

The Hispanic Physicist

The Newsletter of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists

Year 17

September 12, 2013

PHYSICS DAY AT SACNAS - October 2, 2013 - 2:00pm - 7:00pm

Physics Day will occur on Wednesday, October 2, the day before the SACNAS regular sessions begin. Buses leave from the Marriott Riverwalk at 2:00 pm for UTSA. Your SACNAS registration material will be available on the bus. Buses will return you to the Convention Center at 7:00 pm. NSHP's long term plan is to seek money from the NSF to hold a whole day meeting at future SACNAS meetings, and then to do a similar all day meeting before the APS March and April meeting. The Physics day will be sponsored by The National Society of Hispanic Physicists and The Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Texas San Antonio.

AGENDA

1:45 Bus pick up, Marriott River Center Hotel

2:00 - 2:30 Bus to UTSA

2:30 - 2:35 - Welcome, Miguel Yacaman (UTSA), David Ernst (NSHP)

2:35 - 3:05 Chris Packham, Professor, UTSA, "Astronomy as a Time Machine: The View from the Alamo City"

3:05 - 3:35 Isaac Sanchez, William J. Murray Professor, UT Austin, "Some Possible Career Paths for Physicists":

Break into two parallel sessions:

3:35 - 4:05 Toni Sauncy/SPS and Juan Burciaga, Mt Holyoke College, "What Happens After? Career Pathways for the Physics Degree"

3:35 - 4:05 David Ernst, Professor, Vanderbilt and Fisk Universities, "Attending a Professional Meeting, a Panel Discussion"

4:05 - 4:30 - Networking Coffee Break Break into two parallel tours

Tour 1:

4:30 - 6:30 Tour of physics laboratories at UTSA

6:30 - 7:00 Bus to Convention Center

Tour 2:

4:30 - 5:00 Bus to Southwestern Research Institute

5:00 - 6:30 Tour physics laboratories at SRISWRI

6:30 - 7:00 Bus to Convention Center

NSHP Endorsement of APS Back Page Editorial, June 27, 2013

Admissions Criteria and Diversity in Graduate School (February 2013)

The Board of the National Society of Hispanic Physicists fully endorses the analysis and recommendations of Professor Casey Miller's editorial, *Admissions Criteria and Diversity in Graduate School (The Back Page, APS News, February 2013, V 22, #2)* (<http://www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/201302/backpage.cfm>).

The qualities that make an effective physics graduate student are evidently too varied, complex, and inter-related to be measured successfully by a standardized test. If the GRE or any other standardized test is used at all it should be as one factor of a student's profile. Undergraduate preparation (courses and grades), letters from faculty who know the applicant, and undergraduate research experience all combine to offer a more balanced indication of the potential of an applicant than a standardized test alone.

As physics programs work to recruit the most promising students, the selection of applicants is too important to leave to an instrument as uncorrelated with success as standardized tests. In particular, the use of a score on the GRE General Test, the GRE Physics Subject Test, or any other standardized test to determine automatic cut-offs or elimination should cease.



NSHP President at the March on Washington – 50th Anniversary

This past Saturday, August 24, 2013, the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington celebration began with a commemorative march on Washington. The weather was excellent, not as rainy as when the president addressed another large group of people on August 28, the actual anniversary. My good friend, Dr. Lynn Kurihara, insisted we go there as early as the Metro would allow us. It was exciting to be in the middle of the

very friendly crowd that marched for many causes, racism, jobs, review of the justice system, immigration, gay/lesbian rights... There were unions, churches, associations, and individual people like us that came from many states. The people

from states away from the MD-VA-DC region came in buses, some of which came in the early morning hours, but you could not tell for their enthusiasm. It humbled me to think that the people that marched fifty years ago marched even though they did not know how friendly the crowd would be. I thank Lynn for insisting we go.

L. J. Martínez-Miranda, NSHP President

SPS Summer Intern Reaches out to Spanish-Speaking Physics Students

The Society of Physics Students brings in summer interns (<http://www.spsnational.org/programs/internships/2013/>) to work in Washington DC on projects of outreach, policy, and science. SPS with the support of the American Institute of Physics selected Jose Rodrigo ("Ro") Avila from Mexico and a student at King College to be the Career Pathways Summer Intern in Washington, D.C. for this summer 2013. Ro is a rising senior, double majoring in Physics and Math, and minoring in Business Administration. He is developing documents that would help high school students go into college, and college students go into the workforce or graduate school. These documents include how to write a cover letter, advice on networking, interview tips, most common job titles for Physics bachelors, importance of informational interviews, among others. Ro is also making contributions to the Careers Using Physics website, editing brochures, and assisting in some outreach activities. He is ultimately interested in pursuing a master's degree in engineering, possibly in Europe, with focus on the design and construction of bridges and tunnels. To share his work with a broader community, Ro writes a weekly online journal of his experience and posts a weekly video log in Spanish: (<http://www.spsnational.org/programs/internships/2013/avila.htm>).

