The Illinois Physics Teacher

Spring 2014 Meeting
Illinois Section of the AAPT
March 28-29, 2014
Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL

The spring meeting chair, Narendra Jaggi, has organized the meeting around the theme “Laboratory Instruction in Physics and Astronomy: today and the near future.” The goal of this meeting is to have a broad conversation among Illinois physics and astronomy educators about the status, the state of the art, and the emerging future of laboratory instruction and demonstrations at all levels, ranging from high school to graduate school.

For the Friday evening banquet speaker we have: "Support for updating instructional labs (and demonstrations)" – Dr. Gabe C. Spalding, Dept. of Physics, Illinois Wesleyan University

We are awaiting confirmation of other invited speakers to update us on these topics:

- The changing face of the high school laboratory physics curriculum
- Laboratory physics in two year colleges
- Innovations and trends in laboratory physics at the first year college level at UIUC
- Laboratory component of IPLS (introductory physics for life scientists) courses - a report from the 2014 national IPLS conference

We have arranged tours of the new IWU 11-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with CCD camera. These tours will be given on Friday afternoon by physics majors who have done research in astronomy. The observatory is on campus. The telescope is used for General Education courses and for an upper level laboratory physics course.

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, March 7, and the deadline for all of the information, including a one paragraph description, is Friday, March 21. 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.

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, Morten Lundsgaard, 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 21.

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

Second ISAAPT Tour of TCAA Observatories:
ISAAPT members toured the Sugar Grove and Prairie Sky observatories of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers during the fall meeting at Heartland Community College. Several subsequently indicated to Carl Wenning that they wanted to return to see the facilities in operation. It was not possible that evening due to overcast skies. On Friday evening, March 28th, after the ISAAPT spring meeting banquet, that opportunity will be made available on an informal basis. ISAAPT members are once again invited to tour the facilities that evening and watch as amateur astronomers work – assuming the sky is clear. In addition to seeing astronomical imaging, visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the photometry of recent supernovas and asteroids. The observatories house 10", 17" and 20" photographic telescopes outfitted with some of the best imaging equipment that money can buy. One or two visual instruments should be available for use as well. If you would like to tour these facilities, please email Carl Wenning at carlwenning@gmail.com as soon as possible for details.

Future ISAAAPT Meetings
• Fall 2014 – Oct. 24-25, Bettendorf High School (joint with Iowa section, Bettendorf, Iowa)
• Spring 2015 – open
• Fall 2015 – Millikin University, Decatur, IL

Future Chicago section meetings
• Spring 2014 – Lake Forest College
• Fall 2014 – open
• See: https://sites.google.com/site/chicagoaapt/

Future national AAPT meetings
• Summer 2014 – July 26-30 – Minneapolis, MN
• Winter 2015 – Jan. 3-6 – San Diego, CA
• Summer 2015 – July 25-29 – University of Maryland, College Park, MD
• Winter 2016 – Jan. 9-12 – New Orleans, LA
• http://www.aapt.org/Conferences/meetings.cfm

APS Prairie section meeting
• Fall 2014 – to be announced
• See: http://www.aps.org/units/psaps/index.cfm

AAPT NEWS eNNOUNCER
http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/ennouncer/index.cfm

ISAAPT membership listserv
To subscribe, see the instructions on this webpage: http://helios.augustana.edu/isaapt/listserv-isaapt.html

Connect with ISAAPT
ISAAPT in now on the social media websites!

Please consider joining and/or following us on:
Facebook group: search “Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers”
Google+ page: search “ISAAPT”
Twitter feed: search “ISAAPT@IllinoisSecAAPT”

Please contact Rebecca Vieyra at rvieyra@d155.org with any questions and/or comments.
President’s message, by Don Reid

When I first agreed to run for president I was hesitant – my daughter was getting ready to graduate and head off to college and I was in the middle of teaching a new class for the first time. However, I was assured by Andy that it was not that hard and would not occupy too much of my time. As it turns out, he is completely correct. Most of the real work is done by the other officers and committee chairs/appointed positions and I want to thank and acknowledge them. Andy Morrison, the past president, has been invaluable in giving me advice and keeping me straight when I was uncertain about certain issues. Ken Wester, our secretary/treasurer, did a great job of keeping minutes at the fall meeting and making sure all the bills were paid. Zak Knott attended the Winter AAPT meeting as our section representative - a heavy burden going to Florida in the middle of the winter... I look forward to his report at our spring meeting.

