Fall 2010 Meeting of the Illinois Section of the AAPT
October 8-9, 2010
Sherrard High School

We are pleased to invite you to attend the fall meeting of the ISAAPT. Please come to learn more about physics, discover new tools and techniques for teaching, share your experiences via contributed presentations and Take Fives, and meet old and new friends.

Christopher LaRoche will serve as conference host. The conference theme is “A+ Alternatives in Education Research, Energy and Technology” and will showcase the high school’s 160-foot tall, 600 kW wind turbine. Chris tells us that participants will be able to tour the interior of the generator facility – if they are willing to climb to the top and wear the required safety harness!

Invited speakers include John F. Reid, Director of Product Technology and Innovation, Deere and Company, Moline, who will be the Banquet speaker on Friday evening. A "Wind for Schools" panel includes Matt Aldeman of the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University and Jolene Willis of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, Macomb.

The program starts Friday morning at 9 a.m. with a workshop by Carl Wenning on the topic “Learning Sequences as Instructional Resources.”

There will be a panel discussion on "The New Local Physical Science Alliances," moderated by Ken Wester of Illinois State University.

The fall meeting tends to be pedagogically oriented when compared to the spring meeting that has more of a focus on student research. Fall is the time when our audience tends to include more physics teachers at all levels – especially high school teachers – who want to learn more about teaching practices. Attendees are invited to present talks about active learning, physics teaching methods, demonstrations, research, or other teaching-related topics. Contributed presentations are scheduled on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Please submit your presentation using the online form. The length of the presentation is 15 minutes, including time for questions. The title of your presentation should be submitted by Sept. 24. The deadline for all of the information, including a one paragraph description, is Oct. 1. Use the form on two occasions, if necessary, to first submit the title, then later to submit the description (or abstract).

You are welcome to come at the last minute, and on-site registration will be available, but for banquet and lunch reservations, you must register online by October 1. Sherrard is located about 15 miles southwest of the intersection of I-74 and I-80, and is conveniently reached from either interstate highway or from Moline. For more information, maps and directions, registration forms, hotel information, and the program, see our website: www.isaapt.org
Future ISAAAPT Meetings

• Spring 2011 – April 1-2 – Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
• Fall 2011 – Tinley Park (joint with ISTA, CSAAPT and IACT)
• Spring 2012 – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
• Fall 2012 – Joliet Junior College

If you are considering being a host for a future meeting, please contact Dave Sykes at dave.sykes@llcc.edu

Future Chicago section meetings

• Fall 2010 – Nov. 20 – Illinois Institute of Technology (joint with APS Prairie section)
• Spring 2011 – not yet arranged
• See: http://www.aapt-chicago.org

Future national AAPT meetings

• Winter 2011 – Jan. 8-12 – Jacksonville, Florida
• Summer 2011 – July 30-Aug. 3 – Omaha, NE
• Winter 2012 – Feb. 4-8 – Ontario, California
• Summer 2012 – July 28-Aug. 1 – Philadelphia
• See: www.aapt.org/Conferences/meetings.cfm

APS “Prairie section” meeting

• Fall 2010 – Nov. 18-20 – Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL (joint with CSAAPT)
• See: http://www.aps.org/meetings/calendar.cfm

Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers meeting

The IACT Fall Conference will be held at Illinois Central College in East Peoria on October 15, 2010. While ISAAAPT had hoped to meet with IACT during the autumns of even numbered years, we will not be able to do so until 2014 at the earliest due to ISAAPT’s previously arranged meeting schedule. If you’d like to learn more about the one-day IACT meeting, visit their website at the following URL: http://www.che.ilstu.edu/iact/

James Stankevitz named Illinois High School Physics Teacher of 2010

James Stankevitz (r), of Wheaton Warrenville South High School, Wheaton, IL, receives the 2010 Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award from Carl Wenning. (Photo courtesy of Dave Renneke)
William P. Hogan receives the 2010 AAPT Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching Award.

