

PROTON



PHYSICS REPORT ON THINGS OF NOTE

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

YEAR END AWARDS ANNOUNCED



The department held its annual holiday party on December 8, 2006. Faculty and staff who achieved superior performance were recognized as well as outstanding graduate students.

Pictured left: Santa (Prof. Henri Van Rinsvelt) and Prof. Alan Dorsey, Chairman

Spring 2007 SEMINARS

Astrophysics

Fridays @ 4:00pm in Room 2165 NPB

Condensed Matter Physics

Mondays @ 4:05pm in Room 2165 NPB

High Energy Physics

Tuesdays @ 2:00pm and Fridays @ 12:40pm in Room 2165 NPB

Physics Colloquium

Thursdays @ 4:05 in Room 1002 NPB

Quantum Theory

Wednesdays @ 4:05pm in Room 2205 NPB

Physics Teacher of the Year 2006: Amlan Biswas



STAFF AWARDS

For student awards please see page 2



Dee Dee Carver, Office Manager, IHEPA Group, is our staff winner for the 2006 Administrative Employee of Excellence. In her nomination letters, she was described as "outstanding," "superb," "key," "extremely dedicated," "exemplary," and "absolutely indispensable." Dee Dee supports the IHEPA group, which consists of about 30 scientific staff and faculty and about 15 graduate and undergraduate students. Dee Dee is the immediate supervisor of two staff members and one student assistant. In the words of

one of her nominators, "Dee Dee's outstanding work ethic and problem solving ability have been critical to the success of my nationally visible projects. Congratulations!"



Bill Malphurs, Engineer, is our winner for the 2006 Technical Employee of Excellence. In the words of one of his nominators, "Billy is dedicated to his job...(and) to the educational mission of the University. He is capable of patient, detailed conversations with everyone, spanning from undergraduate students to graduate students to postdoctoral researchers to faculty members." Billy is a member of the UF Physics machine shop staff.

He works closely with faculty and students to design and construct experimental apparatus to support research projects. According to a former graduate student, "Billy has demonstrated the flawless skill of a master craftsman. Congratulations!"

CLAS Teaching and Advising Awards

Two Physics professors will receive teaching/advising awards from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **Stephen Hill** will receive a CLAS Teaching Award, and **Mark Meisel** will receive a CLAS Advising award. They will each receive a cash award and will be recognized at a reception at the President's house later in the spring.

EDITORS

Alan Dorsey, Chair
Pam Marlin



college of liberal arts & sciences

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
The Foundation for The Gator Nation



STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding physics students receive awards at the annual holiday party.



Tom Scott Memorial Award – Bobby Scurlock

This award is made annually to a senior graduate student, in experimental physics, who has shown distinction in research. The award honors the memory of Professor Tom Scott, who made significant contributions to the Department both as a Chair and as a noted researcher, and provides a \$400 prize. This year the Department is pleased to recognize Dr. Bobby Scurlock. Bobby received his PhD degree this past summer, and he is now a postdoctoral fellow in the Experimental High Energy Group. Professor Darin Acosta directed his PhD research, and Bobby was cited for his passion for science and the leadership role that he played while still a graduate student. In addition, Bobby is a well-known and accomplished artist.

Congratulations!

Chuck Hooper Memorial Awards - Aravind Natarajan and Rukshana A. Patel

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 Chuck Hooper who made seminal contributions to the Department as a Chair, as a distinguished researcher, and as a beloved mentor/teacher. Each award carries a prize of \$250.



Aravind is a 5th year student in astrophysics theory, and Professor Pierre Sikivie supervises his research. Aravind has distinguished himself as a hard-working, careful theorist and teaching assistant. He is also recognized for his outreach activities, as he has judged local middle school science fairs. Congratulations!



Rukshana is a 6th year student in experimental high energy physics, and Professor John Yelton supervises her research. Rukshana is recognized as a gifted experimentalist and an excellent team player of a large group. Her attention to detail enables her to be an excellent teacher and highly-sought-after proofreader! She quietly serves as a role model for our younger students. Congratulations!



Discussion Sections TA of the Year - Daniel J. Sindhikara

Daniel was recognized for performance that extends beyond the standard duties and for providing students with a variety of learning tools and aids, the Department recognizes Daniel with a \$100 prize. Daniel is a 3rd year student in biological and chemical physics, and Professor Adrian Roitberg directs his research. Congratulations!



Laboratory Sections TA of the Year - Anand Balaraman

Anand was recognized for dedicated diligence in the instruction of students taking the introductory laboratory courses, the Department recognizes Anand with a \$100 prize. Anand is a 6th year student in astrophysics theory, and Professor Jim Fry directs his research. Congratulations!



UPCOMING SEMINAR SPEAKERS

FOR TIMES PLEASE SEE PAGE 1

ASTROPHYSICS

JAN 12, LEE LINDBLOM, CALTECH

JAN 19, DAVID MERRIT, RIT

CONDENSED MATTER

JAN 29, EDUARDO MUCCIOLO

HIGH ENERGY

JAN 12, L. CLAVELLI, UNIV OF ALABAMA

JAN 16 & 19, S. BILENKY,

JINR DUBNA AND SISSA TRIESTE

JAN 23, R. WOODARD, UF

JAN 30, H.S. LEE, UF

COLLOQUIUM

JAN 18, PIERRE SIKIVIE, UF

JAN 25, JAMES OVERDUIN, STANFORD

SEMINAR SCHEDULES ARE LISTED AT

[HTTP://WWW.PHYS.UFL.EDU/CALENDAR/SEMINARS.HTML](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/calendar/seminars.html)

UPCOMING GRADUATE STUDENT MEETING

The Spring Semester Meeting with Graduate Students will be Thursday, January 11, 2007, 4 pm, in NPB 1002 (small auditorium), as we will use the first colloquium slot of the Spring semester. All graduate students are expected to attend unless they have a course or TA conflict or are working off-campus. After the meeting, the agenda/notes will be posted online, and the notes from the Fall 2006 Meeting are at (see bottom of the page):

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/grad_program/news/gradannouncements.html



Wayne Bomstad has received the J. Michael Harris Supplemental Award for the Spring 2007 semester. This award, administered by the Institute for Fundamental Theory (IFT), is made possible by a generous donation from J. Michael Harris. Wayne is a fifth year graduate student working with Professor John Klauder and is

expected to complete his PhD dissertation by the end of the Spring 2007 semester.



