Highlights from the 2001 Annual Meeting

by Niki Eloshway

The meeting was called to order by President William Neuder at 10:07 a.m. in the Crystal Forum on February 15th, 2001. Renee Luebke presented the Treasurer’s Report for 2000.

Heather Shackelford presented Ant Awards to Justin Bettendorf, Kenneth Bomberg, Nicole Coy, Michael Cuff, Ronald DelGizzi, Matthew Smith, Beth Stephan and Sneh Varma. Ant Awards are given to individuals for “carrying a burden far out of proportion to the size of the effort humanly expected, and for valuably contributing to the Society.”

The Grand Ant Award is given to the individual who embodied the spirit of volunteerism for the PTOS in 2000. This year’s recipient was Meredith Petravick, an examiner in TC3600 who started at the Office in 1999. Ms. Petravick is an enthusiastic and positive member of the Board of Directors who worked on the Membership Committee, the Social Committee and the Distribution Committee. She recruited new members to the Society at the new employee orientations, which resulted in recruitment of approximately 90% of new examiners. Ms. Petravick is the coordinator for the Society’s “What’s New” postings, a Kids See Annual on pg 4

28th Annual Rossman Award Winner Selected

by Richard Stouffer

The Rossman Committee is pleased to announce that the winner of this year’s 28th annual Rossman Award is James R. Barney of Finnegan, Henderson. Mr. Barney received this award for his article in the April 2000 Journal of the Patent and Trademark Society entitled “The Prior Use Defense: A Reprieve for Trade Secret Owners or a Disaster for Patent Law?”.

The Rossman Memorial Award was established in 1972 by the Society and the friends of Dr. Joseph Rossman, who was an Editor-in-Chief of the Journal for many years and was the author of numerous articles on patent law.

This award is given annually to the author of the article in the Journal which, in the opinion of the judges, makes the greatest contribution to the field of Patents, Trademarks or Copyrights. Factors that are taken into consideration include originality, timeliness of the subject, depth of research, accuracy, readability, and potential for impact on the existing system.

To select this year’s award recipient, a panel of three highly qualified judges reviewed all of the articles published in the Journal between July 1999 and June 2000. Our Judges gave a great amount of their time and consideration to select the winning article. The judges were:

(1) Robert J. Spar, Director of the Office of Patent Legal Administration here in the USPTO;
(2) Gregory J. Maier of Oblon, Spivak in Arlington; and
(3) J. Michael Thesz of Hogan and Hartson in Washington, D.C.

The Rossman Award was presented at this year’s PTOS Annual Meeting. The award includes a plaque and a check for $1500 for the winner of the 28th Annual Rossman Memorial Award, James R. Barney.

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PTO employees can visit us on the Shared Folders under Patent News/Social Activities/ PTOS
The Executive Corner
by William (Butch) Neuder

The volunteer efforts of our members continue to help the PTOS grow and expand. The PTOS has over 15 active committees including the Social, Education, Legislative, Public Relations, Kids & Chemistry and Historical Display Committees, just to name a few.

The PTOS in 2001 will feature hockey games, baseball bus trips, a spring picnic, Member’s Night on the Hill, a dinner dance and golf tournaments. Numerous other opportunities are available to our membership to get involved and to help plan numerous events. Please check out our web site and the What’s New page to be notified of our upcoming events. Help make this year a truly memorable one!

I would also like to congratulate and welcome the new and returning members who will be making up the 2001 Board of Directors. A listing of the 2001 Board of Directors can be found on Page 5.

- Butch

SHOTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING
Photography by Arpad Kovacs

Paul Bell presents Judge Helen Nies’ son and grand daughter with the Federico Award on Judge Nies’ behalf.

Meredith Petravick (left) accepts Grand Ant Award from outgoing Vice President Heather Chun Shackelford. Meredith started at the PTO in June of 1999 and is an Examiner in TC3600.

Keynote speaker Dr. Patsiokas discusses XM Satellite technology.

Re-elected PTOS President William “Butch” Neuder enjoys lunch with invited guests at the reception following the Annual Meeting.

Outstanding Service Award recipient, Al Smith enjoys talking with fellow PTOS members.

Look for us at: http://www.PTOS.org
PTOS Hosts CFC Happy Hour at Sports Pub

by Michael Cuff

“Hey Cuffy, I have an idea for a fund raiser for CFC. Can you help?” And so the planning began. Chris Ellis, SPE of 3651 and a CFC fund raising coordinator, had an idea for a happy hour at the Crystal City Sports Pub as a means for raising money.

