

Witt Physics

Newsletter of the Wittenberg University Physics Department (937) 327-6435

Departmental statistics:

- Current number of senior physics majors: 5.
- Current number of junior physics majors: 10.
- Average number of physics majors: 5.5/year.

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Endowed Fund Honors Paul Hagelberg

Last September, Wendell and Nancy Lutz established the "Dr. M. Paul Hagelberg Endowed Fund for Student Opportunities in Physics" to honor Paul Hagelberg's extensive contributions to Wittenberg's Physics Department. Paul joined the Wittenberg faculty in 1958 and retired in 1999. During his tenure, he served as Department Chair for 17 years and continued his research in physical acoustics to mention just two of his many accomplishments. The endowed fund will be used to support student/faculty research projects, the development of new laboratory experiments or lecture demonstrations, or the attendance at workshops or conferences. Paul vigorously supported such activities while he was at Wittenberg. Contributions can be made to the fund through Wittenberg's Office of Advancement

Faculty Notes....

Under the conscientious leadership of Dr. George, the Physics Faculty has completed another ambitious year which included everything from teaching and research to Girl Scout Night.

Dr. Elizabeth George and Dr. Paul Voytas continue their research at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (or as some of us call it, Wittenberg North) working on their ^{14}O beta decay experiment. Progress is slow but steady. The paper will come, it will come. This summer Jason Barkeloo ('10) will be working with them on the measurement of the ^8B spectrum.

Dr. Dan Fleisch is at it again with a second book. This one is on vectors and tensors as applied to physics. Did you hear about how he played Santa last Christmas to deliver a book? A legend is born! Under his guidance, the radio telescope was calibrated and he will be guiding James Dunkin's ('10) study of thunder.

Dr. Jeremiah Williams has completed his second, very busy year at Wittenberg. He has assembled the apparatus necessary to study dusty (dirty?) plasmas.

Several students have been working with him. Data have been gathered and it looks like the system is producing results which are consistent with earlier experiments. James Duff ('10) will continue where Erica Snipes ('09) stopped.

Dr. "Bill" Dollhopf graduated from Wittenberg this May and is contemplating new activities. (One being writing a newsletter.) He is considering advice from a loon: Spend time at the lake; Enjoy a good swim; Call your friends; A little color goes a long way; Surround yourself with beauty; Enjoy time alone; Dive into life. (2006 EarthSunμDDN)

Dr. Paul Hagelberg and Dr. Al Frasca continue to live in the Springfield area, and once in a while appear around the Physics Department. Both continue to be quite active in diverse pursuits such as choral singing to construction. Each is always interested to hear where life's adventures have taken you.

SPS News: Another “Banner” Year

Under the leadership of Mark Stahl and Erica Snipes, and the guidance of Paul Voytas, the society of physics students has completed the backdrop (“banner”) for our Foucault Pendulum. Many of you have worked on this project, and it is almost finished. When the roof and the ceiling are repaired, it will be safe to hang it. (Mark suggests the SPS seal it so there is no water damage.) Additional projects included a particularly successful Girl Scout night replete with a newly constructed oscylinderscope and several Mythbuster movie nights,. The SPS tee shirts featured a quantum mechanical theme. It has to be seen to be believed. See the SPS website for more details: <http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/phys/sps/>



Dan Fleisch, Erin, Rebecca, Erica, Jeremiah Williams, with Elizabeth George and Paul Voytas in the second row.



Only physics majors have mortarboards like this!

WAS News:

The Wittenberg Astronomical Society (a.k.a. Astronomy Club) under the guidance of Dan Fleisch continues an active program which has included observing sessions for the Witt Community and a field trip to Chicago. In June, they are teaming with engineers from Wright-Patt to conduct a week-long observing trip and astronomy course under the dark skies of Utah and New Mexico. The WAS website’s address: http://www4.wittenberg.edu/student_organization/s/astronomy_club/index.html

Five Physics Majors Graduate

Speaking of “banner” years, the class of 2009 can boast of five physics majors who have joined your ranks, and you should be proud of them! This is the first year (in my memory?!?) in which the number of women (3) outnumbered the men (2). Indeed, all of the women graduated with honors.

Phyo Aung is now in the second year of his 3/2 engineering program at Ohio State in mechanical engineering.

Rebecca Cooper graduated Magna Cum Laude and did her senior honors thesis on nanosecond timing under the guidance of Drs. George and Voytas. She will attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison to study electrical engineering.

Yasas Dhanapala’s senior project studied Buck Creek river flow to determine the effect of removing the low-head dams to permit greater recreational use of the creek. He worked with Dr. George and Dr. Ritter from the Geology Dept. He will attend the University of Dayton where he will study renewable and clean energy.

Erin Kapp (a double major in English) graduated Summa Cum Laude and did her senior project with Dr. Fleisch, calibrating the radio telescope. She will attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison in English with an eye toward scientific writing.

Erica Snipes graduated Cum Laude, and did her senior honors thesis on the temperature of the dust in a dusty plasma under the guidance of Dr. Williams. She will pursue a Ph.D. in physics at Auburn University.

Certainly this is a class to be proud of, and we remember you all with great pleasure.

Physics Alums Respond!!

