

# Guest lecturer report for the International Student Chapter Meeting in Torun, Poland December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004-January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**By Carlos López-Mariscal:**

During the Student Chapter meeting, I was pleased to meet with a number of students from the Nicolas Copernicus University (NCU) in Torun, Poland as well as with Radu Malureanu, from the National Institute For Matter Physics in Trieste, Italy, all of them student members of SPIE.

Upon my arrival in Warsaw, Aneta Michalkiewicz and Agata Jozwicka from the Warsaw University of Technology SPIE Student Chapter in Warsaw kindly met me at the airport. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, we all left for Krakow, where we visited important historical sites of the city, including the Maius College, academic home of Polish astronomer and philosopher Nicolaus Copernicus.

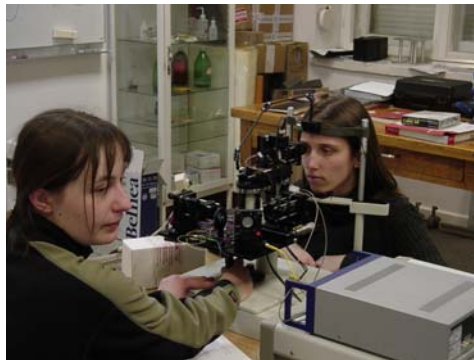


Radu Malureanu from Bucharest, Agata Jozwicka from Warsaw and myself.



During the trip from Warsaw to Krakow.

On December the 30<sup>th</sup>, the group visited Wroclaw and met with officers from the Wroclaw University of Technology SPIE Student Chapter as well. For New Year's Eve, we visited Bydgoszcz and enjoyed a new years reception organized by Anna Szkulmowska, Maciej Szkulmowski and other members of the NCU SPIE Student Chapter.



Optical Coherence Tomography facilities at Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun.



Officers from the Nicolaus Copernicus Student Chapter.

On December the 2<sup>nd</sup>, we visited Torun and were delighted to visit the research laboratories of FAMO (National Laboratory for Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics), while members of the Physics Faculty and students explained the research work currently in progress at NCU. Several projects in collaboration with other European nations contribute to the advancement of optical science and engineering at FAMO. We also toured the Optical Coherence Tomography facilities at NCU.



The FAMO laboratories.



An impressive view of the toys at the FAMO labs.

During the following days, two talks took place at the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics at NCU. The first was on the current trends of Applications of optical tweezers by Radu Malureanu on January the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the second talk was "Invariant Optical Fields: the nondiffracting families" by myself. Additionally, I discussed the common issues encountered when trying to maintain and stimulate the growth of a SPIE Student chapter. For this purpose, I presented a brief talk entitled: "How to keep a big, happy SPIE Student Chapter" based on the particular experiences of the Tec de Monterrey Student Chapter over the last few years. It was interesting to note that the issues that concern the most to both our chapter are mostly similar, despite the inherent differences of our chapters. We also discussed ways in which we can be of service to SPIE, as we all agreed that our academic and professional lives have benefited from SPIE much more than we have done for SPIE itself.



Host chapter and speaker during "How to maintain a healthy SPIE student chapter"



Malgorzata Kujawinska and myself in her office at the Warsaw University of Technology.

Once the meeting was over I headed for Warsaw, where I met with Prof. Dr. hab. Malgorzata Kujawska, at the Warsaw University of Technology. I discussed several initiatives of the Mexican scientific community, in particular from the Tecnologico de Monterrey and our SPIE Student Chapter. I personally presented Prof. Kujawska my ideas on Mexican initiatives of collaboration regarding the involvement of students in international research ventures during the late stages of their academic training.

Finally, Aneta Michalkiewicz showed me the ongoing research and development projects at Warsaw University of Technology.

In conclusion, I find that this event, as an initiative of collaboration between partner chapters, was particularly beneficial and fruitful for all the attendants. I hope to see more of these events in the future, where students take the initiative and plan the logistics of the event. Also, I'd like to thank SPIE for their valuable support for this activity. I suggest that in the future, alternate sources of funding be sought for continuing the realization of similar events, which contribute to reinforcing the links between Student Chapters.

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Tecnologico de Monterrey Student Chapter



So, there's three optical engineers, a Romanian, a Polish and a Mexican...