

The Hispanic Physicist

The Newsletter of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists

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Jorge Pullin: 2001 APS Bouchet Award

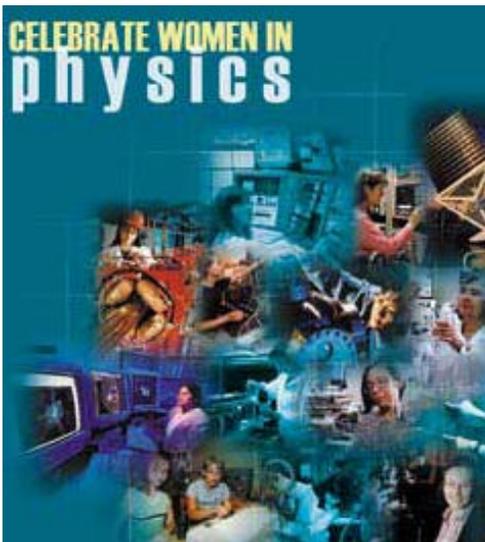
The 2001 Bouchet award from the American Physical Society will go this year to Jorge Pullin from Pennsylvania State University. The APS award was established in 1994 by the Committee on Minorities (funded by the Research Corporation) to promote the participation of under-represented minorities in physics by identifying and recognizing a distinguished minority physicist who has made significant contributions to physics research. Professor Pullin received this distinction for his studies of gravitational wave propagation and quantum theory of gravity and for his effort to increase diversity in the field of physics as a founding member of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists. Dr. Pullin, professor of physics and associate director of Penn State's Center for Gravitational Physics and Geometry, obtained his Ph.D. from the Instituto Balseiro, in Argentina in 1989. Held postdoctoral positions at Syracuse Univ. (1989-1991) and the Univ. of Utah (1991- 1993), and joined Penn State in 1993. He received the Alfred P. Sloan and John S. Guggenheim fellowships, the Jack H Keuffel award for Research (University of Utah) and the NSF Career award.



Dr. Pullin is on the editorial board of the New Journal of Physics and the Classical Quantum Gravity and is the editor of "Matters of Gravity". He is the chairman of the scientific organizing committee of the International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation to be held this year in South Africa, and a member of the executive board of the LIGO research community.

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NSHP Networking with COM/CSWP



NSHP met with the Committee on the Status of Women (CSWP) and the Committee on Minorities (COM) in Physics of The American Physical Society at a lunch reception at the Fall DNP meeting. Among the points of discussion were the hiring practices at universities and national laboratories, the COM and CSWP programs, and the role regional university and DOE lab alliances can play to increase diversity.

"Too often the issue of diversity is shoved off on a small group with no real authority in the lab directorate", Lawrence Norris, chair of COM, remarked. "The problem is not in those offices and certainly neither are the problem solvers. Rather it is in labs with the bench scientists, or with the division directors. This is where the vetting of candidates is done, and where the hiring authority lies. All too often search and hire is conducted in a very closed loop. Senior scientists or division directors are prone to hire someone from one of their collaborators or their professional network. By the time the position is posted, a short list of candidates is already identified. While they judge the successful candidate as 'excellent quality', they do not realize they have actively cultivated the candidate over many years. The circle in which labs look for new talent must be expanded."

Along these lines, Betsy Beise, representing CSWP, highlighted COM and CSWP programs that help the individual lab or research group identify new minority candidates and collaborators. Both COM and CSWP fund a colloquium speakers program and a site-visit program (to visit academic departments and develop welcoming climate for students and faculty of underrepresented groups). The CSWP site visit program is presently undergoing a pilot program to expand it to national labs, and a visiting program for undergraduate-only institutions is in the proposal stage. (Page 2)

Recommendations

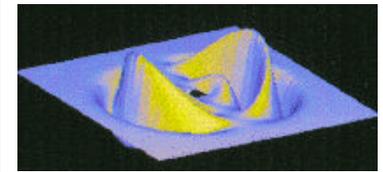
- Increased attendance to NSHP & NSBM meetings by physics chairs and directors
- Increased invitations to minority speakers
- Use by universities and national labs of COM/CSWP site-visit program
- Closer linkage NSHP/NSBP and national labs
- Review DOE's hiring processes

Jorge Pullin . . .

