The Illinois
Physics
Teacher

Spring 2012 Meeting
Illinois Section of the AAPT
March 30-31, 2012
Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The spring meeting chair, Morten Lundsgaard, has organized the meeting around the theme “Engage to Excel”. Invited presentations are:

"The Large Hadron Collider: Probing the Universe at the biggest science project ever" –Tony Liss, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Friday banquet speaker

"Engage to Excel: Opportunities and risks of the national initiative to improve STEM education" - Tim Stelzer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Friday afternoon

"Interactive Online Labs: Hands-on activities exactly when you need them" - Mats Selen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Friday afternoon

"Flex Paced Flipped Mastery Physics" - Rob White and Bill Sadler, Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School - Saturday morning

"Support to Excel: Professional development for inservice teachers" - Morten Lundsgaard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Saturday morning

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

W1. 10:00-12:00 "Mini Modeling" - Carl Wenning, Illinois State University

W2. 11:00-10:00 "Entrepreneurial Science" - Cracker Barrel Discussion, Dan Holland, Illinois State 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. 16, and the deadline for all of the information, including a one paragraph description, is Friday, Mar. 23. 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 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 23.

The recipient of the 2011-2012 Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award is Jeremy Paschke who teaches at York High School, Elmhurst, Illinois. He will be presented with the award during the Friday evening banquet.

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

Future ISAAPT Meetings

- Fall 2012 – Oct. 26-27, Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL
- Spring 2013 – open
- Fall 2013 – Illinois State Univ., Normal

Future Chicago section meetings

- Spring 2012 – April 28, Thornton High School
- Fall 2012 – Oct. 26-27, Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL (joint with ISAAPT)
- See: http://www.neiu.edu/~csaapt/

Future national AAPT meetings

- Summer 2012 – July 28 - Aug. 1 – Philadelphia
- Winter 2013 – Jan. 5 - 9 – New Orleans, LA
- Summer 2013 – July 13 - 17 – Portland, OR
- http://www.aapt.org/Conferences/meetings.cfm

APS Prairie section meeting

- Fall 2012 – Nov. 8-10 – Kansas University, Lawrence, KS
- See: http://www.aps.org/units/psaps/index.cfm

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

The Physics Teacher,
the ISAAPT Newsletter

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Free 3-day Modeling Workshops at ISU

The Illinois State University Physics Department will be sponsoring two free three-day Modeling Method workshops during June for science teaching candidates, in-service high school teachers, and community college and university faculty who are interested in learning more about this approach to instruction.

The first three-day workshop, tentatively scheduled during the week of June 11-15, will provide an introduction to Modeling. This workshop is designed for those with no experience in Modeling and will deal with constant and accelerated motion. Participants will learn about inquiry-oriented instruction including Socratic dialogues and whiteboarding. The workshop will be conducted by Ken Wester and Carl Wenning of the ISU Physics Department.

The second three-day workshop, tentatively scheduled during the week of June 18-22, will serve as a continuation of the first workshop and will focus on the teaching of energy and momentum. It is designed for those with some exposure to Modeling. Also hosted by the ISU Physics Department, this follow-up workshop will be lead by Tom Holbrook from University High School.

An introductory yet transitional mini workshop dealing with Newton's second law will be held on Friday morning, March 30, at the upcoming ISAAPT meeting at UIUC. The time of the workshop is 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will be provided with an overview of the Modeling Method of Instruction. This "micro" workshop will be conducted by Carl Wenning.

The summer workshops are being made possible by a generous grant of support from the ISU Physics Department. CPDUs will be made available for in-service high school teachers. For additional information about registering for either of the two free summer workshops, contact Carl via email at <wenning@phy.ilstu.edu>. Information will then be released as it becomes available. Information about the spring 2012 ISAAPT meeting at UIUC and the accompanying mini workshop can be found on the first page of this newsletter.

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 (IAC) (Leonard Freidhof, President, and Rodger Baldwin, Past President).

