# 2011 APS Lapsed Student Membership Survey 

 Final Reportby Raymond Y. Chu and Roman Czujko April 19, 2012

## Table of Contents

Page
Highlights ..... 2
How the survey was conducted ..... 4
How the report is organized ..... 6
Current students who let their APS student membership lapse in 2010 ..... 8
Current employed and other non-students who let their APS student membership ..... 14
lapse in 2010
Letter of invitation ..... 21
Questionnaire ..... 22

## Highlights

This study of APS members who let their student membership lapse in 2010 found that some of these former members were still students at the time of the study while others were no longer students. The reasons for their membership lapse seem to be associated with how closely connected they feel to the physics community and APS as well as transitional factors such as entering the workforce after earning their degrees, changing field of work or study, and changing country of residence.

## Respondents who dropped APS Student Membership in 2010 and are currently students

- Among the 751 respondents to this survey who let their APS Student Membership lapse in 2010, about $60 \%$ were still students at the time of this study (table 3). Among these current students, nearly two out of three were studying physics (table 5).
- Those who were still students seldom experienced transitions such as entering the workforce and changing residence, thus these transitions were not strong factors in the decisions not to renew membership. Although virtually all ( $95 \%$ ) did not change country of residence (table 6), for those who did, the change could have contributed to letting their membership lapse.
- The relationship between these students and the physics profession and APS seems moderately strong. Of those who let their APS membership lapse and were still students, nearly three out of five reported that they still felt very connected to the physics profession (table 7). Nearly two out of three reported that they had attended at least one APS meeting (table 9). And about two out of five reported that they viewed APS membership as very important to their careers (table $10)$.
- Among lapsed members who are currently students, strong candidates for renewal appear to include: $57 \%$ who still felt very connected to the physics community (table 7 ); and $42 \%$ who thought APS was important to their careers (table 10).
- Note of interest: $70 \%$ of lapsed members who were still students did not belong to another society at the time of the survey (table 8).

Respondents who dropped APS Student Membership in 2010 and are no longer students

- About two out of five lapsed student members were no longer students (table 3). Virtually all of them were employed and nearly half of them were employed in physics (table 11).
- Former student members who moved into the workforce were more likely than current students to change country of residence and move out of the field of physics. Over a quarter of non-students moved to another country of residence during the period when they let their APS membership lapse (table 12).
- The relationship to the physics profession was not as strong for lapsed members who were nonstudents as it was for those who were still students. About half of the non-students felt very connected to the physics profession (table 13).
- Strong candidates for renewal appear to include: $51 \%$ who still felt connected to the physics profession (table 13); $55 \%$ who thought APS was important to their careers (table 16).
- Notes of interest: $74 \%$ of lapsed members who were no longer students reported that they were not aware of the APS Junior Membership category (table 17); 70\% of lapsed members who were no longer students reported that they did not belong to any society at the time of the survey (table 14).


## How the survey was conducted

APS student members whose membership lapsed during the 2010 calendar year were asked to participate in the 2011 APS Lapsed Student Membership Survey. APS collaborated with the Statistical Research Center (SRC) of the American Institute of Physics in this survey aimed to find out why these student members recently let their APS membership lapse in order to better serve the increasing number of APS student members.

The questionnaire was comprised of fourteen questions covering two general issues: transitional factors that could have affected student members' decision not to renew and the relationship between students and APS. Transitional factors included entering the workforce after completion of degree, changing field of study or work, and changing country of residence. The student relationship with APS was explored with questions that asked about the importance of membership benefits and services, participation in conferences, and the connection they felt with the physics community.