The first step was to talk to one of the owners of the Sports Pub, John Finley. John’s “anything for charity” attitude was a huge help. He agreed to provide drink specials and private space. The Sports Pub further donated gift certificates and sporting event tickets.

Next step: how to get people to the event and how to pry money from them for the CFC? The answer was to put the Commissioner for Patents, Mr. Nick Godici, behind the bar and to provide games of skill, knowledge and chance. Mr. Godici was one of several guest bartenders including Chris Ellis, Jenny McNeil, Rashmi Sharma, Trista Etzig and Mike Cuff. There was a putting contest with donated glasses and a golf bag as prizes. There was a trivial pursuit contest with donated mugs and an Entertainment Book as prizes. A special thanks to the PTOS who donated their leftover glasses and mugs to help the cause. The Sports Pub further donated gift certificates and sporting event tickets.

On December 7, 2000, a day which did not have much infamy, the party began. Eileen Lillis, SPE of 3673, was at the entrance greeting everyone, explaining all the activities, and taking their cover money. Avi Lerner was in charge of the golf game. See Happy Hour on pg 4

Diversity Programs Council Diversity Forum

By Kenneth Bomberg

The first Diversity Programs Council Diversity Forum of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) was held in the Patent Theater on December 4, 2000 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The Forum is envisioned to be held quarterly, between regular Program Council meetings, in order to entertain input from anyone interested in contributing to the Programs Council. The mission of the Diversity Programs Council is to monitor the implementation of Department of Commerce and USPTO diversity policies and programs, to evaluate their effectiveness, and to develop recommendations that will be shared with the USPTO Executive Board. The Department of Commerce believes that it is important to have a wide variety of perspectives on the range of issues impacting diversity to enhance the trust and confidence of its employees and external customers.

Wayne Yoshino from the Office of Civil Rights served as the meeting facilitator. Under Secretary Dickinson shared his vision for the council and introduced members who had been named. Members will serve for two-year terms.

The members introduced were:

Kenneth Bomberg – Patent and Trademark Office Society (PTOS)
David Fox – LAMBDA PTO
Sheila Plater – USPTO Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG)
Monique Cole – African American Women Professionals in Intellectual Property Occupations (The Sisterhood)
Ollie Person – National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) 243
Josette M. Beverly - National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) 245
James Wilson – Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)

CFO/CAO – Clarence C. Crawford
Patents – Esther Kepplinger
Chief of Staff – Peter Fowler

Under Secretary Dickinson subsequently named additional representatives to broaden the Council. The PTOS is committed to promoting diversity and supporting the USPTO in diversity initiatives.

Historical Display Committee Featured Inventor

Louis Pasteur

-adapted from the National Inventor’s Hall of Fame biography by Renee Luebke

French Chemist Louis Pasteur was the founder of microbiological sciences and stereochemistry. He is well known for developing the mild heating process that kills microbes just after fermentation has been completed. This process, now known as pasteurization, revolutionized the wine industry. He discovered the cause and vaccine for anthrax and rabies. He taught others about germs and the need for sterilization and sanitary conditions.

Born on December 27, 1822 in Dole, France, Pasteur received his scientific education at the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris. He originally intended to become a teacher, but in striving to understand science and chemistry well enough to inspire his students, he launched his own career in investigating germs and the causes of infectious diseases. He served successively as professor of chemistry in Strasbourg, the Dean of the Lille Faculty of Sciences and professor of chemistry at the Sorbonne.

Pasteur’s studies of fermentation began in Lille when he was approached by an alcohol manufacturer, the father of one of his students, who was disturbed because undesirable products often appeared during the fermentation of sugar into alcohol. Pasteur postulated that these products came from microscopic organisms other than yeast and suggested that each particular type of fermentation was the effect of a specific microorganism, called the germ. He proposed that spoilage of perishable products could be prevented by destroying the microbes already present in these products and by protecting the sterilized material against subsequent contamination from airborne organisms. Pasteur applied this theory to the preservation of beverages and foodstuffs, thereby introducing pasteurization.

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See Pasteur on pg 6
The Outstanding Service Award is given to a member of the PTOS who has contributed years of hard work to the Society or has a significant accomplishment which has greatly benefited the Society. Last year’s recipient, Karin Tyson, gave a brief description of the history of the Award and presented this year’s award to Al Smith. Mr. Smith has been an active member of the Society for many years. He served on the Executive Board, encouraged others to participate in and attend Society functions, and is an active member of the Legislative and Millennium Committees.

After accepting the Award, Mr. Smith stated that PTOS helped him to make his career a success at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He also said that he was proud to be a member of the Society, and proud to be the recipient of such a special recognition.

