Our fall 2008 Section meeting will be held Friday, October 10th and Saturday, October 11th, on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal. This will be a two-day gathering held jointly, and for the first time, with the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers (IACT). The two-day program is currently available on the web site at www.isaapt.org. Pre-registration will take place online through this web site. On-site registration will be available, but only those who pre-register online by the October 1st deadline will be able to order conference meals. On-site registration will be possible, but is strongly discouraged due to space limitations. Payment will be collected during check in, and receipts will be provided.

The theme for this meeting is Energy. Friday’s invited speakers and their topics include John Fulton from Horizon Wind Energy, who will speak about Wind Energy. Our evening banquet speaker will be Gregg Swackhammer from Glenbrook North High School, who will present Energy and the Structure of Matter: Common Threads from Physics to Chemistry. Our Friday afternoon session will also feature Albert D. Grauer from the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona, who will speak about his Remote Access Telescope.

On Saturday, David Marx from Illinois State University will speak about Photovoltaics for Today and Tomorrow, and Daniel Holland from Illinois State University will speak about The ISU Solar Car Team. The program kicks off on Friday morning with a brief welcome and overview at 8:30 a.m., followed by eleven workshop sessions and a planetarium program:

- Inquiry and Student-Centered Learning in Chemistry, Sara McCubbins & Angie Codron, Illinois State University
- Wii Remote in Physics Labs, Lenore Horner, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- The Scientific Method, Anthony Nelson, Warren Township High School
- GE and Alternative Energy Sources, Anthony Nelson, Warren Township High School
- A Collection of Energy Demonstrations and Activities, Don Reid, Lincolnwood High School
- Engineering is Fun! – Producing a Science Camp for Your Community, Beth Chamberlain, Danville High School
- Future Teachers, William Hunter & Kenneth Wester, Illinois State University
- Matter and Interactions, Tom Foster, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Bicycle Energy, Zach Metzger, Riverside-Brookfield High School
- Reading Strategies in the Science Classroom, Lynn Otterson, Warren Township High School
Seating in workshops will be limited, so be certain to pre-register online by October 1st denoting which of the workshops you’d like to attend. An optional, self-directed wind farm tour will be available. Please look for details, to be posted on the web site and at the meeting.

While we have a number of invited speakers and workshops, participants are both invited and encouraged to contribute a presentation for sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes duration. This includes 10 minutes for a talk and 5 minutes for questions and answers. Those wishing to contribute a presentation may do so at the time of registration on the ISAAPT web site. The title of your presentation should be submitted by Friday, September 26th. The deadline for all of the remaining information is Wednesday, Oct. 1st. As has been an ISAAPT tradition, opportunities for “take 5” presentation will also be available. Talks are restricted to 5 minutes from start to finish, and often feature demonstrations, interesting anecdotes, or announcements.

University and community college faculty who have students who might be interested in careers in teaching or research are encouraged to bring their students with them. One workshop, Future Teachers, is dedicated to them. In addition, there will be a reduced registration fee for students. See the ISAAPT web site for online registration and the call for contributed presentations: www.isaapt.org. Online registration deadline is Wed. October 1st.

Future ISAAPT Meetings

- Spring 2009 – Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington
- Fall 2009 – Illinois Central College, East Peoria
- Spring 2010 – Blackburn College, Carlinville (tentative)

Future Chicago section meetings

- Fall 2008 – Nov. 8 – Crystal Lake South High School
- Spring 2009 –
- CSAAPT website: http://www.neiu.edu/~csaapt/

Future national AAPT meetings

- Winter 2009 – February 12-16 – McCormack Place, Chicago, IL (joint with AAAS)
- Summer 2009 – July 25-29, Ann Arbor, MI
- Winter 2010 – February 13-16 – Washington, DC (joint with APS)
John Baier, of Glenbard South High School, Glen Ellyn, received the 2008 Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award. (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, 2008. The teacher who is selected will be notified and presented with the award at the spring 2009 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 2009 Distinguished Service Citation

We invite and encourage you to nominate a fellow colleague for the 2009 Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the Fall 2009 ISAAPT meeting. Please send your nomination by February 1, 2009, 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

Loomis Laboratory of Physics - Room 141
1110 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL  61801

Open to the general public, free of charge.
All lectures begin at 10:15 a.m.

