



# *the Forum*

## The Technologists' Forum Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 1

Winter 2001

### FROM THE TECH FORUM CHAIR

by Jeanette Killius

Happy 2001 to all of you! M&M 2000 in Philadelphia was a very successful conference, thanks to the able leadership of LAC Chair (and Forum friend) Stacie Kirsch and Secretary-Treasurer Bev Maleeff. The TF Cryo Symposium featured an outstanding list of speakers and seating was standing room only. The many who attended surely came away with new ideas on how to use this powerful technique. The Roundtable Discussion hosted by José Mascorro was a lively interactive session covering lab safety. Congratulations to the Professional Technical Staff Award winners, Ken Grant and Freda McDonald! They presented their winning abstracts in sessions that complimented their work. Kudos, too, for the Outstanding Technologist Award winner, Nancy Crise Smith of Univ. of California, Hayward. At the Special Topics session, she discussed her development of telepresence microscopy linked by a network of computers for teaching K-12 and college students in her state. Please look for a more complete discussion (and photos!) of this wonderful meeting later in this issue.

This past year, John Bozzola became our TF Liaison to Council. John has been a long-time TF member and friend and we are thrilled to have him represent us to Council. If you have any problems or comments related to the TF, please don't hesitate to contact John. His phone and email are located on the back of this newsletter.

M&M 2001 will be held August 5-9 in Long Beach, CA. The Call for Papers has already gone out and abstracts are due **February 15th**. If you didn't get your copy or want an extra one for a colleague, please email the MSA Business Office with your request. They can be contacted through the MSA website at [www.msa.microscopy.com](http://www.msa.microscopy.com). Also due by February 15th is an application for the Professional Technical Staff Award. If you are currently an MSA member, all that is needed is your abstract and a support letter from your supervisor attesting to your status as a full-time technologist. Selectees will receive complimentary registration and up to \$600 for travel, lodging and other meeting-related expenses. Specific details are located in the Call for Papers. Apply today!

The program for M&M 2001 in Long Beach, CA is shaping up nicely. This year's symposium topic is variable pressure/low voltage/environmental SEM. A number of terrific speakers have been invited to present. They are Mike Kersker, Raynald Gauvin, C. J. Gilpin, Eric Doehne, John Mansfield, and Klaus-Ruediger Peters. This year's Special Topics presentation will cover FIB and will be given by Lucille Giannuzzi. Nestor Zaluzec will chair the Roundtable discussion on distance learning in microscopy. Mark August 3-9 on your calendar and make plans to attend M&M 2001 to hear this exciting program!

The year 2001 will bring some changes for the Tech Forum. We are moving to an electronic newsletter that will be available on our website. It will enable us to provide more current news, have weblinks to other related sites, show color digital images, reduce costs, and streamline the flow of information. Members will be contacted by email when new editions become available, so it will be imperative that we have up-to-date email addresses for everyone. Check the MSA website under "Search the MSA Membership Directory" to find your address. If the email shown is not correct, or not available, please contact Jeanette Killius as soon as possible at [jkillius@neoucom.edu](mailto:jkillius@neoucom.edu) with the current correct listing. We will be building an address file this spring with which to contact you for the summer newsletter.

As 2000 drew to a close, there was sadness within the Tech Forum community. Beloved TF Secretary Hildy Crowley lost her courageous battle against breast cancer. For years she was an unforgettable presence at the TF booth, coordinating the Hints 'n Tips so popular with booth visitors. Many of them were reprinted in these newsletters to help others improve some part of their lab work. She will be dearly missed by those who knew her personally and by all who communicated with her through the Listserver. A large part of this issue is dedicated to her memory.

Have a safe and happy New Year. I hope to see many of you at Long Beach this summer.

