

**WINTER NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN SECTION  
OF THE  
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

April 2, 2009

---

**A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

---

The Executive Committee has voted unanimously to modify the SESAPS Bylaws to expand the SESAPS region to include Puerto Rico. The Executive Committee had many reasons to do this, among which were the existence of strong physics departments at the University of Puerto Rico campuses at Mayaguez, Humacao, and Rio Piedras, as well as at other smaller departments, and the existence of the Arecibo Observatory. The Southeastern Section is the only logical Section for Puerto Rico. Participation in SESAPS can help mitigate the geographic isolation of Puerto Rico and SESAPS can gain by the expansion, particularly through expanding the diversity of our membership. The change proposed to the Bylaws is now moving through the appropriate committees at APS. After these approvals, the change is to be discussed at the next general business meeting of SESAPS, likely the one to be held during the upcoming Atlanta meeting, and then voted on by the SESAPS membership. In the meantime, we will solicit new members from Puerto Rico and the Executive Committee has asked Dr. Angel Lopez from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, to serve as an ex officio member.

This year will bring the 76th Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society. It will be hosted by Agnes College, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia, on Thursday, November 12 – Saturday, November 14, in Atlanta. Because Atlanta is reasonably central to the SESAPS region and because there are many campuses in the area, we are looking forward to a large and lively meeting. Paul Cottle of Florida State University will serve as program chair and would welcome suggestions and volunteers to organize sessions.

As always, SESAPS meetings showcase physics efforts going on in the South. The meetings also are excellent opportunities for undergraduate and graduates to present their first papers. To meet, chat, and share problems and successes in a large family is a very Southern thing. The SESAPS meetings support the health and vigor of the Southeastern physics community.

Please put the dates on your calendar, remind your colleagues, and plan to bring your students. By the way, remind your colleagues to sign up online for membership in SESAPS; it costs nothing if you are already an APS member. (<https://www.aps.org/aps-login/index.cfm>)

As the new Chair I wish to thank the outgoing chair, David Haase, for his many efforts and abundant organizational skills that kept SESAPS moving in the last year. He, together with Paul Cottle, assembled the outstanding slate of candidates for the SESAPS Executive Committee.

Thanks are also in order to the Physics Department at North Carolina State University for preparing and hosting a very successful Fall 2008 meeting in Raleigh. The local chairs, David Haase and John Risley, and their colleagues provided a pleasant venue and a memorable banquet, with banquet speakers Fred Jerome and Rodger Taylor, authors of Einstein on Race and Racism. Attendance at the meeting was the second largest in SESAPS history.

I welcome new members to the Executive Board, elected recently from an excellent slate of candidates. The new Vice-Chair is Dr. Laurie McNeil, University of North Carolina. Dr. Jorge Piekarewicz of Florida State University is the newly elected at-large member of the Executive Board.

The departing members of the Executive Committee – Tom Clegg (Past Chair, 4 years in the Chair chain) and Robert Jones (at-large member, three years) – are to be thanked for their dedicated service on the Executive Committee and to SESAPS through their terms.

We invite and welcome your suggestions for future openings on the Executive Committee. Each fall we seek nominees for the position of Vice-Chair and for one at-large member. In addition, this year we will also be searching for a new Secretary.

The Section makes three annual awards for outstanding research, teaching and service to physics in the Southeast. There are many members who are outstanding in these areas and worthy of recognition. Please think about nominating a colleague for the Beams, Pegram, or Slack Awards. The deadline and information can be found later in this newsletter.

I look forward to working with you and SESAPS this year. I look forward to a lively and exciting meeting in Atlanta. SESAPS, the oldest and largest Section of the APS, has a rich history and reflects the energy of physics in the Southeast.

Sincerely,

David Ernst  
Professor of Physics, Vanderbilt University  
Adjunct Professor, Fisk University

---

**A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

---

Dear SESAPS Members:

In my capacity as membership coordinator of the Southeastern Section, I am asking all SESAPS members to encourage fellow members of the APS in the Southeast who are not yet members of the SESAPS (there are ~2500 of them!) to seriously consider joining SESAPS. In particular, please discuss the issue of SESAPS membership with your undergraduate and graduate students and, in one of your departmental faculty meetings, publicize SESAPS and its activities more widely.

