



OSU Postdoctoral Association
Oregon State University
300 Kerr Administration Bldg., Corvallis, Oregon 97331
<http://oregonstate.edu/opa>

Minutes from OPA Meeting 5-21-15

- I. 4:05 call to order
- II. Roll call
 - a. Attendees: Board members; Ann, Katy and Jeff were absent
 - b. New member Paul will be our new IEP
- III. Approval of minutes of previous meeting, all current members present voted to approve, no dissenting votes
- IV. New business
 - a. Suggestion to change start time of next meeting to 3:45 to allow for earlier ending time
 - i. Next meeting (June 18th) will start at 3:45
 - b. Suggestion to get Adobe connect (or Skype) up and running for our next meeting
 - i. We will try to get a room with a better setup
 - c. Paul will be our new IEP person
 - i. Welcome and thanks!
 - d. We still need a new webpage person
 - i. Getting access to and posting on the page is still problematic
 1. Perhaps Cosine can help? Or the grad college? Or Megan?
- V. Officer and committee reports and unfinished business
 - a. Professional development committee
 - i. Professional development award
 1. 15 people applied for the award
 2. A committee was formed (names are not listed) to vote on the applications
 - a. Meeting in the next week to discuss and vote for top candidates
 - b. Members cannot vote regarding co-workers applications
 3. A finalized list will be given to Megan for the final decision
 4. Awards will be announced at the spring picnic
 5. An award certificate is in the works
 - ii. Previous professional development event was very successful
 1. Good feedback from the panel members
 2. Panelist Marie offered to host a grant writing workshop
 - a. Any associated costs?
 - b. An event like this would probably be really popular
 - b. Social events committee
 - i. Coffee with faculty was successful but noisy
 1. Linus Pauling atrium was busy and echoed badly
 2. Perhaps a closed room would be better for future sessions



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- ii. Spring picnic to be June 6th from 1-5
 - 1. We have a list of items to be purchased (all grillables, condiments, some sides, plates and napkins, charcoal, ice etc.).
 - 2. Two towns donated some cider
 - 3. We will purchase some additional drinks
 - 4. Picnic participants will be asked to bring desserts and sides
 - 5. Renee and Sumit will go for shopping the day before the picnic
 - 6. Rsvp link is going out by the 27th May
- c. Professional development committee
 - i. Planning for October 1st date for “the professor is in” event with Karen Kelsky
 - 1. Need to reserve a room
 - 2. Topic and format of event to be discussed at the next OPA board meeting
- d. OPA mug
 - i. We voted for option 2 and will order 50 mugs
 - ii. Motion to approve purchase, all in favor, no dissenting votes
 - iii. Mugs are to be given to all previous panelists and to professional development award winners
- e. New IEP chair
 - i. Paul was voted in as the new chair, all in favor, no dissenting votes
- f. We still need a new webmaster/mistress
 - i. Any interested parties?
- g. Remove access for members located at Hatfield and other off campus locations
 - i. Adobe connect or Skype?
- h. Upcoming social events
 - i. Pizza lunch is June 4th with Kevin Ahern
 - 1. Topic: practicing your elevator pitch
 - 2. ALS conference room
 - 3. We need at send an announcement and to order pizza for ~20
- i. Fall poster session
 - i. Rooms are reserved
 - ii. We need a keynote speaker and a topic (to be discussed at the next OPA meeting)
- j. July coffee with faculty to be hosted by Ann
- k. IEP committee
 - i. Visit to HP was a huge success, sign up was full in 1 day
 - 1. Do we want to hold this event twice a year? (fall and spring?)
- l. Treasurer’s report
 - 1. Proposed putting together a budget committee
 - 2. We have calculations for previous and upcoming expenditures



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3. Current funding levels are high
 - a. Perhaps we could give out more professional development awards?



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Treasurer's Report – May 19, 2015

Submitted by Ann Sitomer

- Expenditures since last OPA Board meeting:

Catering expense for the Career Development Workshop: \$385.97

Cost of space at LaSells Stewart Center for the Career Development Workshop: \$314.00
(pending, i.e. not yet recorded on our positions)

- Financial position as of 18 May, 2015:

Index Fund

Foundation Fund

\$7,372.26

\$1550.41

- Call for a budget committee: It would be useful to have a sub-committee to draft a budget for FY 15-16 to present to the board at June's meeting for approval. Most of our expenses are around Professional Development and the IEP program, so it will be helpful for Amanda and Jeff to participate. Send Ann the names of interested participants and she'll schedule a meeting within the next two weeks.
- Question: There is no record of Renee being reimbursed for the Avery Park shelter reservation. Please let Ann know if there is something I can do.



