



**VOLUME 37 NUMBER 9**

11-17 March 2011

## DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM

We would like to invite you to the first Director's Colloquium at RSPE. The presentation "The Magnetic Universe" of our esteemed speaker Professor Bryan Gaensler, from the University of Sydney on the **Thursday 17 March 12.30pm**, will cover some remarkable discoveries of the cosmic magnetism. Details of Professor Gaensler's talk can be viewed at

<http://physics.anu.edu.au/events.php?EventID=16>

The Director's Colloquium is the prime Physics forum at the ANU aiming to advance the School's research profile by attracting talks from high profile, internationally renowned researchers. It is particularly important in our research-led education program that we provide all our staff and students with the opportunity to learn from research leaders from outside the School in the broader disciplines of physics and engineering. The colloquia are designed to be a draw card for the *whole* School population of staff and students across all departments.

In renaming the Colloquium series to the Director's Colloquium we are renewing our commitment to both the quality of the presentations and to the academic life at the School. The format of the colloquium series has undergone a number of changes this year including a change of time to 12.30 pm and co-badging with the local chapter of the Australian Institute of Physics. We hope these changes will make it easier for people to attend.

We expect all students and staff to make an effort to attend the Director's Colloquium as a key part of their academic life. In particular we encourage all physics undergraduate and postgraduate students to attend. Snacks will be provided from 12 prior to Colloquium in the RSPE Link Tea room, Oliphant Building (60).

*Professor Jim Williams, Director*

*Dr Dragomir Neshev, Colloquium Committee Chair*

## NEW VICE CHANCELLOR

**Thursday 14 April, 10.30am**

Oliphant Link Tea Room

All staff and students are invited to meet our new VC, Professor Ian Young. If you are unable to attend you will also have an opportunity on 15 March, 3pm at the Finkel Theatre or 21 March, 10am at the Leonard Huxley Theatre.

## EDUCATION MATTERS

Amongst the things that puzzle first year physics students are the contradictions in their text books. A common contradiction is between the statement that magnetic forces do no work, because the magnetic force on a charge is perpendicular to its displacement, and the statement that electric motors do work using magnetic forces. How would you explain this contradiction?

## IQEC / CLEO PACIFIC RIM CONFERENCE

**28 August- 1 September 2011**

The Call for Abstracts is now open for this conference at <http://www.iqec-cleopr2011>. This will be the largest ever conference on lasers and their applications to be held in the Southern Hemisphere, and we hope that many in the School will be participating. Please pass this invitation on to your colleagues. We look forward to seeing you in Sydney.

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

Professor Steve Buckman (AMPL/CAMS) will spend two weeks in Japan on a JSPS/AAS Senior Fellowship from 11 March. He will visit a range of institutions for collaborative research and present Colloquia at Sophia University, Tokyo Science University, Tohoku University, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, and the KEK Positron Facility. Dr James Sullivan will be acting HoD of AMPL in his absence.

Professor Anatoli Kheifets (AMPL) will be travelling between 20 March to 10 June. His travels first take him to the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel to give an invited talk. While in Israel he will also visit Hebrew University, Jerusalem. After Israel he will go to Dublin to attend the ICPEAC Conference Executive Committee meeting as well as to Belfast to give an invited talk at the Queen's University.

## VISITORS

Professor Anton Tonchev, Duke University, US, Professor Steve Yates, Dr Francisco Prados Estevez and Ms Erin Peters, University of Kentucky, US, will be visiting the Department of Nuclear Physics in the period 13 – 26 March to undertake an experiment on 76e using the Super-e and for collaborative work with Dr Tibor Kibedi.



## WELCOME

Plasma Research Laboratory welcomes Colm Morrison, who is starting a Masters project under Dr Matthew Hole (Plasma Theory and Modelling group) and Dr Bernhard Seiwald from Austria, who will be working on various aspects of scientific modelling, related to the upgrade of the H-1 Australian Plasma Fusion Research Facility.

## SCHOOL SEMINARS

Laser Physics Centre Seminar

**Tuesday 15 March, 11.00 am**

Seminar Room Link Building RSPE

*Three dimensional cooling of an optically trapped microsphere to millikelvin temperatures*

Simon Kheifets, Center for Nonlinear Dynamics,  
Department of Physics, University of Texas

Theoretical Physics Seminar

**Thursday 17 March, 11.00-12.00**

Le Couteur Seminar Room, LC.3.17

*Lifshitz and Schroedinger Algebras and Dynamical Realizations*

Professor Joaquim Gomis, University of Barcelona

NP Seminar

**Thursday 17 March, 11.15am**

Nuclear Physics Seminar Room

*Coarse and Fine Structure of the Pygmy Dipole Resonance*

Prof Anton P. Tonchev, Duke University

## HONOURS LECTURE SERIES

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 12.00noon  
(Tues 22 Feb – Friday 3 June)

Peter Baume Lecture Theatre (Building 42a)

*Advanced Electromagnetism*

Drs Matthew Hole and Ron Burman

PhD students and staff are invited to attend the Honours lecture series which covers Jackson's famous textbook on the subject.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**30 September - 2 October**

*Back to ANU Weekend*

The ANU Alumni Relations team, in collaboration with ANU partners, will host an ANU Alumni 'On Campus', *Back to ANU Weekend*. Key features of the program shall include a reception and thank you brunch hosted by the VC, and a broad program of academic talks, seminars, exhibitions, events, visits and tours, arts/cultural activities and social reunions <http://www.anu.edu.au/alumni/events.php>.

## KEVIN LONSDALE RETIREMENT

**Wednesday 16 March, 10.30am**

Oliphant Link Tea Room

Most of you will remember Kevin Lonsdale who until recently was the RSPE Facilities & Services Manager. Kevin has been with the school for 40 years and has been invited to join us to celebrate his retirement. Please join us to extend our good wishes to Kevin for the future in typical school manner. A card is available at reception for those of you who wish to express their best wishes for Kevin.

## CONGRATULATIONS

EME Departmental Administrator Scott Yates rang this morning to say that his wife Adele gave birth to baby Patrick overnight. Mother and baby are doing well and are due home next Tuesday. Congratulations Scott.

## BLOOD DONORS & BONE MARROW REGISTRATION

**22-23 March, 9am-2pm**

Unihouse, Red Cross bus

Blood donors need to be under 45, not lived in the UK for >6 months between 1980-1996.

Joining ABMDR – 15 mins;

Donation & joining - 45 minutes

Show up or book on 131495.

## SUPPORT LEUKEMIA FOUNDATION

**Friday 11 March, 11 am**

Foyer of RN Robertson building 46

CMBE & CPMS Greatest Shave