

**Minutes of the SESAPS Executive Committee Meeting
Western Kentucky State University
Bowling Green, KY
November 22, 2013**

**Brad Cox
Secretary, SESAPS**

In Attendance: Executive Committee: R.P Springer, R. Haglund, B. Cox. J. Shriner, S Luiti, M. Pleimling, J. Piekarewicz, J. Yukich, M. Zvanut, S. Sorenson, N. Fomin, M Spraker by skype T. Daniels-Race (Guests: M Schindler – South Carolina, A. Gapud, U. of South Alabama)

Election Report (Simonetta Luiti):

There were 382 electronic votes and 9 paper votes.

The Member-at-Large election was won by Nadia Fomin of the University of Tennessee with 225 electronic votes and 5 paper votes.

The Vice–Chair election was won by Mark Spraker of North Georgia College and State University with 228 electronic votes and 4 paper votes.

2013 Prize Report (Mary Ellen Zvanut)

- **Jesse Beams Award**
Professor Robert P Behringer, Duke University
- **Slack Award**
Professor Gail Dodge, Old Dominion University
- **Pegram award**
Professor Stephen T. Thornton, University of Virginia

2013 Meeting Report (Mary Ellen Zvanut)

There were 257 papers submitted at the Western Kentucky University meeting (a substantial increase over last year's meeting at which 197 papers were submitted). There was a fairly even distribution among the categories except for category 1 in which we had only 4 submissions. There were three

international submissions (Afghanistan, Russia, and Iran). There were approximately 65 invited speakers at the 2013 meeting with an additional 93 contributed oral and 95 poster presentations.

There were 17 undergraduate posters judged and 7 undergraduate oral presentations judged.

The winners of the Undergraduate Presentation Contests were:

Talk DE.00001: Analysis of residual stress in welds using electronic speckle-pattern interferometry (ESPI), by Sean Craft, Southeast Louisiana University

Poster KA53 "Laser photo-detachment spectroscopy of the S²⁻ ion", Jessica Barrick, Davidson College

We decided to dispense completely with the paper Bulletin, using instead the EPITOME generated by APS. Careful checking of the document will be necessary, along with editing. All members need to be advised that they will not be receiving a paper Bulletin.

2014 Meeting Plans

A presentation was made by Matthias Schindler of the University of South Carolina concerning the schedule of the 2014 meeting at South Carolina and the facilities that are available. The local chair will be Thomas Crawford (Crawftm@mailbox.sc.edu) assisted by Matthias Schindler (mschindl@mailbox.sc.edu). The meeting will be held Nov. 12-15 in Columbia, South Carolina at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center near the UC Campus.

The Center includes facilities for:

- General sessions: 200 occupancy
- Breakout rooms (3): 60 occupancy
- Ball room (banquet): 200 occupancy
- Registration area
- Display area
- Outdoor area
- Complimentary parking

Accommodations include:

Hilton Columbia Center

- 100 rooms: \$125
- Parking: \$12
- Meeting room for executive committee meeting

Clarion (not finalized) (1.3 mi)

- 50 rooms: \$99
- Complimentary parking
- Complimentary shuttle (Airport, venue)

Connections to Columbia via

- Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE)
- Charlotte Douglas International (CLT):
95 miles (Shuttle)
- Atlanta: 215 mi, Raleigh: 225 mi

Funding Sources:

- Registration Fees
- Columbia Convention center and Visitors Bureau (\$10/night)
- Smart State Center for Experimental Nanoscale Physics
- Other?

University of South Alabama has expressed an interest in hosting the 2015 SESAPS meeting. The executive committee meeting was attended by A. Gapud of South Alabama to familiarize himself with procedures and requirements of the host institutions. In addition, Puerto Rico and Central Florida have indicated an interest in hosting a future meeting.

It was suggested and endorsed by the executive committee that there be a document prepared which details what is necessary for a bid to host a SESAPS meeting. Richard Haglund volunteered to draft such a document. Suggestions were made during the meeting for the contents of this document. One specific suggestion was that the talks be saved on line as is the case for most physics meetings (perhaps using the “Indico” application) so that attendees and SESPAPS members who cannot attend a given meeting have access on-line to the meeting content. This suggestion was endorsed by the committee. This has been done before at the SESAPS meeting at VPI by M. Pleimling.

2013 Financial Report (John Shriner)

Treasurer John Shriner presented the financial report of SESAPS. The Beams, Pegram, and Slack awards budgets continue to be healthy. A purchase has been made of medals and citation folders adequate to take care of needs for the next decade.

The general fund is also healthy with the total (kept at APS) increasing from \$39,740 to \$42,824. The net gain of \$1,676 was mostly because the bulletin is no longer prepared by hiring an external typesetter. On the issue of the future of paper bulletins, it was decided to move to an entirely electronic bulletin.

It was pointed out that the vast bulk of our yearly funding comes from the \$4/member stipend we receive from APS for each SESAPS member. We estimate that will amount to \$10,850 for 2014.

The 2014 budget of \$13,150 (compared to the 2013 budget of \$12,950) was presented and passed unanimously.

2013 Membership Report (Brad Cox)

The SESAPS membership increased slightly in 2013 (29 new members resulting in an enrollment of 2711) based most likely on the signups for SESAPS during the annual meetings. This is, however, still far short of the over 5000 APS members registered in the Southeastern region. A vigorous and more general recruitment may still be able to get some of these individuals to enroll.