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Professional Development Committee Report – May. 21, 2015

Submitted by Amanda Brown

(1) Wrap-up from May 14 Event (So you got your PhD... How do you fund your research?). We'd like to say thanks to all who helped us organize this event, especially Cory and Jenny. 69 registered (35 postdocs, 32 grad students, 2 others), 39 attendees. \$214.80 + \$25 = **\$239.80** for catering and coffee (OSU catering and e.cafe). **Panelists:** Dr. Paul Cheong (Chemistry), Dr. Marie Harvey (Public Health & Human Sciences), Dr. Pankaj Jaiswal (Botany & Plant Pathology), Dr. Mark Novak (Integrative Biology) provided an excellent range of experience. All provided very compelling advice on what to do and not to do in writing funding proposals, and useful points on the most important features of good grants. Timing of introductions and first questions went a little long, leaving less time to finish planned questions and audience question time. Audience feedback: 30 questionnaires said event was "Extremely" useful, 5 said "Moderately" useful, 0 said "Slightly" or "Not" useful. **Positive comments:** the panel was diverse, and provided relevant and thoughtful advice, candid & personal. Suggestions for what to do better: give more time for audience questions, invite engineering faculty, make these events available remotely/online, have future events with more of a hands-on workshop format.

i. TO DO: send out "Thank you" notes and OPA mugs to panelists.

ii. TO DO: provide on OPA website a repository for links and short explanations or overview of a wide range of grant/fellowship/funding opportunities. The idea is to have a standing list which outlines ongoing sources, their frequency and approximate due dates (and approx. length), and who is eligible (e.g. postdoc can be PI, or cannot be PI but can be co-PI, or can be named and can help develop one, etc.)

(2) Professional Development Award. 15 Applicants

i. TO DO: set up award committee time & place to read through them and decide on winners.

(3) Coffee with Faculty, May 7 (Dee Denver) – A successful event, with ~11 postdoc attendees. **\$28** for coffee and bagels/cream cheese from Ava's Cafe. Main points discussed: work-life balance (good, honest communication with family/friends), work outside academia (find multiple mentors in other fields), what matters most in job-hunt documents (publication count above all else, grants awarded, etc.)

i. TO DO: send out "Thank you note and OPA mug to Dr. Denver.

(4) Planning for next PD event The Academic Job Hunt with Dr. Karen Kelsky – The Professor Is In – Oct. 1 Event Planning. Event will be ~3-4 hours with 1/2 presentation and 1/2 hands-on job-document/interview workshop?

i. Need to book room in MU

ii. Need to narrow down detailed topic and event format



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IEP Report May 7, 2015

Visit and lab tour at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis, 7 May 2015

Submitted by Linnéa Andersson, 19 May 2015

The IEP organized a visit for postdocs and graduate students at Hewlett-Packard (HP) in Corvallis on Thursday May 7, 2015. We car-shared to the HP site and toured the facilities of the Analytical labs and the Ink R&D lab for about 1.5 hours. At the end of the visit there was an informal meeting with HP employees from these two groups and an opportunity to chat for about 30 minutes. Our hosts were Bill Stickle and Larrie Deardurff. The initial contact for this visit was established at the IEP workshop together with HP in October last year.

The overall feedback for this event was very positive. On a scale from 1 to 5, were the highest, this event scored 4.2. Several participants shared very positive and appreciative comments during and some sent spontaneous emails after the visit to thank both the IEP and the HP employees.

The participants really appreciated the visit and the possibility to see the HP site as well as the opportunity to network with HP employees. One participant said "Laboratory tour was good and informative in the sense that we got a feel of how an industry lab setting looks like. I was amazed to see so many familiar tools, especially in the failure analysis department of HP." Judging by the collected feedback, the mixer with the HP employees could had been more organized to specifically cater to the interests of the participants and match those with the respective fields of each group or employee. On the other hand, one participant suggested mixing the visitor - host conversation teams to have more perspectives. In summary, the participants really appreciated to meet and chat with the experts and some would have wanted more than 30 minutes times for this part of the visit.