| Table 1. Response Rates for APS Lapsed Student Membership Survey, 2011. |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Residence \& Student <br> Status in 2009 | Lapsed Student <br> Members Population <br> N | Undeliverable <br> Email Addresses <br> N | Respondents <br> N | Response <br> Rate <br> $\%$ |
|  | 2574 | 338 | 490 | 22 |
| U.S. Graduate Students | 993 | 175 | 142 | 17 |
| U.S. Undergraduate Students | 672 | 124 | 157 | 29 |
| Graduate Students Abroad | 56 | 7 | 10 | 20 |
| Undergraduate Students Abroad |  |  |  |  |
| Totals | 4295 | 644 | 799 | 21 |

APS staff members identified nearly 4300 APS student members who dropped membership during 2010. They included undergraduates and graduate students residing in the U.S. and abroad. They were sent email invitations to participate in the survey. The first invitation was sent on September 17, 2011. It yielded an $8 \%$ response rate. A second mailing to those who did not respond to the first mailing was sent on September 26. The total response rate after two mailings is $13 \%$. A third mailing was sent on October 17 to those who did not respond to the first two mailings.

APS typically conducts surveys of active members and the response rates from those surveys are high. The survey discussed in this report was sent to people who let their APS student membership lapse and the response rate was much lower. We suspect that the top reasons for this poorer response rate were that the contact information was not as accurate as the information we have on active members and that the survey itself may have been perceived as being of low relevance. Students change residence at a high rate due to graduation from school and relocation to their new workplace, and some students even change their country of residence.

We wanted to confirm that the low response rate was not related to a bias among those who did not respond. Consequently, the third mailing included a chance for those who had not responded to the previous two mailings and who did not intend to respond to the third request to tell us why they were not participating in the study.

The third email contained a forced-choice question and the data from this item are displayed in Table 2. The top reasons that non-respondents indicated were that: they were too busy, they do not participate in online surveys, and that they had been a member for only a short time and probably were not familiar enough APS services and benefits to give us feedback. It should be noted that throughout the three mailings, many simply wrote back saying they had forgotten to renew or did not realize that their membership had lapsed and asked about how to renew.

## Table 2. Reasons Given by Lapsed APS Student Members Why They Did Not Participate in the 2011 APS Survey

I am too busy to respond right now ..... 31
I do not complete online surveys ..... 29
I was only been a member for a short period of time and do not have much to say ..... 29
My career does not represent the traditional physics student or graduate ..... 15
I do not think that surveys are a productive use of my time ..... 9
I am too dissatisfied with my APS membership to respond ..... 0
Other ..... 7
Total Number of Respondents ..... 102

Footnote: Students who let their APS membership lapse in 2009 received email invitations to participate in the 2011-2012 survey. Those who did not respond to the first two invitations and did not intend to answer the third request were asked to tell us why.

## How the report is organized

The report focuses on two groups of respondents. The following two tables (3 and 4) provide an overview and show how these groups are defined. After that, tables 5 to 10 present the data about current students who let their APS student membership lapse in 2010. Tables 11 to 17 provide analyses on those who are no longer students, both employed and unemployed, who let their APS student membership lapse in 2010. The verbatim comments written by respondents are in a separate document.

Table 3. Student Status in 2009 and 2011
-All Respondents
-Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members

| Status in 2011 | 2009 Status |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Student <br> $\%$ | Not Student <br> $\%$ |
| Currently Student | 60 | 27 |
| Currently Employed | 37 | 67 |
| Currently Other | 3 | 6 |
| Totals | 751 | 48 |

Footnote: 48 respondents answered a question indicating that they were not students in 2009 and they were directed to skip the remainder of the questionnaire. However, 4 of them later indicated in an open-ended question that they were students in 2009. Only the 751 respondents who indicated that they were students in 2009 are included in the subsequent tables.

