



PHYSICS DEPARTMENT NEWS SPRING 2004

Greetings! It has been four years since our last newsletter, and a number of things have changed. Here's a brief tour:

Faculty

- Hugo Tscharnack retired in January 2002 after 36 and a half years of service to the department! Shortly thereafter he married Karolyn Alexander, and they currently live in Whitewater. Academic staff member Periasamy Ramalingam replaced Hugo during the spring 2002 and then moved on to teach at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. John Frandy filled in for the 2002-2003 academic year before taking a position at Waukesha County Technical College. After Dr. Frandy left the position was cancelled by UW-Whitewater administration.
- Frank Stekel retired in spring 2001 after 36 years of service to the department! He is enjoying his retirement with his wife Shirley on their hobby farm in Fort Atkinson, WI. After his retirement the UW-Whitewater administration cancelled his position.
- In spring 2000 Shirley Stekel retired after 36 years of service to the department! The search to replace her failed, however, and she agreed to return as academic staff for the 2000-2001 academic year. In fall 2001 we successfully hired Steven Sahyun, an expert in physics education, to replace Shirley. Shirley lives with her husband Frank in Fort Atkinson, WI. Steve lives with his family in Whitewater.
- In fall 1998 Jeff Rufinus replaced Elizabeth George, who resigned to follow her husband to Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH. Jeff resigned in Spring 2000 to take a faculty position at Widener University in Chester, PA, and after he left the position was cancelled by UW-Whitewater administration.
- Russ Helwig retired in spring 1998 after 33 and a half years of service to the department! He was replaced by Juliana Constantinescu, who continues to teach astronomy and engineering mechanics. Russ enjoys retirement with his wife in Whitewater, and Juliana lives with her family in Elkhorn, WI. In fall 1999 Juliana was asked to take over the astronomy courses previously taught by Neil Stone, and Kimberly Hill-Malvick came to the department to replace Russ Helwig. Kimberly resigned in spring 2001 to follow her husband to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she now teaches engineering mechanics. Steve Watchorn served as Kimberly's replacement for one year before resigning in spring 2002 to take a research position at Scientific Solutions, Inc. in North Chelmsford, MA. Eugene Stepanov then taught for one year before taking a position at the University of Central Florida. Finally, in fall 2003 we welcomed Robert Benjamin as a tenure-track member of our department. Bob has obtained funding for half of his time in observational astronomy research, so we hired Sudip Dasgupta as a half time academic staff member to cover the remaining courses.



The Society of Physics Students



**UW-Whitewater
Chapter**



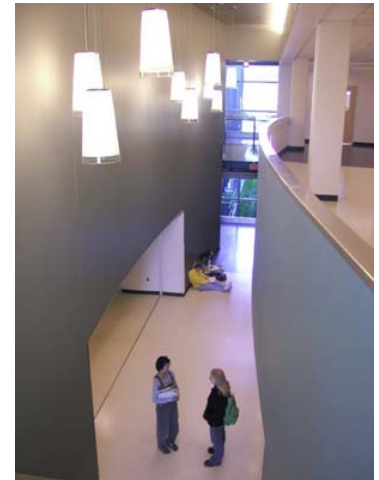
10 Outstanding Chapter Awards 1990-2001

- In spring 1999 Neil Stone retired after 32 years of service to the department! In fall 1999 Juliana Constantinescu was reassigned to take over his astronomy courses, which she still teaches to this day. Sadly, Neil passed away on March 28, 2002. His dedication to students and cheerful demeanor is greatly missed.
- Paul Rybski continues to teach astronomy and physics courses as he has since 1987. He lives with his wife in Whitewater.
- After serving the department for 9 years, Ken Menningen resigned this spring to take a faculty position at his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, beginning Fall 2004. At the time of writing this newsletter the search for a replacement has not yet officially begun.

