

# The Hispanic Physicist

The Newsletter of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists

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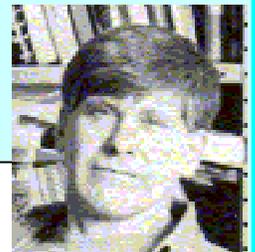
## Hispanic Chairs



Something to be proud of is the fact that several physics departments have Hispanics serving as chairs. From Illinois to Texas to California, Hispanics are using their full capabilities to direct departments into the new century.

**Aldo Migone** (Southern Illinois University), who has served in such capacity for two years, says "The job of chairing a Physics department is a challenging and interesting one, akin to herding cats ... the strengths needed for being a department Chair are not, unfortunately, taught in graduate school. Being Chair has offered me a chance to play a significant role in shaping my department, and in providing a direction for it ... The hours spent in the job are quite long, but the feeling that one is able to improve an organization a little, and to leave it better than one found it, is truly rewarding."

Another Chair having a profound impact on the formation of a new department is **Mario Diaz**, (U. Texas at Brownsville), who has been responsible for handpicking the members of a new group UTB Relativity Group. Mario is also an active member of NSHP and the host of the 2002 Annual NSHP meeting to be held in conjunction with the TS-APS meeting in October, 2002.



Yet another relativist chairing a physics department is **Rich Saenz** (CalPoly State University, San Luis Obispo, California) who manages to juggle administration with his astrophysics collaborations at Cornell.



Other places with Hispanic chairs include, of course, The University of Texas at El Paso, where a Lopez (without the accent on the "o") just passed the baton to another López (with the accent on the "ó").



## NÚMERO UNO IN SPACE: NASA UNVEILS WEB SITE IN SPANISH

Spanish-speaking fans can hitch a ride on an orbiting observatory in the Spanish-language web site of NASA SIRTF: <http://ipac.jpl.nasa.gov/SIRTFspanish/index.html>. It delivers news, and educational activities. The mission, launching in 2002, will study the early universe and hunt for planets in nearby stars. You can ask questions and receive answers in Spanish. "The Spanish-language population is growing very fast" said Marisa Eisenberg, creator of the site. "This is an opportunity to open that community to astronomy and space exploration." Dr. Albert Noriega, a scientist with SIRTF, said "The site reaches beyond the Latino community for a larger population of Spanish-speaking individuals." SIRTF is part of NASA's Origins Program to study the formation of galaxies, stars, planets and life to answer the question: Are we alone?

## Research Profile: Mauricio Portillo

Mauricio Portillo (yes another Portillo!), Ph.D. Candidate at Michigan State University, works in accelerator physics. Under the supervision of Dr. J. Nolen, Mauricio is designing and testing a beam profile and emittance monitoring device for low intensity radioactive beams.

Among other places, Mauricio has worked in the Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, developing an ion source for a proposed radioactive beam facility at the ATLAS accelerator at Argonne. He has worked to insure the experimental components were electrically safe and that the radiation was well contained. Mauricio expects his degree in May 2002. Hurry up if you want to catch him as a postdoc!



### News you can use



#### Vanderbilt Positions Faculty Position in Experimental RHIC Physics

The Dept. of Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University has a tenure-track or tenured faculty position in Experimental Relativistic Heavy Ion Physics at the Asst. or junior Assoc. Prof. level starting 9/1/2002. The candidate must demonstrate significant research

accomplishments and will be expected to establish a vigorous, research program. Opportunities exist for collaboration with the PHOENIX experiment at BNL's RHIC, and in future programs (LHC). Vanderbilt expects its faculty members to be effective teachers at all levels. Send CV, teaching evaluations, and names of 3 references to: Professor Charles F. Maguire, VU Station B BOX 351807, Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-1807, [charles.f.maguire@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:charles.f.maguire@vanderbilt.edu), FAX (615) 343-7263.

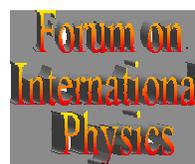
#### Postdoctoral Research Associate Position in Theoretical Nuclear Physics

The Dept. of Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt U. has a postdoctoral position in theoretical nuclear physics, available 6/1/2002. The group consists of 3 professors and 3 students pursuing projects in the quark and gluonic structure of baryons, and classical string models of electron reactions and RHIC. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear, particle, or mathematical physics. The appointment will be for two years. Submit a CV, research interests and 3 letters of recommendation sent to: Prof. David J. Ernst, Chair, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Box 1807 Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, [david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu), Screening of applicants will commence immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Vanderbilt University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

### Hispanics on the Ballots

The closing of 2001 was a productive time for Hispanics serving in professional organizations. Several NSHP members ran as candidates for different offices. Ramon Lopez was a candidate for the position of President of The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans. Mario Diaz was a candidate for the position of member of the Executive Board of the Texas Section of the American Physical Society. While Jorge A. López was a candidate for the position of member of the Forum on International Physics of the American Physical Society. **Nomination of Hispanics is a task we at NSHP take as our responsibility. Let us know if we can help.**



SACNAS

Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

### The Hispanic Physicist

Editor: Jorge López

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Send news, letters, congratulations, announcements, or communications to

Dr. Jorge A. López,  
Physics Department  
Univ. Texas at El Paso  
500 W. University Ave.

El Paso, TX 79968  
(915) 747-7538

e-mail: [jorgelopez@utep.edu](mailto:jorgelopez@utep.edu)

URL: [utopia.utb.edu/nshp](http://utopia.utb.edu/nshp)

### ¡ FELICIDADES !

To Maria Elena Gomez de Prieto

For obtaining her PhD in Physics with High Distinction from the Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, 6/19/2001. This was done through a collaboration with the University of California-San Diego.

Note by Ivan Schuller