Physics Department Year-End Awards Announced

Each December, the Department holds an Awards Ceremony during the Annual Holiday Party, to recognize staff and faculty who have achieved superior performance, and to announce the Graduate Student Awards which recognize outstanding graduate students from the past year.

Physics Teacher of the Year (2005)
Stephen Hill

Physics Employee Excellence Awards (2005)
Yvonne Dixon and Greg Labbe

Graduate Student Awards (2005)

Tom Scott Memorial Award:
James Ira Thorpe
This award is made annually to a senior graduate student, in experimental physics, who has shown distinction in research. Ira is a 2nd year graduate student working in experimental astrophysics under the direction of Guido Mueller.

Charles F. Hooper Jr. Memorial Award:
Aparna Baskaran
This award is made annually to senior graduate students in physics who have shown distinction in research and teaching. The Award honors the memory of Professor Charles (Chuck) Hooper who made seminal contributions to the Department as a Chair, as a distinguished researcher, and as a beloved mentor/teacher. Aparna is a 5th year student working in theoretical condensed matter physics under the direction of Jim Duffy.

TA of the Year for the Introductory Labs:
Sung-Soo Kim
This award recognizes Sung-Soo’s commitment to his students and to the educational atmosphere in the laboratory setting. Sung-Soo is a 4th year student working in theoretical high energy physics under the direction of Pierre Ramond.

TA of the Year for the Discussion Sections of the Large Lecture Courses:
Nathan Heston
Nate is a 2nd year student working in experimental condensed matter physics under the direction of David Tanner. Nate has proven to be a valuable colleague and dedicated teacher, as his contributions to teaching have been recognized by faculty members, his peer graduate students, and undergraduate students who have been in his classes.

T. S. Nunner, B. M. Andersen, A. Melikyan, and P. J. Hirschfeld.
“Dopant-Modulated Pair Interaction in Cuprate Superconductors.”

B. Abbott et al. (LIGO Scientific Collaboration).
“Upper Limits on a Stochastic Background of Gravitational Waves.”

Submit your article to be featured in this section. Whether it’s just been submitted or accepted, we’d like to feature it in the proton! We’ll even print your abstract! submit to: physicsnews@phys.ufl.edu
MORE AWARDS FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Khandker Muttalib has been selected to receive a 2005/2006 Teacher of the Year Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Prof. Muttalib was recognized for his teaching of PHZ 3113 and PHY 2053.

Yoon Lee has been selected to receive a 2005/2006 Advisor of the Year Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Yoon has also been designated as the CLAS candidate for the University-wide advising award competition, which will be decided later in the spring. Yoon was recognized for all of his efforts as the SPS Faculty Advisor.

J. Michael Harris Award
Graduate students Aparna Baskaran and Shun-Pei Miao have received the J. Michael Harris Supplemental Awards for Spring 2006 semester. These awards are administered by the Institute for Fundamental Theory (IFT) and are made possible by a generous donation by J. Michael Harris, a 1982 Alumnus of the University of Florida. Dr. Harris is an internist in private practice in the Sarasota area, and he has a deep interest in particle physics and cosmology.

FACULTY NEWS

Trickey Gives Mini-Course at Universidad de Chile
For three weeks in November, Prof. Sam Trickey visited the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile as a guest of Prof. Alejandro Toro Labbe’ who is well-known to QTP as well as a frequent attendee of the Sanibel Symposia. Prof. Trickey was there to teach a “mini-course”, given in Spanish, entitled “Survey of Multi-scale Materials Simulation Techniques and Problems”. Much of the course material was rooted in the NSF ITR-funded and KDI-funded research at the University of Florida. The course received a strong positive repsonse by the highly-motivated Spanish students and although their English was somewhat awkward and uncertain, the students warmed up to Prof. Trickey and especially liked the caricature drawn by Bobby Scurlock, which they found on the QTP website and decided to post on their own pages about Prof. Trickey and his visit.

http://qtc.puc.cl/ > Grupo > Miembro Vistante > Trickey or http://qtc.puc.cl/Trickey/trickey.htm
GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Ethan Siegel and Aravind Natarajan have received CLAS Graduate Student Travel Awards for Spring 2006. Each student will receive a $250 from CLAS. In addition, the Department has awarded $250 Graduate Student Awards to Ethan, Aravind, Hui Xiong, and Chi-Deuk Yoo.

