

Society of Physics Students

General Meeting

Minutes

September 22, 2008

Call to order: 5:05 p.m.

Attendance: 14

Officers present: Laura Seward (President), Autumn Hallmark (Vice-President), Bob Baker (Secretary).

- Election of Treasurer
 - President Seward announced that two people had been recommended for the position of Treasurer. Two names were placed in nomination: Bob and Aaron. The President said that she was not sure if Aaron was interested in serving. The voting was conducted by secret ballot, and Laura announced that Aaron had been elected. The President will contact Aaron and see if he is willing to serve. If he is not, Bob will be considered to have been elected Treasurer.

- Vice-President report
 - Autumn is working on arranging a tour of the holography lab. Wednesday or Friday evenings are possibilities.
 - Possible visit to Aeroballistics on Redstone Arsenal (U.S. citizenship needed to enter Arsenal) may be scheduled on a Friday afternoon in October. An e-mail will advise members of the date and time.

- Treasurer report
 - No report. The Treasurer is ineligible to serve and a new Treasurer will have to take over.

- Social Committee Chair report.
 - Movie night was held on Friday, September 19th. Three people attended. These will be held every other Friday in the weeks when no meeting is held. People should let Kira know ahead of time if they want to watch a particular movie or DVD of a television

series or show. Kira suggested moving the start time to 6:00 instead of 6:30. The next movie will be held on Friday night, Oct. 3rd at 6 p.m.

- Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS) Astronomy Day: Saturday, Sept. 27
 - Arrangements were made for car-pooling to the event. Bob, Kira, and Brian volunteered to take people. Meeting in front parking lot at 5:30 or at the VBAS at 6 p.m.
- There will be a tour of AMRDEC (Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center) on Nov. 21st. (U.S. Citizenship needed to enter the facility.) Laura requests RSVPs by October 1st. Social Security Numbers can be given over the phone so that they do not have to be included in an e-mail.
- Sci-Quest: Dr. John Fix is arranging for College of Science students to have a free visit to Sc-Quest. They want to have a relationship with the University and its students. They would like our involvement.
- UAH open house: October 11th. We need volunteers to staff a table and speak to prospective Physics students. A free lunch will be provided by the University.
- Gamma-ray Burst Symposium: This will be held Oct. 20-23 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Huntsville. Volunteers needed. They can work around class schedules.
- Announcements:
 - Physics Department Colloquia – are held on Tuesdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., in the Seminar Room. Information is available at Physics.UAH.edu.
 - Goldwater Scholarships for sophomores and juniors: contact Jerry Mebane by Oct. 20th.
 - NASA International Year of Astronomy Student Ambassadors Program. Applications are due by Sept. 29th. The Physics Dept. website has a link to the applications.
- Guest speaker: Dr. Lingze Duan

Dr. Duan has studied and worked at several distinguished institutions. He spent three years doing research at Pennsylvania State University, two years doing research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and six years at the University of Maryland, where he was awarded his Ph.D. Dr. Duan joined the Physics Department at the University of Alabama in Huntsville during the past year. The research which Dr. Duan and others at UAH are conducting relates to fiber-based ultra-fast laser and frequency combs, and their application in atomic clocks. The advantages they seek are that their system may be compact and portable, low-cost, more reliable, and turn-key. It may permit Free-Space Frequency Standard Transmission. This could permit transfer of information over short distances, for example, from the Optics Building to the Material

Sciences Building, without wires. The professor invited all of the students to stop by his office and to possibly get involved in his research.

- Next Meeting: Monday, October 6, 5:00 PM.