

TSAPS Newsletter September 2023



American Physical Society Texas Section

Joint Fall 2023 Meeting

Texas Section of the APS, Texas Section of the AAPT, and Zone 13 of the SPS

[Fall 2023 TSAPS, TSAAPT and SPS Meeting](#)

The TSAPS Fall 2023 meeting will be hosted by Angelo State University in San Angelo on October 12-14, 2023. The meeting will draw participants from all fields of physics and physics education throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.



The TSAPS 2023 Meeting website can be found at <http://www.angelo.edu/TSAPS>.

Abstract Submission Information:

We encourage submissions for posters and contributed talks from ALL areas of physics. The abstract submission deadline is Wednesday, **September 13, 2023**.

Registration:

Online registration is now open.

The early registration deadline is Wednesday, **September 13, 2023**. Regular registration will continue until Friday, **September 22, 2023** at slightly higher fees.

Judges:

[Sign up to judge student oral or poster presentations:](#) Attendees with PhD's in physics or related fields are encouraged to sign up to judge student presentations. *We need your help, and students need your support!*

Invited Plenary Speakers



- [Ginger Kerrick Davis](#), Chief Strategy Officer, Barrios Technology, Ltd.



- [Dennis Schatz](#), Senior Fellow, Institute for Learning Innovation



- [Terry Adams, Ph.D.](#), Computational Physicist, Los Alamos National Laboratory



- [Ching-Hwa Kiang, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Bioengineering, Rice University



- [Rachael Beaton, Ph.D.](#), Assistant Astronomer, Space Telescope Science Institute

In addition to these invited speakers, we will also have contributed talks and posters in all fields of physics research and a series of teaching and outreach workshops hosted by the Texas Section of the AAPT. For students, we will have a welcome reception on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 12 and an industry/career panel and resume-writing workshop on Friday, Oct. 13.



The meeting will conclude on Saturday, Oct. 14 with an [outreach event](#) celebrating the spectacular annular eclipse from 10:20 am to 1:25 pm.

Student Travel Awards:

There is a limited number of travel grants for students giving presentations. The application form for student travel grants is available [here](#). The deadline to apply is Wednesday, **September 13, 2023**.

Please complete these steps 1-3 by the abstract deadline to be eligible for a student travel award.

1. Complete the [application form](#).
2. Submit an APS abstract with the student as the first author and presenter. The abstract deadline is **September 13, 2023**.
3. Have your research supervisor or department chair complete the [form supporting the travel award](#).

Additionally, you will also need to take the following steps before the meeting.

1. Pre-register for the meeting by September 22, 2023.
2. Join the Texas Section of the American Physical Society. Membership is free for the first year for students. The application is online; be sure and add the Texas Section (TSAPS) as one of your unit affiliations.

Travel awards will be **up to \$300** for as many students as possible, but funds are limited. Students are expected to attend the major events of the meeting including the banquet. Recipients will be notified by e-mail by October 1, 2023. Once attendance at the meeting is confirmed, a check will be issued to reimburse the applicant.

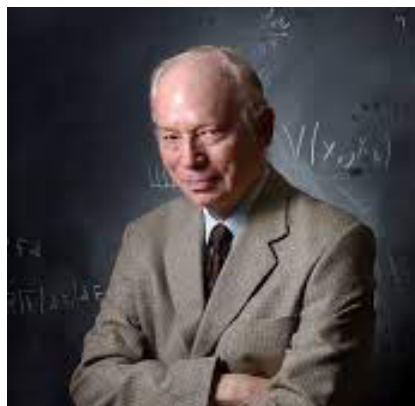
Student Outstanding Presentations and Posters Awards

The Texas Section of the APS sponsors cash awards for outstanding presentations by both undergraduate and graduate students at its annual meetings. Undergraduate and Graduate Student Outstanding Oral Presentation and Poster Awards will be given based on the excellence of the physics research and quality of the presentations. All students giving presentations are automatically considered for awards.