Dr. Hogan is Professor of Physics at Joliet Junior College and has served as president of ISAAPT. The award is in recognition of contributions to undergraduate physics teaching and awardees are chosen for their extraordinary accomplishments in communicating the excitement of physics to their students. The award was presented to Hogan during the AAPT Summer Meeting in Portland, Oregon, and is detailed in a press release from AAPT: http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/upload/William-Hogan-SM10-UGPE-Press-Release.pdf

Barbara Lotze Scholarships

AAPT announced during March that one of two 2009 Barbara Lotze Scholarships for Future Teachers had been awarded to Sarah Pfluger, a sophomore-level student enrolled in the Physics Teacher Education program at Illinois State University. Endowed by AAPT member Barbara Lotze, the scholarship provides a $2,000 stipend to outstanding future high school physics teachers, who are recognized for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service. Previously, Rebecca E. (Wenning) Vieyra of ISU was the sole 2004 Lotze Scholarship recipient. She now teaches at Cary Grove High School, and serves as ISAAPT High School Representative. For more information see: http://www.aapt.org/programs/grants/lotze.cfm

Call for Nominations for the 2011 Distinguished Service Citation

We invite and encourage you to nominate a fellow colleague for the 2011 Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the fall 2011 ISAAPT meeting. Please send your nomination by February 1, 2011, so that the Council might consider the candidates at the spring meeting. For guidelines, see the “Distinguished Service Citation” link on the ISAAPT website: www.isaapt.org

Local Physical Science Alliances (LPSA)

Progress has been made on the LPSA project. In discussions with other teachers of science in Illinois, the Local Physics Alliance concept has been broadened to become Local Physical Science Alliances, which will include Chemistry teachers for the first year or so, and then broaden again to include Physical Science Teachers at lower grade levels. Starting with the initial agreement in the Fall 2009 Executive Council meeting, twelve LPSA zones in downstate Illinois were defined, volunteer zone leaders were selected, and lists of high school teachers were created for initial contacts. At the end of the Spring ISAAPT meeting, a zone leaders meeting was held to plan further action, then on Aug. 5, ISAAPT President Carl Wenning, IACT President Rodger Baldwin, and ISTA President Gwen Pollock met in Decatur, IL, to conduct planning for an all-day workshop. With funding from ISTA, Carl Wenning and Ken Wester of ISU were able to host this all-day zone leaders workshop at ISU on Aug. 28. Twenty-one individuals met to kick off LPSAs for Illinois. Zone leaders from ISAAPT, leaders from the Illinois State Science Teachers Association (ISTA), and from the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers (IACT) were in attendance. The workshop focused on how best to conduct four LPSA zone meetings over the coming school year. These zone meetings, to be held in or near population centers in Illinois outside of the Chicago metropolitan area, will involve only secondary/college/university teachers during the first year of the initiative. It is expected that elementary and middle school teachers will joint the cadre in subsequent years. A panel discussion about this initiative will be held at the Sherrard meeting.
We hear that:

Dr. Beth Cunningham, provost at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, has been named interim Executive Officer of the AAPT. Beth will replace Warren Hein when he retires from this position at the end of the year.

ISAAPT members Erin Stefanik and Rebecca Vieyra were named to NSTA’s New Science Teacher Academy in 2010 and 2009 respectively. The Academy, co-founded by the Amgen Foundation, is a professional development initiative created to help promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge. Admission to the Academy is by application only, and follows an extensive vetting process. Only the nation’s most promising science teachers are admitted to the Academy. Members receive significant benefits, including all-expenses-paid trips to national NSTA meetings. Erin teaches at Huntley High School and Rebecca teaches a few miles away at Cary Grove High School. Both schools are located just outside Crystal Lake, IL. Both teachers are graduates of the Physics Teacher Education program at Illinois State University. Rebecca is currently serving as high school representative on the ISAAPT executive council.