It is especially important to encourage your graduate and undergraduate students to join the APS and SESAPS in this time of economic stress. The data seems to show that after years of steady growth since 2001, this year the enrollment in SESAPS went almost to zero. We are still the largest section in the country but like the other sections we are feeling the effect of the economy. It is important for the health of APS and of SESAPS that we encourage our younger people to enroll and, just as importantly, to maintain their membership in their professional society

Undergraduate students who join the Society of Physics Students (SPS) at <http://www.spsnational.org/about/benefits.htm> are entitled, for as long as they are undergraduates, to free membership in one member society of the American Institute of Physics. Please encourage your students to join the SPS, and then to pick the APS as their AIP member society. Graduate students who join the APS obtain free membership for their first year and membership at reduced cost for later years as long as they are a student.

Undergraduate, graduate student, or faculty members, who presently live in the Southeast and who are members of the APS or become a member of the APS can immediately join the SESAPS *at no additional cost*. This is easy to do, simply follow the link to the APS webpage (<https://www.aps.org/aps-login/index.cfm>). You can also visit the SESAPS webpage at <http://www.aps.org/units/sesaps/index.cfm> to find out more about SESAPS activities.

There are several advantages to becoming a member of SESAPS, and no disadvantages. SESAPS members have a reduced registration fee at our annual meeting. Membership is also a way to become more actively involved in issues which affect everyone in our region.

There were 2731 SESAPS members on January 1, 2008. While SESAPS continues to be the largest APS section, we need to be especially diligent in this time of stress in order not to lose membership. We ask your help to encourage the members of your departments to join us in this vibrant organization. If you have any questions about membership in SESAPS, please feel free to contact me.

Brad Cox  
University of Virginia  
Membership Coordinator, SESAPS

cox@uvahep.phys.virginia.edu

**The 76th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society (SESAPS 2009).**

The next annual meeting of SESAPS, to be hosted by Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia, will be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Atlanta, GA, Wednesday, November 11, 2009 - Saturday, November 14, 2009. The local organizing committee is led by Dr. Ahmet Erbil of Georgia Tech (ahmet.erbil@physics.gatech.edu) and Dr. Unil Perera of Georgia State University (uperera@phy-astr.gsu.edu).

**THIS IS THE FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OF CONTRIBUTED PAPERS.**

SESAPS will use electronically submitted abstracts. All abstracts of contributed papers must be prepared in the standard APS format as specified in recent issues of the APS News. The abstract deadline is **5 PM on Saturday, August 15**. The program will be available electronically, and printed copies will be available at the meeting for all who register.

The scheduled time for your presentation must be obtained from the bulletin *which will be available electronically* on the web. Meeting rooms will have an overhead projector and facilities for projections from a computer. To request other audio-visual aids, including chalkboards or 35 mm projectors, please make your request in writing by typing it in the special instructions box of the abstract template. Any questions about the program should be directed to Dr. Cottle.

**CONTRIBUTED/INVITED PAPERS:** Invited papers at this meeting, as in all APS meetings, are given by experts in areas selected by the Program Committee, and these talks are usually of thirty minutes duration. Contributed papers, however, are on topics of the author's choice and are ten minutes in length. On the day following the abstract deadline, all papers are organized into sessions and the sessions into the program of the meeting. Some of the contributed abstracts are of such interest that the committee will *invite the authors* to give a *special paper* of twenty minutes duration on the topic of their abstract at the beginning of the contributed paper session to which their talk is assigned. There will only be a few such papers selected. The invitations will be listed in the printed program of the meeting and will be verified promptly by electronic or regular mail to the authors. If the author(s) would like to be considered for such an invitation, they are asked to type the following statement in the special instructions box: If invited to do so, the author is willing to expand the talk for the above abstract to twenty minutes.

**A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS** will be held in conjunction with the SESAPS meeting and will include a student paper session where the Marsh W. White Award will

be presented for the best paper given at that session. More information will be provided in the Summer Newsletter.

**TRAVEL SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS THIS YEAR:** Students will be pleased to learn that modest travel grants will again be available for those presenting research papers at the SESAPS sessions. Students giving papers in the SPS sessions only are not eligible for travel support. An application is included in this newsletter and is also available on the SESAPS website.

**SUGGESTED NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICERS** should be sent to Laurie McNeil at the address given at the end of this newsletter. All suggestions will be considered seriously by the Nominating Committee, which is composed of the members of the Executive Committee. The positions available are Vice Chair, Secretary and Member-At-Large (a three year term).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 2008 ELECTION WINNERS.**

SESAPS Vice-Chair is Laurie McNeil of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. SESAPS Member-At-Large is Jorge Piekarewicz of Florida State University.

**AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Your help is sought in advertising the upcoming deadline for annual nominations for the three SESAPS awards. The deadline for nominations for SESAPS awards is **July 15**. These awards will be presented at our Annual Meeting in November.

The **Jesse W. Beams Award** recognizes especially significant or meritorious research in physics, the major portion of which was carried out in the ten-state SESAPS region in the Southeast. The **George B. Pegram Award** honors someone with a career of "Excellence in the Teaching of Physics in the Southeast." The **Francis G. Slack Award** honors persons who have during their career exhibited "Excellence in Service to Physics in the Southeast."

Four copies of each nomination, consisting of a nominating letter and up to three supporting letters (a maximum of two pages each), should be sent to the Award Committee Chair. No other supporting documents are needed. The nominator is also asked to notify the Chair ([david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu)) and Vice Chair ([mcneil@physics.unc.edu](mailto:mcneil@physics.unc.edu)) of the Section by email informing them of the submission. Nominations will be considered active for three years; updating materials for nominees not chosen in the prior year is encouraged.

**Slack Award Chair:**  
Dr. Richard Haglund Jr.  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Vanderbilt University

6301 Stevenson Center Lane  
Nashville, TN 37235  
[richard.haglund@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:richard.haglund@vanderbilt.edu)

**Pegram Award Chair:**  
Dr. David M. Peterson  
Physics and Astronomy Department,  
Francis Marion University  
PO Box 10057  
Florence, SC 29501  
[pegramaward@fmarion.edu](mailto:pegramaward@fmarion.edu)

**Beams Award Chair:**  
Dr. Jaqueline Krim  
Dept. of Physics, CB 8202  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, NC 27695-8202  
[jkrim@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:jkrim@unity.ncsu.edu)

More information about the submission of Awards nominations can be found at  
<http://www.aps.org/units/sesaps/awards/index.cfm>

## **Beams, Pegram and Slack Award Donations**

The three awards presented by the Southeastern Section rely on member contributions to sustain them. Many members of the section have made previous donations for the Jesse Beams Award, the George Pegram Award, and the Francis Slack Award. If you would like to contribute to the Beams-Pegram Fund and/or the Slack Fund, please feel free to print this section and use it to make your contribution by sending it and your check made out to SESAPS to Dr. John Shriner, SESAPS Treasurer, Department of Physics, Box 5051, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN 38505. Dr. Shriner will also accept contributions at the SESAPS meeting. Thank you for your continuing support of these awards.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Beams-Pegram Award Fund Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Slack Award Fund Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of SESAPS**

Friday, October 31, 2008, Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh, NC.

10 am -- 12 am

Members attending: D. Haase (chair), D. Ernst (chair-elect),  
P. Cottle (vice-chair), T. Clegg (past-chair), S. Deans (secretary),  
J. Shriner (treasurer), B. Cox (membership coordinator),  
M. Edwards (member)

Visitors for part of the meeting: Unil Perera (Georgia State)  
Ron Mickens (Clark Atlanta)

1. Opening remarks and welcome (Haase).
2. Secretary report (Deans). Brief discussion of awards, folders, and medals. More folders must be ordered. Secretary will send notes to award chairs reminding them of deadlines.
3. Treasurer report (Shriner). Review of budget and expenditures. A motion (Clegg and Shriner) to approve the 2009 budget (\$12,525.) was approved.

For the 2008 meeting 22 students asked for travel funds, averaging \$240 each. SESAPS spends almost half of its budget on student support like this.

There was a discussion about funds for the awards and how to locate additional resources and donations.

A motion (Clegg and Ernst) was approved to authorize Shriner to deposit the SESAPS award funds in the APS investment account to obtain greater interest.

We need new auditors to perform an annual review. It may be necessary to announce this in the Winter newsletter. Currently, this is done for free by Rex Adelberger and Bob Muir. We thank them for their service. Suggestions were made to find two individuals who could work together and do this for several years near the end of each July. Ideas in this regard are to be discussed by members of the EC.

4. Ron Mickens emphasized the importance of sending SESAPS records to the AIP Niels Bohr Library and Archives. The Secretary is to send out more information to the appropriate EC members on this matter.
5. Cox gave a report on the status of membership in SESAPS. Various efforts have been made to increase and broaden this. SESAPS is about 6% of total APS membership. Of about 5000 APS members in the southeast about 2300 are not members of SESAPS. One big oversight is not educating our graduate students about SESAPS membership. Things that have been done include calls in the newsletters, direct email, the SESAPS website, paper letters to department chairs and individuals. Additional work includes contacting various labs, NASA, consumer firms, secondary schools, and students who

are mainly looking for jobs in industry. Brad and Matthew will work more on this and report later.

