Dr. Robert Witkowski Named Awardee of the Pittsburgh Local Section Distinguished Service Award

Volunteers...what would we do without them! When we look around our communities we know lots of volunteers; they’re the people we live with, the people next door, friends and neighbors, all donating their time to the projects they believe in. We’re extremely fortunate in the Pittsburgh local ACS section to have an amazing array of willing volunteers; people who judge at the science fairs, inspire our students with science outreach seminars and act as mentors for many of us. Some volunteers develop their involvement further and become keystones in local section affairs, they not only accomplish great things in one year, but they keep the society running over decades, helping us grow. Dr Robert (Bob) Witkowski continues to do all these things, we are honored to work with him in the local section.

Bob has been an active member of the Pittsburgh section for more than 35 years. During that time he has been editor of the Crucible, Chair of the Chemists Club, Chair, Councilor and Director of the local ACS group. He co-chaired the 25th ACS Central Regional Meeting in Pittsburgh and was on the organizing committee for the 35th CRM. Bob has set a very active example for us to follow, promoting science and the chemical industry throughout his career.

Bob says his love of chemistry began as a child, when he received his first chemistry set. With the nurturing of excellent educators in high school and college, Bob graduated from Pitt and began a career that he has enjoyed tremendously. He worked at CMU, conducting fundamental research and then accepted a position at Westinghouse.

There is only space to cover but a few of Bob’s research contributions at Westinghouse. He was involved in microanalytical and physical chemistry and spectroscopy, he worked on the use of liquid metals as reaction solvents and the development of microwave excited plasma reaction chemistry for the production of diamond-like coatings. In his free time Bob even helped set up the mineral display at the Carnegie Hall of Minerals!

Bob is now retired, but that hasn’t slowed down his enthusiasm for chemistry. He still promotes science through seminars and lectures sponsored by the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, and he continues his activities with the local ACS group.

Thank you Bob for all of your hard work, for the inspiration you’ve given to many students and the strong influence you’ve had on the local section! Volunteers like Bob...we wouldn’t survive without them!

Submitted by Pittsburgh Section Chair, Christina Mastromatteo

Correction
Mordecai Treblow did not write the obituary for Ted Weismann on page 1 of the September issue. The correct authors are Lew Morse and Dr. Robert J. Pirkle. Also Weismann served as Councilor from 1993 until his death.

Contents...

Dr. Robert Witkowski Named Awardee of the Pittsburgh Local Section Distinguished Service Award 1
Pittsburgh Award Dinner 3
Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh October Meeting 4
Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh October Meeting 5
National Chemistry Week Call For Organizations and Volunteers 6
ACS Pittsburgh Chemists Club October Meeting 7
National Chemistry Week Poster Contest 7
Councilor’s Report - ACS Fall National Meeting 8
Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Technology Forum 9
Advertiser’s Index 11
Calendar 12
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Pittsburgh Section  
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Honoring 2007 Pittsburgh Award Recipient  
Dr. Richard D. McCullough

and

Pittsburgh Local Section Distinguished Service Award Recipient  
Dr. Robert E. Witkowski

October 23, 2007  
Pennsylvania Athletic Association  
4215 5th Ave., Pittsburgh, PA

Social Hour 6:00-7:00 PM Cash Bar  
Dinner 7:00 PM  
Award Presentation 7:45 p.m.

