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Tribute to H. John Caulfield

Jorge Ojeda-Castaneda
María J. Yzuel
R. Barry Johnson
Editors

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The CID Number appears on each page of the manuscript. The complete citation is used on the first page, and an abbreviated version on subsequent pages. Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the six-digit CID Number.

Contents

v	Conference Committee
vii	Introduction

SESSION 1

8833 02	John Caulfield at POC: from holographic components to small system integration (Invited Paper) [8833-2] T. Jansson, A. Kostrzewskik, T. Forrester, R. Pradhan, W. Wang, Physical Optics Corp. (United States)
8833 03	Understanding human visual systems and its impact on our intelligent instruments (Invited Paper) [8833-3] M. Strojnik, G. Pérez, Ctr. de Investigaciones en Óptica (Mexico); M. K. Scholl, Arizona State Univ. (United States)
8833 04	Forward and backward propagation in positive and negative index materials (Invited Paper) [8833-4] J. W. Goodman, Stanford Univ. (United States)
8833 05	3D measurement using circular gratings (Invited Paper) [8833-5] K. Harding, GE Global Research (United States)
8833 06	Tunable focalizers: axicons, lenses, and axilenses (Invited Paper) [8833-6] J. Ojeda-Castañeda, C. M. Gómez-Sarabia, S. Ledesma, Univ. de Guanajuato (Mexico)

SESSION 2

8833 07	Multi-wavelength heterodyne holography and interferometry (Invited Paper) [8833-7] T. Yatagai, Utsunomiya Univ. (Japan)
8833 08	Autonomous tracking of designated persons in crowded scenes (Invited Paper) [8833-8] K. Heidary, R. B. Johnson, Alabama A&M Univ. (United States)
8833 09	Surface multiplasmonics for optical sensing (Invited Paper) [8833-9] S. E. Swiontek, D. P. Pulsifer, A. Lakhtakia, The Pennsylvania State Univ. (United States)
8833 0A	Uses of spatial light modulators for colour optical processing (Invited Paper) [8833-10] J. Campos, Univ. Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain); I. Moreno, Univ. Miguel Hernández de Elche (Spain); J. Nicolas, ALBA Synchrotron (Spain); M. J. Yzuel, Univ. Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)

SESSION 3

- 8833 0B **Optical compressive sensing: a new field benefiting from classical optical signal processing techniques (Invited Paper)** [8833-11]
A. Stern, Ben Gurion Univ. of the Negev (Israel)
- 8833 0C **Comparative analysis between two different glitter functions for deducing statistical properties of sea surface slopes (Invited Paper)** [8833-12]
J. Poom, UNISON (Mexico); J. Álvarez-Borrego, Ctr. de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada B.C. (Mexico); Á. Coronel-Beltrán, UNISON (Mexico); B. Martín-Atienza, UABC (Mexico)

SESSION 4

- 8833 0D **Simultaneous and similar ideas with John Caulfield (Invited Paper)** [8833-14]
W. T. Cathey, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder (United States)
- 8833 0E **Tribute to H. John Caulfield: hijacking of the 'holographic principle' by cosmologists (Invited Paper)** [8833-15]
C. Roychoudhuri, Univ. of Connecticut, (United States) and Femto Macro Continuum (United States)
- 8833 0F **Holography: origin, development, and beyond (Invited Paper)** [8833-16]
F. T. S. Yu, Pennsylvania State Univ. (United States)
- 8833 0G **A theoretical comparison of Fresnel based digital holography and phase retrieval from the transport of intensity equation (Invited Paper)** [8833-17]
D. P. Kelly, L. Megel, T. Meinecke, S. Sinzinger, Technische Univ. Ilmenau (Germany)
- 8833 0H **Color sensing under microwaves (Invited Paper)** [8833-18]
D. Choudhury, Neotia Institute of Technology, Management and Science (India)
- 8833 0I **Object detection by optical correlator and intelligence recognition surveillance systems (Invited Paper)** [8833-19]
Y. Sheng, Univ. Laval (Canada)
- 8833 0J **Energy efficient computing exploiting the properties of light (Invited Paper)** [8833-20]
J. Shamir, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (Israel)
- 8833 0K **The amazing evolutionary dynamics of non-linear optical systems with feedback (Invited Paper)** [8833-21]
L. Yaroslavsky, Tel Aviv Univ. (Israel)

Author Index

Conference Committee

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María J. Yzuel, University Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)

R. Barry Johnson, Alabama A&M University (United States)

Session Chairs

1 Session 1

R. Barry Johnson, Alabama A&M University (United States)

2 Session 2

María J. Yzuel, University Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)

3 Session 3

María J. Yzuel, University Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)

4 Session 4

Jorge Ojeda-Castaneda, University de Guanajuato (Mexico)

Introduction

The SPIE Tribute Meetings were designed, organized, and very often chaired by Henry John Caulfield; under his often-stated belief that "People are the most important thing in science". The contributions to these tribute meetings were not intended to praise or to cite a person, but rather to present something that the honoree would be excited to listen to. With this goal in mind, John organized meetings to honor Adolf Lohmann, Emmett Leith, Yuri Denisyuk, Emil Wolf, and Joseph Goodman.

John was a passionate researcher with a charming personality. Around the world, he made many friends who remember him as a jovial person, open to new and nonconventional ideas. Typically, he described new projects with a high degree of excitement. And when listening to proposals of his peers, he described these new ideas with the words "wonderful!" and "great!"

John was a truly curious person with a wide range of scientific interests: holography, optical metrology, optical pattern recognition, optical logic, new imaging and non-imaging methods, hyperspectral imaging, spectral discrimination methods, and the process of invention, as well as to the uses and understanding of photorefractives. In these topics, he was a prolific writer and indeed a true promoter.

He was fascinated with his own creative process: which led him to study consciousness and artificial intelligence. It is not possible to sum up his interests or his work in a few sentences, but he always took joy in stretching his learning into new areas, and he did contribute too many areas outside optics.

We wanted to organize this tribute meeting to John when he was still alive. For reasons that we all know well, this was not the case. We express our gratitude to the SPIE for agreeing to hold this conference as a posthumous tribute meeting. We have a rather unique and well balanced set of contributions. Many distinguished and well-seasoned scientists were present, as well as some rising stars. We do hope that the reader will find the enclosed contributions as enjoyable; as we did listening to the various presentations.

We were especially delighted with the presence of John's family. Their honoring presence generated a suitable environment for explaining how the current contributions were either inspired by John's work or that the contributions in a way followed John's research style.

In closing, we express our most sincere gratitude to each contributor for making it possible to honor Henry John Caulfield in a manner he would have truly enjoyed.

Jorge Ojeda-Castaneda
María J. Yzuel
R. Barry Johnson