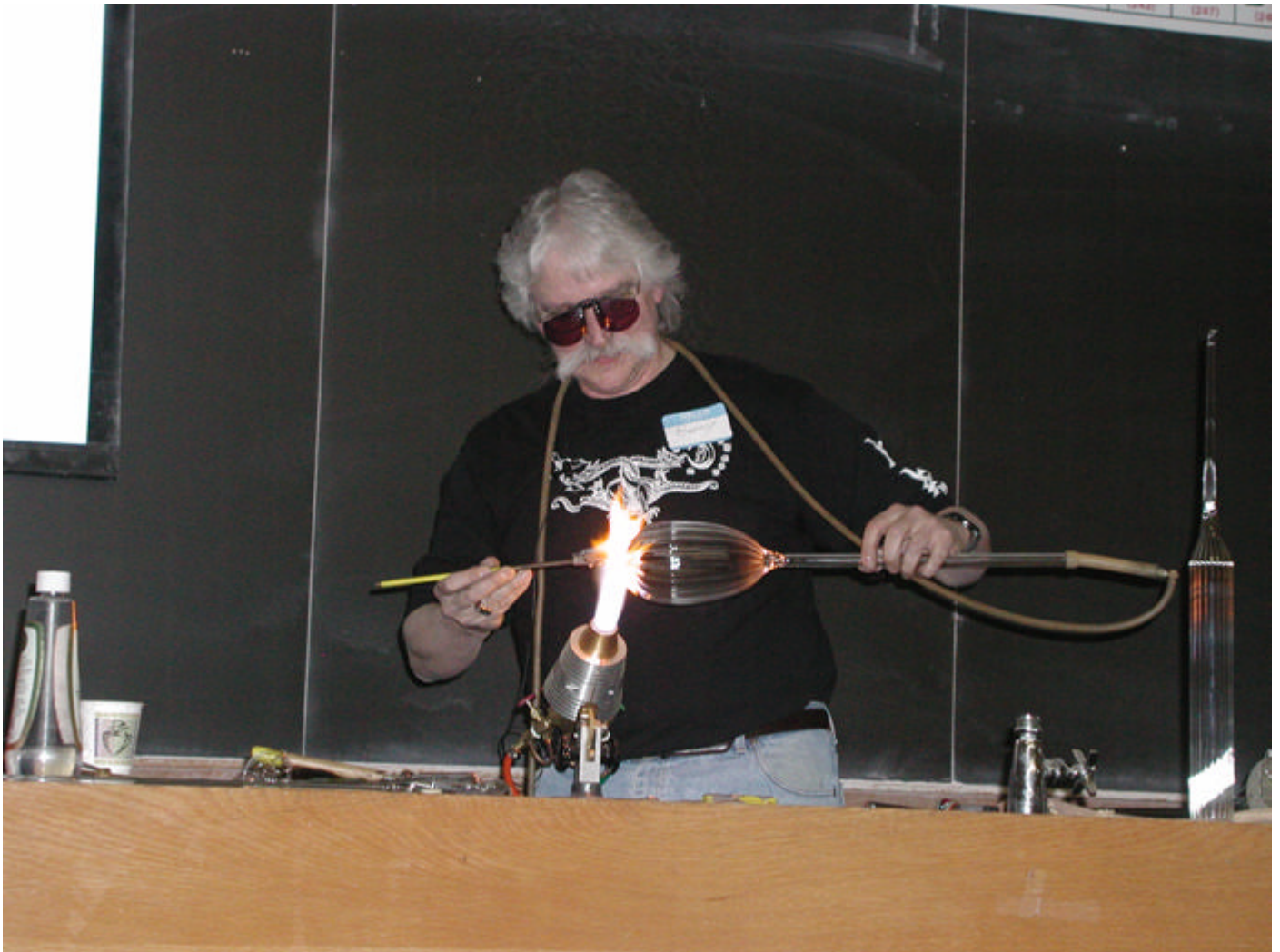


Northeast Section

On April 12th. A meeting of the Northeast Section of the A.S.G.S. was held at Princeton University and was hosted by Mike Souza. Mike again provided members with a superb educational experience, which included demonstrations and informative lectures.

Barry Lafler started the program with a demonstration of flame working with colored glasses. In recent years several companies have given the glassblower a large selection of colored borosilicate compatible glasses to work with. In order to get the most from this wide selection, the glassblower must know how to properly use each of them. Some colors like an oxidizing type burner mix to bring out their true color while others prefer a reducing or gas rich mix to the burner for best results. Some colors may be cooled and then reheated again to produce an even deeper color or sometimes just an altogether different color. I still don't understand all of the possibilities but it does make me want to experiment a little and find out for myself, it really looks like a lot of fun!



Barry Lafler having some fun!

Dr. Nan Yao, Director of the Imaging and Analysis Center at the Princeton Materials, presented information regarding “Electron microscopy for Nanotechnology”. Dr. Yao covered many of the analytical tools and techniques that are commonly used to explore materials and their structures at the nanoscale. We tend to think that dealing with less than 1 mm as really small, the people at the imaging center deal with materials the size of an atom on a regular basis! The tools that are used in this research are amazing. We even got to visit the Materials Institute as part of our tour and had a chance to see first hand how these tools are used.

