

2010 SEPS/AAPT SPRING MEETING

The Southeastern PA section of AAPT was joined by the New Jersey and the Central PA sections for a regional conference at La Salle University on March 12-13, 2010. Ling Liang from La Salle University hosted the conference. There were about 70-80 registered attendees. The conference theme was "How we teach may be more important than WHAT we teach."

Friday, March 12: The pre-conference PTRAs workshop (9am - 4 pm) on Physics with Video Analysis was led by Pat Callahan and Dave McCachren, followed by dinner/poster session, and an invited lecture (titled "The (Universal) Matrix Reloaded") by Derrick Pitts of the Franklin Institute. Through the lecture, Pitts brought us up to speed on what he called the "New Universe," highlighting the most significant advances that alter how we think about the cosmos, its origins and ourselves. The poster titles and presenters were as follows:

- Poster 1: "Animations for Introductory Physics and Astronomy Project," Michael R. Gallis, Faculty, Penn State University
- Poster 2: "Middle School Students' Force and Motion Misconceptions," Justin Nafziger-Kolb, Student, Lock Haven University
- Poster 3: "Classifying Two Qubit States by Subsystem Information," Laura Snyder, Student, Lebanon Valley College
- Poster 4: "Preliminary study of Cosmic Ray Showers," Ryan Michael Hemm, Student, Lock Haven University
- Poster 5: "Segregation of Granular Materials in a Viscous Medium," Benjamin Sofka, Student, Moravian College
- Poster 6: "Flow Profile of the Radial Hydraulic Jump," Matthew Bross, Student, Moravian College

Saturday, March 13: On Saturday, Warren Hein of AAPT gave an update on the PhysTEC Project and talked about the physics department's role in the preparation of pre-college physics teachers, followed by a lecture on modeling instruction with Vpython by Matt Greenwolfe, the President-Elect of the American Modeling Teachers Association.

After the invited lectures, two parallel sessions of contributed talks followed. The titles of the talks and contributors are as follows:

Session A:

- Anne Tabor-Morris, Georgian Court, N.J., "Physics Education: City of Physics-exploring the limits"
- Stan Semones, Educational Technology Consultant for TI, "'Nspired' Way of Looking at Simple Harmonic Motion"
- Carolyn Sealfon, West Chester University, "Service-Learning Physics Labs with Elementary-School Outreach"
- Mark Liff, Philadelphia University, "Experiment in Polymer Physics in General Physics"
- Gregory Dolise, Harrisburg Area Community College, "Writing Exam Questions"
- Mary Ann Klassen, Swarthmore College, PA, "Make Your Own Comet"

Session B:

- Tiberiu Dagoru-Luca, Hillsborough H.S., N.J., and Joe Spacavento, North Arlington, H.S. "Shhh...We Built a Nuclear Accelerator"
- Fran Poodry, West Chester East High School, "Rotational Kinematics Video Analysis"
- Jeffrey Wetherhold, Parkland High School, "Gravity is Behaving Normally"
- Barry Feierman, Westtown School, "Audio Spectra of Home-Made Musical Instruments"
- Gary Gordon, Comsap and Imtelsap (retired), "50th Anniversary of TIROS I"
- Liz Chesick, Baldwin School (retired), "Newton's 2nd Law: Spirit of Modeling"
- Tom Gordon, Bronx HS of Science (retired), "Factors Associated with Friction"

The meeting recessed for lunch around noon. After the lunch, the SEPS business meeting was held and the following new officers for 2010-2011 were elected:

President	Mary Ann Hickman Klassen
Vice President	Mary Sevon
Past President	Eldred Bagley
Treasurer	Art Zadrozny
Recording Secretary	Paula Miller
Corresponding Secretary	Fran Poodry
Section Rep	Ling Liang
Webmasters	Harriet Slogoff Martha Takats
Members at Large	Marc Baron Bill Berner Deborah L. Goldade Sardari Khanna Barry H. Feierman

The joint conference concluded with a great demo show conducted by Bill Berner from University of Pennsylvania and a drawing for door prizes.

A summary of the meeting in photos can be found [here](#).