



Coblentz Society Newsletter

November 2020

Welcome to the November 2020 edition of the Coblentz Society Newsletter. There's a lot going on in the Society; please make certain to read all the way to the end!

New Members

Contributed by Savitha Panikar, current Coblentz Society Membership Chair & Newsletter Editor

I'm very pleased to announce that we have several new lifetime members in the Coblentz Society just over the course of the last month. You can read about them in the following links: our Society's very own **Mark Druy** of Galvanic Applied Sciences (and a past president of the Society), **Brian Cullum**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, **Rohith Reddy**, University of Houston (and Society Board member), **Mary Lewis** of Kaiser Optical Systems, and **Katherine Bakeev** of B&W Tek.

Thank you all for your commitment and investment to the Society!

President's Message

Contributed by Ellen Miseo, current Coblentz Society President

SciX 2020 Report

Well, the unusual year goes on. SciX this year was virtual and to say it was different is putting it mildly. Obviously, there were no spur of the moment conversations on the exhibit floor and the social aspects were very different, but it was still a successful conference. Coblentz Society member **Linda Kidder-Yarlot** and Mary Kate Donais should be congratulated on making the meeting work as well as Kristen Burke from Talley who seemed to be everywhere and involved in everything to make sure things ran like clockwork.

The plenary sessions were live streamed and after the sessions there were Q&A sessions that went smoothly. Our **Craver Award winner Claudia Conti** had a fascinating talk. The Meggers Award and the Charles Mann Award talks, both on Raman, were also interesting.

All the "normal" conference threads were represented and were available as on-demand content. Each talk ran for about 10 minutes and the Q&A was available as a chat function. Personally, I think attendees were a little hesitant to use this function because I did not see as much discussion as occurs at a live session. But we are all learning.

The workshops were offered virtually in a shortened format and the workshop I taught had as many attendees as I had in 2019 when it was live. My conclusion is that there is a need and interest that is being met.

The session that was run in memory of **Clara Craver** was done a little differently. We had younger scientists interview people who had known Clara and, in my opinion, this was a fantastic format. The interview with **Jeanette Grasselli-Brown** shows how far we have come as a scientific community and the interview with **Bob Hannah** mentions that PerkinElmer initially thought that FTIR would never succeed. The Board wants to continue these oral histories and we need someone to keep the program organized. Until we have an organizer, please email Mary Carrabba and me if you have suggestions for senior vibrational spectroscopists who should be interviewed.

To give some visibility to the participating societies, on Monday evening there was a President's Panel organized where the presidents of the participating societies talked about the societies and why belonging to them is useful.

Jim Rydzak once again figured out how to run Speed Mentoring (see report following) and the Talley team identified a tool that worked well. We had about 50 attendees and it provided a venue to have 7-to-8-minute conversations between mentors and mentees. Since this is an on-line tool, we are discussing how to use this in an ongoing way to make connections for the mentoring community.

Finally, we should all thank **Mike George** for a wonderful idea. As you know the Society provides funding to support speaker expenses (such as travel and housing) for the vibrational spectroscopy sessions. Since that was not necessary, Mike suggested using the funds to cover registrations for scientists who are located in geographies where participation in the live conference would be impossible. This effort, the **Coblentz Society Global Welcome Initiative**, provided registrations for scientists outside of North America and Western Europe and attracted a number of attendees. I hope we can figure out how to continue this in the future so that we reach the scientists who can't participate in a live conference.

More Highlights from SciX 2020 - Speed Mentoring

This event was a success! Thanks to Jim Rydzak for organizing this event in a unique format with the help of Kristin Burke from the SciX office who suggested the speed mentoring software, Hopin. Following set up and a successful test run, this was launched during the conference to a crowd of 24 mentees and 28 mentors. Despite some minor glitches, "This was fun" as a first-time mentee put it. There are plans to continue with this format in the future, so if you are interested in getting on the list of mentors or mentees for future events, please email Jim at jim.rydzak@specereconsult.com.

EAS 2020 - November 16-19, 2020

This year, the **Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy Award** is being given to long-time Coblentz member **John A. Reffner** for his unifying work on spectroscopy and microscopy to advance materials and forensic science. Congratulations John!

The **New York Society for Applied Spectroscopy (NYSAS) Gold Medal Award** will be presented to **Jerome Workman, Jr.** and **Howard Mark** at EAS on Wednesday, November 18. Jerry is scheduled to deliver a talk on "*The Present and Future of Chemometrics in the Analytical Sciences*" while Howard is scheduled to deliver a talk on the "*History of Calibration Transfer*." Both awardees are long time Coblentz Society members - congratulations!

There are also some high-caliber courses being offered that align with EAS's mission and include fundamental analytical techniques and principles, novel technologies and regulatory affairs via live

interactive on-line instruction (Zoom). Check out the “*Process Analytical Technology: Out of the Lab and into the Line*” course by Jim Rydzak of Specere Consulting (in collaboration with SAS) on November 11-12, 2020.

As part of the virtual format of the conference, the vendor exhibition will also be on electronic display. There will be a Coblenz Society booth with chat function for registrants to visit. Check out the list of other exhibitors [here](#).

Spectroscopy in the News - Interesting Read

A recent [article](#) in *Nature* by Jonathan O’Callaghan titled “Life on Venus? Scientists hunt for the truth” published on October 2, 2020 confirmed the presence of phosphine gas on our closest neighbor.

Amazon Smile

The Coblenz Society is now part of the Amazon Smile program! Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7212847 to generate donations for the Coblenz Society! 0.5% of your purchase will go to support your Society and its mission. Maintaining our non-profit tax status depends in part on donations from people like you.

Coblenz Member Discount!!

Peak Spectroscopy Software is offering a 50% discount to Coblenz members for their software!

As many of you know, Peaks is the next version of eFTIR, with a re-branded name. eFTIR is a legacy product now, still supported and maintained, but all new development is going into Peaks. For more details on the product, please visit <https://www.PeakSpectroscopy.com/>. Email peaks@tds.net to request the discount.

We would like to hear from you!

Your stories, information and, especially, feedback would add to the diverse perspective we aim at sharing via the Newsletter to trigger meaningful discussions at conferences (even at virtual ones!) or to simply be distributed for the public’s general knowledge. Your submissions can be emailed to Mary.Carrabba@coblenz.org.

We welcome [donations](#) to the Coblenz Society. The Coblenz Society is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Sincerely yours,

Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor

Mark Druy, Assistant Newsletter Editor