- About two out of five lapsed student members are no longer students and, thus, a change in student status is, in many cases, related to the likelihood of letting one's membership lapse.
- Respondents who reported that they were not students in 2009 were asked to describe their 2009 status in an open-ended question. Many of the respondents who were not students in 2009 indicated that they had been in temporary employment or in a postdoctoral appointment. As the footnote indicates, four respondents erroneously indicated that they were not students in 2009. In addition, three respondents wrote comments that indicated that they had been employed for many years and, thus, were not eligible to be student members of APS in 2009. All of these nonstudent respondents were directed to skip the remainder of the questionnaire.
- A few respondents indicated that they were currently not studying or working. Most of them were not employed and some of those were not looking for employment. For the remainder of this report, they are combined with the currently employed into the category "no longer student".
- The remaining tables examine the 751 respondents who were students during January 2009.

| Table 4. Q4 by Q1 Degrees Completed Dur <br> -All Respondents <br> -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Currently Student \% | Currently Not a Student $\%$ | Totals N |
| None | 51 | 8 | 34 |
| Bachelors | 16 | 9 | 13 |
| Masters | 27 | 6 | 19 |
| PhD | 5 | 77 | 33 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Respondents | 452 | 295 | 747 |

Footnote: One person did not answer question 4. Three people left the questionnaire before seeing question 4.

- Overall, two-thirds of the respondents earned a degree during the two-year period prior to the survey. Half of them earned PhDs and the other half earned either a bachelors or masters degree during that period. Earning a degree, especially a PhD , is a transition factor that is related to the likelihood letting one's membership lapse.
- The degrees completed during the past two years by the survey respondents are consistent with their current statuses. Most of those who reported that they were no longer students had completed their PhDs during the past two years. About half of the current students continued to pursue another degree after earning one during the past two years.


## Current students who let their APS student membership lapse in 2010

| Table 5. Q1.1 by Q3 Physics Study in 2009 and Field of Current Study, 2011 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -Respondents Who Are Currently Students <br> -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |
| Field of Study in 2011 | Studying <br> Physics in 2009 \% | $\begin{gathered} \text { Not Physics } \\ \text { in } 2009 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Overall \% |
| Physics | 73 | 5 | 64 |
| Engineering | 9 | 56 | 16 |
| Astronomy | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| Chemistry | 2 | 16 | 4 |
| Other | 10 | 21 | 11 |
| Number of Respondents | 385 | 67 | 452 |

Footnote: 2 students left the questionnaire before seeing question 3 .

- Among current students who let their APS membership lapse, nearly three out of four students who were in physics in 2009, report that they are still studying physics now. Thus, changing field of study does not seem to be a strong indicator for why current students let their APS membership drop.
- Of the lapsed members who are currently students and indicated that they were studying fields other than physics in 2009, the dominant field of their current study was engineering and the second most common field was chemistry. These are also the two most common degree fields among regular members who did not earn their highest degree in physics. The latter is based on APS membership surveys conducted over the last decade.

|  | Residing in <br> US 2009 <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ | Not in <br> US 2009 <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ | Overall <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stayed in Same Country During 2009-11 | 96 | 87 | 95 |
| Moved to Another Country During 2009-11 | 4 | 13 | 5 |
| Number of Respondents | 369 | 75 | 444 |

Footnote: 4 students did not answer one of the two questions. 6 students left the questionnaire before seeing question 6 .

- Mobility across national borders happens seldom across a two-year period for current students who dropped their APS membership in 2010. Overall, only $5 \%$ relocated to another country during the past two years. Geographic mobility is not a major reason for letting membership lapse among current students.
- While it is possible that we were unable to reach those who moved between countries, it should be noted that the ratio of those student who resided in the U.S. versus those who resided abroad in 2009 is precisely the same as the ratio among student members in the membership database in 2009.

| -Respondents Who Are Currently Students <br> -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 009 |  |
| 2011 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Very Connected } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Not Very Connected \% | $\begin{gathered} \text { Overall } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Very Connected | 79 | 26 | 57 |
| Not Very Connected | 21 | 74 | 43 |
| Number of Respondents | 258 | 182 | 440 |

Footnote: 1 student skipped question 8. 13 students left the questionnaire before seeing question 8 . Respondents were asked to rate how connected they were with the physics profession two years ago and today on a scale from "Not at all connected", "Somewhat connected", "Connected", and "Strongly connected". The table label "Very Connected" includes the responses "Connected" and "Strongly connected". The table label "Not Very Connected" includes the responses "Not at all connected" and "Somewhat connected".

