



# American Association of Physics Teachers

## AAPT Ontario Section

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. VII No. 2

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Annual Conference will take place at the University of Guelph on June 13 and 14, 1986 so mark your calendars now. The Physics Department of the University will be our hosts and will be assisting with the organization of many sessions.

Although many sessions are still in the planning stages, we can give you some highlights.

\*\*\*\*\* On the day prior to the conference (i.e. June 12, Ernie McFarland will lead a workshop on the teaching of relativity. This workshop is expected to take most of the afternoon.

\*\*\*\*\* A keynote speaker is Dr. Gregg Herken from the University of California. Dr. Herken is an historian with special interests in the role that physicists have played in determining arms policy, from the likes of Oppenheimer and Teller to those involved (mainly as critics) with the Strategic Defense Initiative.

\*\*\*\*\* A second keynote speaker will be Dr. Gabriel Karl from the University of Guelph, a member of the Royal Society of Canada and one of Canada's leading theorists in the area of elementary particles.

\*\*\*\*\* There will be a session on "Your Favorite Demonstration", so shine up that new experiment you've been using and bring it along. Physics Department technicians will provide assistance and storage locations for your equipment.

\*\*\*\*\* Many other sessions and tours are being arranged.

\*\*\*\*\* SEE YOU THERE! \*\*\*\*\*

#### From The Editor...

If anyone out there has any short physics items of interest be they serious or funny, and feel they would make a worthwhile addition to the newsletter, please send them to:

A. McEachern,  
c/o M. M. Robinson H. S.,  
2425 Uppermiddle Road,  
Burlington, Ontario.  
L7P 3N9

1986 AAPT-ONTARIO GRADE 11 PHYSICS CONTEST

Don Murphy, our contest co-ordinator is busy putting together this years contest, despite being incapacitated with a broken hip (Don temporarily forgot some of the physics of low friction ice surfaces, falling objects, and the compressive strength limits of bones).

We had received some concerns from members concerning the expense of class sets of tests. After reviewing the cash flow from this part of AAPT's operations, we feel that the best we can do at this time is:

First 20 papers	\$1.00 each
All others	\$0.50 each

Beyond this the revenue might not cover our printing, mailing prizes, computer processing, etc. We will review the situation again after this years contest.

Don will be mailing out contest request forms in early March. If you have not received yours by late March, contact Don at Sydenham High School, Sydenham, Ontario KOH 2T0.

NOTE - As a convenience, Don includes a membership form; please note that this is for the 1986/87 membership year.

Executive Profile

Grace Daminato - Member-at-Large

Grace wanted to be Nobel Prizewinner in physics but marriage during her undergraduate tenure followed by the birth of twins during her Master's Degree studies indicated a more practical career direction.

So Grace went to Teachers' College, obtained a high school teaching position in Sarnia...and was promptly laid off!

Her present position at Lambton College came through answering an ad in the paper.

Grace views the Community College Physics course as a "practical OAC" in which the content must support the various programs offered at the college. Many Lambton College graduates find employment in the "Chemical Valley" of Sarnia.

Grace's goal as a physics instructor is to "present physics to everyone, and make it interesting to all". As the AAPT-Ontario Executive's Member-at-Large, she represents the Community College Physics Teachers and is responsible for increasing their membership and involvement with AAPT-Ontario.

The beginning of a new year is a time for looking forward and so it is time to bring to the memberships attention the vacancies on next years executive:

1. Vice-President - Although the Vice-President serves a one-year term, it is our tradition that the Vice-President moves on to the position of President and then Past President, so that a three year commitment is involved.

This newsletter is not the place for detailed job descriptions, but in essence it is the role of the vice-president to serve as "head honcho" of the June meeting and that of the president to prepare the quarterly newsletter. The past president's chief function is to provide sage advice to those that he or she feels are in need of it.

I may say from personal experience that both these positions are interesting and fulfilling, and that the size and informality of the organization keeps red tape and paperwork to a minimum.

2. Member-at-Large - This position, with a one-year term, is open to any section member teaching at a community college. The role of the member-at-large is to bring the concerns of community college physics teachers to the Section Executive and membership and to encourage the involvement of community college physics teachers in the Section.

