

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

August 9, 2011

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As the Southeast swelters in an unusually hot summer, we can look forward to a time of cooler weather in October—which is also when the 78th SESAPS Annual Meeting will be held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Roanoke, Virginia. The meeting will take place October 19-22, and the deadline for submission of contributed abstracts is **August 24, 2011**. The meeting organizers have already assembled an exciting slate of invited sessions. The topics for the invited sessions include neutrino physics, physics at JLAB and at the LHC, physics far from equilibrium, nanomaterials, and physics of strongly-correlated systems. We invite all SESAPS members to submit contributed abstracts on any physics topic. To submit a contributed abstract, point your browser to the APS abstract submission website <http://abs.aps.org/>.

This year, in an effort to fully integrate undergraduate scientists into the SESAPS annual meeting, their contributions will be assigned to sessions by physics topic rather than given in a separate SPS session. We hope this will provide more interaction between established scientists and future leaders. Students should identify the physics subfield to which their abstracts belong at the time of submission. A new feature of this year's meeting will be competitions for the best oral presentation and the best poster presentation by an undergraduate student. Student presenters who wish to enter the competition should type "undergraduate poster" or "undergraduate oral presentation" in the "Special Instructions" box in the abstract submission portal.

As you think about the Annual Meeting and the benefits it brings to you and your students, I'd like to remind you about the importance of membership in SESAPS, which costs nothing if you are already an APS member. Coax your colleagues into joining – it will help us maintain our role in the national APS organization.

Sincerely,

Laurie McNeil

Professor of Physics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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 (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. *This is especially true of any new institutions that have recently joined or plan to join SESAPS in the near future. It does no good to join as an institution if your students and faculty do not join as individuals.*

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, in the past two years the enrollment in SESAPS has shown a small decrease in both years while most of the other section have shown increases ranging from substantial to small.* 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 2680 SESAPS members as given on May 10, 2011 down from 2731 in 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
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The 78th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society (SESAPS 2011).

The next annual meeting of SESAPS, to be hosted by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will be held in Roanoke, VA, Wednesday, October 19, 2011 – Saturday, October 22, 2011.

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 Wednesday, August 24, 2011**. The program will be available electronically, and printed copies will be available at the meeting for all who register. The abstract submission portal is found at <http://abs.aps.org/>.

The scheduled time for your presentation must be obtained from the bulletin *that will be available electronically* on the web. Meeting rooms will have an overhead projector and facilities for projections from a computer. To request other audio-visual aids, including chalkboards or 35 mm projectors, 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. Roxanne Springer rps@phy.duke.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.

STUDENT PRESENTATION CONTESTS: A new feature of this year's meeting will be competitions for the best oral presentation and the best poster presentation by an undergraduate student. Student presenters who wish to enter the competition should type "undergraduate poster" or "undergraduate oral presentation" in the "Special Instructions" box at the abstract submission portal.

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. Richard Haglund Richard.Haglund@Vanderbilt.edu at the address given at the end of this newsletter. 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).

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Your help is sought in soliciting nominations for the three SESAPS awards. The deadline for nominations for SESAPS awards for 2011 is past, but nominations for future years can be made at any time.

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."

The required nomination materials consist of a CV, a nominating letter and up to three supporting letters (a maximum of two pages each). One of the letters should be from an institution other than the nominee's home institution. No other supporting documents are needed, but may be included. If at all possible, the entire nomination should be sent in the form of a single pdf file to the Award Committee Chair. If electronic submission is not possible, then four copies of the nomination materials should be sent. The nominator is also asked to notify the Chair (Laurie McNeil) and Vice Chair (Richard Haglund) 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.

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. We express our gratitude to those who have made recent donations, which have enabled us to place the funds on a much more solid financial footing for the long term than they have been in previous years.

If you would like to contribute to the Beams, Pegram, or Slack Funds, send the information listed below with 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.

Information needed: Name, total amount of donation, amount to be credited to each award fund (Beams, Pegram, and Slack). Donations to individual funds, or to be split among two or more funds, are welcome.

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

Slack Award 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 (\$350 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. Cottle.)

BY *September 30th, 2011* SEND A COPY OF THIS FORM TO:

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