## A REVIEW OF M&M 2000 MEETING

by Jeanette Killius and Val Woodward

The Microscopy and Microanalysis 2000 meeting took place in Philadelphia the week of August 13-17 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This was a joint national meeting of the Microscopy Society of America, the Microbeam Analysis Society, and the Microscopical Society of Canada. In addition to the meeting rooms, the Convention Center contained several very impressive works of art by local artists, making it a visual treat to roam the halls between sessions. Across the street, the various food stalls in the historic Reading Terminal Market beckoned many a visitor to enjoy a delightful *al fresco* lunch.

Technical sessions and posters began Monday and continued all week. Many topics were discussed including: ceramics, ESEM, multiphoton imaging, FIB, macromolecules, microorganisms, films and coatings, biomaterials, plants, labeling, polymers, vascular casting, cryo microscopy and semiconductors. The depth of the program assured something of interest for everyone.

Monday night featured the MSA Presidential Happenings. MSA President Ken Downing handed out several awards including the Distinguished Scientist Awards to Kiyoteru Tokuyasu (Biological) and Severin Amelinckx (Physical), the Distinguished Service Award to Barbara Reine, the Outstanding Technologist Award to Nancy Crise Smith and 10 presidential scholar awards. The Burton Medal went to Eva Nogales of UC Berkeley. Jeanette Killius, TF Chair, presented the Professional Technical Staff Awards to Ken Grant from Wake Forest School of Medicine and Freda McDonald from the University of South Alabama. Wah Chiu spoke on the impact of science, education and public support on visualization of biological structures.

The annual Tech Forum Symposium was presented on Tuesday. The theme for 2000 was cryomicroscopy and the list of speakers read like a Who's Who of the subject. Jeanette Killius co-chaired the morning session with Debby Sherman which began with Patrick Echlin from Cambridge Univ., UK, discussing "A Practical Approach to Low Temperature Analytical Microscopy". His presentation of the theory and reasons for using cryomicroscopy laid the groundwork for the other speakers. Kent McDonald, Univ. of California, combined conventional and cryo preparations to improve cell preservation. His visual comparison of peas to microscopy – fresh were the ideal specimen, canned were like a routine TEM prep, and frozen were the cryo prep sample – was an apt analogy. Kent utilized high-pressure freezing equipment and cryo protectants to freeze larger samples while reducing ice damage in biological tissues. Mike Marko, NY State Dept. of Health, showed the principles of

cryotomography. He demonstrated how to obtain excellent resolution using an intermediate voltage TEM and computer software to create 3-D reconstructions of thick sections or suspensions of organelles that are plunge-frozen in liquid ethane. Alan Robins from Gatan, UK, gave a review of numerous applications of cryomicroscopy – lipstick, ice cream, fungal spores, concrete, paint, ink, paper – while stressing the importance of careful processing.

Valerie Woodward chaired the afternoon session. Helmut Gnägi, Diatome, presented tips on getting the most out of your diamond knife when sectioning cryo samples. Suggestions on everything from the microtome settings to diamond knife care to sectioning technique to section collection were given. Olga Shaffer, Lehigh Univ., talked about the importance of cryomicroscopy in the study of latex. Standard prep methods for TEM/SEM examination of latex will often result in particulate distortion, an artifact resolved by cryo preparation and viewing of latex with a cold stage. Also, sectioning difficulties are overcome by freezing the latex film first.

Wednesday afternoon, Vicky Bryg introduced the 2000 Outstanding Technologist Award winner Nancy Crise Smith in the Special Topics session. In the early 1980's, Nancy was instrumental in developing the capability for all 23 campuses in the California State University system as well as K-12 classrooms to be able to use a central SEM. Dr. Christopher Morgan developed software that would connect the microscope controls to a remote PC keyboard. This enabled scientists, college students and children across the state to access the instrument for research projects.

Some excellent polymer microscopy papers presented, of interest to researchers and industrial microscopists alike. The usage of energy-filtered TEM and EELS is gaining more ground each year, and is a welcome alternative to staining; however, as with the EAFM above, the capability does not come without a sacrifice of some money, for the adjunct equipment is expensive. It was nice to see some practical polymer microscopy papers this year, as well, especially those that addressed the issue of morphology influence on the performance of some engineering plastics, and methods for obtaining that structural information in a timely and informative manner. Also of note were the AFM papers that dealt with the surface structure of thin polymer coatings on substrates, and the effect of temperature and environment on the morphology and quality of the coatings. Several of these papers came from Phil Russell's group at North Carolina State University.