- Overall, of those who let their APS membership lapse and are still currently students, nearly three out of five reported that they were still very connected to the physics community in 2011.
- Of the students who felt connected to the physics community in 2009 , only $21 \%$ reported that they felt less connected to physics in 2011.
- Conversely, of those students who reported a weak connection to physics in 2009, about a quarter reported a close connection in 2011.

| Table 8. Q1.1 by Q9 Field of Current Study by Number of Society Memberships, 2011 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -Respondents Who Are Currently Students <br> -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |
|  | Current Field of Study |  |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Physics } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Non-Physics } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Overall } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Member of at Least One Society | 23 | 43 | 30 |
| No Societies | 77 | 57 | 70 |
| Number of Respondents | 276 | 161 | 437 |

Footnote: 17 students left the questionnaire before seeing question 9 . All nonphysics fields that were separated listed in the questionnaire have been combined into the column labeled "Non-Physics".

- The data in this table show the extent to which members who let their student membership lapse belonged to another society.
- About two out of three lapsed members report that their primary field of study is physics. Of them, $77 \%$ report that do not belong to a society. This group appears to represent a strong target for renewal of APS membership.
- Of the students whose current field of study is not physics, $43 \%$ report that they are members of another society.

Table 9. Q10 by Q10.1 Last APS Meeting Attended by Last Paper Presented, 2011
-Respondents Who Are Currently Students
-Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members

|  | Never Attended APS Meeting \% | Last Attended in |  |  |  | Overall <br> \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2008 or Before \% | $\begin{gathered} 2009 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2010 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2011 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Never Presented | 100 | 44 | 33 | 26 | 25 | 55 |
| Presented 2008 or Before | 0 | 40 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Last Presented in 2009 | 0 | 4 | 51 | 1 | 4 | 13 |
| Last Presented in 2010 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 61 | 4 | 19 |
| Last Presented in 2011 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 67 | 10 |
| Number of Respondents | 151 | 25 | 108 | 121 | 28 | 433 |

Footnote: 21 students left the questionnaire before seeing question 10.1 .

- The majority of current students who let their student membership lapse in 2010 never presented a paper at an APS meeting. More than one-third of the current students who let their membership lapse never attended an APS meeting.
- Of those who attended at least one APS meeting, the vast majority presented a paper at the last APS meeting they attended.

| Table 10. Q11 by Q1 Reasons Why You Were a Member of APS Two Years Ago, |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| 2011 |  |
| -Respondents Who Are Currently Students |  |
| -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |
|  | 65 |
| Free Membership Offer | 48 |
| One of Your Professors Told You That You Should Join | 47 |
| Reduced Meeting Fee | 42 |
| You Thought That APS Membership was Very Important to Your Career | 420 |
| Number of Respondents |  |

Footnote: 5 students skipped question 11. 29 left the questionnaire before seeing question 11. Respondents were asked to indicate "No", "Yes", or "Not Sure" to each
of these reasons for being members of APS 2 years ago.

- Current students who let their student membership lapse in 2010 joined APS primarily because the cost was free and not because they particularly valued APS membership for their careers. The free membership offer was cited most often ( $65 \%$ ) as the reason for being an APS member two years. The free membership offer is a one-year trial. Therefore these respondents have dropped membership after about one or two years of membership.
- Far fewer current students (42\%) viewed APS membership as very important to their careers as a reason for being an APS member two years ago.


