

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

March 1, 2008

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This year will bring the 75th Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society. It will be hosted by North Carolina State University, Thursday, October 29 – Saturday, November 1, in Raleigh. Because North Carolina is reasonably central to the SESAPS region and because there are many campuses in the area, we are looking forward to a large and lively meeting. David Ernst of Vanderbilt will serve as program chair and would welcome suggestions and volunteers to organize sessions.

As always, SESAPS meetings showcase physics efforts going on in the South. The meetings also are excellent opportunities for undergraduates and graduates to present their first papers. To meet, chat, and share problems and successes in a large family is a very Southern thing. The SESAPS meetings support the health and vigor of the Southeastern physics community.

Please put the dates on your calendar, remind your colleagues, and plan to bring your students. By the way, remind your colleagues to sign up online for membership in SESAPS; it costs nothing if you are already an APS member. (<https://www.aps.org/aps-login/index.cfm>)

As the new Chair I wish to thank the outgoing Chair, Tom Clegg, for his many efforts and abundant organizational skill that kept SESAPS moving in the last year. In the midst of the normal operations he oversaw the movement of the SESAPS website to <http://www.aps.org/units/sesaps/index.cfm>, as well as, with Dave Ernst, assembling the outstanding slate of candidates for the SESAPS Executive Board.

Thanks are also in order for the Physics Departments at Vanderbilt University and Fisk University for preparing and hosting a successful Fall 2007 meeting in Nashville. The local chairs, Dave Ernst and Steve Morgan, and their colleagues provided a pleasant and unusual venue as well as a memorable banquet at historic Jubilee Hall on the Fisk campus. They are to be congratulated for a collaboration which included a historically minority campus. I think this was a first for a SESAPS meeting, but a precedent that should be repeated in the future.

I welcome the new members of the Executive Board, elected recently from an excellent slate of candidates. The new Vice-Chair is Dr. Paul Cottle of Florida State University. The new

Treasurer is Dr. John Shriner of Tennessee Tech University. Dr. Matthew Edwards of Alabama A&M University is the newly elected at-large member of the Executive Board.

The departing members of the Executive Board - Paul Avery (Past Chair, 4 years in Chair chain), Larry Cain (Treasurer, 16 years) and Victoria Green (at-large member, four years) – are to be thanked for their dedicated service on the Executive Committee and to SESAPS through their terms.

We invite and welcome your suggestions for other openings on the Executive Committee. Each fall we seek nominees for the position of Vice-Chair and for one at-large member.

Finally, the Section makes three annual awards for outstanding research, teaching and service to physics in the Southeast. There are many members who are outstanding in these areas and worthy of recognition. Please think about nominating a colleague for the Beams, Pegram or Slack Award. The deadline and information are found in this newsletter.

I look forward to working with you and for you and SESAPS this year. I hope to see hordes of you in Raleigh not only to celebrate the 75th meeting of an organization that has a rich history, but also to enjoy the activity and energy of physics in the Southeast.

Sincerely,

David Haase
Professor of Physics
North Carolina State University

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, who are not yet members of the SESAPS (there are ~2500 of them!), to consider seriously joining us. Please discuss the issue of SESAPS membership with your undergraduate and graduate students, and in one of your departmental faculty meetings, to publicize SESAPS and its activities more widely.

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.

Then undergraduate, graduate student, or faculty members, who presently live in the Southeast, are members of the APS, or becomes 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 in Tom Clegg's message above. 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 2728 SESAPS members on January 1, 2008, up by 5.9% in the past year. Ours continues to be the largest APS section, and it is also growing fastest. In 2007 we contacted by personal letter over 2500 APS members in the Southeast who are not yet members of SESAPS asking for their participation in SESAPS. We also sent personal letters to the 165 chairs of Departments in the Southeast. We ask your help as members of SESAPS to follow up this effort in your departments to encourage your colleagues to join us in this vibrant and growing 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

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society (SESAPS) will be held October 30 – November 1, 2008 (Thursday-Saturday) at the Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel & Conference Center in Raleigh, NC, 1707 Hillsborough Street
Toll Free 800-331-7919, T(919)828-0811, F(919)834-0904. The hotel is within walking distance of the NCSU Physics Building. The meeting will be hosted by the Department of Physics at North Carolina State University. David Ernst is the program chair. The meeting website has been established at <http://www.physics.ncsu.edu/sesaps2008/>. More detailed information will be coming in the Summer Newsletter.

THIS IS THE FIRST 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 15**. 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 *which 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. Ernst.

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.

A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS will be held in conjunction with the SESAPS meeting and will include a student paper session where the Marsh W. White Award will be presented for the best paper given at that session. More information will be provided in the Summer Newsletter.

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. Students giving papers in the SPS sessions only are not eligible for travel support. An application is included in this newsletter and is also available on the SESAPS website.

SUGGESTED NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICERS should be sent to Paul Cottle 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 five year term).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 2007 ELECTION WINNERS.

SESAPS Vice-Chair is Paul Cottle of Florida State University.

SESAPS Treasurer is John Shriner of Tennessee Technological University

SESAPS Member-At-Large is Matthew Edwards of Alabama A&M University.