6. Unil Perera (Georgia State University) confirmed that Atlanta will be the sight for the 2009 SESAPS meeting. He discussed various details which will appear in the SESAPS Newsletters that appear in March and July.
7. Clegg reported on the student travel grants, and their importance. See item 3 above.
8. The status of the election was given by Cottle. Details of results will be reported in the Winter newsletter.
9. Discussion about a proposal for a High School Teaching Award was led by Cottle. Details and decisions will come in the future.
10. Ernst reported that the Raleigh meeting is one of the largest of SESAPS meetings. He also discussed the relation of SESAPS with various other physics organizations including NSBP and NSHP.

The meeting adjourned just before noon.

Stanley R. Deans, Secretary SESAPS



# Executive Committee

## Chair

Dr. David J. Ernst  
Department of Physics  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN 37235

615-322-7311 P

[david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu)

## Chair-Elect

Dr. Paul Cottle  
Department of Physics  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4350

850-644-5777 P

[cottle@phy.fsu.edu](mailto:cottle@phy.fsu.edu)

## Vice Chair

Dr. Laurie McNeil  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill

Phillips Hall CB#3255

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3255

919-962-2079 P

919-962-0480 F

[mcneil@physics.unc.edu](mailto:mcneil@physics.unc.edu)

## Past Chair

David G. Haase  
Physics Department  
North Carolina State Univ.  
Raleigh, NC 27695-8202

(919) 513-7023 P

(919) 515-6538 F

[david\\_haase@ncsu.edu](mailto:david_haase@ncsu.edu)

## Secretary

Dr. Stanley R. Deans  
Department of Physics, PHY 114  
University of South Florida  
Tampa, FL 33620-5700

813-974-1639 P

813-974-5813 F

[sdeans@cas.usf.edu](mailto:sdeans@cas.usf.edu)

## Treasurer

Dr. John Shriner  
Department of Physics  
Box 5051  
Tennessee Technological University  
Cookeville, TN 38505

931-372-3481 P

931-372-6351 F

[jshriner@tntech.edu](mailto:jshriner@tntech.edu)

## APS Council Observer

Dr. Brad Cox  
Department of Physics,  
PO Box 400714  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

434-982-5377 P

434-982-3575 F

[cox@uvahea.phys.virginia.edu](mailto:cox@uvahea.phys.virginia.edu)

## Executive Committee 06, 07-10

Dr. Kathy Whatley  
Associate Vice Chancellor for  
Natural Sciences  
CPO 1411

UNC Asheville

One University Heights

Asheville, NC 28804

828-250-3880 P

828-232-5102 F

[whatley@unca.edu](mailto:whatley@unca.edu)

## Executive Committee 08 -11

Dr. Matthew E. Edwards  
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences  
Professor of Physics  
Alabama A&M University

PO Box 338

Normal, AL 35762

256-372-8119 T

256-372-5900 F

[matthew.edwards@aamu.edu](mailto:matthew.edwards@aamu.edu)

## Executive Committee 09-12

Dr. Jorge Piekarewicz  
Department of Physics  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4350

850-644-6344 P

850-644-8630 F

[jpiekarewicz@fsu.edu](mailto:jpiekarewicz@fsu.edu)

## Executive Committee 06-09

Dr. Bob Jones  
Department of Physics,  
PO Box 400714  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4714

434-924-3088 P

434-924-4576 F

[rrj3c@virginia.edu](mailto:rrj3c@virginia.edu)

## Membership Coordinator

Dr. Brad Cox  
Department of Physics  
PO Box 400714  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

434-982-5377 P

434-982-3575 F

[cox@uvahea.phys.virginia.edu](mailto:cox@uvahea.phys.virginia.edu)

# Student Travel Support for SESAPS Meeting

The student must be a presenter at a SESAPS session

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

UNDERGRADUATE/CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATE/CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTRACT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTRACT AUTHORS: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT REQUESTED (\$250 MAX) \_\_\_\_\_

PURPOSE OF REQUESTED FUNDS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION OF RESEARCH ADVISOR (Please have your research advisor sign this line certifying that you are presenting this paper and send an email to Dr. Haase.)

\_\_\_\_\_

RETURN BY *September 30th* TO:

Dr. David G. Haase

[Physics Department](#)

[North Carolina State Univ.](#)

[Raleigh, NC 27695-8202](#)

[david\\_haase@ncsu.edu](mailto:david_haase@ncsu.edu)