



Texas Section of the American Physical Society

Early Fall Meeting in Commerce

The Fall meeting of the Texas Section of the American Physical Society (TSAPS) will be held on October 6-8, 2011 in Commerce. The meeting will be hosted by the Texas A&M University-Commerce (contact: Carlos Bertulani). Note that the Fall meeting is very early in the semester. Deadlines are:

- Abstract Submission - September 9
- Early Registration – September 12

The meeting website is:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/physics/2011-APS-Texas-Commerce.html>

Abstracts are to be submitted through the TSAPS website:

<http://www.aps.org/units/tsaps/meetings/>

Note that this year the registration is also taken care of by the national APS organization. One can register on-line for the Texas Section meeting and pay by credit card. For more details see the above meeting website.



TAMU at Commerce - Campus

The organizing committee has put an interesting program together. Raymond

Orbach, director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, former Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy for President George W. Bush will be the keynote Speaker. Invited speakers include Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki (Cosmology and General Relativity), Ching-Hwa Kiang (Single-Molecule Manipulation), Robert Tribble (quark-matter and stellar nucleosynthesis), and Donald Winget (Dwarf Stars). Other highlights include a presentation by Gary White (Director, Society of Physics Students and Sigma Pi Sigma Associate Director of Education, American Institute of Physics) and a session on minority recruiting organized by Ted Hoddap (Director of Education and Diversity), Heather Galloway, and Harry Swinney.



TAMU at Commerce – planetarium

This is a joint meeting of the Texas Section of the American Physical Society, Texas Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students, National Association of Hispanic Physicists, and National Association of Black Physicists.

Logo Texas Section

Rick Navarro, an undergraduate physics student at TAMU at Commerce won the

logo design competition. His original design was slightly modified with input provided by Kerry Johnson, the APS Director of Art & Special Publications. APS national approved the design on May 25. From now on official Texas Section publications and letters will carry the adopted logo (shown above).



Radio transmitter of an insect

Report AAPT/APS/SPS Spring 2011 Meeting.

On March 3 - 5, 2011, Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, hosted the Spring 2011 Joint Meeting of the Texas Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (TSAAPT), the Texas Section of the American Physical Society (TSAPS), and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students (SPS). The local organizer, Dan Bruton, and his Physics colleagues at SFU did a great job in putting an interesting program together. Although the meeting had to compete with the national APS meeting which was this year organized in Dallas, 83 abstracts were submitted.

On Thursday evening March 3, 2011, registration and a welcoming reception was held from 6:00-9:00 PM in SFU's Kennedy Auditorium.

The Friday morning plenary sessions included a presentation by G. Fritz Benedict titled "Recent Adventures with the Hubble Space Telescope." His talk was followed by

David Lambert, the director of the McDonald Observatory, who described several areas in physics to which observations by astronomers have led to expansion of the frontiers of physics. Just before lunch Walter Trikosko led the session "you're up Next!", a session on "Physics Demonstrations." He presented several demonstrations that he and the SFA Physics Department have developed over the years. He was followed by conference attendees who shared their favorite demonstrations. The afternoon was filled with three parallel sessions and a poster session.



Low temperature physics extravaganza

The Friday evening banquet presentation was titled "Low Temperature Physics Extravaganza" by Glenn Agnolet of Texas A&M University. "Using simple but exciting demonstrations, he showed how everyday materials change when cooled to liquid nitrogen temperatures."

Meeting participants were able to take a tour of the SFA Observatory or watch a Planetarium Show after the banquet.

The Saturday morning session began with a plenary presentation titled "Radio Tracking Transmitters" by Philip Blackburn - manufacturer of the world's smallest radio transmitters. These transmitters are primarily used for tracking snakes, birds,

and other wildlife. This plenary talk was again followed by three parallel sessions. The Spring meeting included a program of hands-on workshops for physics teachers. Topics for the workshop strand included energy (conservation, transformations) and magnetism (magnetic fields, magnets, poles). Exhibitors displayed their products/programs in the registration area. The meeting finished on Saturday afternoon at 12:30 (adapted from the meeting report provided by Dan Bruton).



Representative Lloyd Doggett (25th district) with Texas Section executive committee members Heather Galloway and Carlos Bertulani.

Statement of the Texas Section of the American Physical Society

In March 2011 the executive committee of the TSAPS issued a statement expressing their concerns about the proposed Texas budget cuts in higher education. The statement was mailed to several state politicians and posted on the APS website at:

<http://www.aps.org/units/tsaps/governance/state-ments/march11.cfm>

The Texas Section statement was approved by APS' Panel on Public Affairs on May 3rd 2011.

APS Convocation and Congressional visits

Texas section executive officers Heather Galloway and Carlos Bertulani attended the APS convocation that was organized in Maryland on April 15. The convocation was preceded by congressional visits on April 14. The above mentioned Texas Section delegation visited the offices of several House members as well as of our senators, Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn.

The main issues discussed at the convocation were:

1- APS will take over the registration of regional meetings. This will allow local organizers of our section meeting to focus on the scientific program.



Robert Beck Clark after receiving award for Excellence in Physics Education at the April APS meeting

2- For several years, the Texas Section has used the APS abstract system for its regional meetings. This on-line system provides a convenient platform for Texas Section meeting attendees to submit their abstracts. Furthermore it creates a permanent record of

the program and assists the local organizers with administrative support. APS charges the sections and division for these services on a per abstract basis (BAPS charges). Later this spring, at the Anaheim meeting, the new BAPS rate was set to \$5/abstract. This rate is affordable for our section and underlines APS commitment to support the regional sections.



Karen Jo Matsler after receiving award for Excellence in Physics Education at the April APS meeting.

Texans Honored at April APS Meeting

Robert Beck Clark and Karen Jo Matsler were two of the co-recipients of the 2011 Award for Excellence in Physics Education that was presented at the April APS meeting in Anaheim, CA. Clark presently resides in Utah but was a 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from TSAPS for his role in its formation and the first elected Secretary/Treasurer. Matsler has taught for over 30 years, served as K-12 science coordinator, and currently is a professor at Dallas Baptist University. She has been active in our sister organization,

Texas Section of AAPT. The citation reads *"For providing peer-led professional development for 25 years to more than 5000 physics and physical science teachers nationwide through a network of more than 500 master teachers."*

See you in Commerce!
Carlos Bertulani, Wim Geerts, and Michael Sadler, editors.

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