

Greetings fellow ISAAPT Members!

I do hope that the recent break provided you with new energy for teaching this coming semester. There are several important items to share with you in this month's president's message:

☆ **Announcing New/Crossover Teacher Workshops**

The Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (ISAAPT), working in conjunction with the Chicago Section (CS AAPT), will present two statewide teacher workshops for new and crossover physics teachers. These workshops are intended for high school science teachers who have been teaching physics less than five years or who are teaching physics outside their designation area(s). Isolated urban and rural physics teachers will find this program to be of great value in improving the ease and quality of physics teaching. Numerous teaching resources will be demonstrated and provided. Five hours of CPDU (continuing professional development unit) credit will be available for each workshop; the workshops will be essentially the same. This effort is being supported by a \$2,000 grant from the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT).

The first workshop will be hosted by the ISAAPT at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield on Saturday, February 27th (Casmir Pulaski 3-day weekend), and a second workshop will be hosted by the CS AAPT during the spring in the Chicago metropolitan area on a date to be determined. The ISAAPT New/Crossover Physics Teacher Workshop at LLCC will feature a free buffet luncheon (provided by LLCC) and refreshments will be provided throughout the day courtesy of the AAPT grant. Each workshop will be taught by an AAPT trained in-service high school physics teacher (PTRA) possibly working in conjunction with a teacher educator.

These workshops will address two topics: (1) AAPT's newly published book *Teaching Physics for the First Time* by Mader and Winn, and (2) teaching resources available through the National Science Digital Library's comPADRE.org website. Participating teachers each will receive a copy of *Teaching Physics for the First Time*, a \$35 value. ComPADRE is accessible online and is a collaborative effort of AAPT, AAS, AIP, APS, and SPS.

Registration. Registration is required to attend these workshops and will be limited to the first qualifying twenty-five (25) new/crossover teachers in each of the two workshops. It is highly recommended that registration be completed at least ten days prior to the desired workshop so that sufficient materials can be ordered in advance of the meeting. Details will be sent following receipt of registration. In order to register for the LLCC workshop in Springfield on Saturday, February 27th, please send the following information off list to Carl Wenning at wenning@phy.ilstu.edu. Fee free to write or phone (309) 830-4085 with any questions that you might have.

Your name: _____

Years of teaching experience (e.g., 1-5): _____

Subject of major (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Physics): _____

Name of your high school: _____

School mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Cell phone number (if available): _____

Please note that the joint ISAAPT/CS AAPT workshop slated for January 16th at Joliet Junior College has been canceled as a cost-saving measure.

☆ **Local Physics Alliance Zones Update**

Progress is steadily being made to develop 12 local physics alliances (LPAs) across the state of Illinois. It is expected that the first zone meetings will begin next autumn following the start of the school years. Efforts are now underway to develop contact lists for all high school physics teachers (many new/crossover teachers), and to identify additional zone leaders.

Zone directories for all high school physics teachers are being or have been completed for the following zones thanks to the following individuals:

Zone II (Rock Island-Galesburg) thanks to Chris LaRoche
Zone III (Joliet) thanks to Andrew Morrison
Zone IV (Peoria) thanks to Brian Davies and Ken Mellendorf
Zone V (Macomb) thanks to Brian Davies
Zone VI (Bloomington-Normal) thanks to Carl Wenning
Zone VII (Champaign-Urbana) thanks to Brian Davies
Zone VIII (Springfield) thanks to David Sykes and Tom Snyder
Zone IX (Charleston) thanks to Douglas Brandt
Zone X (Edwardsville) thanks to Tom Foster

I have not received updates from leaders in Zones I and XI. To date, leaders have been identified for nine of the twelve zones. Zone leaders are still needed for Zones III (Joliet), VII (Champaign-Urbana), and XII (Carbondale).