The Exhibit Hall held a record number of vendor booths this year. Vicky Bryg chaired the Tech Forum portion of the new MSA booth, which was centrally located on the show floor. This arrangement continues to draw many visitors to the area. New headers over the corner pop-ups and central tower identified the different committees being represented.

Thursday morning the Tech Forum Roundtable discussion covered Safety in the Microscopy Lab. José Mascorro chaired the session with the panel members E. Ann Ellis (university), Eileen Boylston (government), and Sandy Silvers (industry). Each presented a summary of safety training and requirements at his/her

respective facility. A spirited discussion ensued between panelists and the audience involving such areas as: safe chemical disposal, proper protective wear, regulation enforcement, eliminating latex in the lab, hood and ventilation problems, and training service repairmen on safety. This session provided information on how others handled similar problems in the hope that we could all work a little more safely in our labs.

The conference concluded Thursday afternoon. Many thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee chaired by Stacie Kirsch of Electron Microscopy Sciences for a wonderful meeting. M&M 2001 will be held in Long Beach, CA August 5-9. Make plans to attend now!

## **M&M 2000** by Bev Maleeff

Thank you to everyone who attended Microscopy & Microanalysis 2000! The Local Arrangements Committee worked with the meeting manager and the Program Committee to make sure that all aspects of the meeting ran smoothly. From the friendly faces at the LAC booth to the Opening Reception, from the first scientific session on Monday morning to the last farewell on Thursday afternoon, this meeting had it all!

The Pennsylvania Convention Center was our home for the week. Not only is it a marvelous venue for meetings, but it contains some very impressive artwork. Did everybody see the teacups and spoons? On Sunday night, we were greeted by a colonial fife and drum group and by Ben Franklin himself! The reception was held in the Grand Ballroom, but you'd never recognize it, because it was transformed into the neighborhoods of Philadelphia. You could visit the Italian market, Chinatown, the Philly Sports Bar, or try your luck in Atlantic City. The food and the camaraderie were first-rate!

The LAC made sure that attendees were provided with a multifaceted, rewarding visit to Philadelphia. Social events, coordinated by the LAC, included a pre-meeting trip to Atlantic City, a night out to see the Philadelphia Phillies play the Arizona Diamondbacks in an exciting National League matchup (OK, the Phillies lost. It was that kind of season. But we had fun anyway!), and the

Wednesday night dinner cruise on the "Spirit of Philadelphia" (with an unscheduled port of call, from what I hear). And the city itself was a marvelous place to be. The weather cooperated, the temperature was moderate and there was hardly any rain. Nearly everyone visited the Reading Terminal Market, across the street from the Convention Center, and got to experience the atmosphere of an old-fashioned farmers' market with a few modern twists.

One highlight of the week was a gathering of some TF friends at a "Hildy Dinner" held at Old Original Bookbinder's Restaurant. In years past, Hildy would always make sure that a large group went out together one night during meeting week just to enjoy good food and each other's company. This year was special, as we toasted Hildy *in absentia*. Thanks to Jeanette, Hildy was able to see photographs taken that night and the rest of the week so she knew how much we loved her.

Working on the LAC was a rewarding experience. It was a LOT of work, but a lot of fun, too. I missed the walkie-talkie when the meeting ended! And I got a bird's-eye view of the exhibit floor from the LAC office. One drawback was that I missed most of the scientific sessions. For that summary, I'll defer to Jeanette.

I'm looking forward to Long Beach in 2001. See you there!!