Ethan Siegel, a 5th year student working with Professor Jim Fry, will attend the 207th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society that will be held in Washington, DC, on January 8-12, 2006. Ethan will be making an oral presentation entitled, “Cosmological Magnetic Fields from Primordial Perturbations.”

Aravind Natarajan, a 4th year student working with Professor Pierre Sikivie, will attend the 7th UCLA Symposium on Sources and Detection of Dark Matter and Dark Energy in the Universe, that will be held in Los Angeles, California, on February 22-24, 2006. Aravind will be making an oral presentation entitled, “Galactic Caustics and their Detection.”

Hui Xiong, a 5th year student working with Professor Adrian Roitberg, will attend the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, Baltimore, Maryland, on March 26-30, 2006. Hui will be making an oral presentation entitled, “Free Energy Calculation from Non-equilibrium Simulations.”

Chi-Deuk Yoo, a 4th year student working with Professor Alan Dorsey, will attend the March Meeting of the American Physical Society to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 13-27, 2006. Chi-Deuk will be making an oral presentation entitled, “Dynamic Structure Function of a Model Supersolid.”

PUBLISHING NIGHTMARE

Everyone understands the importance of publishing, but first year graduate student Ramsey Lundock has taken a novel approach. His fantasy short story, “Nightmare on Alm-strat” is part of Tavern Tales published by ComStar Media (http://www.comstar-media.com). Previously, Ramsey has had three fiction magazine articles published and two settings in a role-playing game. Ramsey is a member of the UF LIGO group and is conducting research in cryogenic interferometry.
GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES
APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1, 2006.

The Harriett G. Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program provides full-time underrepresented graduate students in science, technology and education with financial support for their education in NASA-related disciplines. Students are selected for fellowships that include financial support and a 6-week, hands-on research experience at a NASA Center or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Fellowship tenure is three years for candidates seeking either a master’s or Ph.D. degree in the NASA-related fields. The mission of the JPFP is to increase the number of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities participating in mathematics, science, engineering, technology disciplines. Up to 20 Fellows will be selected annually to receive support for graduate education in NASA-related disciplines. The program serves underrepresented students who are matriculating at any accredited U.S. university or college, and engaging in the science, mathematics, engineering and technology (STEM) fields. With stipends, travel allowances and tuition offsets included, JPFP award packages currently start at $24,500 per year. If you are working in a NASA-related field, are a US citizen, and are a member of an underrepresented group in the sciences (including women for this program), then the following fellowship opportunity might be of interest to you. See http://www.ucsfsp.org/jenkins for more information and discipline categories.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 17, 2006

Boulder School for Condensed Matter and Materials Physics, “Physics of Soft Matter: Complex Fluids and Biological Materials”, will be held on June 26-July 21, 2006. The Boulder Summer School in Condensed Matter and Materials Physics has been established to provide education for advanced graduate students and postdocs working in condensed matter physics, materials science and related fields. The goal is to enable students to work at the frontiers of science and technology by providing expert training not easily available within the traditional system of graduate education and postdoctoral apprenticeship. The School is supported by the National Science Foundation, with additional funding provided by the University of Colorado, and meets annually during July in Boulder, Colorado. Submit your applications by 2/17/06, by going online to http://research.yale.edu/boulder and clicking on the Electronic Application link.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 1, 2006

Female Graduate Students: The American Physical Society (APS) is delighted to once more offer the M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship for Women in Physics. APS was designated as the primary beneficiary of a generous bequest from M. Hildred Blewett, a particle physicist who died in June 2004. In accordance with her wishes, the M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship for Women in Physics has been established to enable women to return to physics research careers after having had to interrupt those careers for family reasons. The scholarship consists of an award of up to $45,000. Allowed expenses include dependent care, salary, travel, equipment, tuition and fees.

Further details and an online application procedure can be found on the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) website at http://www.aps.org/educ/cswp/blewett/index.cfm . Applications are due by June 1 and selection will be made by a sub-committee of the APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics. Announcement of the award is expected to be made by August 1.

IFT Colloquium Announcements

Jan 25: Sergei Pilyugin (UF Math Dept) - “Feedback-mediated oscillatory coexistence in the chemostat.”

Feb 22: Gerhard Hegerfeldt (Univ of Goettingen, Germany) - “Atomic matter-wave diffraction by transmission: optics vs quantum mechanics.”

Mar 8: George Andrews (Penn State, Member Nat’l Acad. Sci.) - “TBA”