Cost:  
By October 9, 2007: $30.00, Student or Postdoc $15.00  
After October 9, 2007: $35.00, Student or Postdoc $17.50  
The awards ceremony is free and open to the public

Parking is Valet, $5.00/car

Registration Form: Make Checks payable to Pittsburgh Section ACS  
To be registered for the dinner, you must include payment

Name__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________ State _______ Zip __________

E-mail_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Mail to:  
Linda Peteanu, Carnegie Mellon University  
4400 Fifth Ave. #139  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2617  
by October 9, 2007  
peteanu@andrew.cmu.edu
NASA’s Dawn mission is designed to travel to asteroid 4 Vesta and dwarf planet Ceres on an eight-year journey to the asteroid frontier. Our mission is to understand the origin and evolution of the solar system by obtaining geophysical and geochemical data on these two diverse bodies located in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. This is a dramatic mission that makes use of new propulsion technology, called ion propulsion that was demonstrated effective in a technology demonstration mission that flew past an asteroid and a comet between 1998 and 2001, called DS 1. The advantage of ion propulsion is that it carries us into the middle of the asteroid belt at a cost of under $400 million dollars. The down side is that it takes a lot of time, 4-years to get to Vesta, and another three to get to Ceres. The mission plan allows us to orbit both bodies. Dawn is the first NASA mission to orbit two bodies. The spacecraft carries three instruments, imagers, a visible and infrared spectrometer and a gamma-ray (VIR) and neutron spectrometer (GRaND). The radio antenna provides astrometry from which the gravitational field and internal structure can be inferred. Vesta is a differentiated body that melted and differentiated soon after the solar system formed. A major collision in the Southern Hemisphere of Vesta resulted in hundreds of fragments from 1-50 kilometers being thrown into space. (Vesta’s diameter is 530 km). In the following 4.5 billion years, gravitational interactions within the asteroid belt sent fragments into a resonance in the inner belt and from there they were ejected into earth-crossing orbits. About 7% of all meteorites are likely from Vesta. We look to Vesta for evidence of other planet-like processes to understand how planets were formed in the early solar system. If it weren’t for this large collision, Vesta might also be a dwarf planet. Ceres on the other hand, is larger than Vesta and is 952 km in diameter. It too is differentiated like Vesta, but it contains a lot of water. Why is one body dry and the other wet? What are the differences and similarities between their surface and interior structures and compositions? The spectrometers and cameras on board the Dawn spacecraft will answer those questions. The mission ends in July 2015. Will our new view of these protoplanets change our view of the solar system and how it formed? Most likely, and in ways that I can’t anticipate now.

Bio
Dr. Lucy McFadden is a planetary scientist at the University of Maryland’s Department of Astronomy. Her field of expertise is the solar system with a focus on the role of asteroids and comets in the solar system’s formation. She has also created and overseen the execution of education and public outreach programs for NASA’s Deep Impact mission which excavated a crater in comet Tempel 1, and the Dawn mission to orbit Vesta and Ceres. She received her undergraduate degree from Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, in 1974, an MS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1977 and a PhD in Geology & Geophysics from University of Hawaii, 1983. She has been a National Science Foundation Visiting Professor and was founding faculty director of the Science, Discovery & the Universe Program of the College Park Scholars at College Park.

In addition to teaching and research she has served on the National Research Council’s Committees on Data Management and Computation (CODMAC), and Planetary and Lunar Exploration (COMPLEX) as well as the editorial board of Icarus, the International Journal of Solar System Research. She is an editor of the Encyclopedia of the Solar System published in second edition by Elsevier/Academic Press, 2007. Dr. McFadden has co-authored over 70 research papers in refereed publications. She played a lead role in coordinating the World-wide effort to observe Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9’s collision with Jupiter in 1994. She was a member of the science team for NASA’s Near-Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) mission, which orbited asteroid 433 Eros for a year and landed on February 14, 2001. She was a co-Investigator of the Deep Impact mission to Comet Tempel 1, with responsibilities for its education and public outreach program. She is also a co-investigator of NASA’s Dawn mission launching in September, 2007 to orbit asteroids Vesta and Ceres in 2011 and 2015, respectively. Dr. McFadden recently served on the senior review team of the Near Earth Object Survey report which Congress requested of the NASA administrator to submit a plan to survey 90% of potentially hazardous objects 140 meter in diameter and larger by the end of 2020. In July, 2007, NASA announced that the Deep Impact spacecraft was selected to continue to another comet, and the mission EPOXI began. This mission will both travel to another comet, and characterize extra-solar planets around nearby stars.

