

# **DUKE OSA/SPIE CHAPTER REPORT-**

## **June 2007**

### **Outgoing Officers**

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

### **Newly Elected Officers (2007-2008)**

**President-** Ryan McNabb  
**Vice-President-** Mingtao Zhao  
**Treasurer-** Yuankai (Kenny) Tao  
**Secretary-** Neil Terry  
**Outreach Coordinator-** Ashwin Wagadarikar

### **Current Members (18)**

Bradley Bower  
Haojun Chen  
Candong Cheng  
Adam Curry  
Anjul Davis  
Audrey Ellerbee  
Christy Fernandez  
Dan Fu  
Matthew Gildner  
Christina Li  
Priti Madhav  
Ryan McNabb  
Molly Miller  
Mohan Shankar  
Melissa Skala  
Neil Terry  
Ashwin Wagadarikar  
Kurt Wulff

# Chapter Activities

## Guest Speakers

Last fall, we had invited two speakers and both gave technical talks on their work in their respective fields. We decided to have an industry focus for the spring and invited speakers who gave us talks about careers in the optics industry.

Our first event, on March 7, 2007, was a panel discussion with two entrepreneurs who started up optics companies. We invited Eric Buckland (CEO, Biotigen) and Mike Sullivan (former CEO, Centice Corp.) to share their experiences in starting up optics companies. They both work with companies that spun out of Duke and are based in the area. We had a large turnout of students who were interested to hear about the challenges they faced in starting up their respective companies. The chapter partly sponsored lunch that was provided to all those who attended this event. We also decided to take this opportunity to highlight the work done by the chapter as well as try to recruit volunteers for the upcoming outreach events.



**Student turn-out for the event**



**Eric Buckland (L) and Mike Sullivan (R) addressing questions from the audience**

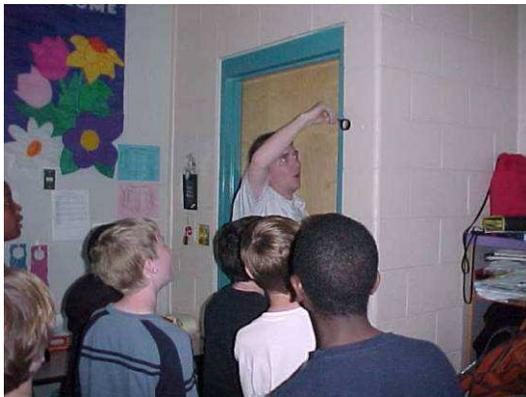
Our next event, on March 27, 2007, was an OSA sponsored seminar speaker, Dr. Paul Rudy. He is currently the Senior Vice President of Sales for QPC Lasers Inc. He gladly obliged to give two talks on the same day, one being a career oriented talk organized by the student chapter and the other being a more technical talk meant for the general Duke community. His first talk was titled “Opportunities in the Laser Industry: Choosing the Right One”. He went over the different opportunities that students usually have when choosing a career in the optics industry. Lunch was provided by the chapter to all those who attended.



**Dr. Paul Rudy giving his talk**

## **Outreach Events**

The chapter had two scheduled outreach events lined up for the semester. We took part in Weatherstone Elementary School's **Science Day**. The target audience was kids in the fifth grade. We went to three classes and gave a short talk about optics and let them ask us general questions about light and optics. We used some of the new components that we purchased using the SPIE grant (for outreach events) and showed some simple demonstrations of optical concepts such as Total Internal Reflection, imaging using lenses, jello optics, infrared data transmission with a TV remote, etc.



**Demonstration of using a lens for imaging**



**Jello Optic Prism**

We also took optics demos to the North Raleigh Christian Academy for **Career Day**. We talked to students from grades 7-12 about careers in optics in North Carolina.

## **Chapter Finances**

Beginning Balance:	\$0
Funds Expended (\$334):	\$229 – Educational Outreach Demos \$104 – Food served at Panel Discussion
SPIE Funding Received:	\$700 (\$100 Guest Speakers + \$250 Educational Outreach + \$100 Web Design + \$150 Promotional Gifts + \$100 Student Breakfasts)
Ending Balance:	\$366

## **Future Activities**

The new officers will continue the activities for the fall and spring with invited speakers as well as outreach events. Social events are being planned during the year for the sake of recruiting more students for the various activities. We are also planning to update our group website as well as create a repository for our local chapter to maintain logs of chapter events.