Fall 2007 Meeting of the Illinois Section of the AAPT
"Science and the Environment"
October 12-13, 2007
Lincoln Land Community College
Springfield, IL 62794

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

The invited talks and speakers are:

"Confronting Global Warming"
Dr. Don Wuebbles
Director, School of Earth, Society, and Environment, and Professor, Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Banquet speaker on Friday evening

"Developments in Coal Burning Power Plants"
Patrick Giacomini
City, Water, Light, and Power

There will be three Friday morning workshops. Sign up for these on the Registration form.

W1. "New Developments in MBL Tools", Pasco Scientific, Friday, 10:00-12:00, free

W2. "A Natural – Nuclear Physics, Nuclear War: Is It Missing from Your Physics Curriculum?"
Ray Wilson, Friday, 10:00-12:00, free

W3. "Cracker Barrel Discussion: Preparation of Illinois High School Physics Teachers", Carl Wenning, Friday, 10:00-12:00, free

Attendees are welcome to present talks at this meeting. We solicit your innovative ideas and student projects in any area of classroom physics. Many of you have proven methods and techniques and we want to hear about them. The title of your presentation should be submitted by Friday, Sept. 28. The deadline for all of the information, including a one paragraph description, is Friday, Oct. 5. Use the form (on the isaapt.org website) on two occasions, if necessary, to first submit the title, then later to submit the description (or abstract).

WITH IT – What in the heck is this?

Do you have something in your storeroom that has you baffled? Please bring it, place it on the designated table (with your name) so we can all look at it during the breaks. This has inspired quite a few conversations at recent meetings, so we would like to repeat it. Please use the Registration form to tell us that you will be bringing an item, or just bring something anyway!

For more information, maps and directions, registration forms, hotel information, and the program, see our website: www.isaapt.org
Future ISAAPT Meetings

• Fall 2007 – Oct. 12-13 – Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
• Spring 2008 – Apr. 4-5 – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
• Fall 2008 – Oct. 10-11 – Illinois State University, Normal (joint with IACT)

If you are considering being a host for a future meeting, please contact our president, Troy Gobble (t gobble@RBHS208.org).

Future Chicago section meetings

• Fall 2007 – Nov. 10 – Naperville Central High School
• Spring 2008 – Harper College, Palatine
• CSAAAPT website: http://www.neiu.edu/~csaapt/

Future national AAPT meetings

• Winter 2008 – Jan. 19-23 – Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, Maryland
• Summer 2008 – July 19-23 – University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada
• Winter 2009 – February 12-16 – McCormack Place, Chicago, IL (joint with AAAS)

Cracker Barrel Discussion – Preparation of Illinois High School Physics Teachers

Join us on Friday, October 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Fall ISAAPT meeting in Springfield for this important discussion. Our discussion leader will be Carl J. Wenning of Illinois State University. This workshop is sponsored by the ISAAPT Ad Hoc Committee for the Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention of High School Physics Teachers.

ISAAPT’s work of recruiting the next generation of high school physics teachers is well under way. Now, the attention of the Committee will turn to the next component of its mandate – improving the preparation of physics teacher candidates in Illinois.

Join the Committee as it begins to develop recommendations for improvement of physics teacher preparation practices statewide.

Charles Adamovic named Illinois High School Physics Teacher of 2007

Charles Adamovic (right) receives the 2007 Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award from Cliff Parker. (Photo courtesy of Dave Renneke)
Call for Nominations for Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award

Each school year the Illinois Section of AAPT is pleased to receive nominations for outstanding high school physics teachers in the state. Fellow teachers and school administrators who are aware of exceptional performance and enthusiastic student response are encouraged to fill out the online nomination form found on the ISAAPT website. The person who is nominated will be notified and asked to fill out the online candidate information form. Please note that the deadline for receiving nominations is December 1, 2007. The teacher who is selected will be notified and presented with the award at the spring 2008 meeting of the Section. For guidelines and a nomination form, see the “Outstanding high school physics” teacher link on the ISAAPT website: www.isaapt.org

Call for Nominations for the 2008 Distinguished Service Citation

We invite and encourage you to nominate a fellow colleague for the 2008 Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the Fall 2008 ISAAPT meeting. Please send your nomination by February 1, 2008, 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

Saturday Physics Honors Program at Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Saturday Honors Physics Program, an outreach program for high school students, is also open to the general public.

The lectures are free of charge and are scheduled on Saturday morning from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., unless indicated otherwise. Lectures are held in room 141 Loomis Laboratory of Physics, 1110 West Green Street, Urbana, IL. Parking is available on the east side of the building in lot B21.