Upham Hall



Upham Hall is in the middle of an extensive, \$28.5 million renovation and expansion project. The new east wing of the building is now complete, and classes were taught in it beginning fall 2003. In summer 2004 work will begin in earnest to renovate the north half of the old part of the building, followed by the south half, with work scheduled for completion in 2006. The new version of the building features modernized classrooms and labs, an all-new lobby area with an atrium clear to the roof, rooms for each student club, common study areas, and a 400 ft² research laboratory for each faculty member. We look forward to a terrific new facility!



Alumni

Physics alumni from all over the United States have contacted us in recent months, and their stories are summarized below. If you're curious about a particular alumnus who is not listed, feel free to contact us and inquire about them. We'll find out what we can!

Russell Schulz (1956) taught Chemistry and Physics at Lake Mills High School in 1956/57. He decided to join the Navy in 1957 as a Naval Officer and Pilot and received his Wings of Gold in the fall of 1958. His naval career spanned 30 years. Assignments included living on the USS Kitty Hawk, and living in Alaska, Japan, the Philippines, Diego Garcia, Hawaii and ten major cities in the continental U.S. During his assignment in Washington D.C. he received his MA from Central Michigan University. In 1995 he joined the Freedoms Foundation as Executive Vice President. The Foundation focuses on educating Americans, particularly youth, about America and our heritage.

Robert Douglas (1960) after graduating from UW-Whitewater, he received his MS Degree in Physics from UW-Madison. He worked for 30 years in various roles in the industrial automation field before retiring in 1999, from Wright Technology Network, where he was the President of Advanced Assembly Automation. He worked as General Manager at Gilman Engineering and Manufacturing Co. and in various technical roles at Gilman and the Parker Pen Company, Vice

President of Marketing for the Materials Handling Division of Litton Industrial Automation and as President of the Engineered Systems Division of Litton. He has also been a frequent speaker and seminar leader on factory automation for universities and industry.

Warren Hein (1966) received a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from Iowa State University in 1970. He then took a teaching position in a 2-person department at Northern State College (now University) in Aberdeen, SD, and stayed there until 1979 when he moved to South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. He became department head there in 1984 and continued in that position until he left to become Associate Executive Officer at the American Association of Physics Teachers in February of 1997. One highlight of his time at SDSU was being selected for the first Outstanding SPS Chapter Advisor Award in 1985.

Daniel Spohn (1968) attended George Washington University 1969-73 to work on graduate studies in Physics. He then worked in various roles for the Defense Intelligence Agency from 1986-2000. He was the Branch Chief managing a staff of scientists and engineers engaged in assessing the vulnerability of targets to nuclear and conventional weapons. He was also a staff physicist conducting research into the electromagnetic affects of high altitude nuclear detonations. He is currently working as an instructor with Munson Enterprises, Inc. teaching seminars designed to provide a broad perspective on the intelligence community to executives and professionals.

Richard Dvorak (1972) started his own business, Dvorak's Resort (www.dvoraksresort.com) and continues to live there in Pelican Lake, WI with his wife Lea.

Patrick Slane (1977) attended UW Milwaukee to get a M.S. in Mathematics (1983) and then UW-Madison for Ph.D. in Physics (1988). He is now an exceedingly accomplished astrophysicist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Harvard. He is widely published and has received numerous awards for outstanding accomplishments. His travel schedule on the Harvard website shows him speaking at conferences and seminars all over the world. See hea-www.harvard.edu/~slane/

Cheryl Kaiser (1980) teaches high school physics and Advanced Placement Physics at Arrowhead High School in Hartland, WI for the past 13 years. She has been the head of the science department (19 staff members) for the last 8 years.

Brian McLean (1981) joined the Navy after graduation and taught at Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida as a Navy Lieutenant from 1981 to 1987. He obtained a M.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Central Florida in 1987. After leaving the Navy in 1987, he worked as an engineer for American Electric Power in Columbus, Ohio before finding a job at Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant in 1991. He remains a system engineer there, taking care of fire protection, instrument air, service air, and various gas systems.

