again apply for the SPIE activity grant and determine how much money we will have access to, which will most directly affect the number of events that we can hold.

Financial Information:

We chose to be a due free chapter and have not completed any fundraising thus far. The total balance that the student chapter has had access to was the $500.00 granted to us via the SPIE Student Chapter Activity Grant. The breakdown of expenses was shown above, with all $500.00 being spent on activities that occurred over the duration of the 2014-2015 school year.