How We Use Light to Illuminate Biology
Professor Bob Clegg - September 27, 2008

The Pervasive Nature of Feedback in Natural and Engineered Systems
Professor Andrew Alleyne - October 11, 2008

Physics Day October 25, 2008

Transforming Science, Policy, and the Power Grid with High Temperature Superconductivity
Professor Laura Greene - November 8, 2008

The Physics of UFOs
Professor Kevin Pitts - November 22, 2008

Law and Science
Professor Amy Gajda - December 6, 2008

For more info
Toni Pitts - tpitts@illinois.edu or 217-244-2948
http://www.physics.uiuc.edu/outreach/honors/
Minutes of the Spring 2008 ISAAPT Executive Council Meeting
Saturday, April 5, 2008
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

Call to Order: President Deb Lojkutz called the meeting to order at 7:10 am. Council Members present: President Elect Tom Foster, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sykes, Webmaster Dave Renneke, Newsletter Editor Brian Davies, Doug Brandt, Chris LaRoche, Rob Mason, Zak Knott, Ann Brandon, Ray Bugayong, Tom Snyder, Ken Mellendorf, Tom Carter, Don Reid, Dominic Sarsah, Ex-officio Member Cliff Parker (Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Committee Chair), and visitors Carl Wenning and Rebecca Wenning-Vieyra.

E-Action Items: Two items were acted upon by the ISAAPT Council between the Fall and Spring meetings via the Council List-Serve.

1. A motion to approve the Council Minutes of the Fall Meeting at Lincoln Land Community College was made on 12/7/07 by Dave Renneke and seconded by Doug Brandt. With no discussion the question was called and Deb Lojkutz emailed the council on 12/10/07 that the motion had passed.

2. On February 8th Cliff Parker forwarded the nomination information for the High School Physics Teacher of the Year Award to council members and asked them to cast their vote within two weeks. After about three weeks Cliff emailed that John Baier had won.

Secretary-Treasurer Report: Dave Sykes presented the treasurer's report. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Doug Brandt and seconded by Ann Brandon. Dave stated that the treasury was low but that we will start to realize the dues increase beginning with this meeting. The motion was approved.

Section Representative Report: Elizabeth Langford was unable to attend the council meeting and consequently no section representative report was made.

High School Representative Report: Ann Brandon reported that work was nearly done on the New Teacher Handbook and it should be published this year.

Publicity Chair, Section Editor, and Webmaster Report: Dave Renneke reported the ISAAPT Web site was founded in 1995 and has had a domain name since 1998. The domain name is up for renewal this year at a cost of $75.00. A motion to renew the ISAAPT website domain name for five (5) years at a cost of $75.00 was made by Dave and seconded by Ken Mellendorf. The motion passed without discussion.

Newsletter Report: Brian Davies reported that 105 newsletters were made and 100 were mailed. Total cost: $94.05.

Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award: Cliff Parker reported that John Baier had won this year's Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award.

Committee for the Distinguished Service Citation Report: Committee Chair Diana Roth was unable to attend and consequently no report was made. Council members were reminded to send nominations to Diana.

Nominating Committee Report: Past-President Troy Gobble was unable to attend and consequently no report was made.

Current Meeting Update: No representative of the University of Illinois was present and consequently no report was made.

Fall 2008 Meeting Update: Carl Wenning reported that planning is going well for the October 10-11 joint meeting of the ISAAPT and the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers to be held at Illinois State University in Normal.

Old Business:

1. Constitutional Revision. After discussion concerning constitutional items up for revision including, but not limited to,
   • Creation of a standing committee to replace the ad-hoc committee on Physics Teacher Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention
   • Adoption of the Rossing Fund Committee
• Make the ISAAPT webmaster an ex-officio member of the council
• Delete snail mail method for disseminating meeting information

It was moved by Ken to conduct a special meeting of the ISAAPT Council for the purpose of revising the ISAAPT constitution. The motion was seconded by Rob Mason and passed. Carl suggested that the meeting be held at Illinois State University in July.

2. Rossing Fund. Dave Sykes presented a contract between the ISAAPT and AAPT detailing the management of the $30,000 donation made by Dr. Thomas Rossing. Council members raised questions concerning:

• If the interest generated could be used for consecutive meetings
• If the year referred to in the contract was calendar or fiscal

Dave stated he would investigate the intent of the AAPT concerning the questions raised by the council.

3. Brochure and Booklet Mailing. Ann Brandon reported that she had mailed the brochures and booklets to schools outside the Chicago area and used the Chicago school delivery system for the rest. The total cost of delivery was $246.05.

4. Guidebook Program. Carl Wenning reported that the guidebooks given to graduates of physics teacher education programs are “5 Easy Lessons” by Knight and “Physics with Real Life Applications” by Cunningham and Herr.

New business:

1. Winter 2009 AAPT Meeting. Dave reported that he had been in contact with Charlie Holbrow, executive officer of the AAPT, concerning the involvement of the ISAAPT/Chicago Section with the AAPT winter meeting in Chicago. To date two activities are planned: the Chicago Section is planning a Demo Show and the Ad-hoc Committee for Teacher Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention is planning a cracker barrel session for coordinators of physics teacher education programs.

