Spring 2011 Meeting  
Illinois Section of the AAPT  
April 1-2, 2011  
Eastern Illinois Univ., Charleston, IL

The spring meeting chair, Doug Brandt, has organized the meeting around the theme “Year of the Solar System”. Invited presentations are:

"Where's the Antimatter?" - Michael Fortner, Northern Illinois University - Friday afternoon

"The Future of Near Earth Object Observations" - Robert Holmes, Astronomical Research Observatory - Friday afternoon or Saturday morning

"Citizen Science: Unmanned Space Exploration by You!" - Pamela Gay, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville - Friday evening banquet speaker

"From the Dawn of the Space Age to the Edge of the Solar System" - Donald Gurnett, University of Iowa - Saturday morning

Five workshops are planned for Friday morning; sign up for these on the registration form.

W1. 9:00-10:25 "Astrometry" - Robert Holmes, Joshua Hawkins, and Hannah Tanquary, Astronomical Research Institute and Eastern Illinois University

W2. 9:00-10:25 "Activities from Teaching About Lightwave Communications" - Cherie Lehman, Eastern Illinois University

W3. 10:30-12:00 "Inquiry-Oriented Activities for Teaching Introductory Astronomy" - Carl Wenning, Illinois State University

W4. 10:30-12:00 "Effectively Implementing Technology into Your Classroom" - John Metzler, Niles West High School

W5. 10:30-12:00 "Physics, It's Making a Comeback (The Physics of Boomerangs)" - Society of Physics Students, Eastern Illinois University

Meeting attendees are invited to present 15 minute Contributed Presentations, which will be scheduled on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. There are six categories of presentations: (a) Active Learning, (b) Teaching Methods, (c) Demonstrations, (d) Research, (e) Student Research Symposium and (f) Other. Please check the appropriate box on the submission form. The title should be submitted by Friday, Mar. 18, and the deadline for all of the information, including a one paragraph description, is Friday, Mar. 25. Use the online form on two occasions, if necessary, to first submit the title, then later to submit the description (or abstract).

Students are invited to present a talk at the Student Research Symposium, and there will be awards for best student papers. See the ISAAPT web site for details and rules.

Call for judges: We need physics instructors to serve as judges for the Student Research Symposium. Please indicate on your registration form if you are willing to assist.
Take Fives: Anyone who registers for the meeting may take 5 minutes or less to share a favorite item related to teaching physics - a demonstration, a new Web site, announcement of an upcoming event, etc. Please use the Registration form to tell us the title of your Take Five. There may be time for a few unannounced Take Fives at the end of the last session of the day.

ISAAPT has been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) as an official provider of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU's). The ISAAPT's application was renewed on 10/19/2009 and is approved through 12/30/2011. The Coordinator for this program, Carl Wenning, will be available to provide this service to teachers.

Please join us, to learn more about physics, discover new tools and techniques for teaching, and share your experiences via your contributed presentations and Take Fives. You are welcome to come at the last minute, because on-site registration will be available, but for banquet and lunch reservations, you must register online by March 25. Because of prior commitments, the presentation of the Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award has been postponed until the Fall meeting.

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

**Future ISAAPT Meetings**

- Fall 2011 – Conference Center, Tinley Park, IL (Oct. 27-29, see article in this issue)
- Spring 2012 – Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Fall 2012 – Joliet Junior College, Joliet
- Fall 2013 – Illinois State Univ., Normal

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

**Future Chicago section meetings**

- Spring 2011 – April 9, Niles West HS
- Fall 2011 – Conference Center, Tinley Park, IL (Oct. 27-29, see article in this issue)
- Fall 2012 – Joliet Junior College
- See: http://www.neiu.edu/~csaapt/

**Future national AAPT meetings**

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

**APS Prairie section meetings**

- Fall 2011 – tentatively planned for November
- See: http://www.aps.org/units/psaps/index.cfm
Illinois Science Education Conference
Conference Center, Tinley Park, IL
October 27-29, 2011

A joint meeting of the ISTA (Illinois Science Teachers Association), ISAAPT, CSAAPT (Chicago Section AAPT), and IACT (Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers) will be held on Oct. 27-29, 2011 in the conference center at Tinley Park, just south of Chicago, with the theme "Science Teaching and Learning in America's Heartland." There will be 18 conference strands available for scheduling presentations and other events. Meeting details and registration will appear on our website as usual. Here are some of the important dates. These are earlier than usual.

March 15 – Start of Online Call for Presentations. After providing a title and description (60 word limit), you will have the following choices:
- Date - Friday, Saturday, or either day
- Time to present – 5, 15, 25, 50, 110 or 170 min
- Intended audience - K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12, K-12, 9-college, preservice teachers, college/university, or administration
- Subject - biology, chemistry, earth/space science, environmental science, engineering, physics, technology, safety, science education research, science leadership, or other.

May 1 – Online Registration will begin.

June 15 – Deadline for submitting presentations.

