Top Ten Reasons Not to Miss Pittsburgh in the Spring

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1. The 2009 Council of Science Editors annual meeting, “Show Me the Data—The Science of Editing and Publishing”, will be held 1–5 May 2009 at the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel and Towers. Meeting attendees will benefit from practical, relevant, and timely information to help them do their jobs better. From the hands-on, interactive workshops of the highly successful pre-meeting short courses to the broad and insightful keynote and plenary sessions to the nuts and bolts of the diverse concurrent sessions, the CSE meeting is designed to provide information and an outlook of value for everyone. With a special focus on the data and evidence behind editorial and publishing practices, the 2009 meeting is an exciting one you won’t want to miss.

2. Some 400 of your fellow science editors will descend on Pittsburgh to discuss thorny editorial issues, ways to streamline publishing operations, and how to keep up with trends and technology. Don’t reinvent the wheel; network. You may find that the person sitting next to you at breakfast has battled the same editorial demons as you . . . and won.

3. With one keynote address, two plenary lectures, one ethics clinic, and 28 other concurrent sessions, you will need to plan your time wisely. Watch the 2009 annual meeting Web site for details (www.councilscienceeditors.org/events/annualmeeting09/index.cfm), and don’t forget to register early to receive a discount.

4. Pittsburgh is nicknamed the City of Bridges and has lots of them—723. You’d have to travel all the way to Venice, Italy, if you wanted more, according to the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau Web site.

5. Museums abound. To name just a few, the Carnegie Museum of Art is the first museum of modern art in the United States and includes the Hall of Architecture, with the largest collection of plaster casts of architectural masterpieces in America, and the Hall of Sculpture, designed to replicate the interior of the Parthenon. The Andy Warhol Museum boasts 12,000 of Warhol’s works, including paintings, photographs, sculpture, and film. The Dinosaurs in Their Time exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History features two spectacular T. rex skeletons in midfight.

6. It’s easy being green in Pittsburgh. The David L Lawrence Convention Center is the first green convention center in the United States and the world’s largest certified green building. In this ecofriendly environment, the mantra is “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle”.

7. You can take a leisurely stroll to the stunning 150-ft fountain at Point State Park at the tip of the Golden Triangle, where the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River meet to form the Ohio River. The fountain is fed by an underground glacial stream sometimes called Pittsburgh’s “fourth river”.

8. If you want to get a PhD in robotics, you can get one only at Carnegie Mellon University. Good luck with that.

9. Editors, of course, have no problem in keeping the “h” in Pittsburgh. In 1890, however, the US Board on Geographic Names decided that, for the sake of standardization, the “h” had to go. They relented to protests 20 years later to “Keep the H in Pittsburgh”, a slogan now used to preserve the rich heritage of the Pittsburgh region.

10. :-) The Smiley, the first Internet emoticon, was created on 19 September 1982 by Carnegie Mellon University computer scientist Scott E Fahlman. Thanks, Scott ;-)