



Coblentz Society Newsletter

January 2021

Greetings everyone and welcome to the New Year's first edition of the Coblentz Society newsletter.

New Lifetime Members

We are pleased to introduce our newest lifetime member, **James Hamilton** of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Dr. Hamilton teaches lab work in multidisciplinary areas of chemistry, physics, plastics and engineering. His research in physical and analytical chemistry, instrumentation development, nanomaterial thermodynamics and characterization, contamination control on aerospace and astronomical surfaces, and atomic, molecular and optical physics and spectroscopy have led to two startup companies and multiple patents. Welcome to the Coblentz Society, James! Thank you for your support.

Election Results!

The Coblentz Society recently held its elections and, just like this country's election journey, ours was a bit bumpy too. At long last, we are pleased to announce the two new members joining our Society's Governing Board - **Mike George** and **Peter Harrington**. Mike and Peter are *gurus* in the field of vibrational spectroscopy and longtime stalwarts of the Coblentz Society. Welcome onboard! In addition, **Ian Lewis** has been unanimously re-elected to continue his role as Treasurer of the Society. Thank you Ian for your continued hard work. Congratulations everyone!

President's Message

Contributed by Ellen Miseo, Coblentz Society President

Welcome to January 2021! And welcome to our two new board members Mike George and Peter Harrington. I know that they are both committed to the Society and can help us move forward.

Although it seems like I just wrote one of these messages, it was almost two months ago, and we are making progress. The Society image and website efforts are proceeding, and I am excited that we will have a new modern image for the Society. The library effort is also proceeding at a slower pace. We have encountered some glitches, but I think those can be overcome.

Regarding the website, we are viewing education as one of our key themes. To that end, we will need content and the content will probably need to be aimed at two distinct audiences - the novice and the expert. I would like to ask for some help writing brief pieces on infrared and Raman spectroscopy that we can use. They do not have to be very long. I know that many of you are saying "Why? It's in textbooks." but as we all know Google comes before any book now and our aim is to make us the place to go. Let Mary and I know if you can help write some brief pieces. We can't do it all ourselves.

I mentioned in the last message about the drop in membership. I wrote the following which Mary will be sending out to lapsed members, but if you know of someone who might benefit from the society or needs to be encouraged to rejoin, please share the following with them.

Why belong to the Coblentz Society

The Coblentz Society is dedicated to fostering the understanding and application of infrared and Raman Spectroscopies. Part of our official mission is education and included in that are several new programs where your participation and contributions would be welcome.

We have started new grant programs to assist newer spectroscopists, including scholarships to courses provided by Infrared & Raman Courses, Inc. and both travel and dependent care grants to assist younger scientists attend conferences. By partnering with Spectroscopy Magazine and SAS we have produced a number of very successful educational webinars and eSymposia; recordings of those are available.

We have developed a very successful Speed Mentoring program which has been conducted at various conferences. Covid-19 has forced us into a virtual Speed Mentoring program, and we are planning to run these events monthly. That means we need mentors and your return to the Society lets you give back.

We are working with a software developer to make the Coblentz Spectral Libraries available in a digital format and we anticipate a significant member benefit in that effort. Another member benefit in the works is a considerable member discount to instrument independent spectroscopy software. <https://www.essentialfir.com/>

Finally, we are embarking on an exciting new effort. We are rebuilding our website to make it the place to go for educational information on infrared and Raman spectroscopy.

Please join the Society for Vibrational Spectroscopy!

Finally, I have some sad news to share with our members. **Robert Hannah**, who served as Society Secretary from 1968 until 1991 and was a Williams-Wright Award winner passed away on January 16th. Before he retired, Bob worked for PerkinElmer and was always involved in infrared spectroscopy. After his retirement, Bob continued to consult and was actively involved as part of the teaching staff at *Infrared & Raman Courses, Inc.* Bob was a practicing industrial spectroscopist and in my opinion, the two chapters in *Course Notes on the Interpretation of Infrared and Raman Spectra*, by Dana W. Mayo, Foil A. Miller, and Robert W. Hannah that he wrote on sample handling and infrared spectra of mixtures contain more useful information on practical infrared, in one place than any other resource I have ever seen. I know that Bob will be deeply missed by his colleagues.

Listing on the NYSE:

Danimer Scientific is now listed on the New York Stock Exchange as DNMR beginning December 30, 2020. Danimer's board member and fellow spectroscopist, Dr. Isao Noda, was present at the NYSE opening [bell ringing ceremony](#) on December 30th to announce the IPO of his company, Danimer Scientific. Danimer makes the biodegradable plastic, Nodax™ PHA from vegetable oils. The Nodax™ story will be virtually presented at Pitconn 2021 Monday afternoon, March 8 during the symposium on structural studies of bioplastics.

Call for Award Nominations.....Hurry!

2021 William G. Fateley and Coblenz Student Awards:

Interested young students who are pursuing their graduate studies in vibrational spectroscopy should include a complete CV, a biographical statement, a letter of nomination from their advisor (who must be a member of the Society), one additional letter of recommendation, and an abstract for a presentation at SciX 2021 in their application. These can be emailed to nominations@coblenz.org. Nominations will be accepted until February 28, 2021.

Details and additional awards can be found on the Society's [website](#). The student awards will be presented at SciX 2021.

2021 Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award:

Spectroscopy magazine is seeking nominations for the Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award. The Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award recognizes the achievements and aspirations of a talented young molecular spectroscopist who has made strides early in his or her career toward the advancement of molecular spectroscopy techniques and applications. The winner must be within 10 years of receiving his or her PhD in the year the award is presented. The deadline for nominations for the 2021 award is February 22, 2021. This award will be presented at SciX 2021. Details can be found [here](#).

Pittcon 2021

The virtual conference will be held March 8-12 and is expected to have an expo, employment bureau, short courses, and the technical program. Dates for each of these events are provided on the conference [website](#). Don't forget to attend the 2021 Williams-Wright Award Symposium on Thursday, March 11 at 8:30 AM when **Ian Lewis** will give his talk upon receiving his award. His symposium also has exciting talks by other speakers including **Neil Everall**, **John Wasylyk**, **Nobel Vale**, and **Andrew Whitley**. The symposium is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th starting at 8:30 AM (EST). More details to follow as the date draws closer.

Amazon Smile

Just a reminder - the Coblenz Society is now part of the Amazon Smile program! Make a difference this year. 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.

Coblentz Store

The [Coblentz Store](#) is now open online! Although still under construction pending the launch of our new website, the store features merchandise worth checking out. Get your Coblentz shirts (and other swag) and show your Society spirit during virtual Pittcon! Shipping is free for Society members! Any questions about sizes, fabrics, etc. – just contact Mary at the Society's virtual office.

Coblentz Member Discount!!

Peak Spectroscopy Software is offering a 50% discount to Coblentz 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.

And, as always, 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 Society Newsletter to trigger meaningful discussions at conferences (even at virtual ones!) or to simply be passed out for the public's general knowledge. Our Newsletter Editor is soliciting ideas for articles on "This uses spectroscopy?!" to be linked to from the Newsletter. Please send ideas her way. Your submissions can be emailed to [Savitha Panikar](#) or [Mary Carrabba](#).

Happy New Year from the Coblentz Society!

Savitha Panikar, Society Newsletter Editor