ASU Physics Celebrates Undergraduate Research

ASU Physics hosted its 9th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium April 13th, 2012 with Dr. Peter Rez acting as the master of ceremonies. The symposium was designed to bring together physics students of all academic levels to share and practice presenting their research projects. Allowing peers to share their experiences in a relaxed, low-pressure environment helps build confidence and improve showmanship.

This year’s symposium welcomed diverse topics including: Jet-Induced Star Formation (Senior Devon Powell), Gas Dynamic Virtual Nozzle (Graduate Garrett Nelson), Diamond Electrode Thermionic Energy Converters (Senior Matthew Brown), Photon-Enhanced Electrochemical Deposition (Junior Jessie McNew), Effective Dose from Airport Body Scanners (Senior Eric Fried), Optical Characterization of Silver (Senior Michael Christiansen), and Combining Visco-Elastic Colloids and Blood Proteins (Senior Ashlee Murphy).

ASU Physics thanks all participants, faculty & staff who made this year’s event a success. Congratulations to Devon Powell on winning The Rick and John Jacob Award for Undergraduate Research!

For questions or a copy of abstracts, please contact the ASU Physics undergraduate program coordinator at Adam.Farni@asu.edu.
A Successful Year

ASU Physics has wonderful students, faculty, and staff and they contribute to the study of physics in many ways. The ASU Physics Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony is an occasion which celebrates the success and achievements of the past academic year. During this ceremony, we recognize our scholarship and award recipients, graduating seniors and Master’s students, and hood our Doctoral students. We are thankful to the ASU Physics community for their dedication to excellence.

A special thank you to ASU Physics alumni William Motil, this year’s Guest of Honor, for delivering the keynote address to our graduating students. He reflected on the value of understanding physics and his degree in physics from ASU. Bill made it clear that his understanding of physics was instrumental in each of his positions he had in his career. Bill’s reflections showed his unique physics character, and each of our current students share the same enthusiasm for our field. We thank Bill for his support of a new endowed scholarship. It will impact our students in the years ahead.

Chair’s Note

Congratulations on Accomplishments at All Levels

As the academic year comes to a close, it is a pleasure to see the many contributions of our students and faculty. The ASU Commencement and CLAS Convocation recognized each student in all of our undergraduate and graduate programs. It seemed like every week or two this year we received an announcement that another graduate student was completing their PhD final defense. There is tremendous appreciation for the accomplishments of our students and the growth in their confidence and abilities. Besides their contributions to their field, all of these new PhD’s bring their energy, enthusiasm and creativity as they launch careers that will help advance our society in numerous ways.

Our undergraduate class was one of the largest in years, and the students beamed with their accomplishment of obtaining BS or BA degrees or a minor in physics. Their degrees attest that they understand the concepts of physics, and that they can solve some of the most challenging problems. Many will continue their studies in various graduate programs and others will begin to build careers and their problem solving skills will certainly be important.

Physics students are unique in many ways. They recognize the value of hard work in their studies and they appreciate creative ways to solve a problem. It is truly an honor to congratulate each of our graduating students and to wish them well in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Bob

Faculty Trivia

How well do you know your physics faculty? Try your hand at the trivia question below:

This professor accepted a job, immigrated to the United States, and married in the span of one week...

Click here to submit your guess and discover the answer.