Graduate Student Travel Awards

Aravind Natarajan and **Jon Lawrence** have each received a \$250 CLAS Graduate Student Travel Award for Spring 2007, and the Department has provided an additional \$250 to each student.

Aravind is a 5th year student working with Professor Pierre Sikivie, and plans to attend the conference entitled "Astrophysical Probes of the Nature of Dark Matter" that will be held in Irvine, CA, on March 22-24, 2007. He plans to present a paper entitled "Caustics in Galactic Halos".

Jon Lawrence is a 5th year student working with Professor Steve Hill, and he plans to attend the March Meeting of the American Physical Society to be held in Denver, March 5-9, 2007. He will make an oral presentation entitled "High Frequency Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (HFEP) Study of a High Spin Co(II) Complex".

The Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation

Fellowship The Association for Academic Women (AAW) at the University of Florida has established the Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation Fellowship to honor an outstanding female graduate student. One fellowship in an amount up to \$2,000 will be awarded to assist in the dissertation phase of the doctoral degree. The recipient must be enrolled in dissertation credits for at least one semester (fall, spring or summer) after she is selected to receive the fellowship in spring 2007. The award was established to recognize Dr. Madelyn Lockhart who served as Dean of the Graduate School and Dean of International Studies and Programs from 1985 to 1993. The applicant must be a full-time or full-time equivalent doctoral degree candidate at the University of Florida who has completed her doctoral course work. Deadline for applications for the award is 4:00 PM, Monday, January 29, 2007. For more information visit: <http://web.wst.ufl.edu/forms/lockhart.html>. Questions about the fellowship application process should be directed to Dr. Carol Kem at carokem@ufl.edu

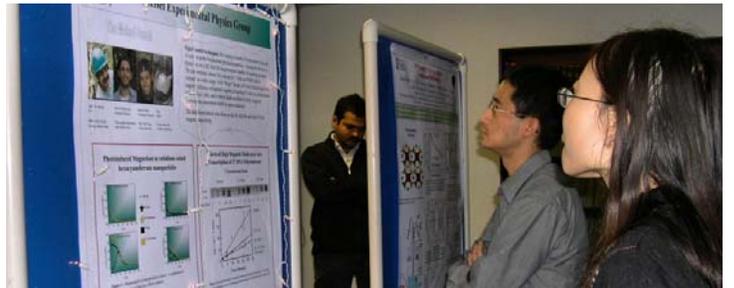
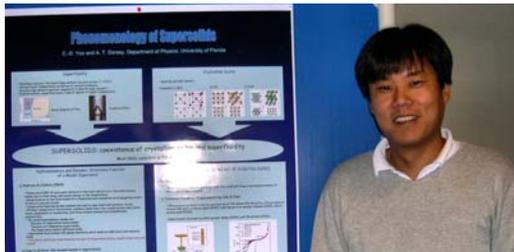
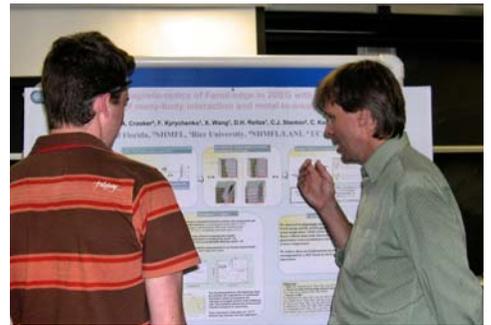
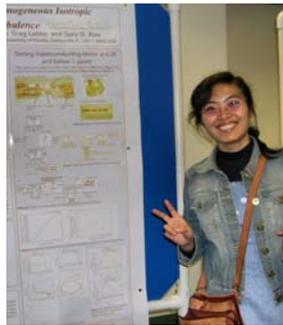


Professor Tarek Saab will make a "Science Sunday" presentation at the Florida Museum of Natural History on February 11 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. The presentation, which is geared for an adult audience, is entitled "A Journey Through Time & Space". Travel through 100 years of physics from Albert Einstein to Stephen Hawking to the newest questions regarding dark matter and dark energy. Discover how the two seeming disparate fields of astrophysics and subatomic physics have made amazing advancements leading to our current detailed but experimental understanding of the cosmos.



Congratulations to Sarah Jo and Stephen Hill on the birth of their son, Liam Benjamin Hill, (9 lbs, 6 oz) born December 12, 2006.

Graduate students meet the faculty event was held on December 7, 2006. The main purpose of this event was to provide incoming graduate students with an opportunity to meet with faculty members in an informal setting, and to learn about the research opportunities that exist within the department. Each research group within the department was asked to present one or more posters detailing their research activities.



The PROTON is a monthly newsletter produced by the Physics Department to publicize the department's activities and news from the faculty and staff. Anyone is invited to submit material to be printed in the publication. Submissions for the PROTON should be sent to Pam Marlin, physicsnews@phys.ufl.edu by the 4th Monday of each month.