Weinberg and Hyer Student Research Awards

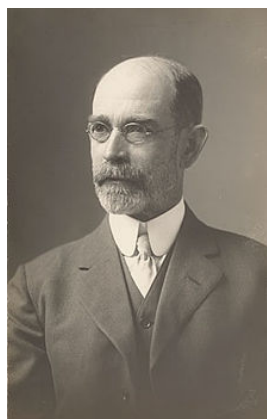
The Steven Weinberg and Robert S. Hyer Research Awards will be presented at the Fall 2023 TSAPS meeting to recipients who must have been graduate and undergraduate students respectively when the research was performed. The research must be in physics or a physics-related subject, and it must have been presented by the student at a Texas Section APS meeting within the past two years. The main criterion for the awards is excellence, including the potential impact of the research on the relevant scientific community. TSAPS allows the research to be presented at the same meeting in which the award is presented.

WEINBERG AWARD NOMINATIONS:



The Texas Section of the APS is now accepting nominations for the Steven Weinberg Research Award for graduate students. Details about the award and the nomination process are available at [Weinberg Research Award](#). Nominations should be submitted by **Monday, September 25, 2023**; the nomination packet should be E-mailed to TSAPS chair Prof. Michael Kesden (kesden@utdallas.edu). The award recipients will be announced at the Fall 2023 meeting.

HYER AWARD NOMINATIONS:



The Texas Section of the APS is now accepting nominations for the Robert S. Hyer Research Award for undergraduate students. Details about the award and the nomination process are available at [Hyer Research Award](#). Nominations should be submitted by **Monday, September 25, 2023**; the nomination packet should be emailed to TSAPS chair Prof. Michael Kesden (kesden@utdallas.edu). The award recipients will be announced at the Fall 2023 meeting.

Texas Section Distinguished Service Awards (TSAPS-DSA)

This award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions over several years to the Texas Section of the APS. These contributions include leadership through service on the executive committee and/or TSAPS sponsored activities such as the Fall and Spring Regional conferences, or other activities that significantly promote excellence in physics in the Texas region. Award and nomination details are at [DSA](#). Distinguished Service Award nominations are due **Friday, September 29, 2023**; the nomination packet should be emailed to Prof. Michael Kesden (kesden@utdallas.edu). Recipients will both be announced at the Fall 2023 meeting.

2023 Congressional Visits Day and APS Annual Leadership Meeting

From left to right: TSAPS Past Chair Barbara Szczerbinska, APS Forum on Diversity and Inclusion Chair Elect Mario Borunda, Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Frank Lucas, TSAPS Chair Michael Kesden, TSAPS Chair Elect Kenichi Hatakeyama, and APS Federal Relations Senior Associate Jorge Nicolás Hernández Charpak.

The APS Annual Leadership Meeting 2023 was held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC on January 26-27, 2023. Matt Mountain, President of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), delivered the keynote address on the importance of outreach and how NASA engages the public. David Goldston, Director of the MIT Washington Office, spoke about influencing science policy in a divided Congress. Kavli Civic Science Fellow Rose Hendricks discussed the results of the survey [Motivations for and Barriers to Engaging with Science](#) conducted by the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC). Panel discussions addressed “Ethics and Emerging Technologies” and “Engaging the Public: What Works”. TSAPS leaders also attended leadership training sessions, the APS Annual Business Meeting, and the APS Medal and Society Prize Reception and Ceremony.

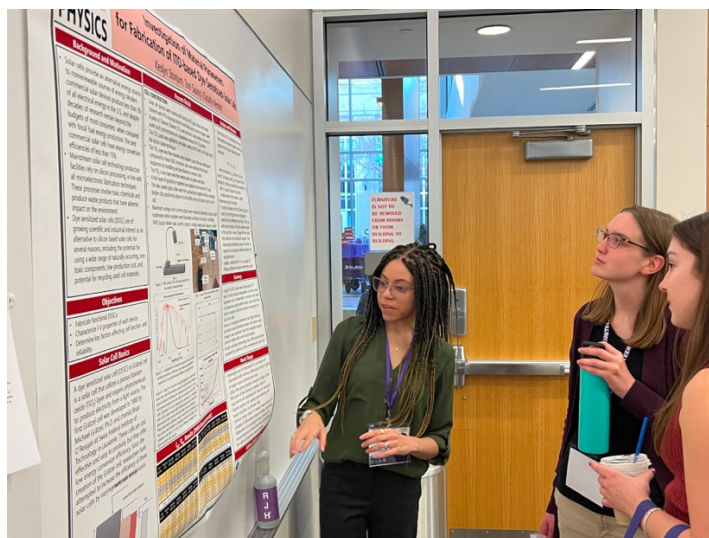
Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP) 2023

