

2012 ANNUAL REPORT
TEXAS SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS

Prepared by Thomas L O'Kuma
Section Representative

The Texas Section annually holds two meetings, a "Spring" meeting and a "Fall" meeting. For the last 25 years, these meetings have been held jointly with the Texas Section of the American Physical Society and with Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students (and many more years than 20 with Zone 13). The Section's activities center around its meetings and thus this report consists primarily of reports of those meetings. In 2012 the Spring TSAAPT Meeting was held March 22-24 at Angelo State University in San Angelo: a meeting summary is attached. The 2012 Fall Meeting was held October 25-27 at the Texas Tech University in Lubbock: a meeting summary is attached.

The TSAAPT meetings are such that the Fall Meeting is primarily run by TSAPS with the TSAAPT in a more secondary role. For the Spring Meeting, the roles are reversed and the meeting is a "primarily AAPT" meeting. It is expected that this arrangement will continue in the future. During both of these meetings, workshops are held to encourage both pre-college and college physics teachers to attend the meetings.

The Texas Section maintains a website to post most of its important information and events: <http://www.tsaapt.org/>

It also puts out an electronic newsletter that is emailed to those members on the email mailing list. It can be found at: <http://www.tsaapt.org/newsletters/index.html>. The newsletter is gradually being replaced by our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/groups/58141374338/10150691221594339/>.

The Section holds elections at its Spring Meeting with the elected individuals taking office at the close of the following Fall Meeting. A list of officers is attached. Our future meetings are:

TS AAPT Fall 2012 Meeting:	Texas Tech University October 25-27, 2012 Host: Charley Myers, charley.myles@ttu.edu
TS AAPT Spring 2013 Meeting:	Tarleton State University April 4-6, 2013 Host: Dan Marble, MARBLE@tarleton.edu
TS AAPT Fall 2013 Meeting:	UT – Brownsville October 10-12, 2013 Host: Mario Diaz, Mario@phys.utb.edu

**REPORT ON THE SPRING 2012 MEETING
OF THE
TEXAS SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS**

Prepared by Thomas L. O'Kuma
Section Representative

The Texas Section of AAPT, the Texas Section of the American Physical Society, and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students held a joint meeting March 22 - 24, 2012 at Angelo State University in San Angelo. Those most responsible for the meeting arrangements were Toni Sauncy, Andy Wallace, David Bixler and Joe Satterfield at ASU, Tom O'Kuma of Lee College, and Wilhelmus Geerts of Texas State University. There was a total registration of over 200 persons, including over 75 registered as students. The meeting website is: <http://tesla.angelo.edu/~spsweb/tsaapt/>.

The program of the meeting contained 10 paper sessions, 3 plenary sessions, 1 poster session, and 9 workshops, making a total of 117 presentations. The breakdown of these papers were as follows: contributed and invited papers - 15 AAPT, 12 SPS, 28 posters, and 49 APS. The 9 workshops had a total attendance of 90 with some attendees attending more than one workshop.

On Thursday evening, the ASU SPS chapter held a welcome barbecue for students and other meeting attendees. Afterwards, there was a planetarium show and star party for those interested. Throughout the meeting, there were additional planetarium shows and the SPS room was available for students to meet and discuss physics.

During the TS AAPT Friday plenary session, Cecile DeWitt-Morette of the University of Texas at Austin discussed "The Pursuit of Quantum Gravity" and Cristina Torres of the University of Texas at Brownsville discussed "Advanced LIGO: The next generation of gravitational wave observatories". The Saturday plenary session had Robert Hilborn, Associate Executive Officer of the American Association of Physics Teachers, presented "Growing Undergraduate Physics Programs : What SPIN-UP Tells Us Works" and Crystal Bailey of the American Physical Society addressing "Physics Careers: To the Bachelor's Degree and Beyond".

The Katherine Mays Award for Lifetime Outstanding Contributions to High School Physics Education in Texas was given to Evelyn Restivo of Waxahachie Early College High School in Waxahachie, Texas.

Awards for Excellence for Pre-College Teaching Excellence was presented to Jill Lewis of Foster High School in Richmond, TX and Brian Lamore of The Village School in Houston, TX.

The meeting attendees who attended the Friday evening banquet heard a stimulating after-banquet presentation by Susan Cummins Miller of the University of Arizona discussing "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Pair-a-Dice: One Geologist's Curious Journey from Fieldwork into Fiction".

Other meeting activities included a joint AAPT-APS luncheon and business meeting with over 150 persons attending, a reception prior to the banquet, and special activities for SPS chapters.

**REPORT ON THE FALL 2012 MEETING
OF THE
TEXAS SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS**

Prepared by Thomas L. O'Kuma
Section Representative

The Texas Section of AAPT, the Texas Section of the American Physical Society, and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students held a joint meeting October 25 - 27, 2012 hosted by Texas Tech University. Those most responsible for the meeting arrangements were Charley Myers of TTU (local host), Harry Swinney of the University of Texas at Austin, and Thomas O'Kuma of Lee College. This was a large meeting with a total registration of over 250 people - more than 150 faculty, more than 50 graduate and undergraduate students, and several other individuals. The meeting website is: <http://www.phys.ttu.edu/TSF12/>.

The program of the meeting contained 15 paper sessions, 4 invited session, 3 plenary sessions, 2 poster sessions, and 10 workshops, including a total of 202 presentations. The breakdown of these papers were as follows: 9 invited papers; contributed papers - 5 AAPT, 107 APS, 10 SPS, and 61 posters. The 10 workshops had a total attendance of 100 with some attendees attending more than one workshop.

The plenaries consisted of Nural Akchurin of Texas Tech University discussing "Higgs Searches at the CMS Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider"; James Chelkowsky of the University of Texas Austin discussing "Aswering Dirac's Challenge: Practical Quantum Mechanics for Materials"; Scott Pendleton from the University of Southern California discussing "Transient Plasma Physics: Nanosecond Pulsed Power Applied to Energy, Engines, and Other Things"; Michael Deem of Rice University discussing "Physical Theory of the Immune System"; Robert Allen from Texas A&M University discussing "Theory and experiment in biomedical science"; Karl Gebhardt of the University of Texas Austin discussing "From the Inflationary Universe to Black Holes to Dark Energy using the Hobby-Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment"; and Michael Marder of the Univeristy of Texas Austin discussing "Physics of Failure". There were also several invited presenters.

The 200 people who attended the Friday evening banquet heard a presentation by Ginger Kerrick from NASA Johnson Space Center on "Educational and Professional Success – A Lesson on Resilience and Persistence".

Other meeting activities included a joint AAPT-APS-SPS luncheon and business meeting with 150 people attending.

**TEXAS SECTION, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS
FALL 2012 - FALL 2013 (EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 27, 2012)**

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1. Normally serves at Vice President of Physical Sciences of Texas Academy of Science
2. One-year term: in the two years following serves as President Elect and President
3. Four-year term
4. Three-year term