

The Dialog

Newsletter of the SOS/AAPT

Jan. 2003

Gordon Aubrecht Receives the Hart Award

October 19, 2002

By James F. Sullivan

In the winter and spring of 1983 several of us were engaged in the process of organizing the Southern Ohio Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers. Some of you will recall *AAPT Announcer* regularly printed a map of the 48 contiguous United States and there was a huge hole in the southern portion of the state of Ohio where no AAPT section existed. The organization effort began in Cincinnati and quickly spread northward into Dayton. At some point during that period we found out that Columbus and indeed many cities further north would be included in our section. It seemed important to include people from that area in the organization and, of course, The Ohio State University was an obvious choice.

I made several blind calls to the OSU Physics Department without locating the proper person. One day, Professor Leonard Jossem called me and suggested that I contact a new young Physics Professor, Gordon Aubrecht.

I recall that initial phone conversation as if it were yesterday. I asked Gordon to consider serving the new section as the initial Vice President for Colleges and Universities. He asked the obvious question: "How much work would be involved." I gave him the honest answer that since the section was just being formed I really had no idea what his time commitment might be. It was evident that we had the correct person when Gordon answered this with an unqualified "Yes, I'll do it."

Gordon indeed served as the Section's first Vice President for Colleges and Universities. He then was elected as the second President of the section during 1984-85. As SOS/AAPT President, he initiated many things including a corporate giving program, the Physics Prize Contest, and the Physics Awards at Ohio State Science Day. He guided us through the second-year growing pains that every new organization experiences.

Since that time Gordon has continued to serve the section in too many offices and jobs to describe here. When a job has had to be done, Gordon has been there. This award is long overdue and I simply end this by saying that it is indeed my pleasure to award the SOS/AAPT *John B. Hart Award for Distinguished Service* to Professor Gordon J. Aubrecht II of the Ohio State University.

Congratulation Gordon!!!

Fall Meeting at The Ohio State University

Gordon was a big part of the very successful meeting held in October at OSU. This was a joint meeting of all of Ohio's physics communities. If you missed it, you missed a lot. This participant especially liked: OSU's Best Lecture Demonstrations held

in McPherson Lab. Several of my students were also in attendance and are looking forward to taking physics classes during their college careers.

Ruth Howes, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ball State University, gave a presentation on SPIN-UP and the state of undergraduate physics programs.

Spring Meeting: Sycamore High School April 12, 2003

"Ohio's New State Science Standards and Physics"

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Abstract submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday March 14th.

Contributed papers dealing with original research, the teaching of physics, or physics and society are solicited. Faculty are urged to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to present papers. Ten minute oral presentations with two minutes for questions will be scheduled in parallel sessions on Saturday morning. Overhead projectors and chalkboards will be available. Other AV equipment is available - please submit request with abstract. Cindy would prefer the abstract be sent electronically to parrottc@sycamoreschools.org. However, they can be mailed to:

Cindy Parrott
Sycamore High School
7400 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45242

More information and the registration form will be sent after the winter executive meeting being held at Wittenberg University on Sat. Feb. 22nd.

We are changing over to have the Dialog become completely electronic. This will save the section in the cost of mailing to members.

Copies will be archived on Gordon's home page
www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~aubrecht