The Spring meeting of the ISAAPT will feature a 2-hour meeting for new/prospective zone leaders on Saturday afternoon following the close of the Section's spring meeting at Blackburn College in Carlinville. Ken Wester at Illinois State University gained lots of experience in running local physics alliances in Mississippi before he came here, and he'll be leading this effort. If you are at all interested in leading/co-leading your zone, please contact Carl Wenning off list at wenning@phy.ilstu.edu.

☆ **Student Research Symposium at ISAAPT Spring Meeting**

Physics researchers working with high school or undergraduate college/university students take note. The ISAAPT will hold its annual Student Research Symposium (SRS) during the spring meeting at Blackburn College in Carlinville. The dates of this event are March 26-27, 2010. The SRS serves to recognize and promote both high school and undergraduate student research in physics and physics teaching. High school and undergraduate students who are: 1) currently engaged in physics research, 2) working under the direction of a faculty advisor, 3) officially

registered for the ISAAPT meeting which they are attending, and 4) registered competitors in the research symposium are eligible for participation in the awards program.

The student(s) should have a substantive understanding of and/or involvement in the conception, methodology, and analysis components of the research. The research project does not have to be complete at the time of presentation. Registration for the competition will be indicated by checking the appropriate box on the paper submission form. For complete details about the SRS, visit the ISAAPT web page at the following URL:
<http://helios.augustana.edu/isaapt/res-symp.html>.

☆ **ECHOES – Online Publication of the Acoustical Society of America**

Tom Rossing, retired from NIU but working at Stanford University, suggest that ISAAPT members might want to look at the public, ECHOES, the quarterly newsletter he edits for the Acoustical Society of America. This publication is available online at <http://asa.aip.org/echoes.html>. There's quite a lot of news and potential classroom material about acoustics in every issue according to Tom.

☆ **Summer Opportunity for Physics Teachers**

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 is offered by the Northwestern University Materials Research Center. Science teachers are invited to participate in 8 weeks of laboratory research in the group of one of Northwestern's leading research professors. Research topics include a wide range of materials science, physics and chemistry areas such as polymers, nanoscience, biomaterials, molecular electronics and photonics. The program runs from June 21 through August 13, 2010.

At the end of the 8 weeks, the participants not only write a technical paper based on their research, but also develop a curriculum project that they can use in their classrooms. K-12 teachers and community college professors who have a bachelor's degree in science or engineering are eligible; no prior research experience is necessary. Participants are eligible to receive graduate credits through the National Louis University. The application deadline is March 15, 2010.

For more information, or to apply, please visit the program's website:
http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/content/educational_programs/ret.htm. If you have any questions about the RET program, please feel free to contact Martha J. Tanner, project director, via email or phone at mrc@northwestern.edu or 847-491-3606.

☆ **Recruiting the Next Generation of Physics Teachers**

The ISAAPT's Committee for Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention of High School Physics Teachers prepared two documents during 2006 to help solve the current crisis in high school science teaching. The ISAAPT membership is encouraged to take advantage of these two documents. Both are color, printable PDF files that are accessible through ISAAPT.org.

Thanks to generous financial contributions totaling \$3,750 from four Illinois teacher organizations (ISAAPT, IACT, ISTA and CS AAPT), copies of the brochure and the booklet were printed and distributed to nearly all Illinois high school science teachers through of these organizations during 2007. Two associated web pages, <http://www.isaapt.org/teach> and <http://www.illinois-science-teaching.info>, are also part of this project. Please make use of these resources to promote careers in high school science teaching.

☆ **ISAAPT Guidebook Program**

By action of the Executive Council on October 17, 2009, the ISAAPT Guidebook Program was renewed for three more years. The program provides resource guides to qualifying teacher candidates at the request of an Illinois PTE program administrator. Details about the program can be found at the following URL: <http://helios.augustana.edu/isaapt/guidebook.html>.

☆ **President's Messages Archived**

Due to several requests for "missing" information, the ISAAPT is now posting the monthly President's Messages on the ISAAPT website. Check out current and pass issues of the President's Message at <http://isaapt.org/>.

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