The following Aims for Illinois 2011-2012 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

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

At the spring 2012 meeting this program will be reviewed and reauthorized if deemed appropriate.
Tom Snyder Receives
Distinguished Service Citation

Prior to the end of summer, 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 2011 DSC was Tom Snyder of Lincoln Land Community College. Because Tom was unable to be present at the fall 2011 meeting, the award will be presented during the banquet at the upcoming spring meeting. The award was conferred in recognition of the outstanding contributions he has made to the field of physics teaching in the state of Illinois and service to the Illinois section of AAPT, including service on the executive council of the section and hosting meetings of the section. 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.

We invite and encourage you to nominate a fellow colleague for the 2012 Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the fall 2012 ISAAPT meeting. Please send your nomination by July 1, 2012, so that the Council might consider the candidates during the summer. For guidelines, see the “Distinguished Service Citation” link on the ISAAPT website: www.isaapt.org

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, 2012. The teacher who is selected will be notified and presented with the award at the spring 2013 meeting of the Section.

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/

Minutes of the Fall 2011 ISAAPT Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, October 28, 2011
Tinley Park Convention Center

Call to Order: President Doug Brandt called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Council members present: Past-President Carl Wenning, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sykes, Webmaster and Publicity Chair Dave Renneke, Tom Carter, Andrew Morrison, Deb Lojkutz, Don Reid, Noella D’Cruz, Ken Wester, Jeff Chamberlain, Bill Hogan, and Richard Ross.

E-Action Items:

A motion to approve the executive council minutes of the April 6 meeting at Eastern Illinois University was made by Carl Wenning on May 4, 2011 and seconded by Andrew Morrison on May 4, 2011. President Doug Brandt notified council members that the motion had passed on May 13, 2011.

A motion to authorize Tom Foster to commission work developing three (3) draft logos to be available for our inspection sometime this summer, with the understanding that a final logo (black and white as well as color versions) will be prepared that meets the sections needs and expectations, and doing so for $200, was made by Carl Wenning on April 13, 2011 and seconded by Andrew Morrison on April 13, 2011. President Doug Brandt notified council members on April 26, 2011 that the motion had passed.
A motion to provide up to $1500 from the Rossing Fund to support the presentation of the film “The Atom Smashers” at the Fall 2011 ISEC meeting at Tinley Park was made by Andrew Morrison on July 5, 2011 and seconded by Carl Wenning on July 5, 2011. President Doug Brandt notified council members on July 21, 2011, that the motion had passed.

A motion to allow absentee balloting to take place with the mailing of the Illinois Physics Teacher newsletter was made by Carl Wenning on August 5, 2011 and seconded by Dave Sykes on August 5, 2011. The election for officeholders will still be held according bylaw regulations at Friday’s regular business meeting. It would be ideal if we could include some sort of ballot that can be sent to David Sykes, ISAAPT secretary-treasurer, who will then validate and count them and bring the tallies to the business meeting at Tinley Park. President Doug Brandt notified the council on September 6, 2011, that the motion had passed.

Carl Wenning moved on September 7, 2011, that the ISAAPT Executive Council allocate $100 of Section Funds to support the creation of a printed banner and materials for distribution at the Tinley Park meeting via a display table. Rebecca Vieyra seconded the motion on September 7, 2011. The material will serve to heighten physics awareness of the AAPT, ISAAPT, CSAAPT, and other physics related resources in Illinois. President Doug Brandt notified the council on September 27, 2011 that the motion had passed.

Andrew Morrison moved on September 22, 2011 to approve of the endorsement of Tom Snyder of Lincoln Land Community College as the recipient of the ISAAPT Distinguished Service Citation for 2011. Bill Hogan seconded the motion on September 23, 2011. President Doug Brandt notified the council on October 1, 2011 that the motion had passed.

