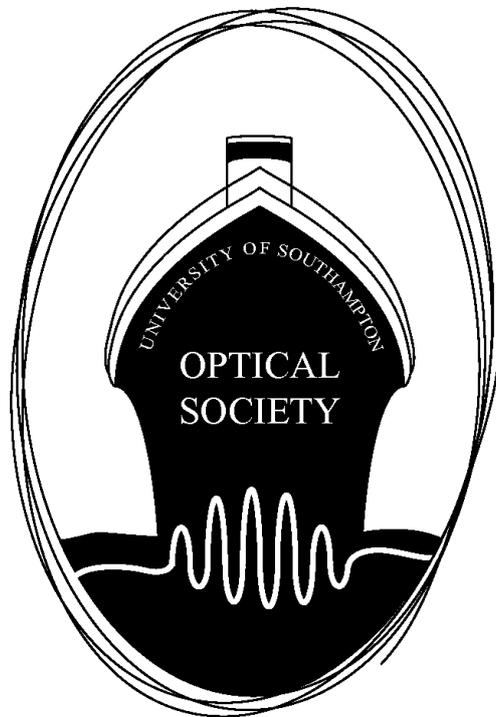


SPIE



Student Chapter

University of Southampton



Annual Report

March 2012 - February 2013

The University of Southampton SPIE Student Chapter

Introduction – Vision and goals

The University of Southampton SPIE student chapter was established on the 28th January 2011. The student chapter also has affiliations as an Optical Society of America (OSA) student chapter and a European Physical Society (EPS) Young Minds local section. Collectively, we are known as the University of Southampton Optical Society Student Chapter. Our members are mostly PhD students from the Optoelectronic Research Centre at the University of Southampton (United Kingdom), but also have members from other departments as well as Masters and undergraduates.

Our objective is to unite and engage the student community who are performing (or are interested in) optics and photonics research at the University of Southampton. Our activities can be categorised into three main groups:

- Social and networking activities
- Educational activities
- Outreach

Chapter committee members

Committee members are elected at the beginning of the academic year. The current committee members (October 2012-September 2013) are:

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Email</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Armen Aghajani | aa15v07@orc.soton.ac.uk |
| Treasurer | Callum Littlejohns | cl4m11@soton.ac.uk |
| Secretary (1 st Year Rep) | Robin Waters | robin.waters@soton.ac.uk |
| Lightwave director (outreach) (1 st Year Rep) | Martin Nunez | mmnv1g12@orc.soton.ac.uk |
| Charity Officer (1 st Year Rep) | Peter Cooper | P.Cooper@soton.ac.uk |
| Education Officer (1 st Year Rep) | Nicholas Wong | nhlw1g12@orc.soton.ac.uk |
| Social Secretaries (1 st Year Rep) | Tina Parsonage | tlp1g08@soton.ac.uk |
| | Tim Raybould | tar1g12@orc.soton.ac.uk |

Our faculty advisor is Prof. Johan Nilsson (email: jn@orc.soton.ac.uk).

Student Chapter members

Our current 36 student chapter members are:

Muhammad Aboul Khudus

Harish Achar Vasant

Jessica Butterworth

Amol Choudhary

Rafal Cieslak

Peter Cooper

Jae M. O. Daniel

Rokas Drevinskas

Matthew Eckold

Ioannis Katis

Zhihong Li

Yi Liao

Di Lin

Callum Littlejohns

Stephen Lynch

Alexander May

Medya Namiq

Milos Nedeljkovic

Aabid Patel

Timothy Raybould

Scott Reynolds

Li Shen

Chaotan Sima

Jordi Soler Penades

Alberto Sposito

Fariza Hanim Suhailin

Jakub Szela

Rob Topley

Stanislav Vassilev

Robin Waters

Nicholas Wong

David Wu

Xin Yang

Tianfu Yao

SungJin Yoon

Grigorios Zisis

Activities

The student chapter has been organizing over the last year numerous events which involve both the students and staff at the Optoelectronics Research Centre. We have maintained our reputation as a socially active student chapter through student focused activities (e.g. pub crawl, Winchester Fireworks) as well as activities which encourage networking with members of staff and academia (Pub quiz, Arctic BBQ, Second Year Presentations). Also the student chapter has been supporting members for conferences (IONS). The recruiting activities keeps going (AGM, Welcome Party).