## Current employed and other non-students who let their APS student membership lapse in 2010

Table 11. Q1.1 by Q3 Physics Study in 2009 and Field of Current Work,
2011
-Respondents Who Are No Longer Students
-Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members

|  | Studying <br> Physics in 2009 <br> \% | Not Studying <br> Physics in 2009 <br> \% | Overall <br> Employment Field |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \%hysics | 60 | 5 | 48 |
| Engineering | 9 | 52 | 19 |
| Computer Information | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Math | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| Chemistry | 4 | 15 | 6 |
| Other | 9 | 12 | 10 |
| Non-Science | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Number of Respondents | 228 | 66 | 294 |

Footnote: 2 non-students did not answer one of the two questions. 1 non-student left the questionnaire before seeing question 3 .

- Three out of four lapsed student members who are currently employed were studying physics two years ago. The majority of those who were studying physics remained in physics after earning their degrees.
- Virtually all of their counterparts who were not studying physics two years ago found employment outside of physics. About half of the latter are working in engineering.

| -Respondents Who Are No Longer Students -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Residing in } \\ \text { US } 2009 \\ \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Not in } \\ \text { US } 2009 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Overall } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Stayed in Same Country During 2009-11 | 81 | 58 | 74 |
| Moved to Another Country During 2009-11 | 19 | 42 | 26 |
| Number of Respondents | 204 | 91 | 295 |

Footnote: 2 non-students left the questionnaire before seeing question 5.

- Among currently employed lapsed student members, the ratio of respondents who resided outside the U.S. compared to those who resided in the U.S. in 2009 is somewhat higher than in the overall membership.
- The majority of those studying outside the U.S. two years ago experienced two types of transitions: the change from study to employment and the change in country of residence.

| Table 13. Q7 by Q8 Connectedness to Physic <br> -Respondents Who Are No Longer Students <br> -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2011 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Very Connected } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2009 \\ \hline \text { Not Very Connected } \\ \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Overall } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ |
| Very Connected | 64 | 15 | 51 |
| Not Very Connected | 36 | 85 | 49 |
| Number of Respondents | 212 | 78 | 290 |
| Footnote: 4 non-students skipped question 8.3 non-students left the questionnaire before seeing question 7. Respondents were asked to rate how connected they were with the physics profession two years ago and today on a scale from "Not at all connected", "Somewhat connected", "Connected", and "Strongly connected". The table label "Very Connected" includes the responses "Connected" and "Strongly connected". The table label "Not Very Connected" includes the responses "Not at all connected" and "Somewhat connected". |  |  |  |

- The connectedness to the physics profession pattern is consistent with that of students. The majority of lapsed student members who felt connected to physics as a student still feel connected to physics in employment. This group may represent a strong target for membership renewal.
- The majority of those who did not feel connected to physics as a student still do not feel very connected to physics in employment.

| Table 14. Q1.1 by Q9 Current Field of Employment by Number of Society Membership, 2011 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -Respondents Who Are No Long <br> -Survey of Lapsed APS Student M | tudents ers |  |  |
| Current Field of Employment |  |  |  |
|  | Physics \% | Non-Physics \% | Overall \% |
| Member of At Least One Society | 21 | 38 | 30 |
| No Societies | 79 | 62 | 70 |
| Number of Respondents | 140 | 151 | 291 |

Footnote: 2 non-students skipped one of the two questions. 4 non-students left the questionnaire before seeing question 9 . All non-physics fields that were separated listed in the questionnaire have been combined into the column labeled "Non-Physics".

- The vast majority of respondents who are no longer students do not belong to any other society.
- Four out of five who are lapsed students members, are no longer students, and who are employed in physics report that they belong to no societies. Those who are employed outside of physics are more likely to belong to at least one society (and it is not APS).

| -Respondents Who Are No Longer Students -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Never |  | st Att | ded in |  |  |
|  | Attended APS Meeting \% | 2008 or Before \% | $\begin{gathered} 2009 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2010 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2011 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Overall \% |
| Never Presented | 100 | 22 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 34 |
| Presented 2008 or Before | 0 | 75 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Last Presented in 2009 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 1 | 6 | 21 |
| Last Presented in 2010 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 75 | 0 | 25 |
| Last Presented in 2011 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 81 | 11 |
| Number of Respondents | 72 | 32 | 88 | 84 | 16 | 292 |

Footnote: 1 non-student skipped question 10. 4 non-students left the questionnaire before seeing question 10.