July 31 – Program chair will notify you by this date if your presentation is accepted.

September 1 – Deadline to withdraw a presentation.

October 15 – Registration deadline.

Local Physical Science Alliances

Our concept of “Local physics alliances” has been expanded to become Local Physical Science Alliances, involving teachers in other areas of physical science. A Mission Statement has been adopted: To provide networks for teachers of physical science to explore curricular and instructional resources and strategies, as well as pure and applied research and innovations, in order to promote excellence in teaching and learning of the physical sciences throughout Illinois.

The LPSAs for Illinois is now a joint initiative of the Illinois Science Teachers Association (ISTA) (Gwen Pollock, President), the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (ISAAPT) (Carl J. Wenning, Past President), and the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers (IACT) (Leonard Freidhof, President, and Rodger Baldwin, Past President).

The following Aims for Illinois 2010-2011 have been adopted:
- Reducing teacher isolation through collaborative relationships
- Identifying and addressing teacher and student needs
- Improving physical science education in grades 9-16

This new initiative offers you the chance to meet and learn from other teachers in your region. See the web site for a list of “zone leaders” who have committed their time to help you build an LPSA in your part of the state:

http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/lpsa/index.html

Deborah Lojkutz Receives Distinguished Service Citation

Prior to the spring Section Meeting, the Executive Council solicits nominations for the Distinguished Service Citation. This award is conferred by the ISAAPT during the fall meeting if a suitable candidate is identified. The recipient of the 2010 DSC was Deborah Lojkutz of Joliet West High School. The award was conferred in recognition of the outstanding contributions she has made to the field of physics teaching in the state of Illinois and service to the Illinois section of AAPT, including service as the president of the section in 2008. Through the award special recognition is given in the areas of leadership of colleagues and students through physics teaching, professional contributions to section activities through contributed papers, workshop presentation, committee service, or elective office and distinguished service at the home institution.
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, 2011. The teacher who is selected will be notified and presented with the award at the spring 2012 meeting of the Section.

JPTEO announces last regular issue

The last regular issue of the Journal of Physics Teacher Education Online was released in the summer of 2010 and includes two articles:

• “Arizona State University’s preparation of out-of-field physics teachers: MNS summer program,” by Jane Jackson (editorial)

• “Levels of inquiry: Using inquiry spectrum learning sequences to teach science,” by Carl J. Wenning

According to Carl Wenning, editor-in-chief, “as of July 13, 2010, JPTEO suspended normal publication. JPTEO will continue as an irregular publication serving the Physics Teacher Education group at Illinois State University as well as those who are directly affiliated with its work. Effective this date, this publication will no longer be peer reviewed and will include only articles authored by or in cooperation with members of the ISU Physics Teacher Education group.”

Archival issues of JPTEO contain some interesting articles, and can be viewed and/or downloaded by visiting the Journal’s website at

http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/jpteo/

Urgent deadline – Summer Research Experience for Teachers (RET)

Northwestern University is offering a summer Research Experience for Teachers. This program is for physics teachers who might be interested in working with scientists this coming summer. This program carries an $8,500 stipend and runs from June 20 through August 12, 2011. The application deadline is March 15, 2011. For more information, or to apply, please visit the program’s website: http://www.northwestern.edu/mrsec/content/educational_programs/ret.htm
If you have any questions about the RET program, please feel free to contact Nic Tat, via email or phone at mrc@northwestern.edu or 847-491-3606.

ISAAPT Guidebook Program

This program provides resource guides to qualifying teacher candidates at the request of an Illinois PTE program administrator. For details see: http://helios.augustana.edu/isaapt/guidebook.html

The Physics Front!

The Physics Front provides high quality resources for the teaching of physics and physical sciences courses, and is a free service provided by the AAPT in partnership with the NSF/NSDL. Find it at http://www.thephysicsfront.org/

AAPT NEWS eNNOUNCER

http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/ennouncer/index.cfm

ISAAPT listserv

To subscribe, send the following message to listserv@ilstu.edu, being certain to turn off your signature: SUBSCRIBE isaapt-l

UIUC Saturday Physics Honors Program

This program for high school students is also open to the public, and will start up in the fall at UIUC: http://physics.illinois.edu/outreach/Honors/
Minutes of the Fall 2010 ISAAAPT Executive Council Meeting
Saturday, October 9, 2010
Sherrard High School

Call to Order: President Carl Wenning called the meeting to order at 7:13 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, Tom Snyder, Tom Carter, Bill Hogan, Andrew Morrison, Deb Lojkutz, Don Reid, and Chris LaRoche.

E-Action Items: A motion to accept the minutes of the executive council meeting held at Blackburn College was made via email by Brian Davies on April 12, 2010 and seconded by Doug Brandt on April 13, 2010. President Carl Wenning notified the council via the Council list-serve on May 5, 2010, that the motion had passed.

Secretary-Treasurer Report: Dave reported on the financial status of the ISAAAPT. Currently there is $2986 in the treasury and the Rossing Fund has a balance of $30,128.

