

SPRING MEETING:

Our annual Spring Meeting took place at St Joseph's University on March 30th and 31st. Friday evening after dinner there was a talk by Dr. Robert C Hilborn about "How to Grow Your High School or Undergraduate Physics Program", addressing the decline of physics enrollments in the 1990s and what has been done to reverse the trend, with reference to AIP data and the SPIN-UP project. On Saturday, Dr. Anura Goonewardene spoke about his work to increase physics enrollments by building an interdisciplinary program in Nanotechnology at Lock Haven University, and Dr. Vashti Sawtelle described the transformation of Florida International University's Undergraduate Physics Program through modeling instruction, reformed labs, and recruitment of top students as learning assistants. This was followed by demonstrations and contributed papers from Carolyn Sealfon (Tutorials in upper-level mechanics), Jeff Wetherhold (do-it-yourself Calder mobiles and torque equilibrium, periodic motion video), and Barry Feierman (thought-provoking circuit demos). We had a brief section meeting before lunch to decide on officers and plan future events, and after lunch there were two workshops, one on Interactive Lecture Demonstrations, and one on Active Learning with DC circuits. (A more detailed summary of the meeting is available here: <http://www.physics.upenn.edu/aapt/spring2012summary.pdf>)

NEW OFFICERS (2012-2013):

At the section meeting, the following were selected as officers for the 2012-2013 school year:

President: Carolyn Sealfon (Princeton University)

Vice-President: Paula Miller (Lincoln High School)

Secretary: Jillian Waldman (Archmere Academy)

Sectional Representative: Ryan Batkie

Treasurer: Art Zadrozny

Members At Large: Doug Kurtze, Craig Halpern, John Patane, Bill Heffner

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FALL 2012 DEMO "NIGHT":

We also selected the time and location for our 2012 Fall Demo Show, which will take place on a Saturday, rather than our usual Friday night time, in order to be accessible to a different/broader range of members. The demo show will take place on October 27, 2012, at Harriton High School, where Bob Schwartz will be our host.

SEPS AAPT ONLINE:

For news, upcoming events, and photos of past events, check out the SEPS AAPT web presence online and on Facebook! Website:

<http://www.physics.upenn.edu/~aapt/> Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/group.php?gid=166735829132>

AAPT NATIONAL MEETING:

Our national parent organization, the American Association of Physics Teachers, is having its annual conference right here in Philadelphia this summer! (Last year it was in Omaha. The year before that it was in Portland. It hasn't been in Philadelphia since 2002, so this is a rare opportunity, to have it so close!)

The dates will be July 28-August 1, and the theme will be "Physics: The Experimental Core". Lots of information (and registration) is available on the AAPT website:

<http://www.aapt.org/Conferences/sm2012/>. The early registration deadline is June 4th, and prices go up after that.

Things you can definitely expect to happen at the national meeting:

- Meet and mingle with peers from around the country
- Buy awesome things you could otherwise only get on the internet
- Talks, papers, and updates on the state of physics and physics education research
- Vote on the AAPT High School Photo Contest submissions
- Demo show!

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER DAY

If you are a high school teacher who has never attended an AAPT National Meeting, you can attend the July 30th events of the National Meeting this summer for the severely discounted cost of \$75. (Or you can just register for the whole weekend, but this is a lot more affordable!) July 30th is the "High School Teachers' Day", and gatherings and presentations on that day have been promised to particularly focus on the interests of high school teachers.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The National Meeting is also seeking abstract submissions from local undergraduates and graduate students to present on their research or outreach experiences. The deadline for poster abstracts has been extended to June 15th; more information will be available shortly in the next email newsletter or on the SEPS AAPT website linked above.

PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

The Philadelphia Science Festival started last weekend and is continuing through this week. Check out www.philasciencefestival.org for more information!

PHOTO COMPETITION

Entries for the AAPT's national High School Photo Competition will be accepted May 1st - May 15th. These are the photos you may have seen on those cool calendars/posters that national AAPT members get. <http://www.aapt.org/Programs/contests/photocontest.cfm>

DOMINO PHYSICS:

Teacher Bob Specca of Marple Newtown High School was interviewed for CBS's show, On The Road. He talks about domino toppling competitions and domino physics. <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7405278n&tag=mncol;lst;1>

GLOBAL PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

The Global Physics Department is a group of high school and college physics educators who meet online weekly on Wednesday nights at 9:30 Eastern to discuss physics, physics learning, and physics teaching. They use Elluminate Live to transmit audio, video, white board data, and chat communication. Check them out at <http://globalphysicsdept.posterous.com/#/>

MODELING WORKSHOPS

There are a number of opportunities for physics teachers to attend summer workshops on Modeling Instruction listed at http://modeling.asu.edu/MW_nation.html. Each workshop is also described at <http://www.ptec.org/pd/?set=Modeling>. If the cost of attending a workshop seemed prohibitive to you in the past, check the list again: two nearby workshops have received the necessary funding to be free for attendants:

NEW YORK/PENNSYLVANIA (2012)

Mansfield University and Corning Incorporated

Location: Mansfield University (PA)

The summer workshop is free (funded by Corning Enterprises) with a free lunch every day. As of April 16, 2012, each workshop has openings, but the first chemistry workshop is almost full. Applications will be accepted through May 15, if space is available.

July 9-27, 2012 (8:00-4:00 Mon-Thu, 8:00-12:00 Fri)

Content: (four workshops) mechanics, chemistry, advanced (curriculum development in your choice of physics or chemistry)

Peer leaders: Mr. Jess Dykes of Ridley High School near Philadelphia (physics), Tammy Gwara of Desert Ridge High School in Arizona (chemistry), Kathy Harper of The Ohio State University (advanced physics curriculum development), Brenda Royce of University High School in Fresno, CA (advanced chemistry curriculum development)

Support sessions (October 15-16 and March 18-19) are optional for participants more than 2 hours drive from Mansfield and mandatory for participants who live closer. Support session fees are paid by participants' school districts (\$350 total).

Four optional graduate credits are available for the summer workshop. (In 2011, tuition was \$1880 for Pennsylvania residents; \$2808 for out-of-state)

Housing in a brand-new dorm is available at a cost of \$154 per week. Child care is also available at Mansfield University (\$27/day ages 1-2; \$25/day ages 3-5 in 2010). For older children, there are Mansfield University summer camps

The nearest airport at Elmira, NY is 45 miles away. To arrange group transportation, contact Greg Carson.

The informational flier is at <http://mansfield.edu/chemistry-physics/media/files/modeling-flier.pdf>. The application is at <http://mansfield.edu/chemistry-physics/media/files/modeling-application.pdf>. Contact Dr. Greg Carson (GCarson -at- mansfield.edu) or at 570-662-4548 for more information.

NEW JERSEY (funded in 2012 by The Boeing Company)

Three FREE workshops for high school science teachers nationwide. As of April 16, 2012, each workshop has openings, but the biology workshop is almost full.

South Jersey Modeling Physics Institute

Dates: June 25-July 13, 2012 (physics, chemistry); June 20-July 6, 2012 (biology) Location: Clearview Regional High School, Mullica Hill, NJ (20 miles south of Philadelphia)

Content: mechanics (Doug Vallette), chemistry (Jim Navins and Maureen Blong Huhman), biology (Angela Gard)

Contact: Ron Antinori (AntinoriRo -at- ClearviewRegional.edu), science supervisor, 856-223-2747

Information & application:

<http://www.clearviewregional.edu/highschool/Departments/Science/tabid/131/Default.aspx>

Download the application and brochure. Housing is available at nearby Rowan University for about \$600