## **HILDY CROWLEY** 29 December 1935 - 7 September 2000

After a long and difficult illness Hildegard Heinrich Crowley died quietly at home on September 7. Earlier in the week she had given her grandsons, ages 2 and 4, Batman slippers. The boys showed their Oma (German

for Grandma) how much higher the slippers let them jump. A few days before that she had received the Morton D. Maser Distinguished Service Award from the Microscopy Society of America because, through

the years her advice also had allowed many electron microscopists to jump a little higher. With Hildy's help anyone could jump a little higher.

Hildy was born in Stuttgart, Germany. Her mother, also Hildegard, died that day. She was raised for several years by aunts and a Grandmother in North German Pomerania, now a part of Poland. Her father then remarried and she joined him again. Throughout her life she had frightening wartime dreams from those days of bombings, strafings, government repression, malnutrition, and Allied tanks arriving in her town of Eslingen.

Hildy's father, a distinguished aeronautical engineer, was one of the German scientists brought to the US after the war. Only after many months could the family join him. Years later she spoke with joy of those early teen years in America, with plenty of food, nice teachers, and wonderful friends.

A superb student, Hildy also won prizes at the County Fair for cooking and sewing, and she was an attendant to the college Homecoming Queen; beauty contests still were "in" then. After college she taught junior high school science.

In 1962 Hildy married Tom Crowley, a young medical student. In 1963 she began working as an electron-microscopy technologist at the University of Minnesota. She was a perfectionist, and EM is a perfectionist's dream and nightmare. "I love solving problems", she said, and each EM problem solved exposed ten new ones. The couple's sons, Christopher and Devin, arrived in 1965 and 1967.

After several years of raising youngsters, Hildy returned to EM at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, then at the National Jewish Hospital, and for the last decade, at Denver University. Armed only with a Bachelor's degree, superb intellect, and dogged determination, Hildy became internationally recognized for solving technical problems in EM, focussing in recent years on immunocytochemistry. She was especially proud of the lab's display of technical expertise in two Comparative Neurology articles (July and September 2000), on which she was a prominent co-author.

Hildy and Tom had moved to Denver for its skiing. Again the technical perfectionist, she became expert in equipment, waxes, and edge care. Her skiing continued improving well into her 60's, when she still did the easier expert runs some 35 days each year.

If Hildy was great at EM, she was even greater at teaching it. Brilliant undergraduate students came to the lab for Honors Theses. Hildy taught them biology and EM, of course, but she also supported them through romantic crises, sometimes helped them find physicians or therapists for their physical or personal problems, and advised them about their parents' illnesses or malfeasances. She also fed them delicious homemade cakes at lab meetings. She at first was miffed when someone called her the "Lab Mom", until a student said plaintively, "I want you to be our Mom. You're so much better than my own Mom". She gave students levelheaded, practical, grandmotherly, everyday advice. Like her ancestors from the foggy, cold Baltic, she distrusted "that touchy-feely stuff". The students went off to fine medical or dental or graduate schools, but when they visited Denver they often took her to lunch. They invited her to attend, or to be in, their weddings; one came back to ski with her. After knowing her, they all jumped a little higher.

Hildy's greatest commitment and contribution, of course, was to her family. Their loss is too large to speak of here.

Hildy learned in June 1999 that her illness would be terminal, but she wanted that kept secret from most of her friends, who, at the Portland Microscopy Society meeting, thought her gift of a limo ride to a fancy restaurant was just a madcap moment. It was a farewell.

Being Hildy, she worked with Tom to design her own simple headstone, which was erected a couple of months ago. It says, "You shall live in what you love." She loved so much, and so many, and so well. Hildy, with love, farewell. Farewell Oma, Mom, Wife, Sister, Lab Mom, Scientist, Teacher, Mentor, Friend, Colleague. Our Batman slippers fit just right. You helped us all jump higher.

## HILDY MEMORIES

Hildy had many passions among them being her family, friends, electron microscopy, photomicroscopy, photography, skiing and chocolate. A wonderful homemade chocolate orange cake often graced the lunch table in her lab. If there was no chocolate cake that day, there was sure to be a chocolate bar of fine quality being offered.