Report from Hana Dobrovolny, Associate Professor of Biophysics, Texas Christian University

About 150 undergraduates descended on Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on the third weekend in January for one of 14 regional Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP). The goal of these conferences is to help undergraduate women continue in physics by providing them with the opportunity to experience a professional conference, information about graduate school and professions in physics, and access to other women in physics of all ages with whom they can share experiences, advice, and ideas. The 14 conferences were held simultaneously at different locations around the country and shared a national keynote address by Dr. Nadya Mason of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign who discussed her work on electronic properties of nano-scale objects and shared her experiences as a woman in physics.



TCU's conference included additional keynote addresses by Dr. Amy Bix of Iowa State University, and TCU alum Dr. Diana Loucks, now an Academy Professor at United States Military Academy at West Point. Dr. Bix provided an overview of women's participation in physics throughout history, emphasizing that while their numbers might not have been large and their contributions were often not acknowledged, women have played an important role in moving science forward from the very beginning. Dr. Loucks gave a tour through her non-traditional career path in the military to her academic position at the military academy.



Conference attendees had the opportunity to attend workshops to get tips on a variety of topics such as resume/CV preparation, writing skills, and negotiation skills. In addition, there were panel discussions on career tracks both inside and outside academia, as well as discussions on work-life balance, inclusiveness, and a number of other topics. There was also plenty of time for networking with other attendees during meals and at a poster session where students presented their research.

Next year's CUWiP for the Texas region will be held at Tulane University on January 19-21, 2024. Applications are now open on the meeting's [website](#).

Executive Committee Members

Chair: [Michael Kesden](#) (03/23–04/24)

University of Texas at Dallas

Chair-Elect: [Kenichi Hatakeyama](#) (03/23–04/24)

Baylor University

Vice Chair: [Jeremy W Holt](#) (3/23—4/24)

Texas A&M University

Past Chair: [Barbara Maria Szczerbinska](#) (3/23—4/24)

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi

Secretary/Treasurer: [Amena Khan](#) (03/23–04/26)

University of Texas at Dallas

Assigned Council Representative: [Kenneth R Podolak](#) (01/23–12/26)

SUNY Plattsburgh

Member-at-Large: [David Garrison](#) (03/22–03/25)

University of Houston—Clear Lake

Member-at-Large: [Allison M Deiana](#) (03/22–04/25)

Southern Methodist University

Member-at-Large: [Joel Walker](#) (03/23–04/26)

Sam Houston State University

Member-at-Large: [Joe Haley](#) (03/23–04/26)

Oklahoma State University

Student Member: [MacKenzie Warrens](#) (03/22–04/24)

Rice University

Student Member: [Jorge Arturo Andujo](#) (03/23–04/25)

University of Texas at El Paso

Newsletter Editors: Allison Deiana (Southern Methodist University), Michael Kesden (University of Texas at Dallas).

Please congratulate the 2022 APS Fellows from the Texas Section:

Jacinta C. Conrad [2022]

University of Houston

Citation: For experimental contributions to understanding nanoparticle dynamics, bacterial adhesion, and colloid-polymer mixtures, using advanced microscopy and light scattering techniques.

Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki [2022]

University of Texas at Dallas

Citation: For distinguished contributions to the field of theoretical cosmology, particularly for testing modifications to general relativity at cosmological scales, and for sustained excellence in teaching and mentoring students in astrophysics and cosmology.

Jaehoon Yu [2022]

The University of Texas at Arlington

Citation: For seminal leadership in pioneering research in physics beyond the Standard Model at the neutrino experiments, for numerous tireless efforts in establishing and developing international scientific collaboration, and for serving as president of Korean-American scientific organizations.