- Among lapsed student members who are no longer students, the majority of have presented a paper at an APS meeting, a contrast to lapsed student members who are currently students. A quarter of lapsed student members who are no longer students never attended an APS meeting.
- Of those who have attended at least one APS meeting, the vast majority presented a paper at the last APS meeting they attended.
- An analysis of a subgroup that were lapsed student members studying physics and being connected to physics in 2009 and currently working in and still feeling connected to physics shows that they are more likely to have attended an APS meeting recently.

| Table 16. Q11 by Q1 Reasons Why You Were a Member of APS Two Years Ago, |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| 2011 |  |
| -Respondents Who Are No Longer Students |  |
| -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |
|  | 56 |
| Reduced Meeting Fee | 55 |
| You Thought That APS Membership was Very Important to Your Career | 46 |
| Free Membership Offer | 42 |
| One of Your Professors Told You That You Should Join | 289 |
| Number of Respondents |  |

Footnote: 1 non-student skipped question 11.7 non-students left the questionnaire before seeing question 11. Respondents were asked to indicate "No", "Yes", or "Not Sure" to each of these reasons for being members of APS 2 years ago.

- Unlike the current students who dropped membership in 2010, those who are no longer students and dropped in 2010 were members two years ago because they were more likely to consider APS membership was very important to their careers (55\%) and they were more involved by going to meetings at the reduced meeting fee ( $56 \%$ ). This group is clearly more connected to physics and involved with the APS than the current students who dropped membership.
- Although non-students who let their APS membership lapse in 2010 were less likely to cite the free membership offer as their reason for being an APS member two years ago, it is unclear if the cost of membership is a strong factor in their decision to drop membership.
- An analysis of a subgroup that were lapsed student members studying physics and being connected to physics in 2009 and currently working in and still feeling connected to physics shows that they are more likely to have reported that reduced meeting fees was a reason why they were APS members two years ago.

| Table 17. Q4.1 by Q1 Awareness of Junior Category by |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Current Status, 2011 |  |
|  |  |
| -Respondents Who Are No Longer Students |  |
| -Survey of Lapsed APS Student Members |  |
|  | $\%$ |
| Were Not Aware of Junior Membership Category | 74 |
| Were Aware of Junior Membership Category | 26 |
| Number of Respondents | 263 |
| Footnote: 11 non-students skipped question 4.1. 22 non-students |  |
| did not complete a degree recently and were directed to skip |  |

- Three out of four non-students who let their membership lapse in 2010 and who completed a degree within the past two years were not aware of the APS junior membership category. If the cost of membership is a factor in their decision to drop membership, increasing the awareness of APS junior membership should increase retention.


## Invitation to participate in survey

## Dear FIRST NAME LAST NAME:

Our records indicate that your student membership with the American Physical Society (APS) lapsed during 2010. APS would like to gather feedback from you regarding your decision not to renew your membership so that staff and volunteers can better serve the increasing number of APS Student members in the future.

If you believe you are receiving this survey request in error and have recently reinstated your membership, please contact a membership representative at membership@aps.org to confirm your status.

I urge you to take the 5-10 minutes required to complete the online survey. Please find the questionnaire at this secure website:
https://statisticalresearchcenter.aip.org/cgi-bin/aps.pl

Be assured that your responses will remain completely confidential. The AIP Statistical Research Center is conducting the survey and data analyses. The names of respondents will not be released in any form to APS or anyone else.

If you have any questions about the survey or if you would prefer a paper version to be sent to you, please contact us at rchu @aip.org or call Raymond Y. Chu of AIP at 301-209-3069.

