Physics Newsletter No. 3       (December 2007)

This Newsletter is to keep the staff and students better informed of awards, staff changes, workshops and other events taking place in the School. The Newsletters will be produced regularly and will be posted on our webpage. Please send items to the email address newsletter@physics.usyd.edu.au and the information will be collated by Alex Viglienzone and Paul Harbon.

Staff Activities & Awards
Mentoring for the next ARC Discovery Grant round is underway. Please send a one page outline to Geraint Lewis (Chair Research Committee) by December 19, to be included in this valuable process which culminates with feedback from Don Melrose & Merrilee Robb.

Assoc. Prof Anne Green has recently been promoted to Level E – the School congratulates Anne on her achievement.

Science Foundation
The Science Foundation is currently organising the 2008 Science Teachers Workshop (scheduled for June 12th and 13th) and is seeking greater School involvement. If you are interested in assisting please contact Alex Viglienzone on ext: 66188 or at alexv@physics.usyd.edu.au.

Planning for the 2009 International Science School has also begun and the Foundation Executive Officer, Adam Selinger, would be pleased to encourage more involvement and feedback on the program from School staff. Please contact Adam on ext: 13622 or at adam@physics.usyd.edu.au if you are interested.

Outreach

School Holiday Primary activity
As part of our new Primary Outreach program there will be a primary Physics workshop in the school holidays. The workshop will be run by Marti Pels and is aimed at children aged 7 to 12 (so if you are looking for a holiday activity we encourage you to bring your children along) and a Physics Show will be also be run after the workshop by the Outreach team.

• Primary workshop – Tuesday, 8th January , 10 – 11.30 (Lecture theatre 4)
• Physics show – Tuesday, 8th January, 12 – 12.30pm (Lecture Theatre 5)
RSVP (for yourself and your children) by Thursday, 4 January to Alex Viglienzone on ext: 66188 or at alexv@physics.usyd.edu.au.

An enthusiastic crowd heard Denison Visiting Fellow Prof Anatoly Shabad deliver a lecture on Russian Politics meets Quantum Field Theory. Prof Shabad's tales of dealings behind doors and his insights into the failure of the "revolution" of the nineties and the future for Russia under Putin attracted an audience from many faculties and beyond the University as well.

Many thanks to the staff who helped with the nine work experience students we
hosted during the last half of November. The two groups had a varied program of lab work, lectures, outreach activities and interviewing staff. Look out for new webpages in Astro and a solar viewing poster based on their work.

Prof Anatoly Shabad in action in Slade Lecture theatre

Work experience students Catherine Fennell (Henry Lawson High School, Grenfell) and Eliot Hoving (Blue Mountains Grammar School, Katoomba) observe the sun as part of the Degree in a Day program

Events
(1) A special pre-broadcast screening of Episode one of Sleek Geeks (starring Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and Adam Spencer) will be held on Tuesday, 18 December from 12.30 - 1pm in the Slade Lecture Theatre.

(2) The Physics End-of-Year Christmas Party is also on Tuesday, 18 December from 1.30pm and will be held at the Grandstand.

(3) A School Strategic Planning Day is being scheduled for next year – lunch, focused discussions and celebratory drinks & nibbles afterwards. The proposed date is Friday, 8 February – to be confirmed.

Anne Green