

**SUMMER NEWSLETTER
OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
OF THE
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY
July 18, 2009**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the APS will be held in Atlanta, GA, from Wednesday, November 11, 2009 to Saturday, November 14, 2009. The Physics Departments at Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia will host. The meeting will be joint with the Society of Physics Students Zone 6 and also the National Society of Black Physicists and the National Society of Hispanic Physicists. The conference hotel is the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, which is conveniently located near the Airport with world class facilities. The Hotel provides 24-hour complimentary shuttle service to/from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and MARTA. More details can be found at <http://www.sesaps2009.gatech.edu/>.

SESAPS has a grand history as the oldest and often the most active of the APS sections. The meeting, in particular, offers a friendly and supportive atmosphere for students to make oral or poster presentations. Please consider attending and submitting an abstract (August 17 deadline) and bringing your colleagues and students. Atlanta is centrally located in the region so gas costs and CO₂ production will be down for those who share a car.

During the meeting, the Executive Committee will hold its annual business meeting. This meeting is open to all. The Executive Committee, the APS Executive Board, and the APS Council have voted to add Puerto Rico to the Southeastern region. This change in our bylaws is to be discussed by all at the business meeting. It will then appear on this year's ballot.

If you have ideas for invited paper sessions for the 2008 meeting, and especially if you would like to organize such a session, please contact the 2009 Program Chair, Paul Cottle at Florida State, cottle@phy.fsu.edu

Please urge colleagues in your department who are members of the APS but are not members of SESAPS, to join SESAPS now! They can join for free at <http://www.aps.org/membership/units/join-unit.cfm>. Once at the unit membership site, they may add their SESAPS membership online or get instructions to FAX in the change in membership.

I also encourage you and your colleagues to send nominations for the Beams, Pegram and Slack Awards of the Southeastern Section. The southeastern area is full of high performing university, government and industrial laboratories and centers. We have excellent, award-winning teachers at campuses across the region. Many of our colleagues have served the larger physics community in substantive ways. These people should be nominated, recognized and applauded for their efforts. The deadline for receipt of nominations for 2009 awards is August 17.

Best wishes for a productive summer. I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in the Fall.

David Ernst
Professor, Vanderbilt University
Adjunct Professor, Fisk University
Chair, SESAPS

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Dear SESAPS Members:

In my capacity as membership coordinator of the Southeastern Section, I am asking all SESAPS members 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 went almost to zero. We are still the largest section in the country but like the other sections we are feeling the effect of the economy. 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 2731 SESAPS members on January 1, 2009. While SESAPS continues to be the largest APS section, we need to be especially diligent 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
University of Virginia
Membership Coordinator, SESAPS
cox@uvahep.phys.virginia.edu

Neutrino Celebration, August 27, 2010, University of South Carolina, Aiken

The SESAPS Executive Committee voted to endorse a one day meeting to celebrate the discovery of the neutrino by Fred Reines and Clyde Cowan at the Savannah River Reactor in 1956. The meeting will take place August 27, 2010, at the University of South Carolina, Aiken, near to the Reactor. A bronze plaque will be unveiled, a reception and dinner held, and public talks presented on the discovery of the neutrino, on the people involved in the discovery, and on the present status of the neutrino. Additional information can be found at www.neutrinocelebration.org or by contacting Lester Welch, lester.welch@gmail.com.

Meeting Information

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, Wednesday, November 11 – Saturday, November 14, 2009. The meeting is being hosted by the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Georgia State University, the School of Physics at the Georgia Institute of Technology, the Department of Physics at Agnes Scott College, the Department of Physics at Emory University, and the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Georgia. The conference hotel will be the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, which is located near the Atlanta Airport.

Important Deadlines

SESAPS abstract deadline: August 17
Student (SPS) abstract deadline: TBA
Hotel reservations: October 21
Student support applications: September 30
Nominations for Beams, Pegram and Slack Awards: August 17

The Local Arrangers are:

Dr. Ahmet Erbil
School of Physics
Georgia Institute of Technology
E-mail: ahmet.erbil@physics.gatech.edu

Dr. A.G. Unil Perera
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Georgia State University
E-mail: uperera@gsu.edu

The Program Committee Chair is:

Dr. Paul Cottle
Department of Physics
Florida State University
E-mail: cottle@phy.fsu.edu

MEETING PROGRAM

Welcome Reception: The program begins with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening at the Sheraton Gateway. Everyone is cordially invited.

Scientific Program: The scientific program begins Thursday morning (November 12) and concludes by noon on Saturday (November 14). We are planning a Thursday evening session on “Getting Into and Staying In Graduate School.” The SESAPS Business Meeting will be held Friday afternoon. The banquet will be held Friday evening.