Eric Schramm (1988) taught Math and Physics in the Virgin Islands in 1990 and managed to survive Hurricane Hugo. In 1992 he taught Physics and Math at Edgewood High School, Madison and in 1994 worked as a Lab Technician for the Physics Dept. at MATC. In 1997, he co-founded Two Bicycles and a Map, Ltd. with his wife to organize the Bike Northwoods Tour, French Loire Bike Tour and Provence Bike Tour. He would like to invite all past and present physics majors to join them – www.bikenorthwoods.com and www.twobicycles.com.

James Marshall (1990) and received his MS in Teacher Leadership from Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, WI in 2001. He currently teaches Physics, Advanced Placement Physics and AP Calculus at Portage High School. He serves as co-department head of the science department and is a member of the faculty council. He coached two Destination Imagination teams to state finals in 2002-03. He has helped the physics program grow from 18 students in 1993 to 125 students, currently.

Doug Brown (1994) started work in 1995 for SoftMart in Madison, WI doing technical support for Microsoft Operating Systems. Transferred to American Family Insurance in 1997 to provide computer technical support. Later went to Sitel Corp in Madison, supporting online trading software, and was hired by UW-Whitewater in May of 1999. He is currently working as Information Systems Support Specialist Senior.

Scot Henning (1992) worked for four years for FEDCO Electronics, Inc. a laptop computer battery manufacturer/distributor in Fond du Lac, WI. He worked as Electronics Tech., Test Engineer and Quality Manager before accepting another position in 1998 as Quality Engineer with PLEXUS Corp. in Neenah, WI where he currently works. The next time you get an X-RAY, CAT Scan or Angiography done, if the name on the machine is "SIEMENS", his team probably built the circuit boards for the imaging platforms.

Chris Morgensen (1996) and received his MS from the University of Minnesota at Mankato in 1998. He works as a Project Quality Engineer at TRW Automotive Electronics in Rushford, MN. In December 2003, he received certification as a Quality Engineer from the American Society of Quality. He spends his spare time restoring his 1970 Firebird.

Chad Hineman (1997) started teaching high school science in Pardeeville, WI after graduation. He teaches Physics, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry and Physical Science. He also serves as faculty advisor for the National Honor Society.

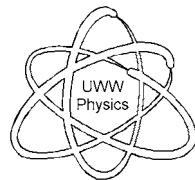
Mark Welter (1997) and received his MS from Eastern Illinois University in 2002. He has taught physics for the past seven years at Prospect High School in Prospect, IL. Physics is going strong with a total of 13 classes taught by 2 full time and 1 part time teachers. A very popular program is offered three times a year where parents are taught different topics in reflection, refraction, mechanics, energy, sound and music. It is so popular that a lottery is used to determine what parents can participate.

Ted Zanto (2001) is currently halfway through graduate school at Florida Atlantic University in the Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences. The 5-year Ph.D. program is funded by the National Institute for Mental Health (meaning he has a free ride!). The program there tries to understand the principles and mechanisms underlying complex behavior on all levels, from molecules and cells to whole brain functioning and even brains (people) working together. For more info check out www.ccs.fau.edu.

Mathew Benson (2002) obtained a B.S. in both Physics and Management Computer Systems and shortly thereafter found a job as an embedded software engineer at Boeing, working on the International Space Station in Houston, TX. See www.mathewbenson.com

Any More Questions?

If you'd like to know more about the courses we're teaching, the current faculty, the facilities, the SPS chapter, the new 3-2 engineering program with UW-Milwaukee (students can earn two degrees in five years!), the new Advisory Council (an external board of alumni and local business representatives. If you're interested in participating, drop us a line!), the renovation project, and the current semester's special events, see our website at:



academics.uww.edu/physics

Best wishes,

Ken Menningen
Associate Professor and Chair