



Coblentz Society Newsletter

February 2021

Welcome to the late, but still full of important information, February Coblentz Society Newsletter. Please read all the way to the end to make certain you don't miss information of interest - jobs, discounts, award announcements, and more!

In Memorium: Robert Wesley Hannah (1931 – 2021)

As was noted by our Society president in our January Newsletter, Bob Hannah, who served as Secretary of the Society from 1968 to 1991, passed away in January. His complete obituary, kindly provided by his daughter, follows.

Robert Wesley Hannah, age 89, of Naples, FL, passed away on Saturday, January 16, 2021 in the comfort of his home.

Robert "Bob" Hannah lived an extraordinary life guided by his vast intellect, insatiable curiosity, humor, love of travel, and his unwavering faith in God. He was a world-renowned scientist, a world traveler, and a sharp-eyed bird watcher. But of all Bob's many notable achievements, he'd be the first to tell you that his greatest achievement of all was marrying the love of his life, Barbara May Richter, and being a loving father to the couples' six children, Matt, Becky, John, Stephen, Clare, and Rick. He adored his grandchildren as well, and was quick to share his bright smile, his sharp sense of humor, and all his amazing stories with them. There was seldom a dull moment when Grandpa Bob was around.

Born on May 10, 1931 in Youngstown, NY to his late parents, John and Alice Hannah, Bob was the oldest of the couple's three children. In 1949 Bob attended Niagara University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, then headed off to Purdue University where he earned a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry. It was while attending Purdue that Bob met the love of his life, Barbara May Richter. The couple got married in 1957 and moved to Pittsburg, PA, where Bob joined Alcoa Research as manager of the infrared laboratory. In 1962, the couple moved to Newtown, CT, where Bob joined the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. While there, Bob honed his specialty in infrared spectroscopy, lecturing around the world, authoring over 100 Perkin-Elmer publications, and becoming the Director of Research for the Instrument Group, with laboratories in Connecticut, England, and Germany. Bob's other professional accolades included being a representative for 13 years on the Industrial Advisory Board for the Center for Process Analytical Chemistry at the University of Washington; he served as chair for one year. Bob was an Honorary member of the Coblentz Society, where he served as secretary for 20 years. Bob received the Williams-Wright Award, presented to an industrial chemist who has made a significant contribution to vibrational spectroscopy. He was an active consultant, lecturer, and had taught at the Bowdoin Infrared Course ever since 1963 until the summer of 2020 when it was cancelled due to the pandemic. After spending many wonderful years in Newtown, CT, and summers on Frye Island, ME, Bob and Barbara moved to Naples, FL upon Bob's retirement in 1992, where the couple split their time between Florida and Maine. Bob was an active member of the Frye Island community as well as serving as a nature guide at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Florida.

Bob is preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, Barbara, and Bob's second wife of 5 years, Jeannie Landi, and his sister, Mary Joan Hannah.

Bob is survived by his brother, Arthur Hannah and sister-in-law Judy, son, Matthew Hannah and daughter-in-law Monica, daughter Rebecca Specht and son-in-law Scott Specht, son, John Hannah and daughter-in-law Darci, son, Stephen Hannah, daughter Claire Krabill and son-in-law Merrill Krabill, son Robert (Rick) Hannah and daughter-in-law Meredith as well as grandchildren, Zachery Hannah, Christopher Hannah, Andrew Hannah, Alexander Hannah, Mishel Hannah, Alicia Lamere, Jackie Specht, Alexandra Specht, James Hannah, Daniel Hannah, Matthew Hannah, Sophie Pak-Hannah, Cassie Sessa, Christi Sessa, Bobby Sessa, Chloe Hannah, and Robby Hannah. He is also survived by his dear friend and companion, Judy Betsworth.

A service with mass will be held for Bob Hannah on Monday, January 25th at 1 p.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, Florida. The link to the service is <https://vimeo.com/503183537/95be8612f2>

In lieu of flowers the family asks that all donations be made in memory of Robert Hannah to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary at the following link.

<https://act.audubon.org/DGbT6uNuVkiWcVzIk8zDcA2>

We also report the passing of **Jack Koenig**, a well-known polymer chemist and spectroscopist. His complete obituary may be found [here](#).

Call for Award Nominations.....Hurry!

2021 William G. Fateley and Coblentz Student Awards:

Nominations of students who are pursuing their graduate studies in vibrational spectroscopy are due by **February 28th**! Nomination packages 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@coblentz.org.

Coming up – nominations for the 2022 Williams-Wright Award are due by **May 1st**. Start thinking of worthy industrial spectroscopists you can nominate!

Details and additional awards can be found on the Society's [website](#). And speaking of awards.....

The 2021 Craver Award goes to Zachary D. Schultz

The Clara Craver Award selection committee and The Coblentz Society is pleased to announce **Professor Zachary D. Schultz** as the 2021 awardee. Zac Schultz has been at the forefront of instrumentation development for the application of surface enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) based methods for biochemical detection. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at The Ohio State University. More information about Zac and the Craver Award may be found [here](#).

Please join us congratulating Zachary Schultz in his selection for the 2021 Clara Craver Award. This award will be formally presented to Zac at SciX 2021.

Pittcon 2021

The virtual conference will be held March 8-12 will have an expo, employment bureau, short courses, and last but not least, 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 award talk "**A Journey with Raman: Research in the Lab and Control of a Manufacturing Process**". His symposium also has exciting talks by other speakers including **Neil Overall**, **John Wasylyk**, **Nobel Vale**, and **Andrew Whitley**. The symposium is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th starting at 8:30 AM (EST). More details on the symposium may be found [here](#).

Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award

Also, of note at Pittcon, The Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award will be presented to long-time Society member **Dr. Isao Noda** of the University of Delaware. Dr. Noda's award talk "**Journey of Two-dimensional Correlation Spectroscopy (2D-COS)**" will be presented Wednesday, March 10th, at 8:40 am. More information on the symposium may be found [here](#). Congratulations Dr. Noda!

Job Opportunity!!

SABIC is looking for a bachelor's level analytical chemist with FT-IR skills! Check out this [link](#) for the full posting.

The Coblenz Store

The [Coblenz 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 Coblenz 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.

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.

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.

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](#).

Stay Well!

Savitha Panikar, Society Newsletter Editor

Mary Carrabba, Society Virtual Office Manager