Dinner Reservations: Please e-mail Carolyn Benga at crbssp@yahoo.com or call (412) 487-0915 to make dinner reservations NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, October 12, 2007. Dinner will cost $8 and checks can be made out to the SSP. If you have dietary restrictions, please let Carolyn know when you RSVP. Parking Instructions: The Duquesne University Parking Garage is located on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, receive parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Pick up a parking chit at the dinner or meeting. If any difficulties arise, contact Dr. Mitch Johnson at Duquesne University.
Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

October Meeting
Monday, October 1, 2007
Duquesne University, Laura Falk Hall


Jonathan V. Sweedler, Ph.D.
Lycan Professor of Chemistry
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

Dinner - Student Union, City View Café (6th Floor) 6:30 P.M.
Technical Presentation 8:00 P.M. Laura Falk Hall

Why study the chemical content of individual cells? Understanding the functioning of our brain is hampered by a lack of knowledge of the full complement of neurotransmitters and neuromodulatory compounds used in many brain regions. As neurochemistry can be different even in adjacent neurons, single cell measurements allow a unique perspective on cell-cell signaling. Because neurotransmitters range from gaseous molecules such as NO to large peptides that are only bioactive with particular posttranslational modifications, a variety of capillary separations and sample-limited mass spectrometric approaches have been developed in our laboratory to perform single cell measurements. Here, the sampling and chemical characterization approaches to allow such measurements are highlighted. Several capillary electrophoretic methods enable neurotransmitters to be measured at individual neurons and at neuronal release sites. Mass spectrometric approaches ranging from single cell MS, single bead solid phase extraction and MS-based imaging are described. Using such technology, new serotonin-related compounds and literally hundreds of new neuropeptides have been characterized. These technologies are compared for characterizing neurotransmitters from well-characterized neuronal networks from several neuronal model systems.

Bio:
Jonathan V. Sweedler obtained a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Arizona in 1988 (supervisor: Professor M. Bonner Denton). He spent three years at Stanford as a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratories of Richard N. Zare (Chemistry) and Richard H. Scheller (Neuroscience). He then moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana / Champaign, where he currently is a Lycan Professor of Chemistry. He is the director of the UIUC Carver Biotechnology Center, and has appointments in the Neuroscience Program, the Department of Physiology, the Beckman Institute, the Institute of Genomic Biology and the Bioengineering Program. His research interests are in bioanalytical chemistry, and focus on developing new methods for assaying small volume samples, and applying these methods to study novel neurochemistry. He and his group are developing new sampling methods interfaced to capillary scale separations, nanoliter volume NMR, single-cell mass spectrometry, information rich spectroscopic detectors for capillary-scale separations, and hybrid nanofluidic/microfluidic devices for neuronal sampling. Using this suite of technologies, he is investigating the roles that peptide hormones, neurotransmitters and neuromodulatory agents play in behavior, learning and memory. He has received numerous awards including the SACP Pittsburgh Analytical Chemistry Award, the Merck Prize, the Instrumentation Award from the Analytical Division of the ACS, the Gill Prize, the Benedetti-Pichler Award for Microanalysis, and is currently an associate editor of Analytical Chemistry.

Dinner Reservations: Please email Larry Senor, Arrangements Co-Chair at senor@pittcon.org, by Thursday, September 27, 2007 to make dinner reservations. Should you not have email, please call Larry at 724-327-4428. Dinner will cost $8 ($4 for students) and checks can to be made out to the SACP. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Larry know when you leave message.

Parking: Duquesne University Parking Garage entrance is on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage receive parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Pick up a parking sticker at the dinner or meeting. Contact Dr. Mitch Johnson at Duquesne University if any difficulties arise.
National Chemistry Week
Sign Up Your Organization to Volunteer for National Chemistry Week!