Invited Paper Sessions: The program will include invited sessions on astrophysics, biophotonics, condensed matter physics, device applications, education policy and outreach, energy, nuclear physics and elementary particle physics. The invited sessions are being assembled now. If you have suggestions or questions, contact the Program Chair, Paul Cottle, at cottle@phy.fsu.edu.

Call for Abstracts of Contributed Papers: The SESAPS meeting will use electronically submitted abstracts for publication in the Bulletin of the American Physical Society. All abstracts of contributed papers must be prepared in the standard APS format as specified in recent issues of APS News. For details on abstract submission, go to <http://abs.aps.org>. The deadline for abstract submission is 5:00 pm EDT on Monday, August 17. The scheduled time for your presentation will be available via the meeting web site prior to the meeting.

MEETING REGISTRATION and REGISTRATION FEES

To facilitate preparation of name tags and meeting packets, online preregistration for the meeting is encouraged via a link at the conference website at <http://www.sesaps2009.gatech.edu/>. Credit card payment will be accepted. Alternatively, payment by credit card or check can be made upon arrival at the registration desk.

The registration fees for the SESAPS 2009 meeting are:

SESAPS and APS members: \$60

Nonmembers: \$80

Retired APS members: \$30

Graduate students: \$30

Undergraduate students: free

Banquet fees: \$50

Awardees will not pay the registration or banquet fee.

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

The conference hotel is the Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport (see <http://sheraton.com/atlantaairport> for description and location). All sessions, receptions and the Friday evening banquet will take place at this hotel, which is conveniently located near to the airport with world class facilities. Downtown Atlanta and its major attractions are only 10 minutes away, including the new Georgia Aquarium, Turner Field – home of the Atlanta Braves and Atlanta's new retail and entertainment district - Atlantic Station. The Hotel provides 24-hour complimentary shuttle service to/from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and MARTA.

In the Hotel lobby, you will receive free access to Wi-Fi, PC workstations, printing capability, and a 52" flat screen LCD television. Wireless internet is available in all rooms for a nominal fee. The conference rate is \$89/night plus taxes.

The deadline for obtaining the conference rate is October 21, 2009, subject to availability.

Participants are expected to make their own hotel arrangements (please see the conference web site at <http://www.sesaps2009.gatech.edu/> for the latest detailed information). In addition to the online reservation through this website, you may call 800-325-3535 for reservation, and tell them you're attending the SESAPS Conference to get the conference rate.

CONCURRENT MEETINGS: SPS, NSBP, NSHP

There will be concurrent meetings of Zone 6 of the Society of Physics Students, the National Society of Black Physicists and the National Society of Hispanic Physicists.

TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Students will be pleased to learn that modest travel grants will again be available for those presenting research papers at the SESAPS sessions. Undergraduate students giving papers only in the SPS sessions are not eligible for travel support. An application is included below.

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 17**. 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 (david.j.ernst@vanderbilt.edu) and Vice Chair (mcneil@physics.unc.edu) 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 Chair:

Dr. Richard Haglund Jr.
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Vanderbilt University
6301 Stevenson Center Lane
Nashville, TN 37235
richard.haglund@vanderbilt.edu

Pegram Award Chair:

Dr. David M. Peterson
Physics and Astronomy Department,
Francis Marion University
PO Box 10057
Florence, SC 29501
pegamaward@fmarion.edu

Beams Award Chair:

Dr. Jaqueline Krim
Dept. of Physics, CB 8202
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-8202
jkrim@unity.ncsu.edu

More information about the submission of Awards nominations can be found at
<http://www.aps.org/units/sesaps/awards/index.cfm>

SESAPS OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Your help is needed in identifying talented members of our regional physics community who would be interested, willing, and effective in serving in a leadership role within SESAPS. The available positions are: Vice Chair, Secretary and Member-At-Large (a three year term).

Please send your suggestions of persons whom you believe would be appropriate candidates for this position on the Executive Committee to Laurie McNeil mcneil@physics.unc.edu, Chair of the 2009 SESAPS nominating committee. For each person suggested, we would appreciate your including comments about why you support them. To be most helpful, your suggested names and supporting information should arrive by August 17th.

Beams, Pegram and Slack Award Donations

The three awards presented by the Southeastern Section rely on member contributions to sustain them. Many members of the section have made previous donations for the Jesse Beams Award, the George Pegram Award, and the Francis Slack Award. If you would like to contribute to the Beams-Pegram Fund and/or the Slack Fund, please feel free to print this section and use it to make your contribution by sending 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-Pegram Award Fund Amount _____

Slack Award Fund Amount _____

Total Contribution _____

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 (\$250 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. Haase.)

RETURN BY *September 30th* TO:

Dr. David G. Haase

[Physics Department](#)

[North Carolina State Univ.](#)

[Raleigh, NC 27695-8202](#)

david_haase@ncsu.edu