

Rice Photonic Owls Student Chapter of SPIE

Annual Activity Report

November 1, 2013

Covering November 1st, 2012 – November 1st, 2013

1. Student Officers:

President: Bob Zheng, Email: byz1@rice.edu, Member#: 03485172

Vice President: Sam Gottheim, Email: samuel.gottheim@rice.edu, Member#:

Treasurer: Andrea Schlather, Email: aes5@rice.edu, Member#: 03433499

Secretary: Nicholas King, Email: nking@rice.edu, Member#: 03308185

2. List of Chapter Members: 11 Members

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Membership Expiration Date</u>
Emanuela Ene	5 August 2014
Amanda Goodman	23 October 2013
Sam Gottheim	30 October 2014
Nicholas King	14 October 2014
Mark Knight	30 November 2013
Michael McClain	20 September 2014
Andrea Schlather	20 September 2014
Fangfang Wen	27 October 2014
Yu Zhang	23 October 2014
Bob Zheng	30 October 2014
Linan Zhou	30 October 2014

3. Chapter Activities:

- 1. 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.
- 2. Rice Laboratory for Nanophotonics (LANP) Meetings:** We have initiated a partnership with the Rice Laboratory for Nanophotonics to assist with their monthly meetings. Each month, a LANP poster seminar is held where members present elements of their research. There are typically a dozen graduate students presenting on various subjects

concerning optics at the nanoscale. These meetings provide an excellent venue to learn about the research being done around the university.

3. **Fianium Technical Talk:** We hosted a technical talk from Fianium, a company that produces super-continuum lasers, where a technical expert came to give a short lecture and demonstration.
4. **Tutorials:** We have held tutorials for Maya, a 3D rendering software package, to create figures and schematics of the nanophotonic systems studied in our respective experiments. The tutorials draw a large crowd of active researchers (over 15 at the last meeting) hoping to add some flare to publication and presentation graphics. Food and soft drinks are provided as the tutorial is usual held at night to not interfere with work schedules.
5. **Joint Social Event:** We helped with execution of a joint social event with the Rice University Physics & Astronomy Dept. Graduate Student Association and the Chemistry Dept. Graduate Student Association. The event was held in mid-November 2011.
6. **Officer Elections:** Officer Elections were held on October 31, 2013.

- **Previous Officers** (2012-2013 academic year):

President: Amanda Goodman

Vice President: Nathaniel Hogan

Treasurer: Andrea Schlather

Secretary: Nicholas King

- **Current Elected Officers** (2013-2014 academic year):

President: Bob Zheng

Vice President: Sam Gottheim

Secretary: Nicholas King

Treasurer: Andrea Schlather

4. **Planned Future Activities:**

The Photonic Owls chapter is planning the following activities over the coming year:

1. **Lunch 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 plan on continuing to reviewing the work upcoming guest

speakers hosted by our chapter or various university departments. We expect an attendance of 5-10 people at each meeting.

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 2013 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 continue our tutorial sessions on commonly used software packages and microscope basics. We plan to definitely continue the popular Maya 3D rendering tutorials. Other potential topics may include: Microscope construction, OriginPro data analysis and plotting, IGOR data analysis and plotting, and CAD programming.
4. **Rice Laboratory for Nanophotonics (LANP) Meetings:** We will continue assisting the LANP group in organizing monthly research poster presentations. These meetings are an excellent alternative to our standard meeting and expose our club to many graduate students that aren't SPIE member yet.
5. **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. Due to an unforeseen organizational change in 2013 we were not able to contribute, but we hope to sponsor an award in 2014.

5. Finances:

1. **Beginning Balance: \$932.05**

2. **Funds Raised/Expended:**

Funds Raised: \$700.18

- Activity Grant from SPIE:
Total: **\$700.00**
- Rice University Student Activity Fund Interest:
Total: **\$0.18**

Expenditures: \$383.62

- Food and refreshments (from Papa John's Pizza and Chick-fil-A):
Total: **\$309.35**
- Refreshments for LANP meetings:
Total: **\$74.27**

3. **Ending Balance: \$1248.61**