Electronic communication is achieved through the efforts of many. Brian Davies keeps us all informed about what is going on through the newsletter and e-mails. Doug Brandt maintains the Listserv. I am not much of a Facebook or Twitter person, but Rebecca Vieyra makes it look easy as she has created and maintains both accounts (and “Goggle +” too). Without Dave Renneke’s web page, meeting notices, call for presenters, registration pages, schedule of presenters, and a whole lot more, our meetings would not happen!

There are several other appointed positions that I will not mention except to say that, as chair of the “High School Teacher Award” committee, I now know how much work one of those committees can be. And of course I cannot leave out the council members representing the 4 year colleges, 2 year colleges, and high schools. I look forward to chairing the council meeting at the spring meeting at Illinois Wesleyan University. As any of us who have hosted a meeting knows, it is a lot of work. I want to thank Narendra Jaggi and Linda French in advance for putting together what I am sure will be a great meeting.

Finally, one officer I skipped over is “President-Elect” Morten Lundsgaard. My daughter did graduate and made it through her first semester at U of I in part because of Morten – she was in his Physics class. After the business meeting in the fall, Morten will take over as President. I hope I can be as helpful to him as Andy and everyone else has been to me. We really do have a good organization and a great group of members.

Joint Membership Agreement between ISAAAPT and the ISTA

As many of you may know, ISAAAPT entered into a joint membership agreement several years ago with the Illinois Science Teachers Association. The agreement basically states that each group will include a link to register for the other organization on their registration forms. To date we have added several new members due to this agreement. At the fall 2013 meeting the council voted to extend the agreement. Don Reid has been in contact with Harry Hendrickson and Paul Ritter from ISTA via e-mail to get the necessary paper work signed. The ISTA website is at http://www.ista-il.org/

Joint meeting between Illinois and Iowa AAPT sections

The fall 2014 meeting will be a joint meeting with the Iowa section at Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, Iowa on October 24-25. Brian Davies, Cecilia Vogel, and Don Reid have been in contact with Iowa section president Sara Karbeling and recording secretary Dale Stille, and Peter Bruecken, who teaches at Bettendorf High School. The school has 9 fully stocked science labs, a newly renovated auditorium, and a state of the art Planetarium. In addition to being able to meet with folks from the Iowa section, one of the other benefits of a joint meeting is the Rossing Fund, which can be used to pay for presenters invited to speak at joint meetings.

ISAAAPT Guidebook Program

http://helios.augustana.edu/isaaaapt/guidebook.html
Volunteer Reviewers Needed for Draft Physics Teacher Education Textbook

Carl Wenning (Illinois State University) and Rebecca Vieyra (Cary-Grove High School) have completed the first draft of a 40-chapter physics teacher education textbook. **TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS** is intended primarily for university-level preparation of prospective high school physics teachers; however, the textbook can serve as a resource for both teacher educators and in-service high school teachers.

A chapter-by-chapter review process will begin immediately and last through June 1, 2014. The review process will use a modified Delphi method (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delphi_method) structured to address nine intellectual standards. An anonymous online survey will provide for both structured and free responses. Contributions of reviewers will be acknowledged in the textbook upon request. Volunteer reviewers are needed now to help ensure the most accurate and complete publication possible. To learn more about the review process, to sign up as a reviewer, and to select the chapter or chapters you wish to review (up to 3 initially), go to the following website: http://goo.gl/DEzZcM. Please note that this URL is CASE SENSITIVE. Please feel free to share this invitation with other qualified individuals who might be interested, including in-service high school physics teachers, teachers-in-residence, and university faculty in physics and education.

Call for Nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Service Citation

Each year, the ISAAPT 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. 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 2014 Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the fall 2014 ISAAPT meeting. Please send your nomination by July 1, 2014, 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

Minutes of the fall 2013 ISAAPT Executive Council Meeting

Saturday, October 5, 2013
Heartland Community College

In addition to issues discussed above in this newsletter, the council meeting reported a good financial position for the ISAAPT, with almost $9000 in our bank account, and a Rossing fund at over $41,000. Election results were:

President Elect: Morten Lundsgaard
4-year College Rep: Joanne Budzien
2-year College Rep: Michael Roedelbronn
High School Rep: to be appointed by the Council.
Carl Wenning will complete Morten's unexpired term as 4-year college representative.
See the full minutes by visiting the website: http://helios.augustana.edu/isaapt/archive/minutes.html

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