

# **APS Forum on Graduate Student Affairs March Meeting 2008 Newsletter**

## **Volume 2, Issue 1 (3/8/2008)**

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### **Introduction**

This edition of the FGSA newsletter provides an overview of events at the upcoming APS March meeting that are sponsored by FGSA or of interest to FGSA members. FGSA is sponsoring a panel discussion on non-traditional careers for physicists. The Forum is also co-sponsoring two additional sessions entitled .Where is the Center of Mass for Family, Career, and Self?. (co-sponsored with the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics) and .Lessons Learned from Katrina: How to Prepare a Department for Catastrophic Events. (co-sponsored with the Forum on Physics and Society).

There are also a number of receptions and networking events of interest to FGSA members which are described here. Members close to graduation will find the career workshops and activities outlined in this issue particularly useful.

### **Panel Discussion on Non-traditional Careers for Physicists**

FGSA will be sponsoring a panel discussion on non-traditional careers for physicists. This session (Session S7) is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12 from 2:30 to 5:30pm at the Morial Convention Center . RO5. Invited speakers include Don Engel, who will discuss scientific careers in public policy; Manolis Antonoyiannakis and Daniel Ucko will talk about editorial and publishing jobs for physicists, drawing on personal experiences; and Frankie Wood-Black will discuss transitioning into the corporate and industrial sectors. The panel discussion will follow the invited speakers. This will be a valuable session for all FGSA members close to graduation and/or interested in non-academic track careers.

### **CSWP/FGSA co-sponsored Event: .Where is the Center of Mass for Family, Career, and Self?.**

The Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) and FGSA are co-sponsoring a session (Session J5) to discuss issues related to balancing family needs with career goals. The session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 from 11:15am to 1:40pm and will be held in the Morial Convention Center RO1. Speakers include Archana Dubey (UCF), Suzanne Amadore Kane (Haverford College), K. Renee Horton (U Alabama), and Nina Markovic (Johns Hopkins).

### **FPS/FGSA co-sponsored Event .Lessons Learned from Katrina: How to Prepare a Department for Catastrophic Events.**

The Forum on Physics and Society and FGSA are co-sponsoring a panel discussion on Thursday, March 13 on the topic of universities affected by Hurricane Katrina and how to plan for other similar catastrophic events (Session V5 in the Morial Convention Center RO1). Speakers include Murty Akundi (Xavier University of Louisiana), Shirley Laska (University of New Orleans), Jim McGuire (Tulane), C. Greg Steab (U of New Orleans), Natalia Sidorovskaia (U of Louisiana . Lafayette), and David Hoagland (UMass Amherst). The speakers will give presentations from 11:15 to 12:45 followed by a panel discussion.

### **FGSA March Meeting Student Reception**

APS and the Form on Graduate Student Affairs will be sponsoring a student reception at the upcoming APS March meeting. Refreshments will be provided, as well as a quiz and prizes, and FGSA will present a short program on recent activities. The reception will be held on Tuesday, March 11 from 5:30 to 6:30pm in Hall B2-1 in the Convention Center. All students are welcome to come.

### **CSWP/FIAP Networking Breakfast for Women in Industry**

CSWP and the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics (FIAP) will co-sponsor a networking breakfast from 7:30-9:30 am on Tuesday,

March 11, 2008 at the APS meeting in New Orleans. Both men and women are welcome to attend. Enjoy a full breakfast and hear an informal talk by Mary Lanzerotti of IBM TJ Watson Research Center. This event will be held in the St. Charles Suite of the Marriott Hotel. Cost: \$15. \$5 for physics students, thanks to FIAP's generosity. Please pre-register at [http://www.aps.org/meetings/march/others/special/cswp\\_fiap.cfm](http://www.aps.org/meetings/march/others/special/cswp_fiap.cfm) as there may be only limited space for walk-ins.

### **COM/CSWP Dessert Reception**

Enjoy a dessert buffet, learn about the work of the Committee on Minorities in Physics and the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics, network with colleagues, and unwind after a long day of sessions at the APS Meeting in New Orleans. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Marriott Hotel (Mardi Gras B).

Invited Session of Interest to Women in Physics

Thursday, March 13 (11:15 am - 2:15 pm) Invited Session V34: "International Gender Issues in Physics" (Convention Center) Sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics and the Forum on International Physics.

### **Career Activities and Events at the 2008 March Meeting**

Several career related activities and events are scheduled for the 2008 March meeting. Arlene Knowles of the APS Education & Diversity Department has compiled a list of these events here: <http://www.aps.org/careers/guidance/upload/careers-march2008.pdf>

In addition to the APS job fair Monday and Tuesday running from 10am to 5pm, an APS workshop on career opportunities in Biological Physics will be held Sunday, March 9th at the New Orleans Marriot from 9am to 4:30pm. A Career workshop is also scheduled for Sunday starting at 5pm at the Marriot .Mardi Gras E.. This workshop will be chock full of information that is sure to give you an edge in your job search. FGSA members close to graduation will find the Arlene's career event compilation very handy.