

Report of the Committee on Interests of Senior Physicists 2009

Many of our AAPT members may never have seen or in some cases heard of the work of former president Dick Crane. The Crane Tribute went over fairly well for those in attendance. Regrettably, some of the proposed plans for highlighting his work did not come to pass, but to those of us who knew him, recognized the picture of his sculpture on the cover of the Guide. There were great papers on Crane at Caltech, Crane at Michigan, and Crane as an educator.

Meetings of past officers of the AAPT at our Summer Meetings have been meaningful and useful and we would like them to continue in an inexpensive format.

The idea of enriching physics in the classroom is seen as a particularly good task for the committee to take on as a long term project. **Physics in Perspective** might serve as a starting point for ideas. This would, we are sure, work well in conjunction with the Committee on the History and Philosophy of Physics.

Another effort that could be kept on the front burners would be to seek out physics content papers, encourage more physics content papers, and make known to the general audience at our Meetings the many that are in the Program. Perhaps selecting them out of the huge number of pedagogical papers might make them more visible.

Topical conferences such as those recently on General Relativity, Computational Physics, and Advanced Laboratories (Ann Arbor) play important roles in identifying the AAPT as vitally interested in higher-level physics subjects. Holding such topical conferences in close affiliation with national meetings should work to our advantage.

Tom Rossing currently at Stanford suggested an effort could be made to encourage and assist emeriti to be visiting professors at colleges that need teachers. The Danforth Foundation used to do this. Are there some others that we do not know about? There are a lot of smaller colleges that could make good use of experienced physics teachers and would reward them with a modest honorarium. Tom's life has been much enriched by teaching at University of Edinburgh, Seoul National University, and especially at Stanford since he retired.

Dick Jacob's recently expressed interest in developing an organized bulletin board for such opportunities for retirees (or nearly retirees) to professionally contribute to global or national needs at all levels. For example, Dick Peterson just returned from 5 weeks of teaching in Kenya. Recently, Chris Chiaverina and Brian Jones were involved in international activities as well.

We invited Jan Tobochnik, AJP editor, to come and talk to us about AJP and the difficulty in rousing/choosing strong, interesting articles – especially in historical, cultural, or experimental areas. The discussion was most informative and we hope to do what we can to encourage more papers that are “Devoted to Instructional and Cultural Aspects of Physical Science” as it used to read on the front cover.

John Hubisz, Chairman, CISP