

Witt Physics

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

Departmental statistics:

- Current number of senior physics majors: 2.
- Current number of junior physics majors: 6.
- Average number of physics majors: 5.5/year.

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New(sletter) Traditions

In an effort to keep all alumni and other interested parties up-to-date regarding the goings-on in the physics department, we have decided to try sending out an annual newsletter. Not only do we hope to keep alumni informed of the developments in the physics department, we hope that this will encourage alumni to stay in contact with us. Please also visit the departmental web site at <http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/phys/>. We've added an alumni section and we hope to have a "where are they now" type of section soon. Please let us know what you think and update us on how you are doing (and whether you want to be on the Physics Department alumni page). We wish you all a prosperous year!

Faculty Notes....

We are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Jeremiah Williams to the Wittenberg Physics Department. Dr. Williams brings 3 years teaching experience from Illinois Wesleyan and most recently completed his PhD. at Auburn University in the field of complex or dusty plasmas.

Dr. Fleisch was on sabbatical in the fall of 2005 working on...., and now has authored a book on—you guessed it—Maxwell's equations.

Dr. Dollhopf has entered a phased retirement contract and was in Maine this fall. He will teach the spring semester.

Dr. George is currently Department Chair and she and Dr. Voytas spent the spring and summer of the last two years on a split sabbatical in Madison, WI working on an experiment to test the Standard Model of Particle Physics in the beta decay of ^{14}O . There has been lots of fixing equipment at Wisconsin and lots of data taken! Working with a sophomore physics major at Witt, there's been lots of computer modeling and data analysis using the new parallel computing cluster at Witt A paper is in the works...stay tuned.

As many of you are no doubt aware, Prof. Frasca (a.k.a. the Ogre) has officially retired from the "active" faculty at Wittenberg. Those of you who know him well will not be surprised to know that he is still quite active—his latest project was building a new house on Kelly's Island!

HELP!

What's Good For You?

We need some feedback (to design a stable system). Would you please help by responding to a few questions?

- 1) How did you receive this letter?
- 2) How would you prefer to receive this letter? Email, Snail Mail, Physics Department Web site, Other?
- 3) What should we include that you would find most interesting?

To respond, please email me at wdollhopf@wittenberg.edu. Or, you can call or send a note if you prefer.

SPS News:

The society of physics students has been particularly active this year. Projects include: a K'nex roller coaster in our new display case, rebuilding antennas for Dr. Fleisch's interferometric radio telescope, working on upgrading the drive circuit for the Foucault pendulum and sprucing up the area around the Foucault. In addition to repainting the pendulum bob, they have placed mirrors to make the pendulum more easily visible to casual passersby. An artwork design for the walls around the pendulum was developed by Nate Green ('04). And, most importantly, we were awarded the SPS Outstanding Chapter for 2006-07. See the SPS website for more details: <http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/phys/sps/>

Annual Physics Picnic!

We had a pretty good turn out and really good weather for the annual (Fall 2007) physics picnic!



WAS News:

The Wittenberg Astronomical Society (a.k.a. Astronomy Club) continues to draw great crowds from all walks. Regular observing sessions are held during the semester and several field trips to planetaria all over are in the works. For more info see the WAS website: http://www4.wittenberg.edu/student_organizations/astronomy_club/index.html

Alumni Requests:

Alumni Careers Day

Are you ever on campus for Homecoming? Would you like an excuse to be? If so, consider participating in Alumni Careers Day! Contact any of the faculty about this or any time you might be in the neighborhood...

This year two of you returned to the "scene of the crime". [Ryan Hathaway](#) continues to do computer support work, but has moved on from "Big Blue" to "bigger" and better things.

[Scott \(Bart\) Michel](#) completed his PhD from UCLA and is now gainfully employed at the Aerospace Corporation where he is a Section Manager in the Computer Systems Research Department. CONGRATULATIONS!

Alumni updates

Please send us an update 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: mailto:phys_mail@wittenberg.edu

Wittenberg Chapter of Physics Honor Society

Several physics majors were honored at the inaugural induction ceremony of the newly established chapter of the national physics honor society, Sigma Pi Sigma.

Wittenberg has become the 457th chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma. The society was established in 1921 at Davidson College to recognize and support outstanding work by physics students.

Inductees for 2004 were: Landon Locke ('04), Laura Kinnaman ('05), Jenifer Warner ('04), Michelle Maxson ('05), Liesebet Gravley ('04), and Joe York ('05). (Honorary Faculty Member: Dr. Elizabeth George).

Inductees for 2005 were: Jeff Klukas ('06), Kat Volk ('06), Karl Schmitt ('06), Carissa Reynolds ('07), Alex Brown ('07).

Inductees for 2006 were: Joseph Fritchman ('08), Steven Wolgast ('08), Shyam Guthikonda ('06), Adam Majot ('06), Amanda Hicks ('06).

Inductees for 2007 were: Phyo Aung ('09), Rebecca Cooper ('09), and Erica Snipes ('09).

For 2008: Jason Barkeloo, James Duff, Erin Kapp, Louise Niu, Timothy Uher, and Aaron Dugger

Faculty advisor to Sigma Pi Sigma is Dr. Voytas.

For more information on Sigma Pi Sigma, see links at <http://www.aip.org/education/sps/about.htm>