If you needed advice, she was always there to listen to you, even as she was dashing out the door. If the electron microscope was not behaving, she was there to correct any problem. If your expoxies would not behave or a stain artifact was apparent, she could remedy those problems in a flash. There are so many useful suggestions and lessons that were passed on to many of us to further the field of electron microscopy.

Janet Lieber, co-worker  
University of Denver  
Department of Biological Sciences

All of those who knew Hildy will remember a gracious, professional, personable woman who was always quick to lend a helping hand and whose countenance manifested an acceptance and contentment with life. This inner peace was reflected in her smile. When asked to chronicle a memory of Hildy, I knew immediately of what I would write. She once sent me a postcard she had crafted using a photograph taken of some flowers growing in a pot on her deck at home in Denver. I remember the colors and the plants vividly - light pink geraniums, green trailing ivy and splotches of a smallish, deep blue flower. It struck me that I had always thought of her as a talented microscopist and here was evidence that her eye for detail and beauty went far beyond the microscope. I was so taken with the vibrancy of the blue color, I took the photograph to my local greenhouse and was told the plant was named Lobelia. I immediately purchased and planted some of my own. It is odd, for I had not seen or spoken to Hildy in a great while, yet every summer since that time years ago Lobelia has grown in my garden. It will be planted again next summer, serving this time as a remembrance of the strength and courage she mustered in her battle with cancer.

Sue Bender, author of Plain and Simple, wrote, "When expectation and achievement match, a person is content." No wonder Hildy was impressive. No wonder we will all miss her.

Deb Clayton  
Past TF Chair  
Argonne National Labs  
Chicago, IL

Hildy worked in my lab ever since I began at the University of Denver in 1991. When she first started, I told her that I wanted my lab to change directions and develop an expertise in electron microscopic immunocytochemistry of taste buds, a technique that requires great skill and patience. After giving her this charge, Hildy, as was her wont, grabbed onto it and completely immersed herself in this project. She would not let go until we were doing the very best electron microscopic immunocytochemistry of taste buds in the world. Within the last few months our first two papers using this esoteric technique have just come out in the most prestigious journal in our field. Most of this success can be traced back to the efforts of Hildy and her colleague and protégé Ruibiao Yang.

Shy is not a word one would use to describe Hildy. If my lab was not running the way it should be, Hildy would come into my office, close the door, and we would have a talk, but I would do most of the listening.

After a while my pulse would race when she would come into my office, because I knew that something must be wrong. I don't want to give the impression that her actions were negative or disrespectful. On the contrary, Hildy always wanted the best for my career and the lab. Because of that I trusted her completely.

One day Hildy invited me out for breakfast at the Wellshire Inn. I thought this was unusual since Hildy had a rule against the employees fraternizing with the boss -- she never came to any of the picnics or other social events I arranged for the lab. She wasn't rude about it, but those were her rules and she lived by them. Anyway, I go to this fancy breakfast with Hildy and we had a wonderful breakfast. After we finished, she proceeded to fill me in on some serious personnel problems going on in the lab. I, like most supervisors, was clueless. After getting an earful from Hildy, we proceeded to engineer ways to fix some of those personnel problems. That had developed. I think I was soaked with sweat by the end of that experience, but some potentially serious problems were dealt with. After that, I lived in fear for the next time she invited me to breakfast!

Hildy was one of a kind. I expect that there is a legal limit of 1 Hildy at any given time on this planet. Whoever is next in line is going to have their work cut out for them when they try to fill the boots of Hildy Crowley. I shall miss her very much.

