

Rice Photonic Owls Student Chapter of SPIE

Annual Activity Report

November 1, 2011

Covering November 1st, 2010 – November 1st, 2011

1. Student Officers:

President: Michael McClain, Email: michael.j.mcclain@rice.edu, Member#: 03433559
Vice President: Sterling Noelck, Email: sterling.noelck@rice.edu, Member#: 03256355
Treasurer: Andrea Schlather, Email: aes5@rice.edu, Member#: 03433499
Secretary: Nicholas King, Email: nking@rice.edu, Member#: 03308185

2. List of Chapter Members: 10 Members

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Membership Expiration Date</u>
Zachary Crannell	16 October 2012
Liang Gao	7 January 2012
Ryan Huschka	20 September 2012
Nicholas King	14 October 2011
Mark Knight	30 November 2011
James Lassiter	20 September 2012
Michael McClain	20 September 2012
Sterling Noelck	5 January 2011
Andrea Schlather	20 September 2012
Fangfang Wen	2 November 2012

3. Chapter Activities:

- Lunch Meetings:** We have continued our lunchtime pizza meetings. At these meetings, members and colleagues 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 to familiarize themselves with our group. We held our first meeting with new officers on Nov. 10, to review the work of Roger Hanlon, an expert on the sensing and camouflage abilities of cephalopods and an invited speaker of the Electrical and Computational Engineering Department at Rice.
- Photo Contest:** Our first university-wide photo contest has concluded with excellent participation. Students, professors, staff and alumni were allowed to submit a portfolio

of images taken with a conventional camera or equipment from their lab (AFM, microscopes, etc.). The contest was dominated by conventional photography but we hope future competitions will have more participation from scientists. We have established a contest website with a collection of the submitted images (<https://sites.google.com/site/photoncow/photocontest/>). We used a portion of our activity grant to fund the prizes for the contest.

3. **SPIE Presentation Award:** Rice University Quantum Institute (RQI) hosts an annual colloquium at the end of summer for Rice undergraduates, visiting summer students, and graduate students to present progress in their research. This is a full day event with a selected group of oral presentations and a large poster session. This year, we were able to support this institution by providing funds for a presenter award.
4. **Joint Club Meeting:** Over the 2011 summer Rice University hosted several researchers from Japan after the tsunami crippled the infrastructure of their country. We were able to contact several members from the Osaka University SPIE Student chapter and hold a joint meeting. Below is a hyperlink to a collection of images taken during and after the meeting.
(<https://picasaweb.google.com/107649645835706696473/SPIEMeeting?authkey=Gv1sRgCLOq9umM06DFVA>)
5. **SPIE Leadership Workshop:** Under the Officer Travel Grant, we sent our previous vice president, Nicholas King, to attend the 2011 SPIE Optics + Photonics Conference and Leadership Workshop in San Diego.
6. **Officer Elections:** Officer Elections were held on September 20, 2011.

- **Previous Officers** (2010-2011 academic year):

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

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

President: Michael McClain
Vice President: Sterling Noelck
Secretary: Nicholas King
Treasurer: Andrea Schlather

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 lunchtime meetings, where members gather to listen to optics related presentations over pizza. 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 6-7 FP3 meetings over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, with an expected attendance of 5-10 people at each meeting. Our first meeting in about a week will review the work of Roger Hanlon and his research on the camouflage abilities of cephalopods.
 2. **Joint Social Event:** We are volunteering at 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 2011 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 hold tutorials on commonly used software packages and microscope basics. Potential topics may include: Microscope construction, OriginPro data analysis and plotting, and POV-RAY graphics.
 4. **University Photo Contest:** With the success of the first photo contest, we plan starting another contest during the fall semester. Participation will still be open to the faculty, staff, general student body, and alumni. We will reduce the number of categories to and simplify the submission process to make it easier for participants to submit their photos. We plan on broadening the contest website to include some basic optics tutorials.
 5. **Website Redesign:** We are in the process of consolidating our website for a more organized presentation of the club. There will be a main page which will then link to the photo contest websites for each year and other activities held by our group (tutorial information, calendar, etc.)
- 5. Finances:**
1. **Beginning Balance: \$1111.76**
 2. **Funds Raised/Expended:**

Funds Raised: \$501.60
 - Activity Grant from SPIE:

Total: **\$500.00**

- Rice University Student Activity Fund Interest: 1,113.36
Total: **\$1.60**

Expenditures: \$712.18

- Pizza and refreshments (from Papa John's Pizza) for lunch meetings:
Total: **\$222.18**
- SPIE Presenter Award at Rice Quantum Institute:
Total: **\$250.00**
- Photo Contest Prizes (Amazon.com Gift Cards):
Total: **\$240.00**

3. **Ending Balance: \$901.18**