The strength of an organization such as ours depends upon people being willing to step forward to take on positions such as these. If you would like to know more about either of these positions and/or volunteer to serve in either capacity please call me at

416-335-5588 (school)  
or 416-634-8256 (home)

or write me at: 3027 Balmoral Avenue,  
Burlington, Ontario. L7N 1E3

Applications (written or verbal) should be received by March 15, so that, should a ballot be necessary, it may be included in the next newsletter, to be published at the end of March.

Dave McKay

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thanks to the fifty of you who renewed your membership in response to our last newsletter. If I received your renewal by December 31st, your mailing label has been updated, if it came after that the update will be done for the next issue.

For those who have not gotten around to renewing this is your last call for 85/86 renewals. Our next letter will contain full details of the June meeting at Guelph, an article on unified field theory and other delights.

For \$5.00 why not "stay in the pipeline"? If you have renewed why not pass this letter and membership form on to another physics teacher?

INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON PHYSICS EDUCATION

Occasionally some of us are fortunate enough to be able to attend a National AAPT Winter or Summer meeting, if its not too far away. But here's a chance to go "one step beyond" - by attending an Inter-American Conference on Physics Education in Mexico in July of 1987.

Preliminary plans call for an emphasis on developing cooperative arrangements in physics education among the countries of the Americas. Topics will include applying educational research in physics, the role of the physics textbook, low-cost physics experiments, etc.

Dr. Larkin Kerwin, head of the NRC is a member of the steering committee for this conference. I have written him to see if there is any role AAPT-Ontario, as a leading physics educational organization, can play in this conference.

Further information in succeeding newsletters - meanwhile think about how you can persuade your Board to sponsor you to Mexico in 1987!

MINI COURSE(S) FOR PHYSICS TEACHERS

At the June meeting some interest was expressed in the organization of short duration, single topic courses for the updating of physics teachers, and the role that AAPT-Ontario might play in organizing these.

Arrangements have been made through Ross Hallett, our vice-president, to offer a "pilot project" course at the University of Guelph if a suitable time and topic can be found. To do this we need your help. If you are at all interested in taking a five-day updating course, please complete the attached form and return it to me by March 15th. The form is not a binding commitment, but is rather an expression of sincere interest in one or more topics or times. It is not our intent to limit this to Section members, so feel free to share the form with other physics teachers.

Based on the response we will make a formal offering of one or more mini courses through the next Newsletter.

## Suppliers take note

This news letter goes to perhaps the BEST 500 physics teachers in Ontario. For a cost of only \$10.00 we will include a small calling card size advertisement in our news letter. We appreciate your interest in physics teaching and want to maintain a good working relationship with you.

MINI-COURSE INTEREST SURVEY

This survey is to gauge interest by physics teachers in a one-week, single topic course to be offered at the University of Guelph. The course would not be a "credit course". Course fee would include tuition, materials, residence accommodation and meals.

If indicating an interest in more than one time or topic, please prioritize as 1st, 2nd, etc.

Your name and address have been requested so all survey respondents may be contacted directly.

Return this form to: Dave McKay  
3027 Balmoral Avenue  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7N 1E3  
by March 15, 1986.

DATES:

LAST WEEK OF JUNE \_\_\_\_\_  
1ST WEEK OF JULY \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST WEEK OF AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_  
2ND LAST WEEK OF AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS:

RELATIVITY \_\_\_\_\_  
OPTICS, ESP, LASERS \_\_\_\_\_  
SMALL PARTICLE PHYSICS \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOPHYSICS \_\_\_\_\_  
QUANTUM PHYSICS \_\_\_\_\_  
ELECTRONICS \_\_\_\_\_  
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES \_\_\_\_\_

Please place name and address on lower form. Thank you!

Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Other

The membership fee for one year is \$5.00!

Please send this completed form and a cheque or money order for \$5.00 payable to AAPT - Ontario to:

Mr. D. McKay  
President, AAPT - Ontario,  
3027 Balmoral Ave.,  
Burlington, Ontario.  
L7N 1E3