Paul Bell presented the Federico Award posthumously to the late Judge Helen Nies. The Federico Award was established in 1993 to recognize a single person for his or her outstanding contribution to the United States Patent and Trademark System. Judge Nies is the first woman to receive the award. She served as a Department of Justice staff attorney, a Trademark attorney in the private sector, and Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit. Judge Nies’ son and grand daughter accepted the award on her behalf.

Richard Stouffer presented the 28th Annual Joseph Rossman Memorial Award to James Barney. (See front page article).

Election Committee Co-Chair Joseph Kaufman presented the 2001 Board of Directors. (See listing on page 5).

Mr. Neuder presented Vice President Heather Shackelford with an Outgoing Officer plaque. Ms. Shackelford served as Vice President of the PTOS in 1999 and 2000.

The Keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting was Dr. Patsiokas. Dr. Patsiokas has been Senior Vice President of Technology at XM Satellite Radio since 1998. Dr. Patsiokas described XM Satellite technology. He explained the benefits of satellite radio and its possibilities for the future and answered questions regarding satellite radio technology.

Karin Tyson presented the PTOS Outstanding Service Award to Al Smith, Director of TC3600. Al entered the USPTO in 1959 and has been an active member of the PTOS for more than 40 years. Upon receiving the award, Al stated that through his service to the PTOS he received far more than he gave.

Happy Hour from pg 3

and Chris Bottoff ran the trivia contest. Lynne Browne, SPE of 3629, continued to sell raffle ticket right up until the drawing. Ryan Zeender, Faye Fleming, Greg Huson and Khoi Tran pitched in to help, too. About 100 people attended the happy hour. The cheap beer, the carnival like atmosphere, and the knowledge that your money was going to a good cause provided a really nice Thursday night out.

At the end of the night, all the prizes had been given out, everyone had a fun night out, and there was $1,100 to donate to the CFC. “Hey Cuffy, lets make this the first annual CFC happy hour.” Sounds like another good idea, Chris. Same time next year.
2001 PTOS Board of Directors

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William (Butch) Neuder

Vice President
Dominic Keating

SECRETARY
Niki Eloshway

ADMINISTRATOR
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Paul Dickson
Teri Pham Luu

Kenneth Bomberg
Patricia Engle
Michael Mansen

Michael Cuff
Arpad Fabian Kovacs
Michael Safavi

Employee Assistance Program
– A Benefit Everyone Can Use
by Miriam Innocenti

The EAP is a free and confidential service which benefits you and your family. The EAP counselors are licensed clinical social workers trained in counseling and referral. When is it appropriate to call? For any issues or concerns in your personal or professional life such as:

- Problems with a coworker
- Difficulties affecting your job performance
- Marital concerns
- Child or elder concerns
- Feelings of anxiety or depression
- Grief and bereavement issues
- Financial difficulties
- Substance abuse

Confidential consultations are available to supervisors for employee issues by phone or in person. A supervisor should call EAP (1) if it is observed that an employee may need help with personal problems which affect job performance; or (2) to discuss any situation which involves an employee’s job performance, changes in conduct or behavior, or any issue in which assistance with problem-solving is needed.

The EAP counselors can help you with your problems or find someone who will.

Call Miriam Innocenti, LCSW or Eric Dittmeier, LCSW at 703-305-3766, or e-mail us through the PTO Intranet: click on Human Resources, then Employee Assistance Program. We have a resource room as well in Crystal Plaza 3, Room 3C06, so please stop by if you need information.

Look for us at: http://www.PTOS.org
Social Committee Co-Chairs Elizabeth Dougherty and Michael Cuff would like to thank all the members for participating in another memorable Member’s Night. Member’s Night was held last October. The theme was Hawaiian Luau.

**Pasteur from pg 3**

Pasteur became preoccupied with the origin of microorganisms and demonstrated that each microbe is derived from a pre-existing microbe, and that spontaneous generation does not occur. Although he did not discover germs or microbes, he made the leap to realizing that they were the key to understanding disease. He showed the way for doctors to become preventers and curers of disease.

In 1867 Louis Pasteur was awarded the Grand Prix medal at the Exposition Universelle for his work on pasteurization and in 1978 he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to former UG Chief Editor John Paradiso and his wife Mary who gave birth to Nicholas Zane Paradiso on October 7, 2000.

Spring has arrived in Washington, D.C. The peak time to view the Cherry Blossoms is in early April.

**UNOFFICIAL GAZETTE** of the Patent and Trademark Office Society

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