



## Coblentz Society Newsletter

March 2021

Greetings everyone and welcome to the March edition of the Coblentz Society newsletter.

### **New Lifetime Member**

We are pleased to introduce our newest lifetime member, **Tim Prusnick**. Tim is the U.S. Sales Manager for Renishaw, Inc. and an expert in Raman instrumentation. Welcome to the Coblentz Society, Tim! Thank you for your support.

### **Membership Status**

Just because you're receiving our Newsletter doesn't mean your membership in the Society is active. Active members are those whose dues are paid up to date. Please **[check your membership status](#)** and make certain you haven't inadvertently lapsed! Our lapsed member numbers are reaching the point where we will be forced to purge our database to avoid incurring extra fees from our membership management software provider.

### **President's Message**

*Contributed by Ellen Miseo, Coblentz Society President*

It is March 2021, and we are all still in lockdown.

In March of 2020, leaving Chicago, I was looking forward to Pittcon in New Orleans. Unlike cold Chicago or Atlanta where the convention center is somewhat separated from the bulk of the hotels, New Orleans is a place where the convention center is in the heart of the city and in a location that has great food. But like every other conference since then, Pittcon 2021 was held virtually.

After the experience with a virtual booth at EAS, the Society decided to not have a virtual booth at Pittcon. It was obvious that other societies and companies made similar decisions. The platform the conference used reported the total number of people on-line at any time and from my view, the totals never seemed to go much above 1000. The Society did participate by having the Williams-Wright Award Symposium and the speakers Ian Lewis (the awardee) chose gave remarkably interesting talks. We are hoping to have those talks archived on the new website sometime soon. All the

presenters agreed that if we cannot acquire the recordings from Pittcon, they will re-record the presentations for the Coblenz Society. This is the type of information that will add to the educational content of our website. I strongly encourage any of our members to consider using the recording over slides function in PowerPoint to generate more content for the website.

In conjunction with SAS, four courses were taught on-line and, compared to the ones taught live last year, about half the number of students participated. Although the numbers are lower, we are still making inroads into providing conference audiences with quality training content. One thing that has become obvious though, is that on-line teaching does not provide the interactions and opportunities for questions and discussion that a live class provides.

Although we can say that Pittcon was something of a success we are all hoping for a return to live conferences. And in a misguided attempt to re-create the foods of New Orleans, last week I made gumbo. Although it was tasty and edible, it was nothing like a bowl of gumbo from Mother's Restaurant. I won't be trying a Po'boy.

### **Call for Award Nominations!**

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

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

### **The Coblenz Store**

The [Coblenz Store](#) is open online! Although still under construction pending the launch of our new website, the store features merchandise worth checking out. This month's special comes from the deep recesses of our vault – **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirts!** Where were you in 1994? Did you buy a shirt back then? Has it worn out or just plain disappeared? Check these out for the special low price of \$10 and, as always, 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](mailto: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](https://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](#).

Savitha Panikar, Society Newsletter Editor