

The Dialog

The Newsletter of the Southern Ohio Section of the American Association of
Physics Teachers
September 2007

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SOS/AAPT FALL, 2007 MEETING

Joint meeting with Ohio-Region APS

Culler Hall (Physics Building)

Miami University

Oxford, OH

1:30 pm Friday, Oct. 19

thru

3:00 pm Saturday, Oct. 20

- Pick up new ideas for your classroom
- Share your own good ideas
- Enjoy socializing with your colleagues
- Have a chance to win great door prizes
- See a wonderful performance by “Marie Curie”

The theme of the meeting is “Doing Front-Line Research with Undergraduate Students.” One of the invited speakers, Dr. Elizabeth McCormack, has worked with high school students in her research laboratory as well as undergraduates. Another of the invited speakers, Dr. Richard Peterson, was President of AAPT in 2005 and is a great source of information on any topic related to physics teaching.

Please consider submitting an abstract on your own work in any area of physics or physics education. These can be presented as a 10

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minute contributed paper on Saturday morning or a poster on Friday afternoon. Students are also encouraged to give papers or posters. The abstract for paper or poster must be submitted via the APS abstract website (<http://abs.aps.org/>) before the **abstract deadline of September 28**.

If you don't want to give a formal paper, plan to share your ideas with colleagues as a How I Do It. These are very informal and can be about demos or student projects or an approach you found works well to teach a particular concept. One of the best parts of an SOS/AAPT meeting is this chance to learn from one another. No formal abstract is required. Just sign up at the registration table on arrival.

There is great treat in store on Friday evening. Susan Marie Frontczak will present *A Living History of Marie Curie*. For the duration of this one-woman show, Ms. Frontczak becomes Marie Curie. The drama exposes the struggles and triumphs of Madame Curie and artfully blends history, science, and theatre. She gave this performance a few years ago at a national AAPT meeting and the audience was in awe of her work. Typically, many SOS/AAPT members only come for the Saturday part of one of our joint meetings, but you really don't want to miss the chance to see this outstanding performance.

The earlybird registration deadline is October 5. **High school teachers and all students receive free registration**, but the registration form should still be completed. Further information about the meeting including lodging possibilities, directions, and parking information can be found on the meeting website http://unixgen.muohio.edu/~OSAPS_F07/

SOS/AAPT Website

Thanks to Fred Reuter, SOS/AAPT is on the Web at

<http://www.sosaapt.org>

with a mailbox at secretary@sosaapt.org

Please check it out and suggest links and content of interest to physics teachers and students. We hope this site will be a resource for improving physics education throughout the region and beyond, as well as a great way to promote the work of SOS/AAPT.

Future meetings:

Fall 2007: Joint meeting with OSAPS, Miami University

Spring 2008: Joint meeting with OSAPS and OSAAPT, Youngstown State University, March 28-29, 2008

Fall 2008: (tentative) Joint meeting with OSAPS, Wright State University

Physics news and events:

The **Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC)** is the world's largest rocket contest, sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). Approximately 7,000 students from across the nation compete in TARC each year. Teams design, build and fly a model rocket that reaches a specific altitude and duration determined by a set of rules developed each year. The current goal is to design, build and fly a one-stage model rocket to an altitude of 750 feet, keep it aloft for 45 seconds, and return 2 raw eggs unbroken. The contest is designed to encourage students to study math and science and pursue careers in aerospace.

The top 100 teams, based on local qualification flights, are invited to Washington, DC in May for the national finals. Prizes include \$60,000 in cash and scholarships split between the top 10 finishers. NASA invites the top 25 teams to participate in their Student Launch Initiative, an advanced rocketry program. AIA member companies have sponsored additional prizes such as scholarship money and a trip to an international air show. Registration for the **6th Annual Team America Rocketry Challenge** began on Wednesday, September 5 and will continue through Friday, November 30. See <http://www.aia-aerospace.org/tarc/> for more information!

AAPT governance retreat, May 2007

On May 23-25 more than 65 active members of AAPT including 18 area chairs, close to 40 section representatives or designees, and a number of board members and officers of the AAPT, met at the American Center for Physics for a Governance Planning Retreat. They explored and discussed more effective ways for the central organization to support its sections and area committees, as well as for the sections and the area committees to be more engaged in advancing AAPT's mission. The synthesized model from these discussions is being shared with the Governance Review Committee. The Committee will discuss the model and adopt it into a workable format that it will propose to the Board for action.

All AAPT Members are invited to review the content from the Governance Retreat at <http://www.aapt.org/govretreat>.

The Dialog
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When did you last pay your membership dues?

If you can't answer this question and are not a lifetime member, it is time to pay your \$10.00 dues to the SOS/AAPT.

Checks for membership can be made out to the SOS/AAPT and sent to the address at the left. Please ask teaching colleagues and valued friends to consider becoming a part of our organization. New members are always welcome and needed.