

Rice Photonic Owls Student Chapter of SPIE

Annual Activity Report

November 1, 2010

Covering November 1st, 2009 – November 1st, 2010

1. Student Officers:

President: Jared Day, Email: jared.day@rice.edu, Member#: 03242191

Vice President: Nicholas King, Email: nking@rice.edu, Member#: 03308185

Treasurer: Fangfang Wen, Email: fangfang.wen@rice.edu, Member#: 03379494

Secretary: Sterling Noelck, Email: sterling.noelck@rice.edu, Member#: 03256355

2. List of Chapter Members: 16 Members

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Membership Expiration Date</u>
Laura Carpin	30 November 2010
Michael Cordray	28 February 2011
Jared Day	1 November 2011
Elizabeth Figueroa	29 November 2010
Nche Fofang	31 August 2011
Ying Hu	31 December 2010
Robert Kester	7 January 2011
Nicholas King	14 October 2011
Robert Langsner	4 January 2011
Nastassia Lewinski	30 November 2010
Sterling Noelck	5 January 2011
Arthi Satyanarayan	10 January 2011
Carter Sturm	15 March 2011
Fangfang Wen	27 October 2011
Joseph Young	8 December 2010
Yu Zhang	27 October 2011

3. Chapter Activities:

1. **FP3 Series Meetings:** We have continued our FP3 (Fortnightly Photonics Pizza Presentations) meetings. At these meetings, both members and non-members can meet to enjoy a pizza lunch and soft drinks while hearing optics and photonics related presentations. These meetings provide a forum for members to gather on a regular basis and have served as a nice recruitment tool since non-members may also attend.

During this academic year our meetings were focused into more of a tutorial format. Members offered their experience with building microscopes or imaging systems to help guide other students who did not have experience building an optical system. Additional meetings were held to plan and advertise the new photo contest.

2. **Photo Contest:** Our first university-wide photo contest is currently under way. We have met with a photography professor at our university to help establish rules and guidelines for the contest, as well as judging criteria. Students, professors, staff and alumni are allowed to submit a portfolio of images taken with a conventional camera or equipment from their lab (AFM, microscopes, etc.). We are still in the process of advertising around campus and gathering submissions. The tentative deadline for the contest will be December 31, although we may be extended the contest to a full academic year. In lieu of the field trip we investigated last year (discontinued due to travel complications), we will use our activity grant to fund the prizes for the contest.
3. **Joint Social Event:** We helped with execution of a joint social event with the Rice University Physics & Astronomy Dept. Graduate Student Association and the Chemistry Dept. Graduate Student Association. The event was held in mid-November 2009.
4. **Officer Elections:** Officer Elections were held on October 28, 2010.

- **Previous Officers** (2009-2010 academic year):

President: Nicholas King
Vice President: Ying Hu
Secretary: Britt Lassiter
Secretary 2 (Web site developer): Kui Bao
Treasurer: Mark Knight

- **Current Elected Officers** (2010-2011 academic year):

President: Jared Day
Vice President: Nicholas King
Secretary: Sterling Noelck
Treasurer: Fangfang Wen

4. Planned Future Activities:

The Photonic Owls chapter is planning the following activities over the coming year:

1. **FP3 Series Meetings:** We plan to continue the FP3 (Fortnightly Photonics Pizza Presentations) lunchtime presentations, where members gather to listen to optics related presentations over pizza. We will maintain the monthly meeting schedule established last year due to a positive response from members. This relaxed meeting schedule (compared to the fortnightly schedule when these meetings were established) has reduced the pressure on the volunteer participation of student presenters. Topics covered in the presentations may include current photonics research being done by members or interesting papers in recent literature. We hope to focus this coming year's meetings on reviewing the work upcoming guest speakers hosted by our chapter or various university departments. We are planning to have 7-8 FP3 meetings over the course of the 2010-2011 academic year, with an expected attendance of 10-15 people at each meeting.
2. **Joint Social Event:** We are assisting with execution of a joint social event with the Rice University Physics & Astronomy Dept. Graduate Student Association and the Chemistry Dept. Graduate Student Association. The event will be held in mid-November 2010 and include barbeque-style refreshments. We hope that supporting such an event will increase the Photonic Owls broader campus visibility.
3. **Tutorials:** We plan to separate tutorials from our standard FP3 meetings since they usually require more time than is available during a lunch meeting. These longer meetings will focus on topics related to research being done by current members. We hope to hold tutorials about building optical setups as well as techniques required to collect, analyze and display data. Potential topics may include: Microscope construction, OriginPro data analysis, POV-RAY graphics.
4. **Chapter Photo Contest:** With the current photo contest underway, we plan to continue gathering submissions to finish this contest and starting another before summer 2011. Participation will still be open to the faculty, staff, general student body, and alumni.
5. **Invited Speaker:** We hope to invite a guest lecturer along with the Electrical and Computer Engineering or Physics & Astronomy Dept. at Rice. We plan to submit a visiting lecturer grant proposal to SPIE and to partially pay for the guest lecture.
6. **Website Redesign:** We plan on upgrading the chapter website to better reflect the current members and activities we sponsor. We will also incorporate the photo contest website and relevant links.

5. Finances:

1. **Beginning Balance: \$832.27**

2. **Funds Raised/Expended:**

Funds Raised: \$703.43

- Activity Grant from SPIE:
Total: **\$700.00**
- Rice University Student Activity Fund Interest:
Total: **\$3.43**

Expenditures: \$423.94

- Pizza and refreshments (from Papa John's Pizza) for FP3 meetings:
Total: **\$343.94**
- Pizza and refreshments (from Papa John's Pizza) for 2010 Officer Elections:
Total: **\$80.00**

3. **Ending Balance: \$1111.76**