

SPIE Chapter Activities Report

July 2014

UC Davis Optics Club

Club Officers

| | | |
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Past Chapter Activities (July 2013-2014)

Recurring Events

Optics Club Social Hour

The Optics Club has periodically hosted a Social Hour which is aimed at recruiting new members and providing a nice venue for students to interact. It has been successful in bringing together students from disparate departments to together for socializing and exchanging new ideas. The event has also been very successful in helping to recruit new members and build stronger ties of existing members to the chapter. There is normally ~10-20 students in attendance of this event.

Optics Journal Club

The Optics Journal club consists of weekly meetings of ~1.5 hour which are educational in nature and have focused on continuing education for students who work with optics, photonics and imaging. The meeting is lead by a presenter who presents either journal articles or book chapters on educational topics of interest to the optics/imaging/photonics students at UC Davis. The meetings typically have ~10 attendees and we have been providing light refreshments and snacks to encourage participation (usually held late on Friday afternoons).

Special Events

Outreach to Irvington Highschool

We traveled to Irvington Highschool (located ~90 minutes from UC Davis in the Bay Area) to give a two hour, interactive presentation on medical uses of optics, photonics and imaging for the Biotechnology Club. This outreach event was very well received by the students and went nearly an hour over the allotted time due to significant enthusiasm and questions from the students. Approximately 40 students were in attendance of this event.

E-Week Laser Maze

We hosted a miniature version of our Laser Maze for an Engineering Week outreach event that was hosted at UC Davis. The E-Week event was aimed at educating (and exciting) Middle School students about science and engineering. Approximately 50-75 students passed through the mini Laser Maze that we set up for the event.

Picnic Day Laser Maze

We hosted our yearly Laser Maze during UC Davis Picnic Day (an extremely popular event for the community and Alumni which has approximately 100,000 visitors). The Laser Maze we host allows attendees to try to navigate a Laser Maze (and avoid breaking the laser beam a-la Mission Impossible; if the laser beam is broken then the music which is playing stops). Since inception this event has been extremely popular and is so well attended that we can only host a small fraction of those who show up and want to pass through it (in the future and with more resource we hope to increase the scale). Approximately 300-400 people passed through the maze.

Special Lecture

We invited Jean-luc Doumont to give a special lecture on *Making the most of your presentation*. We have hosted him for the past 3 years and these events are always very

well attended (the auditorium, with a capacity of 200 was nearly full). This year we were able to get co-sponsorship from several organizations including: Biomedical Engineering Graduate Group, Biomedical Engineering Society and the Office of Graduate Studies. These organizations provided the remaining funding to cover the speaker expenses as well as provided refreshments and snacks for attendees of the conference.

Visit to Photonics West 2014

We organized a small event to encourage students (both undergraduates and graduate students) to meet up during PW2014 and arrange carpooling for those who were only planning on going to the exhibition.

Special Lecture for Young Scholar's Program

We gave a lecture for the Young Scholar's Program at UC Davis. The Young Scholar's Program is a summer research experience (and classes) for high performing, college-bound Highschool students. The two hour lecture was on imaging, medical imaging and photonics. The goal of the lecture was to inform but also spark interest in students to enter the field of imaging and photonics. Approximately 30 students from the Young Scholar's Program attended.

Planned Future Activities

We plan to continue with four events which have been very successful in both promoting the club:

Optics Club Social Hour

Optics Journal Club

Laser Maze

Special SPIE-sponsored Guest Lecture

Several new activities will be added:

Company tours

We plan to organize tours to local optics and photonics companies which have been a very popular event in the past.

Special Lecture Series

To celebrate and promote the Year of Light, we would like to put on a special series of three events (with lectures and a reception after) to promote the use of light, photonics and imaging in disparate research areas.

Financial Statement

Summary

We began with a balance of 300.00 and have an ending balance of 6.35. By stocking up on snacks/refreshments in bulk we were able to keep our expenses quite low despite having hosted quite a few events with a good number of attendees.

Funds raised/expended

| Item | Amount | Starting Balance | Ending Balance | # Attendees (if an hosted event) |
|---|---------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Beginning balance (transferred from Sonia) | +300.00 | 0 | 300.00 | |
| Refreshments/Snacks for Optics Club Social Hour (4 meetings) | -72.12 | 300.00 | 227.88 | ~10-20 per meeting |
| Photonics West 2014 visit (gas reimbursement, toll bridge, parking) | -45.00 | 227.88 | 182.88 | 5 |
| Irvington Outreach (toll bridge, gas, consumables for outreach) | -35.00 | 182.88 | 147.88 | 40 |
| Refreshments/Snacks for Optics / Imaging Journal Club (8 meetings) | -52.38 | 147.88 | 95.50 | ~5-10 per meeting |
| Picnic Day Laser Maze Event (materials, snacks for volunteers) | -51.84 | 95.50 | 43.66 | ~300-400 |
| E-Week Laser Maze Event (materials, snacks for volunteers) | -37.31 | 43.66 | 6.35 | ~50-75 |