UIUC Saturday Physics Honors Program

The Saturday Physics Honors Program, an outreach program for high school students, is also open to the general public. The lectures are free of charge and are scheduled from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., unless indicated otherwise. Lectures are held in Room 141, Loomis Laboratory of Physics, 1110 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois, starting Sep. 18. See: http://physics.illinois.edu/outreach/honors/

National Task Force Releases Executive Summary on Physics Teacher Education

The National Task Force on Teacher Education in Physics released its report synopsis at the winter meeting of the AAPT in Washington, DC. According to the task force summary, except for a handful of isolated pockets of excellence, the national system of preparing physics teachers is largely inefficient, mostly incoherent, and massively unprepared to deal with the current and future needs of the nation's students. Physics departments, schools of education, university administrators, school systems, state agencies, the federal government, as well as business and foundations, have indispensable collaborative roles to play so that every high school student has the opportunity to learn physics with a qualified teacher. This document provides a synopsis of the findings and recommendations of the National Task Force on Teacher Education in Physics, and is available from:


AAPT Associate Membership available

The AAPT has once again approved an associate membership for 2010. The target audience is section members who have never joined AAPT and lapsed former members whose membership lapsed before December 31, 2006. Details about the associate membership can be found at:

http://www.aapt.org/Membership/upload/090817-Associate-Membership.pdf

Download the associate membership form from:
http://www.aapt.org/Membership/upload/2010-Associate-Application.pdf and be certain to indicate your local section affiliation as “Illinois”.

Minutes of the Spring 2010 ISAAPT Executive Council Meeting

Saturday, March 27, 2010
Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL

Call to Order: President Carl Wenning called the meeting to order at 7:05 A.M. Council Members present: Past President Tom Foster, President-Elect Doug Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sykes, Newsletter Editor Brian Davies, Publicity Chair and Webmaster Dave Renneke, High School Representative Ann Brandon, Section Representative Zak Knott, Tom Snyder, Ken Mellendorf, Tom Carter, Bill Hogan, Andrew Morrison, Lenore Horner, Ken Wester, and Max Lee.
E-Action Item: A motion to accept the minutes of the executive council meeting held at Illinois Central College on October 17, 2009 was made by Tom Foster on November 2, 2009 and seconded by Doug Brandt on November 3, 2009. President Carl Wenning notified the council via the listserv on November 8, 2009, that the motion had passed.

Reports:

Secretary-Treasurer: Dave reported on the financial status of the ISAAAPT. Currently there is $1953 in the treasury. He added that the Rossing Fund has a balance of $30,156.53. After having several communications with the AAPT CFO Michael Brosnan, Dave reported that the Rossing Fund has been shifted to a Bond Fund for increased security. It is now expected that the return will be significantly more than the fees.

Section Representative: Zak Knott reported on communications from the AAPT at the National Meeting, held in Washington DC from February 13-17.

1. The AAPT kickback program is up and running.
2. The AAPT is pushing for a 20% increase in membership.
3. Executive Director Warren Hein is leaving within the year.
4. There will be a 2-Year College meeting concurrent with the national AAPT meeting in Portland.
5. Photos for the Physics Photo Contest are now being accepted.

Zak added that he will not be able to attend the summer meeting in Portland. Tom Carter moved to have Bill Hogan act as section representative with a second from Zak. After nominations were closed, the original motion passed with Bill Hogan casting the only nay vote.

High School Representative: Ann Brandon reported that the committee has been very active with several workshops and publications.

Publicity Chair, Section Editor, and Webmaster: Dave Renneke reported the following:

1. The website is running smoothly.
2. The online membership form is now on the website.
3. There are eight (8) new members (five from theISTA) and three (3) of them are at the current meeting.
4. Counters are now running on the website. The week prior to the current meeting saw a daily average of 56 hits, and Friday, March 26, saw over 100 hits.

Newsletter Editor: Brian Davies reported that 98 copies of the newsletter were sent out. He added that nothing was due from the ISAAAPT as he covered all duplicating and mailing costs.

Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award: In Cliff Parker’s absence, Carl reported that there were eight (8) nominations with the award going to James Stankevitz. Although the process went well, Carl suggested that an online service for voting be used in the future.

Committee for the Distinguished Service Citation: Dave Sykes reported that the committee was comprised of himself and Brian Davies. Brian added that the call for nominations was in the latest IPT.