For the schedule of talks, directions, etc., see their website at:

http://www.physics.uiuc.edu/outreach/Honors/

Minutes of the Spring 2007 ISAAPT Executive Council Meeting

Saturday, March 31, 2007
Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
Currens Hall, Room 210

Call to Order: In the absence of President Troy Gobble, Past President Bill Hogan called the meeting to order at 7:20 a.m. Council members present: President-Elect Debby Lojkutz, Webmaster Dave Renneke, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sykes, Newsletter Editor and host Brian Davies, Rob Mason, Cliff Parker, Ann Brandon, Tom Snyder, Ken Mellendorf, Douglas Brandt, Kim Shaw, and Ray Bugayong. The following items were addressed and decisions made:

Secretary-Treasurer Report: Dave Sykes presented Carl Wenning’s report (minutes of the Rock Island Council meeting and treasurer’s report). A motion was made to approve Carl’s report. The motion was seconded and approved without addition or correction.

Section Representative Report: Kim submitted a report of the Winter National Meeting in Seattle. She highlighted that there was discussion at the national meeting of eliminating winter meetings of the AAPT. Ann Brandon added that most members were against eliminating winter meetings while the AAPT’s Executive Board continues to consider it because of financial reasons. On another note, the section representatives at the winter meeting failed to elect a new secretary (to replace Ann Brandon). Ann was not sure whether she was expected to continue in that capacity.

Publicity Chair, Section Editor, and Webmaster Report: Dave mentioned that the process of presenters submitting titles first (and then descriptions later) was working fine. Still, many presenters submit both title and description together.
Newsletter Report:  Brian reported that 140 copies of The Illinois Physics Teacher were printed and that 134 were distributed. The cost for publication and distribution was $135. Discussion arose concerning the sending of the newsletter to retired members who no longer pay ISAAPT dues. It was agreed that the financial impact to the ISAAPT is minimal and that the tradition should continue. Brian indicated that he might not be able to continue as the Newsletter Editor. Douglas Brandt volunteered to be Newsletter Editor for the fall, 2007 if Brian does not continue.

Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award:  Cliff Parker reported that of all the nominations for high school physics teacher of the year, only about half submitted the necessary materials to be considered for the award. Cliff added that the process of selection went reasonably well with the Award going to Charlie Adamovic of Lyons Township High School (LaGrange).

Committee for the Distinguished Service Citation Report:  It was noted that Kim Shaw belatedly received her plaque at the Friday night banquet. Committee members are now seeking nominations for the 2007 award. Also, it was suggested that Dave Sykes ask Carl Wenning (former secretary/treasurer) if a list of former nominees exists. Dave agreed to do so.

Bylaw Revisions:  Bill Hogan noted that nothing had been done to date. Only a few recommendations for amendments have been submitted. A show of hands indicated that only 6 of the assembled Council members had even read the bylaws.

Current Meeting Update:  Brian Davies reported that, as of this morning, he had received $1166 in checks and $339 in cash for a total of $1505 from meeting participants. Although the cost for food at the banquet and lunch were a “wash” there was a cost of $65 for the banquet room and $80 for the cash bar. Brian also reported that expenditures included $250 to keynote speaker John Rigden, $300 total to plenary speakers Greenbowe and McCullough, $111 for motels, and an unknown amount for travel expenses for the invited speakers. Overall, Brian indicated that he believed that the meeting would break even financially.

Future Meetings:  Dave Sykes and Tom Snyder reported that LLCC would host the Fall ISAAPT meeting on October 12-13. The tentative theme of the meeting is “Physics and the Environment”. A global warming expert is planned for the keynote. Other meetings planned are:

- Spring, 2008: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign (date TBA)
- Fall, 2008: Illinois State University, Normal, October 10-11.

A discussion arose concerning the reduction or waiving of the meeting registration fee for high school teachers and/or retired faculty members. It was agreed that such registration fee adjustments be made at the discretion of the meeting host(s).

New business:  Dr. Thomas Rossing, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Northern Illinois University, has generously donated $30,000 to the ISAAPT for the purpose of attracting and affording highly distinguished speakers to our joint meetings with other AAPT sections. As a result, Dave Sykes reported that the ISAAPT will have to undergo some changes including:

1. Obtaining an Employer Identification Number (EIN). Dave Sykes reported that that had already been done to open an ISAAPT checking account.
2. Becoming a Non-Profit and Tax-Exempt Organization. An Internal Revenue Code Form 501(c)3 needs to be filed with the IRS.

A motion was made to allow Dave Sykes to seek consultation to determine what needs to be done and the cost to the ISAAPT. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment:  The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Sykes, Secretary/Treasurer
Journal of Physics Teacher Education
Online - Summer Issue Now Available

The summer issue of Journal of Physics Teacher Education Online (JPTEO) is now available. This issue (Vol. 4, No. 3) contains the following articles:

- Physics Teacher Education Program Reform, an Editorial
- Guiding experiences in physics instruction for undergraduates, by Wilson J. Gonzalez-Espada and Michelle Stone
- Gender differences in physics: A focus on motivation, by Gita Taasoobshirazi
- A physics teacher candidate knowledge base, by Carl J. Wenning
- The motivation and recruitment of physics students and teachers, by Renata Holubová

JPTEO will soon enter its fifth year of publication. This issue, as well as back issues, can be downloaded from the publication’s website at http://phy.ilstu.edu/jpteo/. To receive announcements when each issue becomes available, you may join the publications listserv. Complete details can be found on the publication’s website.