Social Activities:

- Coffee and cake club (Regular event, fortnightly)
- Pub quiz (March 2012)
- Welcome party for new students (October 2012)
- Winchester fireworks (Bonfire Night, November 2012)
- Arctic BBQ (November 2012)
- Pub quiz (August 2012)

Social Highlights:

Arctic BBQ

The arctic BBQ is an annual student chapter held near the beginning of the academic year and is traditionally used to encourage the new students to become members of the students chapter. This was held at a local pub, with the student chapter providing (and cooking) the food. The new students get a chance to socialise with other members of the community and the event is a key networking opportunity at the beginning of their PhD degrees.

Pub Quiz

The Pub Quiz is another regular event which is usually run twice a year. The pub quiz is another social event which staff and students from the entire faculty (Optoelectronics, Electrical engineering and Physics) are invited to attend. Food and drink is provided by the student chapter, and the quiz is hosted by our former student chapter president. This provides a key networking opportunity as chapter members can interact with other departments in a fun and (slightly) competitive environment. This interaction can encourage potential future collaborations and is also a chance to advertise the student chapter to these other departments.

Educational Activities

Second year talks

This is another annual event where the second year PhD students give conference style presentations about a scientific topic outside of their own research. All students and staff in the department are invited as audience members and also act as judges. Scientific topics outside the students' own research are required, so as to improve the audience's understanding of the current state of scientific research across a broader number of fields. The presentations are given in a conference style (10 minutes presentation + 5 minutes question time) to provide practice for real conferences in a less intimidating atmosphere. The students are judged by the audience on their presentation skills and the winner is awarded a travel grant (funded by the Optoelectronics Research Centre) towards a conference of their choice.

Outreach Activities

Lightwave is our outreach program designed to provide an exciting, interactive and educational experience of optics for children aged 5 to 11 years old.

The Lightwave ambassadors, volunteer PhD students from our student chapter, try to develop the children's awareness, knowledge and general interest in optics by demonstrating and supervising the use of equipment that is designed to allow the children to gain a hands-on experience of science. Some of the topics covered include: communications using light (including optical fibres), optical illusions, lenses, electromagnetic radiation and the human eye.

The directors contacts schools showing an interest in Lightwave. This includes making initial contact and providing information about the activities and equipment. The directors then schedule the shows for suitable dates, finding transport for equipment and ambassadors, recruiting sufficient volunteers and managing the event. The directors talk to all chapter members about Lightwave to promote awareness and encourage participation.

We also participated in The University of Southampton Science and Engineering Day is a day where the university is open to children and their parents, demonstrating a range of science and engineering activities. We were offered a room to set up the Lightwave roadshow, which we estimate over 450 children visited.

Finances

| Opening Balance | | £ 1,466.02 | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Event | Description | Incoming funds | Expenditures |
| Coffee and Cake | Cakes, sugar and coffee | | £ 80.43 |
| Second Year Presentations | Drinks, Food, supplies and services | | £ 361.00 |
| Lightwave Outreach | Equipment maintenance | | £ 49.27 |
| IONS Conference travel grant | David Wu | | £ 200.00 |
| | Priyanth Metha | | £ 200.00 |
| Arctic BBQ | Drinks, Food | | £ 262.61 |
| AGM (Annual General Meeting) | Drinks, Food | | £ 140.00 |
| Pub quiz | Drinks and food (two events) | | £ 238.33 |
| Welcome Party | Refreshments and supplies | | £ 200.00 |
| Winchester Bonfire | Refreshments | | £ 90.00 |
| Grants and Funds | OSA | £ 443.14 | |
| | University of Southampton | £ 646.11 | |
| | TOTAL | £ 1,089.25 | £ 1,821.64 |
| Closing Balance | | £ 733.63 | |

Outlook

The University of Southampton Student Chapter will continue to remain an active student society. We will continue with our traditional events over the next year including the popular social and networking events such as the Arctic BBQ, Pub Quiz, International Food Day and the Winchester Pub Crawl. We hope to establish the formal as a new traditional event by running it again this year, most likely in the spring or summer.

Being a relatively new SPIE student chapter (as compared to our OSA affiliation), we are still learning what the SPIE can offer us and are trying to increasing our involvement with SPIE. We hope to send an officer to the SPIE student leadership workshop and Optics and Photonics conference. When the new academic year approaches, we will hope to continue increasing the number of SPIE student members from Southampton.

We are looking forward to the next year and are confident it will be another successful one for the University of Southampton Optical Society Student Chapter.