**The Section Representative’s Report of the 2013 AAPT Winter Meeting**

**to the Spring 2013 Meeting of the Ohio Section AAPT**

The 2013 Winter AAPT meeting was held January 5th – 9th in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency near the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and the New Orleans Arena. The hotel was only a twenty-minute walk downtown to the French Quarter, Harrah’s Casino, Riverwalk Market Place, and the Shops at Canal Place. A walking tour of the French Quarter was available as well as bus tours to area plantations, above-ground cemeteries, and historical homes.

The meeting included several regular events such as the exhibit hall, first-timers’ gathering, retired physicists’ luncheon, AAPT fun run/walk, two-year college breakfast, multicultural luncheon, two drawings each for a Kindle and an Amazon $75 gift card, and the great book giveaway. New events were the early career professionals speed networking meeting and the spouse & guest New Orleans cooking demonstration and lunch. The “big” event, based on the theme of the meeting – *And All that Jazz* – was the Jazz Night Fundraiser where The Preservation Hall Jazz Band performed.

The meeting was packed with 45 committee meetings, 56 paper sessions containing 261 contributed/invited papers and five panel discussions, three poster sessions containing 89 posters, four cracker-barrels, twenty workshops, four commercial workshops,26 exhibitors, two ceremonial/awards sessions, two plenary sessions, and the AAPT Symposium, *Physics Education and Public Policy*. The Oersted Metal was awarded to Joe Redish, University of Maryland, who spoke about “The implications of a Theoretical Framework for Physics Education Research”. The John David Jackson Award for Excellence in Graduate Physics Education went to David Pines, University of California at Davis, who presented “What We Don’t Know, We Teach Each Other”. The Homer L. Dodge Citations for Distinguished Service to AAPT went to James Mallmann, Milwaukee School of Engineering; Sarah McKagan, University of Colorado; and Stanley Micklavzina, University of Oregon.

The first plenary speaker was Mark Whittle, University of Virginia, presented *The Universe’s First Million Years: Primordial Light and Sound.* The second plenary was presented by Robert R. Twilley, Louisiana State University, on the *Mississippi River delta Restoration as Science and Policy Issues of Public Concern: Opportunities in Science Education.* The symposium on *Physics Education and Public Policy* was lead by S. James Gate, John S. Tolt Professor and Director of the Center for String & Particle Theory, University of Maryland; Ramon E. Lopez, Professor of Physics, University of Texas, Arlington; and Richard Steinberg, Professor of Physics and Secondary Education, City College of New York. The session that was totally based on the theme of the meeting was the “Jazz of Physics Teaching” with four invited speakers. Gordon Ramsey presented *Use of Woodwinds in Jazz*, Harvey Leff talked about *Drumbeat of Jazz in Physics*, Bob Swanson spoke on *Painting the Clouds with Sunshine – The History of the Jazz Banjo*, and Ingo Titze with Elizabeth Johnson demonstrated *Vocal Techniques in Jazz*.

The AAPT Council consisting of the elected Executive Board and the Section Representatives meets at the Winter AAPT meetings. The Treasurer reported that the central office has achieved a balanced budget with a slight surplus so that the office staff will receive a 3% raise. Most of the discussion centered on the four-day meeting plan which will be instituted at the 2014 Winter meeting. Several proposals had been considered by the Winter Meeting Restructuring Committee. It was decided that there would only be one & a half days for workshops with many of the area committees meeting at the same time. The Exhibition Hall and Opening Reception would be Saturday night with paper sessions beginning on Sunday morning. The meeting will conclude at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, ending one day earlier than the current winter meetings. The national APS (American Physical Society) has requested to meet jointly with AAPT starting in 2017. Originally, AAPT met with APS for the winter meeting until 1990 after which APS dropped out of that format. The Executive Board will continue discussions with APS.

The schedule for future national AAPT meetings: 2013 Summer Meeting – July 13-17, 2013 – Portland, Oregon; 2014 Winter Meeting – January 4-7, 2014 – Orlando, Florida; 2014 Summer Meeting – July 26-30, 2014 – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; 2015 Winter Meeting – January 3-7, 2015 – San Diego, California; 2015 Summer meeting – July 25-29, 2015 – University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Please check out the AAPT website at [www.aapt.org](http://www.aapt.org) for information about programs and services for physics educators.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myra West, Ohio Section Representative