In 2012 the California section passed SESAPS in the official section membership count after many years of SESAPS being the largest section. The California section (now known at the California-Nevada section) continues to lead in total membership by 4(!) members over SESAPS but appears like SESAPS and the majority of the other section to have plateaued (see Fig. 1).

Only the New England section of the long established sections showed a marked increase this year of 152 new members. It was suggested that contact be made with them to determine what this increase was due to.

A new section, the “Mid-Atlantic”, has been formed this past year and has immediately enrolled 593 members. This is a missed opportunity for SESAPS since most of their membership comes from institutions on the borders of the SESAPS region in the Washington and Maryland areas.

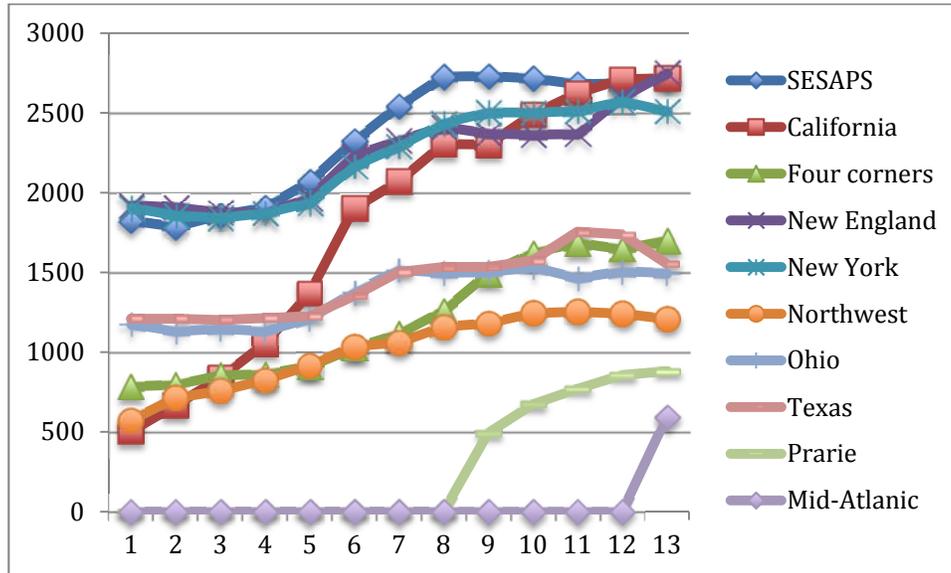


Fig. 1

Several suggestions were made about how to go about recruiting new members:

- The host institution for the annual SESAPS meeting should be required to try to make each contributor to the meeting enroll in SESAPS. The individuals giving papers may not be SESAPS member (especially young people sponsored by APS members). A brief list of instructions about how to become members of the APS and SESAPS should be developed and be available at the registration desk. While most APS members do not remember their APS passwords offhand and cannot log into the APS sight to make the trivial step to register for APS at the desk, solutions can be found to work around this difficulty. We should try to have a system in place at the South Carolina meeting to allow SESAPS registrations at the registration desk.
- More globally, it appears that the APS has become more flexible in

allowing communication (availability of e-mail and snail mail addresses for members and allowing multiple e-mails per year) so that we could in principle mount an e-mail drive to get in touch with the roughly 2500 non-SESAPS members in the Southeast. This would be undertaken in an attempt to reach those APS members not in academic institutions. This may be the majority of the non-SESAPS members; at present, we have only 95 SESAPS members known to be in industry and another 300 that may have industrial connection but who could not definitely be assigned a category.

- In the past we have directly mailed (an actual paper letter with the SESAPS letterhead) to the chairs of the roughly 165 physics departments in the Southeast suggesting that they bring up enrollment in both APS and SESAPS in the first meeting of their faculty of the year. This letter should emphasize the enrollment of young graduate students in the APS and in SESAPS. The enrollment of young people may be decreasing since graduate students at universities can operate completely independent of the APS because they can Google any paper they want at no cost. Open Access may have unintended consequence vis. a vis. the enrollment in the APS.
- Since the executive committee now has an up-to-date list of SESAPS members in the Southeast, it was proposed to distribute that list to select members in major Southeastern institutions (starting with the executive committee members) for determination of who in their institutions are not yet SESAPS members and to contact them to encourage participation. We hope in this way to increase SESAPS participation in the major southeastern universities.

2013 Student Travel Grants: (Roxanne Springer)

Distribution of SESAPS travel grants to students
Bowling Green, KY, Nov. 2013

- Funds to be distributed= \$8750
- Number of completed applications=41 (a record compared to past highest=35. Slight increase in funds for undergrads but most of funds going to graduate students.
- Average award per person= \$213.41

- Maximum award= \$245; Minimum award= \$164.
- Award amount dictated by distance from Bowling Green, number of students attending from each institution, and support expected from institution.
- All were members of SESAPS, submitted an abstract, and had supporting letter from advisor.
- Geographical distribution: Alabama=3; Kentucky=1; Florida=2; Georgia=3; Louisiana=3; Mississippi=0; North Carolina=9; South Carolina=3; Tennessee=8; Virginia=8; Puerto Rico=0; UCLA (Oak Ridge)=1.
- Two students were ultimately unable to attend.