



Australian Institute of Physics – SA branch

<http://www.physics.adelaide.edu.au/aip-sa>

Ph: (08) 8201 2093 or (08) 8234 6112 (a.h.) Fax: (08) 8201 2905

Post: AIP-SA secretary,

c/o SoCPES, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001

Chair	Dr Pina Dall'Armi-Stoks	(08) 8259 6735	giuseppina.dallarmi-stoks@dsto.defence.gov.au	Fax: (08) 8259 5796
Vice Chair	Dr Scott Foster	(08) 8259 5979	scott.foster@dsto.defence.gov.au	Fax: (08) 8259 7115
Treasurer	Dr Gunther Andersson	(08) 8201 3209	gunther.andersson@flinders.edu.au	Fax: (08) 8201 2905
Secretary	Dr Laurence Campbell	(08) 8201 2093	laurence.campbell@flinders.edu.au	Mob: 0427 711 815
	Dr Jamie Quinton		jamie.quinton@flinders.edu.au	
	Dr Boris Blankleider		boris.blankleider@flinders.edu.au	
	Dr Bruce Wedding		bruce.wedding@unisa.edu.au	
	Dr Rod Crewther		rcrewthe@physics.adelaide.edu.au	
	Mr Doug Medwell		doug.medwell@flinders.edu.au	
	Ms Emma Heading		emma.heading@dsto.defence.gov.au	
Co-opted	Dr Maria Parappilly		maria.parappilly@flinders.edu.au	Education
Co-opted	Mr Wade Shiell		w.shiell@aip.org.au	IYOA activities
Co-opted	Mr Kristopher Rowland		kristopher.rowland@adelaide.edu.au	Student activities

AIP-SA Branch Newsletter – Update

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to another AIP-SA Branch newsletter update. There has been much happening since our last newsletter update. Here are a few of the highlights.

First Public Lecture for the Year

On 26th March 2009 we held our first Public Lecture, entitled "*Physics and Movie Visual Effects*", by Dr Michael Anderson from "Run with Robots". We had an excellent attendance at this lecture from members and the general public. At this event the Bronze Bragg medal and merit certificates were presented to the students who received a score of 20/20 for the 2008 Year 12 Physics exam. The Bronze Bragg medal is awarded for the best performance in the 2008 Year-12 Physics exam. The winner of the Bronze Bragg medal was Danielle Fitzpatrick. Congratulations to all students on their achievement and hope they continue in a science - Physics career.

There are a number of public lectures planned throughout this year, including public lectures to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. Please check the AIP-SA branch website or keep an eye out for your public lecture notices that are sent to members via email.

New Physics & Astronomy Society Established at Adelaide University

Given that 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy, this year seemed like the perfect time to create a new physics and astronomy student society at the University of Adelaide. It has been several years since the last physics and astronomy society existed, so seeing students again actively participating in physics outside of the classroom is heartening indeed.

The new society, named The Adelaide University Physics and Astronomy Society (AUPAS), plans on taking advantage of the interest and publicity revolving around the IYA, and will focus its efforts on getting students involved in astronomy, and also with the physics that underpins the discipline. Throughout the year, the society plans on visiting the Astronomical Society of South Australia's observatory at Stockport, as well as the Planetarium at Mawson Lakes. It also hopes to hold a regular series of lectures by local and visiting physicists and astronomers (volunteers anyone?), as well as quiz nights, social dinners, pizza and video nights, BBQ's, and more.

Only having been in existence for a short period of time, AUPAS hasn't had the opportunity to hold many events so far, but its first events (BBQs run towards the end of March) were quite successful, generating a small amount of income for the group, as well as attracting a number of new members.

More information about the society will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

AIP-SA Branch Excellence in Physics Teaching Award

The SA branch is again planning to sponsor and present this Excellence in Physics Teaching award to a SA/NT secondary Physics Teacher. We are pleased that the award has again been co-sponsored by Engineers Australia – SA Division. The award will be presented as part of the National Science Week SA launch event in August, which is attended by the SA Minister of Science and other distinguished guests. Information and nomination forms for the awards will be sent to all SA/NT secondary schools in the coming weeks.

Women in Physics Lecture Tour 2009 – SA Section

Many of you may or may not know but this year the 2009 Women in Physics Lecture Tour winner is A/Professor Christine Charles from ANU. Christine is scheduled to be in Adelaide to deliver her public lecture on 21st October 2009. This event is quite special for the SA branch as it is at this lecture that the SA Women In Physics Group presents the "Clare Corani Memorial Awards" to the top 2nd year women students from each of the three universities here in SA. In addition, arrangements are also been made to invite secondary schools to a presentation by Christine and also to meet with her. A branch committee member, Ms Emma Heading, is taking the lead in arranging the SA schedule for this lecture tour.

Student Travel to Physics Conferences:

At the recent AIP Council meeting it was advised that due to the difference in funds allocated to students to travel to conferences by the AIP branches, the AIP executive have decided that all travel applications/requests will be administered centrally. The amount allocated for student travel funds is up to \$500. For further information regarding student travel funds to Physics conferences people can contact the AIP-SA branch secretary, Dr Laurence Campbell.

Scientists in Schools (SiS) Program

"The Scientists in Schools (SiS) Program is a national program that "...promotes science education in primary and secondary schools, helps to engage and motivate students in their learning of science, and broadens awareness of the types and variety of exciting careers available in the sciences..." (Dr Jim Peacock Chair, CSIRO Science Team *Formerly Chief Scientist, Australian Government*). The SiS program was initiated in 2007 and is managed by CSIRO Education and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The SiS project here in South Australia is seeking more scientists to participate in this program as there are still many teachers hoping to form partnerships.

To find out more information about the SiS program visit the web site at www.scientistsinschools.edu.au, or contact sis.sa@csiro.au or if interested to participate register at www.scientistsinschools.edu.au/scientists/registration.htm.

Dr Pina Dall'Armi-Stoks
AIP-SA Branch Chair