ISAAAPT Ad Hoc Committee
Produces Publications

The ISAAAPT’s Ad Hoc Committee for the Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention of High School Physics Teachers has recently published a student brochure, an 8-page teacher booklet, and an affiliated web page. Some 8,000 copies of the student brochure and 2,000 copies of the teacher booklet were printed in full color in cooperation with the Chicago Section of the AAPT, the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers, and the Illinois Science Teachers Association. The publication effort was supported with $3,750 provided by these four associations. The publications were professionally produced and printed, and will be distributed as recruitment packets, ostensibly, to every high school physics and chemistry teacher in Illinois and to other science teachers associated with the ISTA.

PDF versions of the tri-fold brochure and teacher booklet can be downloaded from

www.phy.ilstu.edu/pipeline/

See the links under “Recent developments” near the top of the page. The Web page directly associated with the new booklet and brochures can be found at:

www.illinois-science-teaching.info

This page re-directs students to a more detailed recruitment page prepared earlier by the ISAAAPT and found at www.isaapt.org/teach/

This recruitment effort, which has garnered national attention, is the culmination of three years of hard work by the Ad Hoc Committee that was established by the Executive Council in the spring of 2004. The publications resulted from a half-day workshop in 2004 and a cracker barrel discussion held at a Section meeting in 2006. The work of the Committee, including recommendations for recruitment, preparation, and retention of the next generation of high school physics teachers, has been fully documented on the Pipeline Project website. The full 16-page report is available as well as a shorter executive summary. The Committee’s efforts were led by Carl Wenning of Illinois State University in cooperation with David Sykes of Lincoln Land Community College and Kimberly Shaw of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

It is anticipated that the Committee will be reformulated (with the departure of Kim Shaw who has taken a new position in Georgia) and expanded at the Section’s autumn meeting in Springfield. New members will be added, and the focus of the Committee will turn to the next phase of implementing the Committee’s recommendations. If the current recruitment efforts are going to succeed, they must be followed up with strong efforts to improve the quality of high school physics teacher preparation statewide. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please contact either Carl Wenning wenning@phy.ilstu.edu or Dave Sykes at Dave.Sykes@LLCC.EDU.

A two-hour Friday morning cracker barrel discussion is planned for the fall Section meeting at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.
The discussion will focus on how to improve physics teacher preparation in Illinois.

**Activity Based Physics Faculty Institutes**

Are you interested in increasing your students’ understanding of the physical world? 2-year college, 4-year college, and university faculty are invited to attend one of the two NSF-sponsored Activity Based Physics Faculty Institutes to be held at Dickinson College, summer 2008. These one week institutes will encourage faculty to use active learning strategies and computer-based tools and curricula--based on physics education research--in their introductory physics courses by 1) giving them hands-on experience with the materials in the Activity Based Physics Suite, 2) assisting them with modifying those materials for use in their own courses, and 3) providing continued follow-up support for the remaining year of this project. The institutes will be taught by Priscilla Laws (Dickinson College) and Patrick Cooney (Millersville University). Faculty from doctoral/research universities and from institutions that serve under-prepared and under-represented populations are especially encouraged to apply. Expenses on campus will be paid, and travel grants are available for those who demonstrate need. For more information and an application, please visit our web site:

http://www.uoregon.edu/~sokoloff/abpi.htm

**Conference Hosts Needed for Future ISAAPT Meetings**

The ISAAPT Executive Council hereby solicits the membership for invitations to host future meetings. If you and your institution would be willing to host a future meeting, please inform a member of the Executive Council. Details about hosting a Section meeting can be found on the Section website at: www.isaapt.org

**AAPT Governance Retreat - May 23-25**

A representative of the ISAAPT, Brian Davies of Western Illinois University, attended the AAPT Governance Retreat at the American Center for Physics in College Park, MD earlier this summer.

The following description about this event is taken from a website at:

http://webphysics.davidson.edu/mjb/aapt/

On May 23-25, 2007 more than 65 active members of AAPT met at the American Center for Physics for a Governance Planning Retreat. The unprecedented gathering consisted of the 18 area chairs, close to 40 section representatives or designees, and a number of board members and officers of the AAPT. They explored and discussed more effective ways for the central organization to support its sections and area committees, and for the sections and the area committees to be more engaged in advancing AAPT's mission. The synthesized model from these discussions, which the retreat participants will have a chance to review, will be shared with the Governance Review Committee. The Committee will discuss the model and adopt it into a workable format that it will propose to the Board for action. Eventually the Council and the full membership, considering that constitutional changes are deemed necessary, will weigh in on the proposed governance changes.

The need to enhance section relations and the role of area committees was discussed at the June 2006 leadership retreat and during the deliberations of the Planning Action Group. This governance planning retreat, which was initiated at the October 2006 meeting of the Board, follows an April planning session led by a group of 12 representing the area chairs and section representatives.

(See the website for more details.)