



Newsletter

August 2022

Welcome to the (end of) August Newsletter! Our newsletter editor, Savitha Panikar, has been busy this month with all that's involved with beginning a new job – congratulations, Savitha! – so your virtual office manager is filling in.

~Mary Carrabba, VOM

President's message

Submitted by Zac Schultz, Society President

I can hardly believe that summer is coming to an end. Kids have started going back to school and soon the summer heat will give way to autumn color, at least for some of us. With autumn comes many exciting opportunities to connect with the Coblenz Society.

SciX is coming the first week of October, to be held in Covington, Kentucky, just across the river from Cincinnati. More info is available [here](#). Several events are being held that involve Coblenz members, including presentations from students selected from the online research exchanges held earlier this year. Other events include the Craver Award lecture and symposia in honor of the 2022 Craver Award recipient, Wei Min, and in-person speed mentoring. Importantly, we hold our members breakfast where I look forward to meeting with many of you in person.

Not long after SciX is EAS, where several Coblenz members are being recognized for their accomplishments including Rohit Bhargava receiving the NY/NJ SAS Gold Medal and Richard Crocombe receiving the EAS Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy Award.

Recently, the Board of Managers has been discussing long-term programming and how the Society can budget to insure our growth and success. What has become obvious is that the Society is in great shape, but that the success of our initiatives is dependent on the involvement of members. Two great examples are the speed-mentoring efforts led by Jim Rydzak and the international student research exchanges Mike George has championed from the Coblenz side. Other worthwhile efforts, that lack champions, have gone unfulfilled. As we prepare the budget for the upcoming calendar year, we would like to hear from our members about programs you are interested in leading. There is money available to support causes in line with the Society's interests. If you have an idea, please contact me or someone on the board. We are looking to support our members and increase the impact of the Coblenz Society in the greater community.

We have great members, and the Board of Managers and I want to support the efforts of our membership. If you have ideas, we want to hear from you.

Welcome to our new members!

Regular:

Melanie Fein (retired)
Stephanie Gallant (University of Montreal)
Jonathan Pahren (Procter and Gamble)
Monika Poonia (The Ohio State University)
Gail Vinnacombe-Willson (CIC biomaGUNE)

Student:

Daniel-Ralph Hermann (TU Wien)
Christina Mitsi (University of Santiago of Chile)
David Rist (The Ohio State University)
Abigail Smith (The Ohio State University)
Spencer Witte (The Ohio State University)

Remembering Dave Hopkins

Submitted by Richard Kramer

(Editor's note: In our July Newsletter, Savitha requested members share personal memories of Dave Hopkins. One of these memories was shared by long-time member, Richard Kramer.)

I am immensely grateful for the privilege of having Dave Hopkins as a close colleague and dear friend for some 25 years. Dave's warm humanity and generous spirit touched everyone who met him, whether in a casual encounter, while collaborating on a project, as a student in one the myriad courses he taught, while serving with him on a committee, or sharing thoughts over an evening beer at a conference. His genuine kindness, profound patience, and his sincere dedication to helping those around him, combined with his outstanding competence in analytical spectroscopy made him one of the best, most effective teachers in the field.

Dave was a master of the art and science of preprocessing spectroscopic data to optimize reliable exploitation of the information it contains. Dave brought a disciplined approach to experimental design. His meticulous laboratory technique, his insightful ability to address an application within its full context, and his intense determination to do the best possible job for his many consulting clients enabled him to successfully deliver solid, creative solutions for a wide range of cutting-edge analytical applications.

Because he worked primarily on industrial projects, Dave was seldom able to publish accounts of his many successes. That is why few people are aware of his contributions to a considerable number of significant applications. Here, I'll mention just a couple of them. He made major contributions to the development of a cardiac catheterization system which performs hyperspectral physiological imaging of coronary arteries in a beating human heart to provide cardiologists with critical information to guide the placement of stents. He was also a key contributor to a system which employs fluorescence spectroscopy to detect extremely low levels of natural carcinogens in agricultural products. While he was generally unable to publish accounts of his accomplishments, he derived tremendous satisfaction from the fact that his work was out in the world benefiting people.

Dave was not only a dear friend and colleague. I also regard him as a role model. My efforts to emulate his patience, generosity of spirit, and meticulous approach to his work have surely come up short, but they have just as surely helped me become a better chemometrician, a better teacher, and a better human being. Thank you, Dave, for your friendship and inspiring collaboration. You left us much too soon.

Member News

In case you missed our recent News Flash or just need a brief reminder, lifetime Society member **Curt Marcott**, Light Light Solutions, is teaming up with Wiley for a 2-day Webinar Series "**Using IR and Raman Databases to Help Solve Real-World Chemical Problems**" running from Sept 13-14. Check your in-box or click [here](#) for more details.