Join the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of NCW with the 2007 theme “The Many Faces of Chemistry”

Where: Carnegie Science Center
When: Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27, 2007

We need a contact person from your organization to coordinate your group’s participation in this year’s event.

Each organization will be responsible for coordinating their event table activities and volunteers. There are opportunities for individuals to volunteer if their organization is unable to sponsor an event table.

Please complete the attached Point of Contact Information Form by Friday, September 14, 2007 and return by fax or e-mail to:

Michael Mautino
Bayer MaterialScience LLC
Fax: 412-777-7864 E-mail: michael.mautino@bayerbms.com
Questions? Call Michael: 412-777-4792

The mission of NCW is to reach out to the public, especially students, with positive messages about the important role chemistry plays in our daily lives. The NCW activities at the Carnegie Science Center are an ideal forum to promote science education and science literacy to young people, showcasing local professional societies, organizations, corporations and businesses, colleges and universities, and secondary schools. Since 1999, over 2000 individuals representing 200 groups from Southwestern Pennsylvania have volunteered each year to help celebrate NCW in Pittsburgh. This annual program has reached over 40,000 eager young people and curious adults who have enthusiastically participated in a variety of hands-on experiments and activities and watched amazing chemistry related demonstrations. Through television and newsprint media, NCW has indirectly reached millions of people in the region with a positive message about the importance that chemistry plays in our quality of life. The Pittsburgh Section ACS has been the recipient of seven consecutive national ACS awards for its NCW program and has been nominated for an eighth award in 2007!

POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Name: _________________________________________________________________

Telephone (include area code): _________________________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

Your organization’s name (as you would like it to appear on the event table sign):

EVENT PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

We will participate:

___ Friday, October 26, 2007 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
___ Saturday, October 27, 2007 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
___ Both Friday and Saturday

Special consideration for table locations will be given to those organizations that participate on both Friday and Saturday. Additional tables are available on a limited basis. Contact the NCW coordinator if your organization would like a second table.

Do you have any special needs for your event table and or display?

Electricity ___ Other (please specify: ________________________________________________
ACS Pittsburgh
Chemists Club
Pittsburgh Section, American
Chemical Society

October 30, 2007

Toward Resolving Almost 150 Years of the

Darwinism-Evo-Devo Debate:
by
Professor Jeffrey H. Schwartz
University of Pittsburgh

Duranti’s Restaurant
128 N. Craig St., Pittsburgh, PA

6:00 PM
Cocktail Time - Cash Bar
6:45 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program

For reservations, please call Ed Martin by noon, Friday, October 26, 2007 at (724) 335-0904 or e-mail at esm@icubed.com.

Evolutionary developmental biology (evo-devo) contrasts with present-day Darwinism by emphasizing change via the recruitment of an existing “internal” developmental potential of an organism, rather than via the modification of an organism by a continual yet mild barrage of external demands that somehow become incorporated into its developmental program. The essence of this intellectual standoff was enacted in the early years of evolutionary biology, in the debate between Darwin and Mivart. This debate also rests on envisioning the bases of the “emergence of novelty” and the “persistence of novelty” as either one and the same, or as fundamentally different. Clearly, the expectation of each perspective leads to (and may be informed by) differences in how one perceives evolutionary change or “transformation” and in how one imbues only some, rather than all natural or experimental observations with biological credibility. I shall argue that there is a very real difference between the emergence and persistence of novelty, but also that both phenomena can be accounted for by known properties of cellular biology.

Biography:
Jeffrey H. Schwartz is a professor in the Departments of Anthropology and History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1974. He is a physical anthropologist whose research areas include the evolutionary relationships and systematics of fossil and living primates, including humans, and aspects of evolutionary theory, especially phylogenetic reconstruction and models of change. Most recently he has been involved in the first study of virtually the entire human fossil record (which is being published as a series) and has also been collaborating on a project that seeks to meld mechanisms of cell biology, the regulation of organismal development, and the pattern of the fossil record with evolutionary theory. Dr. Schwartz has done fieldwork in the United States, England, Israel, Cyprus, and Tunisia and museum research in the mammal and vertebrate paleontology collections of major museums.

