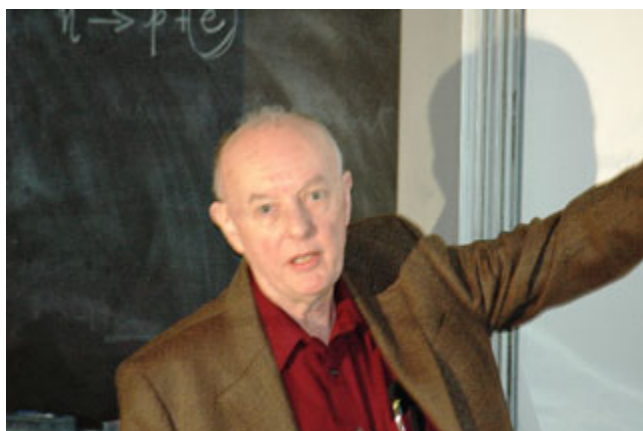


2006 Spring Meeting

The Southeast Pennsylvania section held our annual spring meeting on March 24-25 at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. The meeting began with a dinner followed by short papers and demonstrations submitted by section members.

Speakers Friday night included:

- Sarah Pusey** (Harrilton HS) questions about lab reports
- Harry Woodcock** (Philadelphia University) Galilean transformations
- Jeff Wetherhold** (Parkland High School) stop-motion video films
- Y. K. Ha** (Temple University) a summary of Black Holes
- Barry Feierman** (Westtown School) resonance in a parallel LC circuit
- Ollie Perry** (Shawnee HS) a vector navigation game
- Tom Gordon** (retired, Bronx HS) angular momentum demonstration
- Fran Poody** (West Chester, East) sound demonstrations with resonance tubes
- Harriet Slogoff** (Univ Penn) Archimedes' principle demonstration



Harry Woodcock



Y. K. Ha



Jeff Wetherhold



Ollie Perry



Tom Gordon



Fran Podry

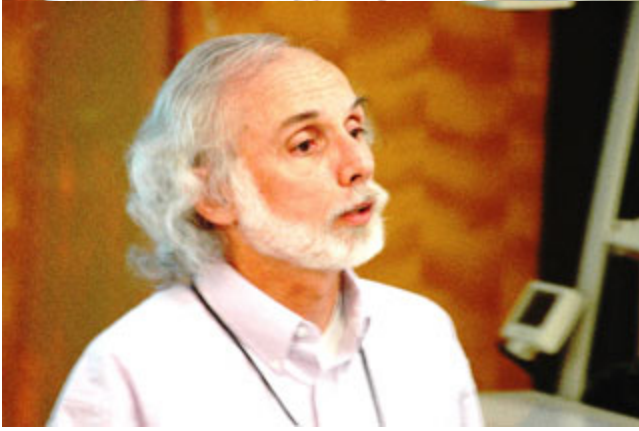


Harriet Slogoff

Our Saturday meeting began with a breakfast and then featured three invited speakers for the morning session.

Our first speaker, **Ariel Michelman-Rubeiro** of Boston University, spoke about the possibilities of increasing the participation of women in physics. She gave the audience a set of goals and challenges in order to make physics classrooms more "female friendly" speaking from her personal experience in high school, college, and graduate school, as well as information from research into this area. The audience was very attentive and we hope to do a better job of encouraging women in science. Liz Chesick, one of our section's seasoned teachers, will be giving a paper at the summer national Syracuse meeting on "single gender physics classrooms".





Our next speaker was **Bill Berner**, University of Pennsylvania, who gave a talk about the appearance of the exponential function in introductory physics. Bill was a high school teacher for a number of years before joining the University of Pennsylvania's physics department. He gave many examples of the way the exponential function appears in many common situations and challenged us to figure out a way to make exponential growth (and decay) a more familiar phenomena in our physics classes.

Our third speaker was **Paul Steinhardt**, Princeton University, who spoke about the "Tale of Two Universes". Paul went into depth about what we know about cosmology and why we know it (or think we know it). He gave us much to think about concerning the origin of the universe as well as its fate, including evidence for a "cyclic model" universe.



After lunch we had our business meeting and elected section officers for the year. Our new President will be **Harriet Slogoff** (University of Pennsylvania) and Vice-President **Fran Poodry** (West Chester East HS). Barry Feerman will continue as Section Representative for two more years.



Old President (Bob Schwartz) and new President and Vice-President.

We reelected our Corresponding Secretary, **Chet Zach** (retired) and Treasurer **John Patane** (retired). We then appointed members-at-large from various geographical parts of the seven-county region including:

Liz Chesick - Delaware and Montgomery counties private schools

Bob Schwartz - Delaware and Montgomery counties public schools

Chet Zach - north Philadelphia area

Pat Callahan - Upper Bucks and north

Greg Byrd and **Barry Feierman** - Chester County

Sardari Khanna - Lancaster and York counties

Craig Halpern - Lower Bucks county

Sister Janice Shaw - Catholic Schools

John Patane - south Philadelphia area

Jeff Wetherhold - Lehigh county

The goal for these regional members-at-large is to reach out to new physics teachers as well as to encourage existing seasoned teachers at both the high school and the college/university to take a more active role in the section business. We now offer Pennsylvania Act 48 credit for our workshops and annual meetings.

The afternoon talks featured two professors from St. Joseph's University, our host. **Doug Kurtze** spoke about global climate and ocean circulation suggesting some new ways to view global climate, and **Piotr Haldas** spoke about the nature of squishy solids (or are they mushy liquids) giving many fascinating examples of the odd way some solids behave.



Doug Kurtze and Piotr Haldas

We adjourned without deciding on the location or date of the annual Fall Demo Night in October. We are also looking forward to continued good relations with our neighboring Central Pennsylvania and New Jersey sections.

Submitted by Barry Feierman
Section Representative, SEPA
Westtown School