Greetings fellow ISAAPT members!

There are several items I wish to share with you in this month’s president’s message:

★ Spring 2010 Section Meeting Successful

The ISAAPT spring Section meeting at Blackburn College was held in Carlinville on March 26/27. Hosting the event was Don Reid of Lincolnwood High School who did a great job of arranging and conducting the meeting. By all measures, this meeting was a resounding success. There was a large group of contributed and invited papers, workshops, a panel discussion, and a wonderful Friday evening banquet. Our keynote speaker, David Marx, did a great job of dealing effectively with what can sometimes be a contentious issue – anthropocentric global warming.

The Student Research Symposium had a dozen presentations. Subject matter was as varied this year as were the number of presenters. The winners of the competition were the following:

- First Place, Benjamin Shields, Non-causality in Quantum Mechanics, Illinois State University
- Second Place, Alicia Vonlanken, Study of the Lattice Vibration and Vibration Spectrum by Molecular Dynamics Simulation and Fourier Analysis, Eastern Illinois University
- Third Place, Michael Chastain, Investigation of the Equation of State of Real Gases by Molecular Dynamics Simulation, Eastern Illinois University

This year Jim Stankevitz of Wheaton Warrenville South High School was recognized as the Illinois Outstanding HS Physics Teacher of the year. It was great pleasure for me to introduce Jim and review his accomplishments for the membership. Having worked with Jim during Modeling Method workshops since 2001, I can say with all honestly that Jim is not only outstanding, but an exceptional high school physics teacher to boot. I have never hear in all my years so many high school teaching peer remark on the excellent teaching qualities of another member of their group. Congratulations Jim!

★ Updated ISAAPT Web Pages

Web master Dave Renneke has updated the ISAAPT home page, including new information from the spring Section meeting. The Section’s home page now features names of awards winners, pictures taken at the spring meeting, updated guidelines for hosting Section meetings, and much more. Minutes from the Spring Council meeting will be added soon. You may access the Section’s home page any time at http://isaapt.org.

A tribute has been added to the web page – a detailed description of the Dr. Thomas Rossing Fund. This web page describes the very generous $30,000 donation made by Dr. Rossing to the ISAAPT for the purpose of providing for speakers of joint Section meetings. Known well by many Section members, Tom taught from 1971 through 2007 at Northern Illinois University.

★ Fall 2010 Section Meeting at Sherrard High School

The fall Section meeting will be held at Sherrard High School in Sherrard, IL, just south of the Quad Cities. It is located about 15 miles southwest of the intersection of I-74 and I-80, and is conveniently reached from either interstate highway. Christopher LaRoche will serve as conference host. Neither the exact date nor the theme has been set yet, but Chris will be letting us know soon.

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ISU Physics Teaching Major Wins 2009 Barbara Lotze Scholarship

The American Association of Physics Teachers announced during March that one of two 2009 Barbara Lotze Scholarships for Future Teachers has been awarded to Sarah Pfluger. Sarah is a sophomore-level student enrolled in the Physics Teacher Education program at Illinois State University, and is carrying a second major in high school mathematics education. Supported by an endowment funded by AAPT member Barbara Lotze, the scholarship provides a $2,000 stipend to outstanding future high school physics teachers. Lotze recipients are recognized for outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service.

This is the second time that a physics teaching major from Illinois State University has been so recognized. Rebecca E. (Wenning) Vieyra was the sole 2004 Lotze Scholarship recipient. She now teaches at Cary Grove High School, and serves as ISAAPT High School Representative. A list of previous winners, as well as information about the award, can be found on the AAPT website at: http://aapt.org/Grants/lotze.cfm.