Jack Kinnamon, Ph.D.  
Dept. of Biological Sciences  
University of Denver  
Denver, CO  
Excerpted from the eulogy he delivered at Hildy's funeral

Do people know that Hildy spent some time growing-up in Minnesota? She worked at the University of Minnesota hospital for a time in the 1960s. I walk past her old laboratory almost everyday. I have many Hildy memories and I will share two of them here. Hildy visited our laboratory many years ago to learn how to do stereology. I showed her how to design point counting grids that could be used to measure the volume density of taste buds or whatever tissue she was studying at the time. Several days after she went home I started receiving postcards from her. Remember her postcard era? On the postcards were beautiful pictures of a sliced fruit or vegetables. Hildy had drawn point-counting grids on the postcards to determine the volume density of seeds per watermelon, septa per tomatoes, etc. They were quintessential Hildyisms. A more meaningful memory was about four years ago when I turned 50. Hildy, with her impish smile and twinkling eyes, told me "DO IT NOW"! She of course meant for me to stop waiting to do "fun things" because life is short. Her exclamation had a profound effect on me, and I have now done several "fun things" I had planned to do after retirement. I have taken three railroad trips

across the United States. I hauled my tent and sleeping bag to the microscopy meeting in Portland so I could go camping on the Oregon coast. I also carried my camping gear to Australia and New Zealand so I could camp down there. All of these "fun things" I had intended to do someday, but Hildy's "DO IT NOW"! forced me to do them before someday. Thanks Hildy for all the "fun things".

John Basgen  
Past TF Chair  
1999 OTA winner  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN

I have so many memories. My favorite is also the last Hildy story. Every year that MSA is held in a city that has a baseball team, some of us try to get to a game while we're in town. Hildy would never go. She couldn't understand why we'd want to watch a bunch of overpaid athletes chase around a little ball. This year we got a baseball and members of the "TF All-Stars" signed that ball for Hildy. Jeanette sent it to her right away and Hildy was stunned, at first thinking that we had gotten real baseball players to sign it and she wouldn't know whom any of them were. As she read it, she realized to whom those signatures belonged, and she was amazed.

This is from her last e-mail message to me. "Please tell all those who signed a great, big thank you. I can't get to everyone and it was one of those astonishing moments that one thinks that one's neurons really got gummed up with epoxies. Me and a baseball! But it sits on my desk proudly. I gave you guys enough heat about it all the time. Should have gone with you once. So long, thanks for all the "UP" effects from your e-mails and baseball and pictures. You cannot possibly know what it has done for me. Wish you riches and fame. (Actually take riches, fame is overrated.)"

Typical Hildy. She was one hell of a lady.

Bev Maleeff  
Past TF Chair  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Philadelphia, PA

So many Hildy memories, not enough time! Images of Hildy well up in my mind. One of my earliest has her passing around a piece of paper at a TF Business meeting and asking everyone to sign it. At the end, she held the paper up and strongly requested a "Hint 'n Tip" from each person on the paper by the next MSA meeting. By God, I wrote mine - fearing the wrath of this lady had I not brought one! Over the years she cajoled many hints from us to display at the booth for eager visitors to take with them in hopes of improving their techniques.

The wonderful dinners out with TF friends at each MSA meeting became a tradition, organized by Hildy a long time ago. Last year in Portland was special, however. She insisted that we be at her hotel by 6 PM. Bev and I were late, taking care of last minute TF stuff. When we got there, she was sitting in the lobby with the others clearly miffed that we weren't on time. We all followed her out the back of the hotel. There was a huge white stretch limousine waiting for us! We were stunned beyond belief! She booked it for an hour's drive around town (hence her annoyance at our tardiness). While riding,, we played with the phone, the radio, TV, drink glasses, windows - you'd have thought we were kids going to a junior prom! Hildy had to admonish us several times to behave, like the mother hen that she was. When we arrived at the restaurant (down a narrow one way street, mind you) we were treated to dinner by Hildy. A fine festive enjoyable meal with friends followed. She said we should all do something crazy once in a while. Hildy left the next morning. She looked so good, none of us knew it would be the last time we saw her. It was her way of saying goodbye to us.

Last year I wrote emails to cheer her up, but she always turned them around to cheer me instead. My mother was dying of cancer at the time and Hildy's notes were filled with inspirational stories of coping with her own and her parents' mortality. She made me see joy where I saw only sadness. Her words gave me the spirit and strength to carry me through the ordeal. Now I see life entirely differently and work to cherish each moment. God Bless you Hildy! You have made me a better microscopist and a better person.