Dr. David Augeri of Lexicon Pharmaceuticals Inc. gave us some insight on Techniques for Chromatography. Dr. Augeri is a Senior Scientist at Lexicon and his review of the equipment used in chromatographic work was very enlightening. While most of us have made chromatography columns we don't often get to see the techniques used or explanations of exactly how this apparatus is used.

For the first time that I can recall at a section meeting our vendors got very involved and we're invited to give presentations. Representatives from Friedrich & Dimmock showcased their new line of “profile glass tubing” from SIMAX. Mr. Paul Benn of Ace Glass Inc. presented information on “The Ace Advantage: connections & Filtration”. Some of Ace's new product lines, which improve adapters and connectors, were described along with possible uses for these items in the lab. My hat is off to Paul, Hugh Bowe and Ace Glass for taking vendor involvement to another level. Chuck Kearny at Andrews glass detailed his company's involvement in custom glass and their historical support of the ASGS award program by introducing this year's winner of the Andrews Award Georges Kopp. Georges was also gracious enough to repeat his presentation. Everyone agreed that it was great format. We urge other vendors and sections to consider giving talks on how their products are used or even allow some new products such as tools or burners to be demonstrated at future meetings. Don't take this the wrong way; we all appreciate the help that has been given to us by the vendors who sponsor our meetings! We certainly couldn't do the meetings without their support. It was very refreshing to see that sponsorship also can provide an educational service as well. We all look forward to seeing more of this level of participation at other section meetings.

We ended the seminar portion of our meeting with a tour of the Princeton Materials Institute. The Institute established the Imaging and Analysis Center (IAC) in 1993 to promote multidisciplinary collaborations in research and education and to strengthen efforts in materials science and engineering by providing a critically needed central facility. The IAC has become one of the most advanced imaging and analysis facilities in the world! We were able to see examples of their work and to meet with some of the research group members who showed us how they use some of their specialized equipment.

Our dinner and business meeting was conveniently held just a couple of buildings away on the “E-Quad”. Old business was reviewed before moving on to all of the new business items that we needed to cover. We reminded everyone to please try and attend the 48th Symposium in Cleveland Ohio, which by the time you read this will have already taken place. President Ed Powell was kind enough to attend our meeting and he gave additional information about the Symposium and activities of the Society taking place at the executive level. We asked that everyone think about presenting a paper, poster, or doing a workshop to help the Symposium. I know that Scott Bankroff and the Great Lakes Section will have done a fabulous job and that the Symposium will have turned out to be a success!



Northeast Section business meeting

We then moved on to the planning of the 49th Symposium for next year that our section will be hosting. Dan Wilt, the Symposium Chair, has completed a great deal of planning and most of the committee chairs have been selected. It's never too early to start asking for help with a Symposium so I would like to ask you to think about presenting a paper, poster, or doing a workshop. Our Symposium will be held in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York at the Prime Hotel and Conference Center from June 22nd – June 26th 2004. We plan on providing you with the opportunity to receive very useful technical information, and as much hands on glassblowing experience as possible, and a great social environment while you are there. Please call Dan Wilt to offer any help that you may wish to provide so that our Symposium will be a success. While you have Dan on the Phone, congratulate him on receiving the Helmut E. Drechsel Award for 2003! Dan's work in helping the A.S.G.S. is more than I can list in this report. This award is just a small way of saying thank you someone who has given back so much to the society!

I wish to end this section of the meeting report with a big thank you to our host Mike Souza and Princeton University! Great planning always leads to a great meeting! I want to also thank our workshop demonstrator seminar participants, and our vendor sponsors for making our meeting such a success! In no particular order they are: Barry Lafler, Dr. David Augeri, Dr. Nan Yao, Georges Kopp, Paul Benn & Hugh Bowe, Chuck Kearney

And of course thank you to our wonderful corporate sponsors: Ace Glass, Andrews Glass, Friedrich & Dimmock, and Wale Apparatus.

I just want to add one short note to this already long report. 3 Northeast Section members, Pat DeFlorio, Mike Souza and myself, had the privilege of meeting and hosting a young British glassblower by the name of Phil Murray in May of this year. Phil toured several glassblowing facilities in Europe and then in the U.S. on a “Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship”. The purpose of the Fellowship is to gather and disseminate information in your particular field or profession. Although Phil has been a glassblower for a little over 4 years, I was impressed by his abilities on the bench and lathe. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed his visit and I am sure that Pat and Mike feel the same way. We all want to wish him good luck in his future endeavors and I know that he will go far in this profession! Mike Wheeler and Joe Gregar were also kind enough to help Phil in his quest for gaining more knowledge in the field of scientific glassblowing, thanks guys! I am sure that Phil had a great time and I hope that his stay here in the “states” was as educational for him as it was for us! As Phil likes to say, “it was great fun”, Cheers Phil!

Our fall meeting will be at the Worcester Craft Center, 25 Sagamore Road, Worcester, MA 01605, (508) 753-8183, wcc@worcestercraftcenter. I will place maps and detailed information on the A.S.G.S. web site under the Northeast Section upcoming events section as soon as I can. I also hope to do a section mailing by the time or shortly after you read this article.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wise
Director – Northeast Section