First LIGO-NSHP Victor Blanco Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowships

Awarded to Juan Castillo, Karla Guardado, and Gabriella Hernandez

The National Society of Hispanic Physicists (NSHP, that’s us) and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Detector (LIGO, www.ligo.caltech.edu/) Laboratory Fellows are pleased to announce the first three Victor Blanco Undergraduate Summer Research Fellows. The Fellowship provides support to spend the summer working closely on a project related to LIGO with a carefully chosen mentor. LIGO is searching for gravitational waves, a physics project, but is very interdisciplinary in its scope, requiring not only physicists, but also mathematicians and a variety of engineers. The winners are Juan Castillo from the University of Texas El Paso, Karla Guardado from MIT, and Gabriella Hernandez from Georgia State. The students are also invited to participate in the LIGO MURF program - http://www.ligo.caltech.edu/LIGO_web/students/SURF/murf/overview.shtml

Victor M Blanco was a most distinguished US Hispanic (Puerto Rican) astronomer. He served in the army during World War II and received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1949. He served as the Director of the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) from 1967-1981, overseeing the initial construction of the lab and guiding its growth and science for fourteen years. Among his accomplishments was the discovery of the open cluster which is named Blanco I and, in 1995, the 4m CTIO telescope was named the Victor M Blanco Telescope. He died in 2011.

A big congratulations to Juan, Karla, y Gabriella!

Marcel Agüeros receives CAREER Award

NSF awarded the prestigious CAREER Award to Columbia Astronomy Professor Marcel Agüeros. Marcel investigates relations between kinematics and magnetic activities in low-mass stars. He has been the Director of Columbia’s "Bridge to Ph.D. Program" which enhances the participation of minority groups in Ph.D. programs in the sciences. And to top the CAREER Award Marcel’s wife just had a baby!

Congratulations Marcel!

Program Directors needed at NSF

The National Science Foundation is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of Program Director for the Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics Program, in the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), Division of Physics (PHY). https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/3414569007?org=MPS

The National Science Foundation is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of Program Director for Gravitational Physics, in the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), Division of Physics (PHY). https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/3410193002?org=MPS

Help Endow the APS Edward A. Bouchet Award - An Invitation from Jim Gates
The Bouchet Award identifies and highlights minority physicists and provides role models for students who will become our next generation of scientists. The current Campaign was launched to establish new funding since the original sponsor, Research Corporation, is no longer able to continue its support. Fortunately the Alfred Sloan Foundation is providing temporary funding but we are seeking to endow the Award in perpetuity. Our goal is to raise $140,000, please help us attain our goal by joining with us in support of this campaign. For further information contact S. James Gates, Jr., gateis@umd.edu or Darlene Logan, APS Director of Development, at (301) 209-3224 or logan@aps.org. Please visit the Bouchet Campaign website for more information and ways to make a tax-deductible gift or pledge, http://www.aps.org/about/support/bouchet/index.cfm.

APS-IUSSTF Physics Student Visitation Program

The American Physical Society has extended the deadline for graduate students at U.S. institutions to apply for the APS-IUSSTF Physics Student Visitation Program. The program provides physics graduate students with travel funds to pursue opportunities in India such as attending a summer school or working temporarily in a laboratory. Grantees have one year from the time the grant is awarded in which to undertake their project. The extended deadline for applications from graduate students at U.S. institutions is 30 April 2013. (Sorry for the short deadline.)

Application guidelines and additional details about the program are available on the APS website at: http://www.aps.org/programs/international/us-india-travel.cfm. Applications and any inquiries can be directed to Michele Irwin in the APS Office of International Affairs at irwin@aps.org.

The Forum on International Physics of the American Physical Society can nominate candidates to APS Fellowship

All candidates for APS Fellowship should have demonstrated outstanding contributions to physics. Those nominated by the FIP should, in addition, have also shown identifiable contributions to the development of programs and collaborations between physicists and their communities from diverse cultural backgrounds.

This is a great opportunity to recognize your colleagues whose devotion to the advancement of physics crosses the frontier of science, contributing to further understanding between nations. We urge you to nominate fellow physicists of any nationality who fit this profile. Instructions for nominations can be found at: http://aps.org/programs/honors/fellowships/index.cfm


Postdoctoral Opportunity in Experimental Nuclear Structure, Reactions and Astrophysics

The low energy nuclear physics experimental group at Rutgers University anticipates an opening for a postdoctoral position as of September 1, 2013. The successful candidate would work under the supervision of Professor Jolje Cizewski, the Director of the Center of Excellence for Radiative Ion Beam Studies for Stewardship Science (RIBS).

The RIBS Center is a consortium of nuclear scientists, including those at Rutgers University, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, focusing on reaction and decay studies to probe nuclear structure and astrophysics. The successful candidate will become part of the team of scientists using transfer reactions to study properties of unstable nuclei of interest to both nuclear structure and astrophysics. The successful candidate would be expected to contribute to efforts to develop new techniques and detectors. The new devices include the ORRUBA array of position-sensitive silicon strip detectors that is being coupled to arrays a gamma-ray detectors, the VANDLE array of plastic scintillators for (d,n) reaction neutron detection, and HAGRID a new array of LaBr scintillator detectors of photons that is being developed. The activities of this Center are currently focused in Oak Ridge and Knoxville, Tennessee. Experimental measurements are performed at stable and radioactive ion beam facilities including Michigan State University, Argonne National Laboratory and TRIUMF in Canada.

Applications will be reviewed starting June 1, 2013 until the position is filled. Applications with resume, list of publications, and names and contact information for the references should be sent to Professor Jolje A. Cizewski, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Rutgers University, 136 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8019 USA, cizewski@physics.rutgers.edu.