

The sessions sponsored by the Graduate Education committee (GEC) at the 2009 Summer meeting in Ann, Arbor were well attended. The panel on “What Graduate Schools Expect from Undergraduates” had a great turn out and the attendees asked the panelists questions for 1.5 hours. The sessions “Cutting-Edge Research at MSU” and “How to prepare undergraduates for graduate school” were also well received. The GEC sponsored workshop “Cyclotron tour and workshop at Michigan State” at the 2009 Annual Summer meeting was attended by 17 participants all of whom rated it highly.

With support from the National Science Foundation, AAPT (with GEC involvement) and APS co-sponsored a conference titled ”Graduate Education in Physics: Which way forward?” in 2008 to discuss the status and future of graduate education in physics (Janet Tate, Ted Hodapp, Michael Thoennessen and Chandralekha Singh were the co-organizers). The full report for this conference can be found at the AAPT Graduate Education Committee website <http://www.aapt.org/Directory/graduate.cfm> At the GEC committee meeting in Michigan Ann Arbor, we discussed the main findings of the conference and continued the discussions about strategies for dissemination of the findings.

The GEC will sponsor a workshop titled “TA Training: Challenges and Successes” at the 2010 Winter Meeting in Washington, DC which is joint with the APS April meeting. This exploratory workshop is envisioned to be the launching pad for a future conference sponsored jointly by AAPT and APS related to TA preparation. The GEC will also sponsor or co-sponsor three exciting sessions at the Winter 2010 meeting: “Preparing graduate students for careers in college physics teaching”, “Selling Physics Research and Education to Congress” and “TA Training: Why It Is Important and How To Do It Effectively”.

The GEC plans to sponsor a workshop titled “Leadership Roles and Models in the Classroom, Academia, and Beyond” at the 2010 Summer Meeting in Portland, OR. The GEC also plans to co-sponsor four invited sessions at the Summer 2010 meeting two of which will deal with promoting diversity and the other two will deal with early career researchers in physics and Paradigms program at OSU.

We now have Amber Stuver, a postdoctoral Fellow, as a member who is very active. She is also a member of the APS Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA) and has been trying to get graduate students who are members of FGSA more involved in AAPT activities.

Submitted by Chandralekha Singh