Suggestions for future events include: "NuScale, Gazette-Times, Brewery, Korvis, Perpetua, US Forest Service, and companies on Technology loop in Corvallis."

Out of the 16 accepted participants, including the two organizers Linnéa Andersson and Robert Kokenyesi, there were 12 postdocs and 4 graduate students, however, one person cancelled and two did not show up. In total 34 people signed up and the event filled up within 26 hours.

The event was marketed through the OPA and its e-mail list and to graduate students through Viki Meink at the Graduate School and contacts at specific schools (see Appendix below). Most of the people who signed up were from computer sciences (EECS) which is probably since the contact at EECS distributed the email to their graduate students and postdocs promptly. This highlights the difficulty in proper advertising and dissemination of information and invitations to events.



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APPENDIX

Contacts at specific schools that this event was advertised to:

Sarah Burton

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Graduate Coord

Department of Chemistry

Lynn Ekstedt

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Internship and Communications Coordinator

School of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering

Lynn Paul

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Head Advisor for MIME Graduate Students

School of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

Nichole Thompson

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EECS Graduate Coordinator

School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science



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Social Activities/Networking Committee Report – May 19, 2015

Submitted by Renee Greer, 5/19/15

1. Update of previous month's activities
 - a. Had Peers & Beers 4/16/15, McMenamins on Monroe.
 - b. Had May Coffee with Faculty. Well attended.
2. Ongoing business
 - a. Issues with calendar – Events on right side of homepage do not update properly, old events remain on there and new ones added do not appear. Seems to be an issue with cache/history on each computer? Any way to fix this so that when people visit site it updates each time? Even clearing history doesn't always seem to resolve. For example, June pizza lunch event will not show up no matter what I do...
 - b. Peers & Beers - arriving late raises concern of people arriving before us and leaving. If meeting runs long, I will leave early to make sure somewhere is there before 5:30.
 - c. Coffee with faculty - host for July needed. No respondents on Doodle poll.
<http://doodle.com/67iy3yz3gusvtqz2>
 - i. Preferably occurs on the 1st Thursday every other month, but could be adjusted if needed.
 - ii. Schedule a faculty member, location and time.
 - iii. Arrange coffee and bagels/pastries
 - iv. The faculty member can select any topic – an interesting career experience, something personal about how they got where they are today, etc. Try to steer away from topics that fall under professional development to differentiate from pizza lunches and professional development events.
 - v. The format should be a casual and interactive discussion.
 - d. Pizza lunch for June: Telling your story - Kevin Ahern. Previous feedback (ex. from poster session) was that our “elevator pitches” need work. Next few pizza lunches will focus on different aspects of communication. June – how to tell your story, August – using new media, science in the media
 - e. Spring picnic is rapidly approaching! 6/6/15, 1-5pm, Thompson Shelter in Avery Park. Food planning, organization needed.
 - f. Reservations for fall poster session made for October 15. Multipurpose room for keynote speaker, and Horizon Room for poster session.



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OPA “Thank you” Mug

Submitted by Jennifer Faith

Option 1: Orange Beaverton Color Curve Mug

- Size: 12 fluid ounces
- Design: White with orange and black logo imprint
- Link: http://bargainmugs.com/12-oz-beaverton-color-curve-mugs-c-1_25/12-oz-beaverton-color-curve-mug-orange-p-216
- Price (for 50 mugs): \$273 + \$93 for shipping = **\$366** (\$7.32 per mug)
- Rough mockup of mug with OPA logo:



Option 2: Orange El Grande Two Tone Mug

- Size: 15 fluid ounces
- Design: White with orange and black logo imprint
- Link: http://bargainmugs.com/15-oz-el-grande-two-tone-ceramic-custom-mugs-c-1_235/15-oz-el-grande-two-tone-ceramic-mug-orange-interior-p-1733
- Price (for 50 mugs): \$278 + \$106 for shipping = **\$384** (\$7.68 per mug)
- Rough mockup of mug with OPA logo:



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Option 3: Orange Glossy Sorrento Mug

- Size: 12 fluid ounces
- Design: White with orange and black logo imprint
- Link: http://bargainmugs.com/12-oz-sorrento-ceramic-mug-with-interior-and-accent-color-c-1_208/12-oz-glossy-sorrento-coffee-mugs-orange-p-1377
- Price (for 50 mugs): \$288 + \$102 for shipping = **\$390** (\$7.80 per mug)
- Rough mockup of mug with OPA logo:

