

AAPT

Ontario Section Report

Conference

The spectacularly successful Annual Conference was held this year at the Perimeter Institute, Waterloo, where two and a half days at the end of May were spent exploring two themes: “Innovative Teaching Strategies for Modern Physics” and “Authentic Inquiry”. Thanks to the support of the Perimeter Institute, we were able to invite a stellar group of speakers. Paula Heron from the Physics Education Group at the University of Washington spoke on *Improving student learning in physics: The challenge of identifying effective instructional strategies*. Gary Williams from the Institute of Physics gave us a *British Perspective on Professional Development for Physics Teachers*. Howard Burton, Executive Director of the Perimeter Institute, gave a fascinating talk on the history of the Perimeter Institute; Cliff Burgess explained as only a master practitioner can *The Theory Formerly Known as String Theory: At Last a Quantum Theory of Gravity?* in a way that an informed but non-specialist audience can understand. Mike Mosca introduced us to the new field of Quantum computing. Pedro Goldman described his breakthroughs in the Fast Optimization of the Radiation Therapy of Tumours, work that is attracting a great deal of commercial interest. The Photo Contest, sponsored by AL Hirsch and Coordinated by Diana Hall had more entries this year, and is growing to become an important annual event. We all owe a huge vote of thanks to Damian Pope, Outreach Officer at the Perimeter Institute, for working so hard to make this conference a success. The proceedings of the conference can be found at the new web site of the Section, which is also known as the Ontario Association of Physics Teachers. <http://www.oapt.ca/>

High School Physics Examination

We celebrate the retirement of the team that has run the Grade 11 High School Physics Examination, written by 2473 students from Ontario and beyond. Rolly Meisel, Vida Ghaem-Maghani and Terry Price have run this program for many years, and we thank them for making sure that this examination is of the highest quality. A new team has come forward, so we know that the competition will continue to be an important event in the Province.

Life Member

We welcome a new Honorary Life Member, John Pitre, on the occasion of his retirement from Department of Physics at the University of Toronto. John has contributed immensely to the life of the Association for many years. The Executive will continue to benefit from his wise council, and he, together with his wife Jeanette, will continue to host the Fall Meeting. The food is fabulous - we can't wait!

Ministry of Education

The Association has been granted status by the Ministry of Education, thus allowing us to formally give our opinion on proposed changes. Past President Jim Ross was invited to join the curriculum writing team for the grades 11 and 12 science curriculum.

Executive

A new Executive has been elected: President: Paul Passafiume; Vice President James Ball; Past President: Jim Ross; Treasurer: Sean Addis; Member at Large: John Pitre; Section Representative: Patrick Whippey.