Zone Leader Meeting in Review

At the conclusion of the spring Section meeting at Carlinville, an informational gathering was held for new and prospective Local Physical Science Alliance (LPSA) zone leaders. In attendance were Carl Wenning (ISU), Morten Lundsgaard (UIUC), Amitab Joshi (EIU), Douglas Brandt (EIU), Lenore Horner (SIUE), Brian Davies (WIU), Tom Snyder (LLCC), Ken Mellendorf (ICC), Jennifer Docktor (UIUC), Gwen Pollock (Illinois Science Teachers Association President), Pati Sievert (NIU), Tom Foster (SIUE), Ken Wester (ISU), and Dave Sykes (LLCC). During this 75-minute meeting, the following items were addressed, discussed, and reviewed:

- A vision statement and goals for local alliances, including the desire to develop “vertical relationships” with teachers from university and college all the way down through elementary school teachers, was touched on.
- Up to $5,000 in support will be provided by the Illinois Science Teachers Association (ISTA) to host an August 2010 zone leaders meeting at Illinois State University that will include regional leaders from ISTA.
- Carl introduced Morten Lundsgaard from UIUC as the new co-leader of Zone VII along with Dave Leake (Parkland College). Pati Sievert from NIU has agreed to join Lenny Freidhof (Eastland High School) as a Zone I co-leader. SIU’s Mesfin Tsige has agreed to head Zone XII. Tom Holbrook (University High School) and IACT President Rodger Baldwin (Clinton High School) will be joining Ken and Carl in efforts to lead Zone VI. The only zone in the Section’s area that does not yet have an identified zone leader is Zone III (Joliet). Carl noted that Andrew Morrison has recently completed that zone’s email database of high school physics teachers despite the fact that he lives and teaches outside the zone.
- Carl described the current state of support for the concept of LPSAs from the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers as good. The leadership is onboard with the concepts presented, but have yet to formally move to approve the matter as an association initiative.
- LPSA structures including leadership and annual reports to Illinois State University that has agreed to oversee and provide ongoing support to the LPSAs.
- Commitments of zone leaders to provide one year of service to their local zones, now through the end of next school year were summarized. Service will consist of attending the August zone leaders meeting at ISU, arranging and conducting four alliance meetings in their zone during the next academic year, and developing a database of emails within the zone for communication.
- Updates were given about email databases of high school physics teachers and the need for a similar database for chemistry, earth & space science, and technology teachers at high school level, as well as middle school and elementary school science teachers.
- Tom, Dave, and Carl (ISAAPT’s Standing Committee on Recruitment, Preparation, and...
Retention) agreed to attend the ISTA fall meeting in Springfield (November 4-6) to showcase LPSAs and present one or more workshops dealing with using scientific inquiry during teaching. Gwen noted that ISTA hopes that Lincoln Land Community College will figure prominently as a workshop setting.

- The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of considerations suggested by ASU’s David Hestenes in talks with Carl about local alliances. He noted the need to provide equal emphasis and benefits for participants at all levels, and helping versus cooperating attitudes. Carl suggested using his inquiry sequences as examples of how alliance efforts can be coordinated using this approach.

- Zone leaders/co-leaders are needed for nearly all zones. Joliet has no leaders at this time. Leaders from the six ISTA regions that overlap with LPSA zones will likely serve as co-leaders. Each might have money to contribute to the support of the zones’ efforts, thanks to the ISTA.

☆ April AAPT eNNOUNCER Available

Published monthly on or about the 1st of each month, eNNOUNCER is an online-only publication that provides a summary of recent activities and news across AAPT. Major sections include Action Items and Notable Dates; Member News; News from the National Office; Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Symposia and Events; Recommended Reading; and Science and Education News. Visit the AAPT NEWS Archive at the following URL: http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/ennouncer/index.cfm for past issues of AAPT News and recent issues of the eNNOUNCER.

If you have anything to contribute to next month’s president’s message, don’t hesitate to contact me. Like all of you, I’m now look forward eagerly to the end of the school year. Summer often provides time to refresh oneself and make use of opportunities for professional development. I hope that you will take the opportunity to do so.

Carl

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