Thank you for participating in this very important effort.

Kate Kirby
APS Executive Officer

## Questionnaire - 2011 APS Lapsed Student Membership Survey

(1) Which of the following best describes your current status?

O I am primarily a student (go to Q1.1)
O I am primarily employed (go to Q1a)
O Other (please describe): $\qquad$ (go to Q1.a)
(1.1) Which best describes your primary field of study?

O Atmospheric, earth, or ocean sciences
O Astronomy or astrophysics
O Biological or life sciences
O Chemistry
O Computer \& information sciences (CS, IT, programming, etc.)
O Engineering
O Health science or medicine
O Mathematics
O Physics
O Other science (please specify): $\qquad$
O Non-science (please specify): $\qquad$
(go to Q2)
(1a) Which best describes your primary field of work?

O Atmostpheric, earth, or ocean sciences
O Astronomy or astrophysics
O Biological or life sciences
O Chemistry
O Consulting
O Computer \& information sciences (CS, IT, programming, etc.)
O Engineering
O Health science or medicine
O Mathematics
O Physics
O Sales
0 Other science (please specify): $\qquad$
O Non-science (please specify): $\qquad$
(go to Q2)
(1.a) With which profession do you most closely identify yourself?

O Atmospheric, earth, or ocean scientist
O Astronomer or astrophysicist
O Biological or life scientist
O Chemist
O Computer \& information scientist (CS, IT, programming, etc.)
O Engineer
O Health scientist or medical practitioner
O Mathematician
O Physicist
O Other scientist (please specify): $\qquad$
O Non-scientist (please specify): $\qquad$
(2) Were you primarily a student two years ago (January 2009)?

O No
O Yes (go to Q3)
(2.1) Briefly describe what you were doing professionally in 2009 and what you are doing now.
(2.2) Please list up to 3 issues that APS should be concerned about as it plans for the future and health of the physics community.
(3) Were you studying physics two years ago?

O No, I was studying another field (please specify): $\qquad$ O Yes
(4) What degree did you complete during the past two years?

O None (go to Q5)
O I completed my PhD
O I completed my masters
O I completed my bachelors
O Other (please explain): $\qquad$
(4.1) If you are not currently a student, are you aware of the Junior member category which offers $1 / 2$ price membership for up to three years?

O No
O Yes
O I am currently a student
(5) Were you living in the United States two years ago?

O No, I was living outside the United States
O Yes, I was living in the United States
(6) Did you change your country of residence since then?

O No, I remained in the same country (go to Q7)
O Yes, I moved to another country
(6.1) Please describe the circumstances of your move to another country.
(7) How connected with the physics profession do you feel today?

O Not at all connected
O Somewhat connected
O Connected
O Strongly connected
(8) How connected with the physics profession did you feel two years ago?

O Not at all connected
O Somewhat connected
O Connected
O Strongly connected
(9) Are you a member of one or more professional societies today?

O No
O Yes (please specify which society or societies): $\qquad$
(10) In which year did you last attend an APS meeting?

O I have never attended an APS meeting (go to Q11)
O 2011
O 2010
02009
O 2008 or earlier
(10.1) In which years did you present or co-author a paper at an APS meeting? (Check as many that apply)
$\square$ I have never presented a paper at an APS meeting
$\square 2011$
$\square 2010$
$\square 2009$
$\square 2008$ or earlier
(11) Please indicate if the following were reasons why you were a member of APS 2 years ago.

|  | No | Yes | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| One of your professors told you that you should join | 0 | 0 | 0 |

(12) Why did you decide not to renew APS membership and what improvements or changes would encourage you to consider rejoining APS?
(13) Please tell us which benefits were useful to you and how APS could have better addressed your professional needs.
(14) Please list up to 3 issues that APS should be concerned about as it plans for the future and health of the physics community.