PROCEDURES FOR SESAPS AWARDS

The following procedures are relevant for the awards.

1. Award Committee Chairs are listed below.
2. Nominations for each award must be sent to the Award Committee Chair before July 15. (Four copies of each nomination, consisting of a nominating letter and up to three supporting letters, should be sent.) Nominations will be considered active for three years; though updating materials for nominees not chosen in the prior year is encouraged. Past winners are listed on the SESAPS website.
3. The nominator should send email to the Chair and Vice Chair informing them of the submission.
4. The Award Committee Chairs report to the SESAPS Chair regarding winners before

September 1.

5. Winner and nominators are notified around by mid-September. The nominator is asked to introduce the nominee at the annual meeting when the award is bestowed.

The Jesse W. Beams Research Award, first presented in 1973, was established by the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society to recognize especially significant or meritorious research in physics.

Chair: Professor Alan Dorsey
Professor and Department Chair
Department of Physics
University of Florida
P.O. Box 118440
Gainesville, FL 32611-8440
Tel: (352) 392-4031
E-mail: dorsey@phys.ufl.edu

The George B. Pegram Award, first awarded in 1971, was created by the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society to honor "Excellence in the Teaching of Physics in the Southeast."

Chair: Professor Chaden Djalali
Carolina Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of South Carolina
712 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29208
Phone: 803 777 4318
Fax: 803 777 3065
Email: djalali@sc.edu

The Francis G. Slack Award was created by the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society to honor Excellence in Service to Physics in the Southeast.

Chair: Professor Kirby W. Kemper
Professor of Physics, Vice-President for Research
Department of Physics
Florida State University
204 Keen Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4350
Phone: (850) 644-2867
Fax: (850) 644-8630
E-mail: kirby@phy.fsu.edu

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 _____

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of SESAPS

Friday, November 9, 2007, Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville, TN
9:00 -- 11:00 am

Members attending:

T. Clegg (chair), D. Haase (chair-elect), D. Ernst (vice chair),
P. Avery (past chair), S. Deans (secretary), L. Cain (treasurer),
B. Cox (membership), K. Whatley (member), V. Greene (member),
B. Jones (member)

1. General opening remarks were made by Clegg.
2. Cain reported that we operated within our budget this year. Next year the budget goes to \$13,025. This includes an increase in funds for student travel and for special invited speakers.
3. Deans reported on awards medallions and engraving. We finally have new Slack medals and a new engraver. The secretary will be responsible for the newsletter and inform members of due dates.
4. Cox reported on efforts to solicit members for SESAPS. These include information in the newsletters, direct mailing, letters to 165 physics chairs, personal letters to APS members in the southeast who are not members of SESAPS. There are 285 new SESAPS members, but we still have more to do since there are about 2500 APS members in the region who are not in SESAPS.
5. The need for a new webpage was discussed by Clegg. The page will be maintained by Haase for the next year and we will work with APS on maintaining in the future.

6. At this time (November 08) the election process has not been completed. We will know about new EC members in a few weeks and the results will appear in the Winter Newsletter.
7. Ernst reported that we do not know exact results on attendance at the meeting. He has later reported: 180 faculty paying, 41 undergraduates not registering for SPS, 25 undergraduates registering for SPS, 245 total.

Avery reported that we had more requests for student travel than we could support, \$5700 total.

Deans reported that the awards go to:

Beams Award: Berndt Mueller (Duke)

Slack Award: Ronald Mickens (Clark Atlanta)

Pegram Award: Robert Marchini (Memphis)

Cox and Clegg raised some questions about the official wording regarding who can be considered eligible. There may need to be a clarification and there will be a report coming later.

8. Future SESAPS Meetings:

Haase reviewed the current situation. The final result is: SESAPS 2008, Holiday Inn Brownstone, adjacent to the NC State campus, Oct. 30 -- Nov. 1.

Professor Ahmet Erbil from Georgia Tech brought the EC up to date on plans for 2009; he took questions and advice.

The 2010 potential site is possibly LSU: we will know about that later.

Update: The LSU site has been approved.

Haase discussed the Bulletin preparation for future meetings. Backup for Leilanie Merrill is needed. She is to be offered a salary increase next year.

9. Other Business:

Everyone needs to study our election process. Does it need modification?

We do not have enough SESAPS members on APS committees -- we should aim toward the APS Council.



Our gratitude and thanks go to Larry Cain, our Treasurer and confidant on procedural matters, who is retiring after 16 years of service. Not only has he meticulously kept financial records of our organization over that period, but he also maintained the SESAPS webpage on a server at Davidson College, tallied votes in annual SESAPS elections, and helped train and answer frequent questions from his more junior executive committee colleagues. We appreciate his many years of loyal service, and will sorely miss his institutional memory.

Stanley R. Deans, Secretary SESAPS

Executive Committee

Chair

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Chair-Elect

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Vice Chair

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Past Chair

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Secretary

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APS Council Observer

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Executive Committee 08 -11

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Executive Committee 05-08

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Executive Committee 06-09

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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. Clegg.)

RETURN BY *September 27, 2008* TO:

Prof. Thomas B. Clegg
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University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3255
clegg@physics.unc.edu