Last spring we asked you to let us know how you were doing and did you ever!! We enjoyed hearing from you so very much. Thank-you!! Please keep those cards and letters (a.k.a. emails) coming. I will briefly summarize what you shared with me below. If you would like me to share more, please let me know.

Dr. Karen Keppler Albert ('85): Karen is currently a Marie Heim-Voegtlin fellow in the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland.

Gary Bergstrom ('83): Gary did an MSEE at OSU and now lives in Cleveland. He has fond memories of Weaver Observatory and is pleased to hear that it continues to be upgraded and used by so many.

Ron Bixel ('85): Ron's daughter is a junior at Witt and plans to spend the fall in Paris.

Tony Buschur ('99): Tony is a Certified Energy Manager working for an energy services company in Pittsburgh. He does a little bit of everything including energy audits, engineering, commissioning, and measurement and verification. (A great example of the versatility of a major in physics.)

David Caine ('96): David has been teaching AP Physics and Physics at Huron High school in Ann Arbor, MI. for the last eight years. (My how time flies!) He often recalls the individualized attention he received at Witt, and those who provided it.

Scott Carlson ('85): Scott lives in Natick, MA, and is currently teaching physics at Winchester H.S. in Winchester. In addition, he is also teaching intro physics at Northeastern University. He expects that more and more teaching will be done on line. (I, too, see this trend, and wonder how you do physics labs on line.)

Jerry Drumheller ('70): Jerry is now at the Cornell NanoScale facility, and is interested in the drive mechanism of the Foucault pendulum. (I believe it has been modified and needs to be modified again.)

Nate Greene ('04): Nate was out of the office. (The wonders of automatic replies!)

Tom Herhily ('85): Tom has used his Wittenberg physics degree in a variety of ways. Currently he is President of RT Solutions, LLC, a producer of "Worm Power Products."

Dr. Jon Higbie ('87): Jon entered the graduate program in the business school at the University of Georgia where he received his PhD. in Management Science. He currently serves as The Sr. Vice President and Chief Scientist for Revenue Analytics.

Dr. Julia Kregnew ('01): Julia had more questions for me than updates on her situation. However, she is looking forward to more newsletters.

David Kunde ('81): Dave, too, has put his physics degree to good use, first in the railroad industry and now in telecommunications where he currently is the Senior Vice-President and General Manager of ILEC Operations (local phone business) for Integra Telecom. He lives with his family in Burnsville, MN.

Dr. Terry McDaniel ('68): Terry has worked as a physicist in the data storage industry since 1978 in the development of magnetic and optical recording components and systems. He is currently at Seagate Technology where he focuses on recording physics issues in media development, heat-assisted magnetic recording, and other future data storage technologies, with an emphasis on computer modeling and simulation.

Physics Alums Respond!! (Continued)

Dr. Scott (Bart) Michel ('87): As reported in the previous issue, "Scooter" completed his PhD from UCLA and is now gainfully employed at the Aerospace Corporation where he is busy giving seminars, workshops, etc.

Jon Morris ('02): Jon is teaching High School Physics, coaching soccer, baseball, and running the Legion Baseball team in Chelmsford MA. When we last heard from Jon, he and his wife were expecting twins.

Bob Neifert ('84): Bob lives in Hudson, Ohio with his wife and two children. He has worked at Lifeclinic International since 2006 where he can apply his Biomedical Engineering skills to the development of their health stations. (Where has the time gone, Bob, since you graduated from Witt?)

David Orr ('52): David received our first newsletter, and is interested in receiving additional ones.

Kate (Opderbecke) Snider ('93): Kate completed her masters in Science Education from George Washington U in 1996, and is currently teaching Physics at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. She has 2 beautiful daughters, and loves living in the northeast.

Phil Stahl ('79): Phil wrote us a long letter suggesting that we prepare a directory or booklet of Profession & Personal Biographies of Physics (Majors/Minors) Alumni. (A great idea! More concerning this below.) Phil's son, Mark, is a senior physics major at Witt.

Jim Weygandt ('72): Since leaving Witt, Jim earned a BSEE and a MSEE (from Akron & Syracuse respectively), and is now with Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems in Baltimore. He is doing some very fascinating work in electro-optics.

Lionel Worman ('97): Lionel is the Physics Department's favorite "computer geek" on campus. For those of you interested in astronomy, he suggests the new free World Wide Telescope program from Microsoft Research (<http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/>).

Joe York ('05): Joe has finished his physics course work at Georgetown U and passed his comps. He is doing his research at Wright Patterson AFB in synthetic aperture laser radar.

Again, thank-you very much for your many responses. You have shared much more information about yourselves than I could possibly include in a single newsletter. If you would like to correspond directly with an individual, please let me know, and I can ask that person to email you directly.

As mentioned above, Phil Stahl has suggested we gather information for a database of our physics graduates to assist communication among our grads and to provide assistance to our current majors and minors. This could be very useful, but there are some logistical problems (confidentiality for one). **What do you think? Would you be willing to participate? Do you have any suggestions?**

Alumni updates

Please continue to send us updates on yourself—what you're doing, where you are, etc. Let us know if you would like it compiled on the Alumni section of the physics Web page! Email us at: phys_mail@wittenberg.edu or directly to me, wdollhopf@wittenberg.edu.

All the best to all of you!!