Jeanette Killius  
TF Chair  
NEOU College of Medicine  
Rootstown, OH

After her death was announced, this was representational of the feelings by the members of the Listserver, a tool she used daily and compared her interactions with others on it to chocolates in her life (and we all knew how much Hildy adored chocolate!):

Hildy must indeed have been quite a remarkable person. I have benefited several times over recent years from her replies and advice. I note that I currently have fifteen of her messages saved. Three of those were in connection with my own recent enquiry about folds in semi-thin resin sections. She replied so quickly to additional mailings when asked about an additional point. Her knowledge of electron microscopy and specimen processing was very wide-ranging. She will be missed by this List.

Keith Ryan

**Coming Up: An Electronic Newsletter**  
by Jeanette Killius

It is 2001 and the future is upon us. The Tech Forum is taking a bold step and producing an electronic newsletter. The summer edition of the Tech Forum News will debut on our website at:

[microscopy.cvms.colostate.edu/msa/techforum](http://microscopy.cvms.colostate.edu/msa/techforum). Alternatively, you can access our website through the MSA website at [www.msa.microscopy.com](http://www.msa.microscopy.com), click on the "Committees and General Info" button and go to the Technologists' Forum link. TF members will be notified by email when the edition is available for viewing.

To streamline this change, it is imperative that we have your correct email address. Please check the membership directory on the MSA site to note your current email address. If the posted address is incorrect, please 1) notify Nestor at MSA of the change, and 2) send the corrected copy with your name to me, Jeanette

Killius, no later than **June 1, 2001**. My email address is [jkillius@neoucom.edu](mailto:jkillius@neoucom.edu). I will forward the information to John Chandler, the TF webmaster. He will be working hard this spring to produce an electronic mailing list.

We feel this move will produce a more exciting newsletter that can be updated frequently to give you the latest information on awards, program changes, elections, and other items of interest to you, our members. Color pictures from meetings can be viewed easily along with a Hints 'n Tips column. New features can be added like a Micrograph of the Month in which we showcase images from our members. If you have any flashes of inspiration for items to include, please send them my way. We want to make this a site you will visit often.

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES - TECH FORUM, 8/16/00**

Attendees: Vicky Bryg, E. Ann Ellis, Debby Sherman, Catherine Ann Taylor, Pamela Lloyd, Kathy Wolken, Sandy Silvers, Cathy Johnson, Lou Ann Miller, John Bozzola, Jose A. Mascorro, Jeanette Killius.

Jeanette opened the meeting by introducing John Bozzola as the new Tech Forum Liaison to Council. John reported that the Tech Forum is highly regarded by Council and to see him about any problems. He said Council appreciated using us as a model Special Interest Group and that we have good rapport with Council.

Ken Grant and Freda McDonald were this year's Professional Technical Staff Award (PTSA) winners. We need to go back to our LAS's and push nominations for these awards. There was some discussion about the awards. Ann Ellis asked to whom to submit names for awards. The Outstanding Technologist Award (OTA) goes to Gracie Burke on the Awards Committee and the PTSA abstracts go to the Tech Forum chair. Sandy Silvers suggested we put this information on our web.

John Chandler is our webmaster. Please visit the TF web at <http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/anatomy/techforum>. Make any suggestions to John or one of the officers for changes in the website.

This coming year, the OTA winner will not be bound to present in the Special Topics session as has been in the past. Instead, we are going to make it an option, rather than a requirement. So we need to identify a Special Topics idea to pursue a speaker for this session.

Give suggestions for any changes to the Tech Forum booth to MSA booth representative, Pam Lloyd. Also we need help staffing the booth. Please stop by and sign up for some time.

Sandy is working to get the Facilities Directory on the web. She was trying to configure the database files and work out details to make the information upgradable all of the time.