National Chemistry Week
Poster Contest

As part of the National Chemistry Week (NCW) 2007 celebration and in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the program, the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring a poster contest for students in Kindergarten - Grade 12.

Students are invited to create a poster that celebrates the theme “The Many Faces of Chemistry.” The poster should be fun, motivational and inspire students to pursue a science/chemistry-related career.

Consider how science/chemistry is used by people in different careers.

• Photographer: Chemistry’s role in developing film and making prints
• Artist: The chemistry of the materials used to paint, draw or sculpt
• Veterinarian: Understanding what medicines can be given to pets

• Crime Scene Investigator: Investigating crimes with chemical tests

Local Prizes:
First and second place in each of the following categories:

• K - 2nd
• 3rd - 4th
• 5th - 8th
• 9th - 12th

1st Place: $50 and other great NCW items
2nd Place: $25 and other great NCW items

Plus…free admission to the Carnegie Science Center on October 27th to celebrate National Chemistry Week!

All 1st place winners of the local contest will be entered to win the national contest.

Continued on Page 9
Three of our ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors were in attendance at Boston.

The meeting attracted over 15,000 attendees and an exposition of 509 booths.

The following candidates for President-Elect for 2008 are:

Thomas Lane
Howard M. Peters

The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that the total meeting registration was 15,344. Of these, 8,792 were regular registrations, 1,676 were exhibitors, 3,518 were students, 784 were exposition only, and 574 guests. The exposition had 324 companies represented in 509 booths.

In Chicago, 1,520 job seekers registered with the NECH with interviews scheduled for 911 positions from 126 employers.

The Pittsburgh Section won a Chem-Luminary Award for National Chemistry Week.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the following candidates for District II for a 2008-2010 term: Joseph R. Peterson and Diane Grob Schmidt. The election of a Director for District II will be conducted in the fall. The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Director-at-Large for a 2008-2010 term: Janan M. Hayes, Helen A. Lawlor, Kent J. Voorhees and Frankie K. Wood-Black. The election of two Directors-at-Large will be conducted in the fall.


The Council approved an increase of ten dollars for the 2008 national meetings advanced registration fee.

The Council voted to accept the Petition on Local Section Affiliations that addresses a difference in current Society Bylaws regarding the responsibilities of the Committee on Local Section Activities and the Committee on Divisional Activities in oversight of the establishment of affiliations by local sections and divisions respectively. Responsibilities for LSAC in approving local section affiliations will now parallel those currently established for DAC.

The Council voted to continue the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols. The Council also voted to support the request of the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities that its status be changed from an “other committee” of the Board to a joint Board-Council Committee.

The Council voted to amend the acronym of the Committee on Project SEED and update the committee’s charge. The acronym will be changed from “Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged” to “Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged.”

A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda. The discussion focused on ACS policy development and advocacy efforts. ACS President Hunt framed the discussion by posing three questions: 1) How can ACS encourage more members to participate by bringing their expertise to the development of more targeted policy questions? 2) What can ACS do to increase member involvement in public policy advocacy? 3) How can ACS be a more effective leader in policy activities in the broader science and technology communities? Councilors entered into a robust exchange, offering several useful comments and suggestions. As a follow-up, President Hunt invited councilors to visit her website at www.acspresident.org for additional information.

