Report of the Section Representative to the Fall 2012 Meeting of the

Ohio Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers

The AAPT Summer Meeting was held July 28 – August 1, 2012 in Philadelphia at The University of Pennsylvania, one of America’s oldest college campuses. The theme of this meeting was “Physics: the Experimental Core”. Preceding the meeting was the 2012 Topical Conference on ”Laboratory Instruction Beyond the First Year of College” held on July 25 – 27th  and hosted by ALPhA (Advanced Laboratory Physics Association). This was followed by “The New Faculty Commencement Conference” as part of AAPT’s New Faculty Experience for Two-Year College Faculty held July 27 – 30th. Following the Summer Meeting the Physics Education Research Conference was held August 1 – 2nd.

The 2012 Summer Meeting was the largest AAPT meeting on record with nearly 1200 registered attendees began with the usual weekend of 40 workshops and tutorials. The meeting also provided 6 commercial workshops and four PTRA workshops. There were 77 paper sessions in which 428 papers were presented as well as three poster sessions containing 211 posters. There was 39 committee meetings conducted during the meeting as well as special events such as the AAPT 5k Fun Run/Walk, a Philadelphia Trolley tour, First Timers’ Gathering, Two-Year College Faculty breakfast, Spouses’ Gathering, Retired Physicists’ Luncheon, High School Teachers’ First Timers Luncheon, Early career Professionals Speed Networking Event, AAPT Demo Show, and in addition to the Great Book Giveaway there were two drawings for an Amazon Kindle and two drawings for a Barns & Noble Nook. Because the meeting was in Philadelphia, there was a special Ben Franklin Performance.

The AAPT Distinguished Service Citations were awarded to Eugenia Etkina of Rutgers University, Jose Garcia of the University of Arizona, and Chandralekha Singh of the University of Pittsburg. Other awards with talks given by the recipients included the following awardees. The Robert A. Millikan medal was awarded to Phillip Sadler from the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who spoke on *Separating Facts From Fads: How Our Choices Impact Students’ Performance and Persistence in Physics.* Mark Greenman from Marblehead High School, Swampscot, MA won the Paul W. Zitzewitz Excellence in Pre-College Teaching award and talked on the *Interactive Laboratory Experience – A Professional Development Recipe for Success.* Kevin M. Lee of the University of Nebraska received the David Halliday and Robert Resnick Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching and spoke on *Letting Technology do What technology is Good at.* The 2021 AIP Science Communication Award for the writing for children was given to Pat Murphy for her book *The Klutz Guide to the Galaxy.*

In addition to these talks there were three plenary sessions. The APS Division of Biophysics sponsored a session on Birds, Brains, and Physics – The Fascinating Field of Biological Physics with William Bialek (Princeton University) talking on *Statistical Physics Approaches to Real Biological Systems* and Dezhe Jin (Penn State University) talking about *The Emergent Neutral Dynamics of Bird Song Syntax.* Nima Arkani-Hamed (Institute for Advanced Study) presented *Space-Time, Quantum Mechanics and the Large Hadron Collider.* J. Richard Gott (Princeton University) gave a pictorial talk on *Sizing Up the Universe.* The link to the plenary sessions is at [www.aapt.org/Conferences/sm2012](http://www.aapt.org/Conferences/sm2012).

The link to the highlights of the summer meeting is at [www.aapt.org/Conferences/SM12-Hightlights.cfm](http://www.aapt.org/Conferences/SM12-Hightlights.cfm).

The schedule for national AAPT meetings is as follows:

2013 Winter Meeting January 5 – 9 New Orleans, Louisiana

2013 Summer Meeting July 13 – 17 Portland, Oregon

2014 Winter Meeting TBA Orlando, Florida

2014 Summer Meeting July 26 – 30 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Beginning in 2014, the Winter Meetings will be shorten to four days with workshops being offered only on the Saturday and the meeting sessions beginning on Sunday through Tuesday afternoon.

The U.S. Physics Team consisting of five high school students won three gold and two silver medals at the International Physics Olympiad in Estonia. China and Taiwan tied for first place with Singapore in second place. The U.S. was tied with Korea and Russia for third place.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myra West, Ohio Section representative