The Tech Forum newsletter is going virtual to reduce costs. John C. will put it on the web and set up a mass emailing to Tech Forum members alerting them to check the web for the latest edition of the newsletter. There will be only one more paper newsletter informing members of this change and verifying each email. There is a possibility of sending a text-only newsletter to those who cannot download pictures.

On a related note, we also need a newsletter editor to cull photos and articles from members, add Hints 'n Tips, meeting minutes, session schedules and put everything together in a uniform context. Anyone considering the job see Jeanette before the end of the show.

Suggested topics for next year's Symposia: Multi-user, multi-platform laboratories; core labs, such as Ken Moore's lab; ESEM or variable pressure SEM; bio/material applications; or sample techniques for ESEM.

Special Topics – multi-photon, FIB for both materials and biological sciences. Applications suggestion for VP/ESEM.

Debby Sherman indicated that in 2001 there would be a session on facilities management with topics from the Listserv. Some discussion ensued with suggestions that maybe next year we can see what grows out of the facilities management sessions. When it was a roundtable, it was noted that it was well attended at previous meetings.

Jeanette ended with a reminder about the Roundtable on Safety in the Laboratory that will take place tomorrow (Thursday).

Submitted,

Victoria Bryg, Temporary Secretary

## **M&M 2001 IN LONG BEACH** by Jeanette Killius

The lovely harbor community of Long Beach in suburban Los Angeles is the setting for M&M 2001. If you arrive in town a day or two early, take advantage of the several separate admission workshops and short courses that precede the meeting on August 4th or 5th. Topics include digital imaging, image processing, low vacuum SEM, failure analysis, materials ultramicrotomy, and a special 2-day congress on imaging life. These sessions are \$120 each. A complete list is in the Call for Papers.

Enjoy a round of golf at the annual golf outing held at picturesque Meadowlark Golf Course in nearby Huntington Beach. The \$80 fee includes transportation, food, greens fees and a golf shirt. The Sunday evening reception, included in your registration, will be held across the bay aboard the fabulous ocean liner Queen Mary. Music and food will be there to enjoy

while you admire the grand furnishings in the sitting rooms, salons, and banquet rooms. Make sure you get a spot on one of the 3 decks to observe the sunset and lighted downtown skyline. Then stay to dance the night away.

Let the motor yacht Spirit whisk your cares away on the Wednesday evening dinner cruise. Live entertainment, a wonderful buffet dinner, and dancing are set against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean at sunset and the glowing Los Angeles cityscape. Tickets for this popular event are \$55 each.

Hotels for the conference are the Hyatt, the Renaissance, the Westin and even the Queen Mary herself. The rates are very reasonable so they are sure to book up fast. Send your reservations in early. Alternatively, you can book online at [www.houseol.com](http://www.houseol.com). More information on all these social events,

workshops, and hotel registration forms can be found in the M&M 2001 Registration Bulletin and Call for Papers.

Almost 80 different categories for scientific papers covering all aspects of microscopy will be featured at this meeting. From Auger spectroscopy to X-ray crystallography, there are many sessions for contributing posters or platform presentations. Deadline for submission of abstracts is **February 15, 2001**. Electronic submission is available at [www.mmconference.org/2001](http://www.mmconference.org/2001).

MSA offers two different awards for qualified abstracts: the Presidential Student Awards and the Professional Technical Staff

Awards. These awards provide complimentary registration, a copy of the proceedings and reimbursement of travel and housing expenses. Abstracts and letters of verification for both of these awards are due on **February 15th**. For a more detailed explanation of these awards, go to the MSA website ([www.msa.microscopy.com](http://www.msa.microscopy.com)) or check the Call for Papers. If you haven't gotten a Call for Papers yet, please contact the Meeting Managers Office by calling toll-free at 877-MSA-MAS-1.

This conference is shaping up to be another outstanding microscopy meeting. Circle August 5-9 on your calendar and bring your family for a week of science and fun in the warm southern California sun.