Section Representative Report: In the absence of Zak Knott, Bill Hogan reported that during the section reps meeting half the time was spent on AAPT recruitment and the other half of the meeting was spent on discussing ways in which sections can work together. Tom Foster volunteered to act as Section Rep for the upcoming winter AAPT meeting.

High School Representative Report: Ann Brandon reported that the committee has spent most of its time on preparing to fill seven (7) workshops and five (5) sessions for the next AAPT meeting. She added that AAPT publications have been doing well.

Publicity Chair and Webmaster Report: Dave Renneke reported the following:
1. The website is running smoothly.
2. Two weeks prior to the meeting the website was getting 39 hits/day and the week of the meeting the website was getting 56 hits/day.
3. The domain name was up for renewal and cost $10 per year.
A motion was made by Ann Brandon to renew the domain name for two (2) years at a total cost of $20. The motion was seconded by Don Reid and passed without discussion.

Newsletter Editor Report: Brian Davies reported that 103 copies of the newsletter were delivered — three (3) directly, seven (7) by email, and the rest by mail.

Current Meeting Update: Chris LaRoche reported on the status of the current meeting.
1. 45 registrants.
2. Income > $2000
3. Expenditures < $1000
4. All invited speakers donated their time and services.

Spring 2011 Meeting Update: Carl reported that Doug Brandt had sent him a report on the upcoming Spring ISAAAPT meeting at Eastern Illinois University to be held on April 1-2, 2011. Doug emailed that the ISAAAPT will get $500 to $1000 of support from the University and the theme of the meeting will center on the Solar System.

Old Business:

Liability Insurance: Dave Sykes reported that the ISAAAPT now has a general liability insurance policy of $1 million per incident and $2 million aggregate. The premium for the policy is $247 per year.

Incorporation: Carl reported on a summary that Doug Brandt had sent him concerning the status of incorporation by the ISAAAPT. Doug indicated that several changes need to be made before the ISAAAPT can be incorporated including:
1. The word education has to be included in the objective of the Association.
2. Both the Secretary/Treasurer and the Section Representative have to be elected by the general membership.
3. The Council has to be renamed as the Board of Directors.
4. The section on amendments has to be deleted.
5. The Constitution will be replaced by the By-Laws of the ISAAAPT.
It was also noted that a “Registered Agent” was necessary for incorporation and that the logical choice for that position would be the secretary/treasurer as typically he/she serves in the position for 2 3-year terms.
Local Physical Science Alliances (LPSA): Carl reported that the LPSA’s are a “child” of the Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention Committee. All zones have leaders except the Joliet and Carbondale zones.

Rossing Page Update: Dave Renneke reported that the Rossing web page was up and running.

ISAAPT Logo Update: Tom Carter reported that he has submitted our logo as a class project for the Graphic Arts Department at the College of Dupage. In the past, when projects were assigned to student teams, two (2) to three (3) students would compete to create a new logo. He added that he hoped to have their renderings, for the council’s perusal, at the Spring meeting.

New Business:

Committee for the Distinguished Service Citation: Brian Davies reported on the process for this year’s DSC nomination and selection and that this year’s winner, Deb Lojkutz, will now comprise the DSC committee with himself and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sykes.

Outstanding High School Teacher Award: Carl reported that Cliff Parker had emailed him and stated that he would solicit nominations soon. Dave Renneke added that the online forms were up and running.

Nominating Committee: Tom Foster reported on the nominees for the elections that will be held at the business meeting.

President Elect: Brian Davies, Western Illinois University
4-year College/University Representative: Jeff Chamberlain, Illinois College
2-year College Representative: Noella D’Cruz, Joliet Junior College
High School Representative: no nomination yet.

Upcoming ISAAPT meetings: Future ISAAPT meetings that are scheduled are
Spring, 2011: Eastern Illinois University, April 1-2.
Fall, 2011: Tinley Park, TBA (Joint with ISTA, CSAAPT, and IACT).
Spring, 2012: University of Illinois, Champaign, TBA.
Fall, 2012: Joliet Junior College, TBA.
Fall, 2013: Illinois State University, TBA.

Carl noted that we have not gotten a host for Spring 2013. Tom Carter and Tom Foster volunteered to investigate using the Yerkes Observatory to host a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Section.

AAPT Executive Officer: Carl reported that he had met with the new Executive Officer of the AAPT, Beth Cunningham. Carl added that she said she is very interested in working with us on many topics.

ISAAPT mirror website: Carl stated that it would be prudent to develop a mirror ISAAPT website in the event that the main website was disabled. Dave Renneke added that the key is to get an individual who wants and is able to run the website and that a server is available. Andrew Morrison volunteered to work with Dave Renneke in investigating/creating a mirror site.

Adjournment: A motion for adjournment was made by Andrew Morrison and seconded by Bill Hogan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Dave Sykes, Secretary/Treasurer