Continued on Page 9
Wednesday, October 17, 2007

“Lasing Without Inversion: Bose-Einstein Condensation of Polaritons in Semiconductor Microcavities”

Dr. David Snoke
University of Pittsburgh

There are a number of energy quasiparticles which exist and move freely inside solids--phonons, excitons, plasmons, magnons, etc. Polaritons are another type of quasiparticle, which share many properties with photons but can also have effective mass and scatter from each other like atoms in a gas. In specially designed circumstances they can undergo Bose-Einstein condensation just like atoms in the well-known atomic condensates in optical traps. We have succeeded (Science 316, 1007 (2007)) at trapping polaritons and making condensates which have many of the same properties as atomic condensates. The polariton condensate emits coherent light, and therefore is also like a laser in many ways, but it is fundamentally different in some ways, leading some to call it “lasing without inversion”. I will review the physics of polaritons and discuss the recent work by our group and other groups around the world.

Bio
David Snoke (A.B. Cornell ’83, Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ’90) is an associate professor of experimental condensed matter physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Pittsburgh. Before coming to Pittsburgh he worked with Manuel Cardona at the Max-Planck Institute for Condensed Matter Research in Stuttgart, Germany. He has long studied exciton and electron dynamics in semiconductors, and was recently named a fellow of the American Physical Society for his contributions in this field.

National Chemistry Week Poster Contest
Continued from Page 7

National Prizes: First and second place in each of the above grade categories:

1st Place: $200 Gift Certificate to amazon.com

2nd Place: $100 Gift Certificate to amazon.com

There are also national prizes for teachers of winning students, which will include a Periodic Table of the Elephants poster.

EDUCATORS: Find additional ideas about careers in chemistry, resources for students and easy ways to celebrate at chemistry.org/ncw.

For additional information about the Pittsburgh contest and where to drop off your top two winning entries from your school by October 17, 2007, contact Susan Gillette Meer at 412.571.0157 or e-mail smeer@mtlsd.net.

A complete list of contest rules can be found on the section’s website:
http://membership.acs.org/P/Pitt

Councilor’s Report
Continued from Page 8

The Board of Directors voted to approve a revised draft of the ACS Strategic Plan with the addition of specific strategies to be executed in 2008. The Board also approved a proposal for next steps in its contingency plan. The ACS contingency plan provides a set of actions that could be undertaken if certain threats or opportunities became realities for the Society.

The newly reinvented ACS website, scheduled to launch September 30, 2007, will feature a unifying global navigation and dramatically improved user experience. The new url is www.acs.org and users who have bookmarked www.chemistry.org will be forwarded to the new site.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard S. Danchik (Author)
Michael Mautino
Mark Bier (Alternate Councilor)
Pittsburgh Section Councilors
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Stay up-to-date on all the happenings of the Pittsburgh Section ACS by visiting the section’s website.
http://membership.acs.org/P/Pitt

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There are many companies and organizations searching for chemical and biochemical personnel to fill important jobs in their organizations.

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There are several web sites that may help you search for these open positions.

- www.mboservices.net/recr_disp.php
- http://pubs.acs.org/chemjobs/

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Visit the section’s website for more information.
http://membership.acs.org/P/Pitt
October

Mon.  1  **Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP)**
Duquesne University, Laura Falk Hall
Jonathan V. Sweedler, Ph.D., Lycan Professor of Chemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

Wed.  17  **Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Technology Forum**
Duquesne University, Mellon Science Hall
“Lasing Without Inversion: Bose-Einstein Condensation of Polaritons in Semiconductor Microcavities”
Dr. David Snoke, University of Pittsburgh

Wed.  17  **Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh**
Duquesne University, Maurice Falk Hall
“NASA’s Dawn Mission: Journey to the Asteroid Frontier”
Professor Lucy McFadden, University of Maryland

Tues.  23  **Pittsburgh Award Dinner**
Pennsylvania Athletic Association

26-27  **National Chemistry Week 2007**
Carnegie Science Center
“The Many Faces of Chemistry”

Tues.  30  **ACS Pittsburgh Chemists Club**
Duranti’s Restaurant
“Toward Resolving Almost 150 Years of the Darwinism-Evo-Devo Debate”
Professor Jeffrey H. Schwartz, University of Pittsburgh