



California Section of the American Physical Society

Announcement for the Annual 2009 Meeting

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) • Monterey, California
November 13–14, 2009

Preview of the Annual 2009 Meeting

Details about the Annual 2009 Meeting at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) can be found on our website <http://www.aps.org/units/cal/> or <http://www.nps.edu/aps-ca>. The Administration, faculty, and staff at NPS are excited to be hosting this Meeting. NPS is located on a historical and beautiful site in Monterey with ample facilities for meetings. The scientific program will include invited talks by:

1. Douglas Osheroff (Stanford University): Nobel surPrize Lecture
2. Bruce Macintosh (LLNL): Search for Exosolar Planets
3. Darin Kinion (LLNL): Quantum Information and Computing
4. John Lewellen (NPS): Revolutionary Advances in Light Sources

The Banquet speaker will be C.W. Francis Everitt (Stanford University): Gravity Probe B

To introduce young physicists to the opportunities and challenges in renewable energy, which is a rapidly expanding field, a panel discussion with experts is planned. The panelists included in this series have diverse professional experiences and educational backgrounds in physics. They currently contribute in the sectors of energy generation, efficiency, distribution and funding. Panelists will discuss their career paths into green technology and the skill sets required to develop a career in this industrial sector. A majority of the allotted time will be for a question and answer session with the experts. This will be an opportunity for the audience to learn how their backgrounds in physics can be utilized in shaping the future of this industry. The panel members are:

1. Gary Bjorklund, Principal, Bjorklund Enterprises
2. Darshini Desai, Device Physicist, Solaxis
3. Heinz Frei, Deputy Director, Helios Solar Energy Research Center, LBNL
4. Jeff Kmetec, Manager of R&D, Philips Lumileds
5. Bob McDonald, CEO, Skyline Solar
6. Karen Rayment, Electronics Hardware Manager, S&C Electric Company

We hope you and your students will attend this stimulating meeting and submit an abstract for the parallel sessions. Please post the enclosed poster in a place where your colleagues can view it.

Section President's Statement

Thank you for being a member of the California/Nevada Section and supporting our efforts to make the American Physical Society readily accessible for students and scientists in California and Nevada. Our Section holds a general meeting each year where you can present your research and hear talks from world-renowned experts. Your APS dues (section membership is free) allow us to hold this meeting at minimal cost to the participants. This year we have an outstanding scientific program at the Naval Postgraduate School at our annual meeting. In addition, we have a session about careers in the emerging energy sector. I urge you to attend our meeting and encourage your students and postdocs to attend and present their research. If you have any ideas on how our section can help you, please send them to me.

—Howard Matis, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Summary of the 2008 Annual Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting was held at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) during October 17-18. Dr. John Price, with the support and assistance of students, staff and faculty, made local arrangements for this very successful Meeting. There were 111 participants.

Summary of Activities of the 2008 Annual Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2008

Parallel sessions for contributed talks were held throughout the day. A Business Meeting followed the parallel sessions. Plenary Session I and the Banquet were as follows.

Plenary Session I

1. Speaker: Beate Heinemann (UC Berkeley)
Topic: The LHC: The Start of a Revolution in Physics
2. Speaker: Jay Marx (Caltech)
Topic: Seeing Ripples in Space-Time with LIGO

Banquet

Speaker: Uwe Bergmann (SSRL)
Topic: The Archimedes Palimpsest Under X-ray Vision

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Plenary Session II was as listed below, followed by parallel sessions for contributed talks.

Plenary Session II

1. Speaker: Tony Tyson (UC Davis)
Topic: Dark Science with the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)
2. Speaker: Richard Boyd (LLNL)
Topic: The National Ignition Facility – A Star (in the Lab) is Born

Award Winners for Contributed Speakers at the 2008 Annual Meeting

Undergraduate Awards

Steven Chu Award (Best Research)
1st Prize: Johannes Stiller (LBNL)
2nd Prize: Mark Lohmann (CSU Dominguez Hills)

Graduate Student Awards

Kennedy Reed Award (Best Theoretical Research)
1st Prize: Matt Krems (UCSD)
2nd Prize: Andrea Arias de Gill (CSU Fresno)
Margaret Burbidge Award (Best Experimental Research)
1st Prize: Adam Wachtor (UCI)
2nd Prize: Jennifer Shockro (UCI)

Post Doctoral Awards

Charles Kittel Award (Best Theoretical Research)
1st Prize: Yonatan Dubi (UCSD)
2nd Prize: Maciej Haranczyk (LBNL)
Luis Alvarez Award (Best Experimental Research)
1st Prize: Yohannes Abate (UCB and LBNL)
2nd Prize: None

Election News for 2009

The Nominating Committee for the 2009 CA Section of the APS election consisted of Roland Henry, Rajiv Kalia, Chuhee Kwon, Howard Matis (ex officio), and Karl van Bibber (Chair). Winners of the 2009 election were:
Vice Chair: Albert Lazzarini
Members at Large: Michelle Poliskie and Uwe Bergmann
Secretary-Treasurer: Shirley Chiang
Student Representative: Andrea Kritcher

Executive Committee of the CA Section of APS

Current members of the Executive Committee are listed at the following link: <http://www.aps.org/units/cal/governance/officers/index.cfm>

Annual APS Unit Convocation in Washington, DC

Report on the APS-Sponsored Capitol Hill Visit,
27 February 2009

Reported by A. Lazzarini

Each year, the APS sponsors a one-day visit to Capitol Hill to enable its members from all regions of the US to make constituent visits to their elected officials in Congress. On the 27th of February, nine California members, who represented different APS sections and divisions, joined this effort. In attendance were Albert Lazzarini and Howard Matis, who represented the California-Nevada Section, as well as Philip Marcus, Harvey Newman, Donald Prosnitz, Philip Wyatt, and Chunlei Xia from other APS entities.