Nominating Committee: Carl reported that someone would have to be elected at the fall meeting to complete the unexpired term of Lenore Horner as she is taking another job in Ohio.

Recruitment, Retention, and Development Committee: Carl reported that the committee had not met since the last Section meeting.

Current Meeting Update: Don Reid reported that there were 69 people who registered for the meeting and that he expected a profit of approximately $500.

Old Business:

Fall 2010 Meeting: In Chris LaRoche’s absence, Carl reported that the Fall 2010 ISAAAPT meeting would be held at Sherrard High School with a date yet to be determined.

Guidebook Program: Carl reminded the council that the guidebook program had been renewed at the Fall council meeting for another three (3) years. He added that although ISU has used the program every year, no other programs have used it during the last several years.
ISAAPT Liability Insurance: Carl reported that at one time the ISAAPT had liability insurance and that it might be prudent to acquire it again. Dave Sykes volunteered to get some estimates and present them to the council via the listserv.

Cross Over Workshop at LLCC: Ken Wester reported that the New/Crossover Teacher Workshop at LLCC on February 27 went very well and that another workshop is scheduled to be held at Northeastern University.

LPA/LPSA Update: Carl reported that he had met with ISTA president Gwen Pollock concerning expanding the Local Physics Alliances to include physical science teachers from all levels, K-16. According to Gwen, the ISTA has pledged up to $5000 to support the initiative’s August zone leaders meeting. Carl added that there might be a four week workshop on modeling in Chicago on June 21 for high school science departments as a whole (as opposed to individuals) pending funding by the IBHE. The program, if funded, is scheduled to last three years with the first year emphasizing Physics, the second year Chemistry, and the third year Earth and Space Science.

New Business:

Rossing Webpage: Dave Renneke reported that a webpage will be added to the ISAAPT website in honor of Dr. Thomas Rossing, benefactor of the Rossing Fund.

Lifetime Dues Option: Carl reintroduced the idea of lifetime dues. The consensus of the council was that having lifetime dues could hurt the ISAAPT financially in the long run due to the fact many people pay dues twice a year as part of the meeting registration and they may not with lifetime dues already paid.

Google doc surveys: Carl suggested that the ISAAPT use Google Docs surveys to conduct the voting on the high school teacher award. To that end Brian moved to use the online survey for the purpose of voting on the high school teacher award. The motion was seconded by Doug and passed without discussion.

Incorporation: Doug reported that the ISAAPT can become incorporated by providing the following information online (along with a $50 filing fee):
1. An address (not a P.O. Box).
2. A stated purpose.
3. A Board of Directors (council members).
4. Articles of Incorporation (the ISAAPT constitution with a few changes).
Once incorporated, there is a $10 filing fee per year. Doug added that to become tax exempt a $400 filing fee is required along with a dissolution clause. Brian moved to have the ISAAPT become incorporated with the following provisions:
1. The corporation name is the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers.
2. The dissolution clause sends all money in the treasury to the American Association of Physics Teachers.
3. Establish an ad-hoc committee to oversee the incorporation (members volunteering for the committee were Carl, Doug, Brian, and Dave Sykes).
4. Approve all the costs necessary for the incorporation.
After a second by Andrew, the motion passed.

ISAAPT logo: Carl reported that the cost to design a new logo for the ISAAPT would be anywhere from 250-600 dollars. Tom Carter volunteered to have the graphic arts department at his college look into creating a logo.

Meeting Registration Fee Increase: Carl reported that we might want to increase the registration fee to ISAAPT meetings. Tom Carter moved that we add $5 to the registration fee at ISAAPT meetings to help solidify the treasury. Tom Foster seconded and the motion passed. Zak Knott moved that we include an option on the website to provide receipts without itemization (of food, dues, and registration fee). Tom Carter seconded. Dave Renneke added that the changes would be no problem. The motion passed.

Future ISAAPT meetings: Carl will contact UIUC to determine if they might be interested in hosting the spring 2012 meeting.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Foster and seconded by Brian. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Faithfully submitted,

Dave Sykes, Secretary/Treasurer