1. Student Officers

President – Gunnsteinn Hall
Vice President – Visar Ajeti
Secretary – Karissa Thoma
Treasurer – Carolyn Pehlke

2. Chapter Members

Signed up (according to the SPIE website):
Visar Ajeti
Nicholas Bevins
Gunnsteinn Hall
Zhihong Hu
Siqi Luo
Piyush Pathak
Pascal Theriault Lauzier
Steven Trier
Joseph Zambelli

About or already signed up:
Carolyn Pehlke
Karissa Thoma
Jimmy Fong
Abhinav Tallavajhula

We anticipate more people to sign up early on this semester as we get started. We had our election meeting pretty late right before the finals last semester and quite a few students expressed interest but have not signed up yet (even two of our newly elected officers). We will follow up with recruitment in the coming weeks as the first '10 meeting gets planned.

3. Chapter Activities

The '09 year was one of growth and building for the SPIE-UW student chapter. We have been a small group of students and advisors trying to expand the chapter and it's reach to a broader community. The underlying goal remains to facilitate optics education on the
UW campus and to bring researchers together in an informal setting.

We first attempted to initiate a seminar series with a talk about the UW's role in the South African Large Telescope (SALT) by our own faculty advisor, Andy Sheinis. Unfortunately, there some other seminar series were scheduled at the same time, leading to much smaller audience than anticipated. About 8 people showed up, which was quite lower than hoped for. As a result, we decided that we need to build up our foundations better, before bringing in outside speakers, so that we can be ensured to have a decent audience size.

The next event was aimed at restructuring/reorganizing the club. We held an informal gathering at the Memorial Union Terrace where we had a productive meeting. Attendance: 6 student members and 2 faculty advisors. Many of the current organizational issues were addressed along with brainstorming for future activities and needs. It was decided that lunch meetings would likely bring the most students together and that a web-based scheduling program would be most effective for planning meeting times.

For the most recent meeting we had individually spoken with student members and found a lunch meeting would be best. The city obtained a great snowstorm and campus was closed on the date planned, so we changed the meeting to be later in the week. There were 11 students and 3 faculty advisors present. During the meeting we first explained the group to the new members, then some informal dialogues pertaining to optics education and finally elected new officers. It was decided to hold monthly meetings with a research topic highlighted and that a web-based scheduling aid would be useful to plan meeting times. The meeting provided a great opportunity for students to meet one another and solidify the continuation of the student chapter.

Following the elections, the 4 newly elected officers had a meeting to organizational purposes and plan the next year before the winter break. The results of that meeting are largely the content of the next section (Chapter Plans for 2010).

Therefore, it showed that lunch meetings is a good way to bring people together. Everyone has to eat lunch and people usually do not reserve that time for other things. Our lunch meeting had much greater attendance than previous gatherings. We will take that into account next year, as we will continue to grow as a chapter.

4. Chapter Plans for 2010

As mentioned earlier, the newly elected officers held a meeting to lay out a plan for the next year. We came up with a set of goals that we want to achieve.

Goals for 2010:
• Monthly meetings.
• Double the number of members in one year (go up to 20).
• Bring in 1-2 speakers from outside the University through the SPIE traveling series.
• Send chapter representatives to the Optics + Photonics meeting in San Diego, to network and exchange ideas with other chapters.

We have planned the first meeting to be held in February 2010. Furthermore, it will be a lunch meeting and will be designated to draw many people to the event and introduce the club. It will be about SPIE, the benefits of being an SPIE member, conferences, journals and pretty much everything related to the society.

Our plans to increase the number of members is based on outreach. We are working on finding all professors and laboratories that do work that could benefit from joining SPIE. There are quite many groups on campus that do not communicate well with others, and are in different departments. Our approach will be to contact those parties personally, and even visiting them and giving an informal introduction to the club and hopefully talk to students that work in the lab. Visiting 2 labs per month will make our presence wider known and more personal which will help when we advertise our meetings. In addition, there are a few classes on campus that relate to Optics and Medical imaging. We plan on visiting those classes to introduce ourselves. Our advisor, Andy Sheinis, is teaching one of those classes and we might work out some way of trying to recruit some of his students, such as extra credits for attending our meetings (if possible).

We are very interested in benefiting from the SPIE traveling speaker program. We will start planning for that early on in the semester, that is, selecting a speaker and finding a time that works. We might also coordinate that meeting to be held in collaboration with a bigger seminar series to ensure a respectable audience size.

Finally, we are keen on sending 1-2 members of the student chapter (officers) to the Optics + Photonics meeting in San Diego in August. Not only is it a great opportunity for our officers to present their research, but also to network with other chapters and learn more about what we could do to improve our chapter, and also share our experiences with them.

5. Finances

Starting balance: $555

SALT meeting: Refreshments -$10

Summer Reorganizing Meeting: Refreshments: -$50
Election Meeting: -$110

End balance: $385