This year's visit had several purposes. First, it provided APS members the opportunity to meet with Congressional staff from their districts and to express their gratitude, as both citizens and physicists, for the marked increase in the support of science in the stimulus bill, to thank the House for passing the FY2009 budget and to urge the Senate to do the same. Specifically, the message was to encourage continued strong support for the DOE Office of Science, NSF, NIST, NOAA, and NASA. At the time of the visit, the stimulus package had been just approved and the FY2009 omnibus bill was pending approval in the Senate. Also, the Administration's proposed FY2010 budget had been recently issued. The second goal of this day-long visit was to provide congressional staff with informational material compiled by the APS on energy issues, including the use of home energy audits during the sale or purchase of a home as a means to provide prospective homebuyers and sellers crucial information on home energy efficiency as a guide to investing in money-saving improvements.

For many of those who attended, this was their first experience visiting Congressional representatives. The APS provided an evening seminar the day before the Capitol Hill visit to provide background information and guidance on how to conduct an effective visit to a Congressional delegate's office. None of us from the California-Nevada Section were able to meet with any of our Senators or Representatives; rather, we met with staff members who were typically responsible for science and energy policy for their Congressional member's office. The visit proved to be both educational and rewarding. It reaffirmed one of the great strengths of our form of government — the voice of the people. We were able to meet and discuss our program with generally enthusiastic and supportive staff members. All APS members are urged to exercise their rights as constituents of their representatives to write letters as citizens,

physicists and members of the APS, to let their elected officials know how important consistent, long term support of science is to both society and to national security.

March 28, 2009 Meeting of the Executive Committee at LBNL

An Executive Committee meeting was held at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Members Present: Howard Matis (Chair), Karl Van Bibber (Chair-Elect), Albert Lazzarini (Vice Chair), Andrea Kritcher (Student Member), Andreas Bill (Representative for Chuhee Kwon), Lin Yang (Member), Roland Henry (Member), Frances Houle (Member), Uwe Bergmann (Member), Michelle Poliskie (Member), John Price (Observing Member), and Charlie Harper (Newsletter Editor)

Members Absent: Ching Fong (Past Chair), Shirley Chiang (Secretary/Treasurer), Nicholas Kioussis (Member), and Jennifer Klay (Member)

The agenda for this meeting is given below.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Howard Matis
2. APS Trip to Washington, DC– Karl van Bibber, Albert Lazzarini, and Howard Matis
3. Treasurer’s Report – Shirley Chiang (via email)
4. 2009 Annual Meeting Planning and Committees – Karl van Bibber
5. Lessons Learned from the 2008 Annual Meeting – John Price
6. CA Section Nominating Committee (call for volunteers and schedule)
7. Newsletter Plans – Charlie Harper
8. Lunch
9. Solicitation for the 2010 Annual Meeting
10. How to Improve the CA webpage on the APS website?
11. Summary

In connection with planning for the 2009 Annual Meeting at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, the following committees were put into place.

1. Local Organizing Committee: Bruce DeNardo (Chair), Peter Crooker, Scott Davis, Candice Dixon, Roland Henry, Raquel Herold, Robert Hixon, Jennifer Klay, and Michelle Merembloom
2. Program Committee: Karl van Bibber (Chair), Uwe Bergmann, Roland Henry, Andrea Kritcher, and Chuhee Kwon
3. Abstract Sorting and Scheduling Committee: Jennifer Klay (Chair), Michelle Poliskie, and Lin Yang

4. Student Prize/Award Committee: Frances Houle (Chair), Andrea Kritcher, and Michelle Poliskie
5. Student Hotel Assignments: Shirley Chiang

In addition, the following committees for year-round activities were formed.

1. Membership and Publicity Committee: Uwe Bergmann (Chair), Andreas Bill, and Roland Henry
2. Website Committee: Andreas Bill (Chair), Charlie Harper, and Albert Lazzarini. It was pointed out that APS has a good website template where we can post information or links to our websites. Karl will check with NPS to see if there is a pre-existing conference webpage template.
3. Nominating Committee: Albert Lazzarini (Chair), Andreas Bill, Michelle Poliskie, Chuhee Kwon, and Abraham Seiden (APS appointment)
4. Newsletter: Charlie Harper (Chair) and Roland Henry. It was decided that the CA Section would have two newsletters per year. A paper newsletter will be mailed and placed on the CA Section webpage on the APS website in August/September, and a second newsletter will be placed on the CA Section page of the APS website in December.
5. New Prize Proposal: Karl van Bibber (Chair) and Albert Lazzarini

Other Conclusions of the March 28, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

Local High School teachers and students should be encouraged to attend the Annual Meetings, and it is important that plenary speakers know the level of the audience. Members of chapters of SPS should be invited to attend the Annual Meetings.

In connection with the review of contributed talks, we should contact a past student member to obtain the template for peer-reviewed conference presentations. Frances Houle and Michelle Poliskie have agreed to distribute this questionnaire during the NPS Meeting.

Dates To Remember

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California on November 13-14, 2009. See the following website for more information: <http://www.aps.org/units/cal/>.

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) on October 29-30, 2010.