

MSA Local Affiliate Societies News and Views

Wrapping up my first year as Director has been a wonderful experience and the interactions with so many LAS officers and representatives were personally rewarding. At this summer's MSA Council meeting I suggested using *Microscopy Today* as a forum for LAS programs and announcements and to allow the LAS' to promote their activities. Both Ron Anderson (MT editor) and the MSA Council were enthusiastically supportive, so welcome to the inaugural column of the LAS news! Through continued communication between MSA and the LAS we can grow together and there seems no better way to reach out to the "micro" community than through the large circulation of MT. I have many ideas for this column's content such as MSA information, upcoming LAS meetings, along with highlighting different LAS and their meetings.

The first entry is the Microscopy Society of Northeastern Ohio (MSNO) which just celebrated their 40th anniversary on November 4th. Congratulations! The two keynote speakers were MSA President, Jay Jerome, a LAS tour speaker, who presented "Basic Digital Imaging and Digital Formats" and Robert Simmons, MSA Council Director, who spoke on "Searching for Fungi in the Human Environment." Also in November I was invited to participate at the New York Microscopical Society's (NYMS) annual meeting in conjunction with the Eastern Analytical Symposium. NYMS will be featured in an upcoming column this spring. One upcoming event I would like to announce will be a joint meeting of several regional societies organized by Caroline Miller of the Indiana Microscopy Society (INMS) to be held in Indianapolis, IN on April 20-21, 2007. Stay tuned for more information.

Also, the new LAS Tour Speaker list for 2007 will be in the next column. I urge all LAS to take advantage of the many mechanisms available from MSA such as the Tour Speaker, the Special Meetings Support and the Grant-in-Aid programs. Complete details can be found within the LAS section of the MSA homepage, at www.microscopy.org. One of the topics at the MSA Summer Counsel Meeting was to strengthen its affiliation with the LAS through increased awareness of the above programs and the possibility of offering traveling workshops. I hope by the end of 2007 this becomes a reality.

Under the same LAS section on the MSA homepage you will find a listing of all 33 LAS. If you are not a member, please consider joining. For that matter, if you are not a member of MSA I encourage you to become a member. Whether regionally or nationally, each society is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of the knowledge of the science and practice of all forms of microscopy and is there to serve you. But we need your help and support through your membership and participation. The same goes for our sister society, the Microbeam Analysis Society (MAS), and for the other international microscopy and microanalysis societies around the world. Become a member, become involved.

If your society has an upcoming meeting, news to submit or you have ideas on ways that MSA could strengthen connections with the LAS, please contact me. I look forward to working with each LAS and their officers over the next two years.

Lou Ross, MSA-LAS Director

Email: rosslm@missouri.edu or phone (573) 882-4777

HUMOR



Dear Abbé

Dear Abbé,

Whenever my colleague "Sue" uses my microscope she gets immersion oil all over my 20X objective lens. When I accuse her of sloppy lab technique she denies that she did it. I value Sue's friendship but I am running out of patience and lens tissue. What should I do?

Flummoxed in Phoenix

Dear Flummoxed,

Quit your whining! Your problem is easily solved. Simply replace your bottle of immersion oil with Super Glue. The next time Sue rotates the objectives without first lowering the specimen stage her slide will become instantly and permanently attached to the 20X lens. Let's see her talk her way out of THAT one!

Dear Abbé,

My lab mate "Bruce" and I were tipping the amber fluid with some bikkies and discussing lattices and crystalline unit cells. He was insisting that lattices exist in infinite space. I said, "Oi, Bruce, have you thrown a wobbly? Every bushie and bludger knows there's no such thing as infinite space. Everything has a finiteness about it." Suddenly he gets to spewin and smashes a Fosters over me bean and claims I'm a pommie's son. Naturally the entire establishment gets all into the blue and the next thing you know we're all off to the slammer. "Now you've got your finite unit cell!" says Bruce. I think Bruce is not the full quid, and I'm far dinkum, what say?

Tony from Top End

Dear Tony,

Quit your whining! Your buddy Bruce was probably deluded into thinking that there is infinite space because, let's face it; west of Melbourne there really is NOTHING out there. His question is as esoteric as asking, "How many German Nobel physicists can dance on the head of a neutrino?" Of course the correct answer is 74. You all had obviously too much of the liquid bread and since you couldn't focus on any one reality, were seeing the lattices superposed quantum states, and therefore couldn't tell the difference between finite, infinite, and Schrödinger's cat. When the wave function collapsed, there you were, inside the unit cell. I think you should both apologize to the Cat, and hope no one peeks in.

Got a question for Herr Abbé? Please write to his personal assistant at jshields@cb.uga.edu. Abbé may not answer all the questions, only those he deems worthy.