2. Student Symposium. Carl reported that it may be more appropriate to have the newly organized APS section conduct the student symposium as most student presentations are not education oriented. Brian Davies added that he has contacted the coordinator of the local APS to inquire about joint meetings with the ISAAPT. Brian also stated that Ohio and Texas have AAPT and APS sections with great working relationships.

3. Ad-Hoc Committee on Physics Teacher Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention. Carl reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee had met on Friday at 10:00 am. He summarized the actions to be implemented:

• Prepare a survey and disseminate it to all Illinois physics teacher education programs.
• Host a meeting for the Ad-Hoc Committee and Illinois physics teacher education program coordinators in early August
• Apply for funding from the AAPT to support the development of the Illinois physics teacher educator consortium.
• Conduct a cracker barrel session at the AAPT winter meeting in Chicago to initiate the development of a national physics teacher educator consortium.
• Help Carl develop a proposal to fund a National Institute for Physics Teacher Educators (NIPT).

Adjournment: The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Sykes, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Summer 2008 ISAAPT Executive Council Retreat
July 10, 2008
Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Call to Order: President Deb Lojkutz called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Council Members present: President Elect Tom Foster, Webmaster Dave Renneke, Newsletter Editor Brian Davies, Ann Brandon, Ray Bugayong, Tom Carter, Bill Hogan, Chris LaRoche, Rob Mason, Don Reid, and visitor Carl Wenning. Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sykes arrived at 10:15.

E-Action Items: A motion to approve the Council Minutes of the Spring Meeting at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana was made by Doug Brandt on May 5, 2008 and seconded by Tom Foster. President Lojkutz informed the council by e-mail on May 12 that the minutes had been approved.
Constitutional Revision:  The Council worked collectively to revise the ISAAPT constitution and bylaws. Carl Wenning volunteered to record and incorporate changes into the constitution and bylaws. The revised constitution and bylaws will be sent out to ISAAPT members prior to the Fall Meeting at ISU through the Illinois Physics Teacher. A vote to accept the revised constitution and bylaws will be conducted during the fall meeting at ISU.

Section Representative:  Elizabeth Langford was originally scheduled to act as section representative for the AAPT meeting in Edmonton but is unable to do so. Tom Foster has volunteered to fill in for Elizabeth. President Lojkutz will contact Elizabeth to determine her intent on acting as section representative for future AAPT meetings.

Prairie APS Section:  Tom Foster reported that he had talked with representatives of the new Prairie APS Section. They indicated that the Prairie APS Section consisted of members from multiple states including, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Indiana. Many ISAAPT council members felt that the student symposium was better suited for an APS section since content of student talks generally is not education oriented but the Prairie APS section representatives were not willing to commit to conducting the student symposium. Also, it was noted by some Council members that it would not be fair to expect Illinois physics students to present at APS meetings in other states. Brian Davies added that the inaugural Prairie APS meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in the fall of 2009.

Winter AAPT Meeting in Chicago:
1. Ann Brandon reported that the Chicago Section had planned several activities for the AAPT Winter Meeting in Chicago including a demo show and a “make it and take it” workshop.
2. Tom Foster suggested that ISAAPT brochures and applications be available for attendees to the national meeting since many participants will be from Illinois who aren’t members of the ISAAPT.
3. Tom Foster and Dave Sykes offered to organize a cracker barrel session on physics teacher recruitment, retention, and preparation. Carl Wenning agreed to bring the proposal for the session to both the AAPT High School and Teacher Preparation committees in Edmonton.

Fall ISAAPT Meeting at ISU:  Carl Wenning presented a draft program for the Fall ISAAPT/IACT Joint Meeting at Illinois State University on October 10-11. Friday morning will consist of roughly a dozen 50 minute talks/workshops. The rest of the meeting will be typical of ISAAPT meetings with a tentative list of invited speakers including Dwain Desbien, Gregg Swackhamer, David Marx, and Daniel Holland.

Announcements:
1. Carl reported that former ISAAPT High School Physics Teacher of the Year Tom Holbrook recently was named a Presidential Award Winner.
2. Carl suggested that the Illinois Physics Teacher include space for advertising. A motion was made by Tom Carter to allow for advertising in the Illinois Physics Teacher for an appropriate fee. The motion was seconded by Don Reid. Upon discussion a motion was made to amend the original motion to include that the advertising must by approved by the publicity committee. The motion to amend was seconded by Bill Hogan and passed. The amended motion was then passed. Bill Hogan volunteered to ask a couple of venders to determine an appropriate fee for advertising.
3. Chris LaRoche suggested that we do more at meetings that would entice the general public to attend. Dave Sykes noted that the public was invited to the keynote on global warming at the fall 2007 Meeting at LLCC yet only a few attended despite extensive advertising.

