

DUKE OSA/SPIE CHAPTER REPORT

Officers

President- Mohan Shankar
Vice-President- Scott McCain
Treasurer- Anjul Davis
Secretary- Ashwin Wagadarikar
Outreach Coordinator- Bradley Bower

Current Members

Ms. Janelle Bender
Mr. Bradley Bower
Mr. Candong Cheng
Mr. Adam Curry
Mrs. Anjul Davis
Ms. Audrey Ellerbee
Ms. Christy Fernandez
Mr. Dan Fu
Mr. Matthew Gildner
Mr. Scott McCain
Ms. Molly Miller
Mr. Andrew Portnoy
Mr. John Pyhtila
Mr. Mohan Shankar
Ms. Melissa Skala
Mr. Ashwin Wagadarikar
Mr. Kurt Wulff

Chapter Activities

The SPIE chapter at Duke was formed and merged with the existing OSA chapter to form the Duke OSA/SPIE Chapter (DOSC) in April 2006. The decision to merge the two chapters was opted for since the interests and activities of both the groups were very similar. The elections were held for the five positions- president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and outreach coordinator. The elections were supervised by the chapter advisor, Dr. Adam Wax.

The plan for the year was to have four speakers during the Fall semester- one each from academia and from industry.

The first event since the election was a talk by Dr. Siavash Yazdanfar from GE Global Research on September 12, 2006. His talk was titled *"Intraoperative Near-Infrared*

Fluorescence Imaging". Apart from speaking about his research at GE, he gave valuable insight into work culture in an industrial research lab. Following the talk, students interacted with him over pizza lunch.

On September 21, 2006, we organized a Kick-off Party/Ice-cream social as a way to highlight the benefits of being a member of the SPIE and OSA as well as to get more people involved in our future activities. Grads as well as undergrads were invited and got a good turn out. We got a few new members into the student chapter.



Students helping themselves to ice-cream at the kick-off party

Our next event was a talk by Dr. Myung Kim from University of Southern Florida on October 17, 2006. He was invited as a part of the SPIE visiting lecture program. His talk was titled "*Digital Holography in Biomedical Imaging*" and he gave an hour long talk introducing the basic principles of holography and the work that he has been doing applying this to different Biomedical imaging modalities.



Dr. Myung Kim's seminar

The DOSC in association with Fitzpatrick Institute for Photonics organized a bi-weekly breakfast social every Friday during the fall semester this year. The goal was to promote interaction between different research groups at the institute. Students were encouraged to present posters at this event. The turn out at these events was usually very good and the student involvement in the chapter activities improved since.



DOSC/Fitzpatrick Institute for Photonics Breakfast social

We had a booth at the recent Annual meeting of the OSA at Rochester, NY. Over the course of the conference, we presented a poster about the Duke student chapter's activities.

We availed of the free books that were offered to the chapters. We ended up receiving about 20 books and publications.

Scott McCain attended the Optics & Photonics Meeting in San Diego, CA courtesy of the Officer Travel Grant. Mohan Shankar was also at the conference presenting a paper, so both were able to attend the workshop for the student leaders.

Officer meetings were held every two weeks throughout the semester to plan out the forthcoming events as well as evaluate our financial standing. These meetings were attended by all the officers.

Future Activities

Funding:

Our treasurer Anjul Davis has submitted a funding proposal and we are in the process of receiving the funds. We have a plan of how to spend the money- outreach materials, web design, etc. and will start work on the projects once the funding is in place.

Outreach Events:

We are planning to have 3 or 4 outreach events similar to the ones we have been having for the past few years. We will be going to elementary schools in the Raleigh/Durham area and talk to the students and inspire them to considering a career in science. Our past events have been extremely successful with the kids and we intend to improve our efforts this year.

Speakers:

Continuing the trend into the spring semester, we will plan to have at least two speakers- from academia as well as industry.

Social Events:

We will organize a social event to kick off the semester as well as talk about the activities of the chapter during the fall semester. The goal would be to get more people involved in our outreach activities. The elections for officers will be held in May 2007.