

***SUMMER NEWSLETTER
OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
OF THE
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY***

August 5, 2010

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the APS will be held in Baton Rouge, LA, from Wednesday, October 20, 2010 to Saturday, October 23, 2010. The Louisiana State University Physics Department will host. More details can be found at the meeting web site: <http://www.phys.lsu.edu/sesaps/index.html>.

This year's SESAPS meeting will feature lively sessions on the frontier physics being done in our region along with discussions of other issues of importance to the physics community. The meeting will, as always, provide a friendly and supportive atmosphere for students to make oral or poster presentations. Please join us in Baton Rouge, and submit an abstract. The deadline for doing so – August 13 – is approaching quickly.

As part of the Baton Rouge program, the SESAPS will hold its annual business meeting. This meeting is open to all.

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 hope you are having a productive and refreshing summer. I look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge.

Sincerely,

Paul Cottle

Professor of Physics
Florida State University
SESAPS Chair

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Dear SESAPS Members:

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 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 and participate in our annual meeting. The more experience they have in describing their research to potential future employers, the better their employment prospects. Additional networking and mentoring opportunities are available through APS forums. For example, they may find the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs useful (<http://www.aps.org/units/fgsa/index.cfm>). It is important for the health of the APS and of SESAPS that we encourage young 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 students.

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 many 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 that affect everyone in our region.

There are presently 2640 SESAPS members down from an official count of 2717 on January 1, 2010. The data seems to show that after years of steady growth since 2001, this year the enrollment in SESAPS has stagnated since 2008 and is now beginning to decrease. While SESAPS continues to be the largest APS section, we need to be

especially diligent and proactive on behalf of our young scientists by encouraging their memberships in both APS and subsequently in SESAPS. 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. We ask your help to encourage the members of your departments to join us in maintaining the health of this vibrant organization. If you have any questions about membership in SESAPS, please feel free to contact me.

Brad Cox
Professor of Physics
University of Virginia
Membership Coordinator, SESAPS
bbc2x@virginia.edu

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society (SESAPS 2010).

The next annual meeting of SESAPS will be held on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 – Saturday, October 23, 2010.

THIS IS THE LAST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OF CONTRIBUTED PAPERS.

SESAPS will use electronically submitted abstracts. All abstracts of contributed papers must be prepared in the standard APS format as specified in recent issues of the APS News. The abstract deadline is **5 PM on Friday, August 13**. The program will be available electronically, and printed copies will be available at the meeting for all who register.

The scheduled time for your presentation must be obtained from the bulletin *that will be available electronically* on the web. Meeting rooms will have facilities for projecting from computers. To request other audio-visual aids, please make your request in writing by typing it in the special instructions box of the abstract template. Any questions about the program should be directed to Dr. Laurie McNeil mcneil@physics.unc.edu.

CONTRIBUTED/INVITED PAPERS: Invited papers at this meeting, as in all APS meetings, are given by experts in areas selected by the Program Committee, and these talks are usually of thirty minutes duration. Contributed papers, however, are on topics of the author's choice and are ten minutes in length. On the day following the abstract deadline, all papers are organized into sessions and the sessions into the program of the meeting. Some of the contributed abstracts are of such interest that the committee will *invite the authors* to give a *special paper* of twenty minutes duration on the topic of their abstract at the beginning of the contributed paper session to which their talk is assigned. There will only be a few such papers selected. The invitations will be listed in the printed program of the meeting and will be verified promptly by electronic or regular mail to the authors. If the author(s) would like to be considered for such an invitation, they are asked to type the following statement in the special instructions box: If invited to do so, the author is willing to expand the talk for the above abstract to twenty minutes.

TRAVEL SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS THIS YEAR: Students will be pleased to learn that modest travel grants will again be available for those presenting research papers at the SESAPS sessions. An application is included in this newsletter and is also available on the SESAPS website.

SUGGESTED NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICERS should be sent to Dr. Roxanne Springer at rps@phy.duke.edu. All suggestions will be considered seriously by the Nominating Committee, which is composed of the members of the Executive Committee. The positions available are Vice Chair and Member-At-Large (a three year term).

BEAMS, PEGRAM, AND SLACK AWARD DONATIONS

Each year, the Southeastern Section presents three awards, the Jesse W. Beams Award for excellence in research, the George B. Pegram Award for excellence in teaching, and the Francis Slack Award for excellence in service. These awards have been largely funded by donations from members. In recent years, donations have been fewer, and the annual expenditures have reduced the award funds to the point that they are not self-sustaining. However, the funds at present are close enough to being self-sustaining that a relatively small influx of new funds now would tip the balance and remove the need for a larger influx later. We encourage you to make such a donation, perhaps in honor of a colleague. Names of recipients of the awards in the last decade can be found at <http://www.aps.org/units/sesaps/awards/index.cfm>.

If you would like to contribute to the Beams, Pegram, or Slack Funds, please fill out the form below and send 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 Award Fund Amount _____
Pegram Award Fund Amount _____
Slack Award Fund Amount _____
Total Contribution _____

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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 (\$300 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. Ernst.)

BY *September 30th*, SEND COPIES OF THIS FORM TO BOTH:

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