Conference News – SciX 2022!

SciX 2022 is almost here! Make plans, if you haven't already, to join us October 2-7, 2022, in Covington, Kentucky, along the banks of the Ohio river across from downtown Cincinnati. SciX is the annual meeting of our Society and, accordingly, we have several great events planned in addition to all the SciX programming. Here's a brief overview –more details will follow in our September Newsletter.

- Sunday evening –join us at the SAS Student Poster Session to recognize our student award winners.
- Monday morning –plan to attend our annual members meeting breakfast to reconnect with old friends and find out what's new on the horizon for the Society. The breakfast is free to members, but please [register here](#).
- Monday 10:45 am –attend the Ellis R. Lippincott Award presentation to Martin Zanni and catch his plenary lecture at 11:30
- Monday mid-day –our ever-popular Speed Mentoring event is back! Please [sign up](#) as a mentor or mentee and join the fun!
- Tuesday –Wednesday – stop by our booth on the exhibit floor to check your membership status, purchase a t-shirt, and meet up with friends.

- Wednesday 10:45 am –attend the Clara Craver Award presentation to Wei Min and catch his plenary lecture at 11:30
- Wednesday 1:30 pm –join us for the Craver Award Symposium honoring Wei Min.
- Wednesday afternoon –stop by the booth for Headshots! Free to members!
- Wednesday evening –plans are underway for a reception to honor all our award winners who have missed out over the past few years due to COVID.
- We are doing our best to compile a list of Coblenz members presenting at SciX, but if you want to be certain you're included and recognized, please send us your information.

In addition to the above, several of our members are presenting short courses at SciX. Check out these great educational opportunities!

- IR-Raman Interpretation (**Peter Larkin**, Solvay & **Gloria Story**, P&G)
- Practical Raman Spectroscopy (Sarah Shidler, Renishaw & **Tim Prusnick**, Renishaw)
- Laser Fundamentals for Spectroscopy (**Rob Chimenti**, Rowan University)
- Problems with FT-IR Spectra and How to Avoid Them (**Ellen Miseo** & Jenni Briggs, Pike Technologies)

More details and registration information may be found [here](#).

Conference News – EAS 2022!

EAS will be an in-person meeting at the Crowne Plaza Princeton Conference Center in Plainsboro, New Jersey from November 14-16, 2022. In addition to the technical program (preliminary program is now available [here](#)), several of our members will be presenting short courses:

- The Importance of Microscopy in Microspectroscopy (**Dale Purcell**, Chemical Microscopy, LLC & **Brooke Kammrath**, University of New Haven)
- An Introduction to Quantitative Spectroscopic Analysis (**Deborah Peru**, DP Spectroscopy and Training, LLC)
- Problems with FT-IR Spectra and How to Avoid Them (**Ellen Miseo** & **Jeff D'Agostino**, Specac)
- Portable Spectroscopy and its Application in Forensic Science (**Richard Crocombe**, Crocombe Spectroscopic Consulting & **Pauline Leary**, Federal Resources)
- Modern Raman Spectroscopy Techniques and Applications in the Material and Biological Sciences (**Alexander Rzhetskii**, Thermo Fisher Scientific)
- Process Analytical Technology: Out of the Lab and into the Line (**James Rydzak**, Specere Consulting)

For the complete list of courses with details and to register, click [here](#).

The Society will also be hosting our ever-popular reception at EAS this year in honor of **Rohit Bhargava**, who is receiving the 2022 EAS Award for Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy, and **Richard Crocombe**, who is receiving the 2022 EAS Award for Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy. The [poster paper submission](#) deadline is coming up fast – September 5, 2022 – so be sure to get those submissions in and join us at EAS this November.

In case you missed it.....

Spectroscopy magazine, the Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS), and the Coblenz Society presented a joint virtual conference on July 27 and 28, 2022, on molecular spectroscopy – **Molecular Spectroscopy in Practice: Investigating Problems in Industry and Beyond**. This two-day event provided essential information for molecular spectroscopists developing methods for and applying molecular spectroscopy techniques, including Raman, infrared (IR), and fluorescence spectroscopy, to investigate practical problems in industrial settings and beyond. This program is now available as an on-demand virtual symposium. [Register here](#).

News from the Society Office

Our office is overflowing with t-shirts and other swag! Please check out the [store](#)! If all our members purchased one item, your virtual office manager could get out the door of her office and make it to SciX! Some outstanding inventory has been returned to our stock, so if you don't see a size you want, please ask the office. Remember, shipping is always free for members.

That's all for this month. Be on the lookout for our next Newsletter that will have all our SciX details!

~ Savitha Panikar & Mary Carrabba

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