

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

March 15, 2010

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

First of all, I'd like to thank the outgoing SESAPS Chair, David Ernst of Vanderbilt University, for the contributions he made to the vitality of the section. His most visible contribution was to advocate for the addition of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the section, which was approved by the membership at the end of 2009. However, he made other contributions that were less visible but no less important, including keeping our focus on the importance of students to the SESAPS mission and working to involve physicists from a broad range of higher education institutions and other organizations in the section's activities.

The 77th SESAPS Annual Meeting will be held at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, October 20-23. The SESAPS Executive Committee has decided to expand the Student Travel Grant Program, and we hope to draw an expanded community of undergraduate and graduate students – along with their faculty advisors – to LSU for the meeting. Section Chair-Elect Laurie McNeil of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is serving as Program Chair for the meeting. Contact her with your ideas for scientific sessions. We are looking forward to a vigorous meeting that reflects the broad excellence of the physics research effort in the southeast.

The 76th Annual Meeting, held in Atlanta in November, demonstrated that the SESAPS meeting program continues to be strong. Ahmet Erbil of Georgia Tech and Unil Perera of Georgia State organized what proved to be one of the largest meetings in attendance that the section has ever held. The climax of the meeting was the banquet on Friday evening where the section presented its annual awards. The Jessie W. Beams Award for excellence in research was given to Gerald Lucovsky of North Carolina State University, and Wolfgang Christian of Davidson College received the George B. Pegram Award for excellence in teaching. The Francis Slack Award for excellence in service to the physics community was given to Chapel Hill's Eugen Merzbacher, who then gave a marvelous after dinner presentation on the history of the field in the southeast.

I would like to welcome the newly elected Vice Chair, Roxanne Springer of Duke University and the new At Large Member, Soren Sorensen of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, to the Executive Committee.

I would also like to thank David Haase of North Carolina State University for his four years of service in the SESAPS Chair Line. His leadership in the areas of research and education set an example for us all.

In closing, I'd like to emphasize the importance of membership in SESAPS, which costs nothing if you are already an APS member. Coax your colleagues into joining – it will help us maintain our role in the national APS organization.

Sincerely,

Paul Cottle

Professor of Physics
Florida State University

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Dear SESAPS Members:

As membership coordinator of the Southeastern Section, I am asking all SESAPS members as of the beginning of 2010 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 has stagnated since 2008. 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 2717 SESAPS members on January 1, 2010. While SESAPS continues to be the largest APS section, we need to be especially diligent and proactive 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
Professor of Physics
University of Virginia
Membership Coordinator, SESAPS
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The 77th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society (SESAPS 2010).

The next annual meeting of SESAPS, to be hosted by Louisiana State University and will be held in Baton Rouge, LA at the Baton Rouge Marriott on Thursday, October 20, 2010 – Saturday, October 23, 2010.

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 Sunday, 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 *that 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. Laurie McNeil mcneil@physics.unc.edu.

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 Dr. Roxanne Springer rps@phy.duke.edu 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 and Member-At-Large (a three year term).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 2009 ELECTION WINNERS.

SESAPS Vice-Chair is Roxanne Springer of Duke University.

SESAPS Member-At-Large is Soren Sorensen of the University of Tennessee.

SESAPS Secretary is Brad Cox of the University of Virginia

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 **August 2**. 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 (Paul Cottle) and Vice Chair (Roxanne Springer) 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 Com. Chair:
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Slack Com. Member
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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

Each year, the Southeastern Section presents three awards, the Jesse W. Beams Award for excellence in research, the George B. Pegram Award for excellence in teaching, and the Francis Slack Award for excellence in service. These awards have been largely funded by donations from members. In recent years, donations have been fewer, and the annual expenditures have reduced the award funds to the point that they are not self-sustaining. However, the funds at present are close enough to being self-sustaining that a relatively small influx of new funds now would tip the balance and remove the need for a larger influx later.

If you would like to contribute to the Beams, Pegram, or Slack Funds, please fill out the form below and send 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 Award Fund Amount _____
Pegram Award Fund Amount _____
Slack Award Fund Amount _____
Total Contribution _____

**Meeting of the SESAPS Executive Committee
13 November, 2009 10:30 am -- 12:15 pm**

Members Attending:

Ernst, Cottle, McNeil, Haase, Deans, Shriner, Cox,
Whatley, Edwards, Piekarewicz
Guest, briefly for report: Unil Perera

1. David Ernst, Chair: Opened meeting with brief report on the status of the current SESAPS 09, 76th Annual Meeting. Over 250 are attending. Final details will be known later.
2. John Shriner, Treasurer: Presented a full financial report for the year and a proposed budget for next year. The committee expressed satisfaction with the 2009-10 budget. The new budget includes a slight increase in support for student travel. The total budget for all items is \$12,500.
3. General Discussion by all: It is important to find funds to increase funding for students. This funding is used to help students begin their participation in the physics profession; this is not always available at the national level. Currently the SESAPS budget is approximately 40% devoted to helping student participation.
4. David Ernst: Emphasized the importance for having SESAPS members on the APS Council.
5. Stanley Deans, Secretary: Reported on the purchase of new folders for the Award Certificates, the importance of meeting deadlines in a timely fashion, and the efforts to make the transition to a new secretary go smoothly.

The 2009 Awards

Pegram Award: Wolfgang Christian
Beams Award: Gerald Lucovsky
Slack Award: Eugen Merzbacher

6. Laurie McNeil, Vice Chair: Reported on elections; the candidates have been selected for the ballot.
7. Unil Perera, Guest: Gave a further report on details related to the current meeting.
8. Brad Cox, Membership: Presented data on membership for all sections, discussed ways to increase membership, and importance of getting a positive response to SESAPS by both faculty and students.
9. David Haase, Past Chair: Reported on student travel awards. We could have made good use of more funds.
10. Paul Cottle, Chair-Elect: Next year (2010) the meeting will be at LSU. Details still have to be worked out. The following two years are not yet firm, but progress is being made.
11. David Haase: Discussed the program for the banquet later today.

No more items were considered and the meeting adjourned.

These minutes were prepared by Stanley R. Deans, Secretary

Executive Committee

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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 (\$300 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. Ernst.)

BY *September 30th*, SEND COPIES OF THIS FORM TO:

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