Reports:

Secretary-Treasurer: Dave reported on the financial status of the ISAAPT. Currently there is $6058.42 in the treasury and the Rossing Fund has a balance of $31,297.73 (as of 9/30/2011). Dave added that the Rossing Fund balance has probably grown substantially over the last month as the stock market has advanced and there should not be a problem paying the $1500 fee for the Atom Smashers presentation from the Fund. A motion to approve of the treasurer’s report was made by Carl and seconded by Don. The motion passed without further discussion.

Section Representative: Zak Knott did not attend the meeting and no section representative report was submitted.

Publicity Chair/Webmaster: Dave Renneke reported that it has been a very busy year with his involvement with the ISTA and the development of the current meeting. He stated that the call for presentations was up on the website by March 15 and the form for registration was up by June 15. He added that as of today there were 170 presentations and of those about 35 were physics related. Andrew commented on how the ISTA was so impressed by Dave and his work on the website.

Newsletter Editor: Brian Davies was unable to attend the council meeting so he submitted his report via the listserv. Newsletters and ballots were prepared for 126 members of the section. Three (3) of these were delivered by hand at WIU, two (2) were undeliverable because the members moved out of state, and the rest were delivered by mail. The newsletter has been posted to the website for those who also want an electronic copy. Brian Davies covered the costs as a donation to the ISAAPT.

Outstanding High School Teacher Award: Cliff Parker did not attend but Dave Sykes stated that he had been in contact with Cliff and Cliff told him that he had sent the plaque to the 2011 award winner, Jay Walgren.

Committee for the Distinguished Service Citation: Dave Sykes reported that the 2011 DSC award winner, Tom Snyder, was not able to attend the meeting and that he would be recognized at the Spring Meeting at UIUC.

Nominating Committee: Carl Wenning reported that for the first time in many years there are several positions that are being contested. Dave added that he had received eight absentee ballots from those that could not attend the meeting.

Current Meeting Update: Andrew reported that the ISTA does things a “little” differently and that ISAAPT members should fill out evaluation forms as much as possible to express our constructive criticisms. Carl commented that it comes down to “would we do this again?” He added that although the number of ISAAPT members registering for the meeting was low, it still may be a very lucrative meeting for the ISAAPT financially.

Spring 2012 Meeting Update: Doug reported that Gary Gladding of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has
stated that either March 30-31 or April 6-7 would work for the Spring Meeting. The council agreed that March 30-31 was more appropriate as April 8 is Easter Sunday.

Future Meetings:
- Fall 2012 - Joliet Junior College
- Spring 2013 - open
- Fall 2013 - Illinois State University

Carl moved that the ISAAPT hold a joint meeting with the IACT at ISU in the fall of 2013, if acceptable to the IACT. Don seconded. The motion passed without further discussion.

Old Business:

ISAAPT Logo: Tom Foster has taken the lead on the development of an ISAAPT logo but was unable to attend the council meeting to give a status report.

Incorporation status: Doug reported that another “signature” form needs to be filled out as the old one had addresses that were deemed to be illegible. Doug added that he would send a new one out, for officers to sign, as soon as possible.

New Business:

Election Ballot: Dave Sykes reported that a retired member of the ISAAPT inquired if he had the right to vote despite not being a dues paying member (a requirement stated on the ballot). To that end, Bill Hogan made a motion to have future ballots state that all members in good standing (as per the constitution) are eligible to vote. Carl seconded the motion. The motion passed without further discussion.

IAI dilemma: Tom Carter reported on an issue in which the IAI is requiring gen-ed physics courses to include five “student learning goals” that relate to the interplay between science and society. After considerable discussion including, but not limited to, the legitimacy of the IAI to introduce and mandate educational “reform” and the probable conflict of such reform with the articulation of community college gen-ed physics courses with senior institutions, Bill Hogan moved that the ISAAPT Executive Council have Tom Carter pursue developing a letter, to be sent to the IAI, stating our concern of the new gen-ed science goals. Andrew Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment: A motion for adjournment was made by Tom Carter and seconded by Don Reid. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Faithfully submitted,
Dave Sykes, Secretary/Treasurer, ISAAPT

Treasurer’s report

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