Adjournment:  A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Foster and seconded by Bill Hogan. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Dave Sykes, Secretary-Treasurer
ISAAAPT Outstanding Physics Teacher Receives National Award

(Normal, IL) University High School’s Thomas Wade Holbrook is one of 99 educators this year to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House.

Each recipient receives a $10,000 award as well as a trip to Washington, D.C. for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities, including meeting with scientists and science educators at NSF, meeting with members of Congress and federal agency leadership and a reception and dinner at the U.S. Dept. of State.

Holbrook, a 26-year teacher at University High school, is an instructor of physics and AP chemistry. During his tenure, he has served as department chairman, Scholastic Bowl coach and Academic Challenge coach. He serves as a mentor to Illinois State University College of Education clinical experience students and was president of the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers.

“I had an outstanding week in Washington, D.C.;” Holbrook said. “I met 98 of the most outstanding teachers you could imagine. I am beginning to believe that winning the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching will be a life-changing experience. However, nothing is going to drag me out of the classroom any time soon.”

Holbrook is considered a committed, passionate and thoughtful educator who holds students to high expectations for their behavior and academic achievement. Parents indicate their children have genuinely enjoyed the physics and chemistry classes; he makes physics fathomable to students. His teaching encourages more students to take physics, and he inspires his students to pursue careers in science and science education. His leadership and service extends to his peers, including physics teacher candidates whom he has inspired, motivated and coached through his student teacher mentoring.

Holbrook trained in the Physics Teaching Resource Agents program, which allows him to be a lead instructor for rural teachers during the summer. From 2005 he was an instructional leader for the Chicago ITQ Science Project that trained 62 in-service high school physics teachers in the Modeling Method of Instruction. He has published an article on Socratic dialogue in science classrooms in the Journal of Physics Teacher Education Online. He was awarded the Outstanding Illinois High School Physics Teacher of the Year Award by the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers during 1997-1998.

Holbrook holds National Board Certification in adolescent and young adulthood science. He has a bachelor’s degree in physical science from the University of Illinois and a master’s degree in science education from Eastern Illinois University.
In the Presidential citation, winners are commended for “embodying excellence in teaching, for devotion to the learning needs of the students and for upholding the high standards that exemplify American education at its finest.” The award was established in 1983 by the Education for Economic Security Act and is given annually to math and science teachers across the United States who make outstanding contributions to their students and schools.

Awardees are selected from mathematics and science teachers in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, with the competition this year focusing on seventh through twelfth grade teachers. After an initial selection process at the state level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators recommend teachers to receive the Presidential Awards.

**Proposed Amendments to ISAAAPT Constitution and Bylaws**

During the summer retreat of the ISAAAPT Executive Council, amendments to the constitution and bylaws were debated and recommended for approval. ISAAAPT members are hereby put on notice that these recommended amendments will be brought before the membership during the annual business meeting to commence at approximately 12:30 p.m. at the Fall meeting of the Section. The proposals are seen as providing clarification, and to bring these documents into alignment with current practices.

In the documents, a strike-through is text that is recommended for removal; an underscore is text that is recommended for addition. If you are interested in such matters, please review the documents and send any comments you might wish to share to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Section (David Sykes, Dave.Sykes@llcc.edu) by October 4th. The amendments likely will be adopted en mass unless significant resistance is met.

Please see the ISAAAPT Web site for the documents.

**ISAAAPT Dues Due**

As readers will have noted from reviewing the minutes of the Section’s Executive Council retreat this summer, the dues of the Section have been raised to $20 per year. The Section’s coffers are at an all time low, and need to be replenished. Even if you will not be attending the fall meeting of the Section, you are strongly encouraged to renew your membership today by sending your dues directly to our Secretary/Treasurer David Sykes.

During recent years, the Section’s financial resources have dwindled to a mere pittance. This is due to at least two good reasons: (1) we are seeing continuing growth in the use of our Guidebook Program for senior physics teacher education majors, and (2) we recently contributed support to the widely acclaimed and broadly distributed booklets and brochures to recruit Illinois’ next generation of high school science teachers. Also contributing to the shortfall of revenue have been conferences in the past whose receipts did not entirely cover expenses.

Please support the work of the ISAAAPT by either paying dues as part of the fall meeting registration process if attending, or by sending your dues payment directly to David Sykes, Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9256. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

**Conference Hosts Needed for Future ISAAAPT Meetings**

The ISAAAPT 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](http://www.isaapt.org)