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# Meet the Current AAPT-CPS Executive Officers

## High School Representative



**David McCachren**

## Two-Year College Representative



**Gregory Dolise**

## 56th Annual Conference Report

The 56th Annual Conference of American Association of Physics Teachers, Central Pennsylvania Section (AAPT-CPS) was held on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2008 at Lock Haven University, Pennsylvania. Dr. John Reid, from Lock Haven University, was responsible for organizing the conference.

There was an all day workshop on Friday run by the Physics Teachers Resource Agents (PTRA) for physics teachers. The workshop taught people how to use a software program called Vernier Logger Pro, which allows students to understand physics principles by analyzing digital movies. Dave McCachren of Indian Valley High School in Lewiston conducted the workshop.

The poster session was held Friday afternoon. At the same time as the poster session, several vendors had displays set up and were available to talk to the conference attendees. The vendors included publishers Pearson, Prentice Hall, John Wiley & Sons, and McGraw-Hill and equipment vendors CPO Science, and PASCO.

From 6:00-7:30pm, there was a reception and banquet dinner in Lock Haven University's Bentley Dining Hall. After the banquet dinner there was a public keynote address in Ulmer Planetarium on nanotechnology by Dr. Stephen Fonash from Penn State University. In his address Dr. Fonash talked about how nanotechnology is revolutionizing a wide variety of areas including engineering, computer technology and medicine.

The General Meeting of the AAPT-CPS was held Saturday morning. The president of AAPT-CPS, Dr. Abul Hasan

conducted the meeting. Dr. Keith Miller, the president of Lock Haven University, gave a welcoming address where he stressed the importance of such organizations as AAPT-CPS, in fostering collaborative efforts between high schools and colleges to strengthen science education.

Dr. Hasan gave a Service Recognition Award to Past President Professor Dave Richards from Penn College in Williamsport for his many contributions to AAPT-CPS over the years. Dr. Michael Cullin from LHU presented two awards. An Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award went to Lawrence Flint who teaches at Williamsport Area High School. An award for outstanding work by a high school student was given to Andrew Strickler, a student of Lawrence Flint's at Williamsport Area School. The general meeting ended with election of the executive officers of AAPT-CPS. Dr. John Reid of Lock Haven University was elected President. Dr. Michael Doncheski from Penn State Mont Alto was elected Vice President, and Karl Trout of Penn State York was elected Secretary.

The General Meeting was followed by morning and afternoon plenary sessions with an hour and a half lunch break. There were 14 oral presentations, each of twenty minutes duration on a variety of topics and these were very well attended. Participants had the option to go on a campus tour during the lunch break. The conference ended with award of certificates to student presenters. Door prizes were also handed out. The prizes were supplied by the vendors and included the complete hardbound edition of the Feynman Lectures on Physics (supplied by Pearson), and a PASCO interface box. Many other books were also offered as door prizes.

## PTRA Workshop—March 27, 2009

### Moving Physics Education Research into the Classroom

The PTRA workshop this spring will be a sharing of methods and ideas for physics or physical science teachers of all experience levels. There has been and continues to be investigations into how students learn and particularly into how students learn Physics. This PTRA workshop will share some of the findings of this Physics Education Research as well as how to incorporate these findings into your classroom. Different methods and best practices will be demonstrated and discussed. Topics discussed will be: order for teaching Newton's Laws, using displacement and velocity graphs to solve uniformly accelerated motion problems, cooperative learning, discovery experiments, physics practicum, and an introduction to video analysis (taking and analyzing movies).

Physics is much more than a body of knowledge. It embodies habits of thought, philosophical attitudes, broad concepts, and basic skills that can be developed slowly all year and can last a lifetime. Please bring to the workshop a "best" practice that you have found to be effective that you would be willing to share with the other participants. These exchanges of ideas are valuable to all of us as we practice the art of teaching physics.



## AAPT-CPS

*From the AAPT-CPS Constitution...*

The objectives of the Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT-CPS) are to:

- advance the teaching of physics in the colleges and universities of Central Pennsylvania and environs,
- promote a professional spirit and acquaintanceship among the members of the Section, and
- encourage instruction in physics in the secondary schools of the region served by the Section.

## 2009 Year of Science



The **Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS)** and participants in the US based COPUS Network as well as colleagues from around the world are celebrating 2009 as the Year of Science, a national year-long celebration of science to engage the public in science and improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are.

*Newsletter compiled by Abul Hasan. Please direct all comments and submissions to [aqh@psu.edu](mailto:aqh@psu.edu)*