2014 APS Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics

Please share the word that applications are being accepted for the 2014 APS Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP). The deadline to apply is November 1. Learn more about the 2014 sites and the application procedure at: <http://www.aps.org/programs/women/workshops/cuwip.cfm>

APS's Committee on Minorities needs you to complete a quick survey.

The APS' Committee on Minorities in physics (COM) works to increase the participation of underrepresented minorities (URM's - African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans) in all aspects of physics from high school through professional careers. The APS Committee on Minorities seeks to take the "pulse" of the physics community and needs your help in identifying issues facing URM's that discourage them from choosing physics as a career or from thriving in the discipline. Please follow the link below to a short survey that will help us understand these barriers. Once identified, we will work with the physics communities in academia, government, and industry to address one or more of these barriers to URM participation with targeted initiatives. We also hope that our survey results will serve as a resource for other groups or organizations interested in increasing URM participation in physics.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N2WFG2J>. Please take the survey by **September 20, 2013**. The survey should take no more than twenty minutes of your time. Your feedback is very valuable to us, and we thank you in advance for participating in the survey.

Mary James, Chair, APS Committee on Minorities in Physics.

Interested in a career in science? Join our LinkedIn Group: <http://orau.us/stemdiversity>.



ORAU STEM Diversity Network is a diverse community of research-experienced scientists and engineers dedicated to supporting and communicating relevant topics and research opportunities that impact your professional growth. Desmond Stubbs, Ph.D., Senior Project Manager, ORAU/ORISE, Office: (865) 576-6706, Cell: (865) 603-2461, E-mail: Desmond.Stubbs@orau.org

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor Position in Nuclear/Astrophysics, San Diego State University

The Physics Department at San Diego State University invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in nuclear/astrophysics effective in fall of 2014. Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence in teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and be comfortable with all aspects of teaching our physics curriculum. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in physics or related field and postdoctoral experience. A strong record of scholarly publications is expected. The successful candidate is expected to pursue vigorously external funding to support his/her research with both undergraduate and graduate students. Candidates who wish to pursue interdisciplinary research efforts are also strongly encouraged to apply. The Department offers a bachelor's and master's degree in physics and a Ph.D. in computational science jointly with the Claremont Graduate University. Information on the Department and the Nuclear/astrophysics Program can be found at www.physics.sdsu.edu. Applications should include 1) a curriculum vitae, 2) a statement of research and teaching interests including a description of future research plans and plans for obtaining extramural funding, 3) the names and addresses (including email addresses) of three references. Applications should be sent to: Prof. Fridolin Weber, Chair, Search Committee, San Diego State University, Physics Department, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, California 92182-1233. Review of applications will begin on October 15, 2013 and continue until the position is filled. Questions should be directed to Professor Fridolin Weber at fweber@mail.sdsu.edu.

Berkeley Edge Conference 2013

Please save the date! Berkeley Edge Conference 2013 has been announce along with a new deadline date for nominations. Please send this information out to your faculty, staff and student contacts far and wide.

What: Fourteenth Annual Berkeley Edge 2013

When: Oct. 24 - 26, 2013

Where: The University of California, Berkeley

Nomination deadline: September 22, 2013

To apply, please visit : <http://bsn.berkeley.edu/bec2013>. If you have questions email us at berkeleyedge@berkeley.edu.

Contact: Ira J. Young, Associate Director, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Diversity & Education Center , (510) 642-5777, bsn.berkeley.edu

U.S. Department of Energy - Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Fellowship Program

Now Accepting Applications for BS, MS or PhD Graduates and recent Alumni (within the last 5 years) in Mathematics, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Physical Sciences, Cyber/Computer Security, Information/Systems Technology or related technology degrees. Application closes Sunday, September 20, 2013, midnight EST – visit: <http://see.orau.org/ProgramDescription.aspx?Program=10417> or *see.orau.org* and search for CBFO to get started NOW! Opportunity in Carlsbad, New Mexico for a full-time, one-year or more commitment, starting in October or November 2013 to conduct mission-oriented research in DOE's Carlsbad Field Office. Applicant must be interested in a multi-disciplinary, fast-paced environment focused on energy technology research and development. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens - no exceptions. Strong analytical, research and communication skills are required. Annual stipends are dependent on academic level, skills and experience. Additional allowances for travel to site, medical insurance or housing may be provided. **For more information, e-mail cbfo.fellowship@orise.orau.gov.**

The Hispanic Physicist. Published whenever there is news and the Editor has enough time. Send news, letters, congratulations, etc. to Jorge A. Lopez, jorgelopez@utep.edu. <http://www.hispanicphysicists.org/>.