His research has covered many aspects of gravitational physics, concentrating recently on two main problems: the quantization of general relativity using canonical methods and the study of the gravitational waves produced in the collision of two black holes. His contributions to gravitational physics and general relativity have received praise and recognition in areas as diverse as exact solutions of Einstein's field equations, gravitational wave generation and loop representation in non-perturbative quantum gravity. His work with Richard Price from the University of Utah (the close limit approximation) has been influential in a revival of perturbation techniques to study sources of gravitational radiation like collision of black holes.

As a Hispanic-American Prof. Pullin has dedicated much effort to attract minorities to study physics. He participated in the founding meeting of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists that took place in May of 1995 in Austin, Texas. He has attended several meetings of SACNAS, the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, with the main purpose of recruiting Hispanics and other minorities for his graduate program. Many of the graduate students that work or have worked under his supervision were or are Hispanics and African-Americans.

The National Society of Hispanic Physicists feels very proud that one of its active members and founders have received such honor. ¡ Felicidades Jorge !



Colliding Black Holes

NSHP Networking . . .

David Ernst representing not only NSHP but also SURA, which supported the reception, pointed out that regional university and DOE lab alliances like SURA can be instrumental in facilitating collaborative projects to increase diversity. Summer sabbaticals, and internships between HBCU/HSI institutions and larger research institutions are very successful.

Recommendations from this meeting include an increased attendance to the meetings of the NSHP and the National Society of Black Physicists by division directors to expand their database of professional colleagues, the use by universities and national labs of COM and CSWP colloquium speakers list, and of their site-visit program, a closer linkage of NSHP and NSBP to national labs, and, finally, NSHP, COM and CSWP agreed to draft a plan of action to take a hard look at the search and hiring processes at DOE labs.

News you can use



Berkeley Lab is seeking, valuing, and integrating diversity into its research culture and in all aspects of employment. We strive to provide a work environment in which all employees are valued, included, supported, and encouraged. We support lifelong learning for our employees through our tuition reimbursement and discount programs at both Univ. of California and other institutions of higher education. We are proud to have our Diversity Committee, wellness and recreational programs, as well as cultural employee associations. Berkeley Lab is located in the hills above the Univ. of California Berkeley, and surrounded by neighborhoods rich in ethnic and cultural diversity.

Some of Berkeley Lab's Projects:

<http://www.lbl.gov/image-gallery/homepage-cutlines.html>

88-Inch Cyclotron: World's most sensitive detector for studying rare and exotic nuclear processes, the GAMMA-SPHERE has just returned to the Lab. for studies from nuclear science to astrophysics to elementary particle physics.

Advanced Light Source (ALS)

<http://www-als.lbl.gov/>

A new beamline at the Advanced Light Source is being employed to explore how microorganisms that thrive underground may play a significant role in breaking down and detoxifying different types of pollution.

National Supercomputer Center (NERSC) <http://www.nersc.gov/>

Supercomputers are changing the very nature of science. Learn more about NERSC as well as a breakthrough in quantum mechanics.

Supernova/Acceleration Probe SNAP

What is the dark energy that fills the universe? Berkeley Lab physicists propose to launch SNAP – the SuperNova/Acceleration Probe.

We Have Exciting Opportunities at the BS, MS and PhD levels in the Advanced Light Source, NERSC, ATLAS, and other projects. To learn more about each opportunity, go to <http://cjo.lbl.gov>. Submit your plain text resume or CV referencing source code **HR/NUTEP** to employment@lbl.gov or apply on-line to <http://cjo.lbl.gov>.

Berkeley Lab is an AA/EEO employer committed to a diverse workforce.



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