



## Volume 38 Number 22

08-14 June 2012

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director will present an invited talk at a Workshop in honour of retiring Caltech Chemistry Professor Vincent McKoy from 8-12 June in Los Angeles. Professor Ken Baldwin will be acting Director for this period.

### DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM



Professor Roy Tasker's Colloquium "Research into Practice: potentials and pitfalls in visualising the invisible", attracted an audience from across Science. He showed some mind blowing visualisations of molecular mechanics. The substance of the presentation introduced principles and methods for analysing visualisations in terms of their effectiveness for teaching and learning. These principles, such as the rather small size of human working memory, apply more widely in education. More than a few audience members had "aha" moments during the presentation that may well forever change the way they teach.



### CONGRATULATIONS

#### **Electronic Materials Engineering**

Congratulations to Laureate Professor Jagadish who was recently conferred with an Honorary Professorship at Nanjing University during their 110th anniversary celebrations.

### DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

*Laser Physics Centre*

#### ***High power ultrafast laser development for the European XFEL Project***

**Dr. Max Lederer**

The European XFEL Project, Hamburg  
Tuesday, June 12, 11 am  
LeCouteur Seminar Room

### WINTER SOLSTICE BBQ

**Friday 22 June, 12:30PM**

**Link Building BBQ area**

**Cost only \$10**

Meal includes: gourmet sausages, onion, salads, bread roll, soft drink

Vegetarian available – please advise when paying

Waffles with Maple Syrup, Cream or Ice-cream will be available – only \$2 per serve

#### ***All profits will be donated to the Care Australia West Africa Appeal***

*18 million people across the Sahel region in West Africa are at risk of a severe food crisis*

*Low rainfalls and pests have destroyed entire food crops, while conflict, political instability and soaring food prices have left families with little or nothing to eat.*

For further details - <http://www.care.org.au>

RSVP and payment to **Natalie at Reception**

by **COB Tuesday, 19 June**

*Sorry, but latecomers may not be catered for*

### STAFF MOVEMENTS

#### ***Electronic Materials Engineering***

*Jagadish Chennupati* will be attending the International Conference on NanoPhotonics, Beijing and the Virtual Conference on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Chengdu 26 May to 9 June.

*Steffan Brewer* will be attending the 6th Nanowire Growth Workshop in St. Petersburg on the 4-12 June.

#### ***Space Plasma, Power and Propulsion***

Professor Christine Charles will be giving invited talks at the EPS/ICCP conference in Stockholm and at the ICOPS conference in Edinburgh and visiting organisations in the UK (Surrey Space Center, Astrium, University of York) and France (University of Orleans) 11 June - 20 July.



## **Theoretical Physics**

Professor Mukunda Das has been invited to participate and to give a plenary talk in the International Conference on Materials Science and Technology (ICMST-2012) to be held at St. Thomas College, Kerala, India during 10-14 June 2012.

## **Nuclear Physics**

Professor George Dracoulis will be overseas in the period 4 – 29 June 2012. Prof Dracoulis has been invited to speak at the Nobel Symposium on Physics with Radioactive Beams being held in Goteborg, Sweden. Whilst in Sweden Prof Dracoulis will also be visiting the University of Lund before travelling to Italy to attend as an invited speaker the “ECO 2012: Advances and challenges in nuclear physics with high-intensity stable beams” workshop, Villa Villaggio, and then to the INFN, Legnaro, for a Colloquium and a laboratory visit.

## **VISITORS**

### **Theoretical Physics**

The Department of Theoretical Physics welcomes Prof Subir Ghosh (Physics and Applied Mathematics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata), as a visitor from 3 June to 8 July. Prof Ghosh will conduct collaborative research with Prof Bouwknecht and other members of the Mathematical Physics group.

## **WELCOME**

### **Electronic Materials Engineering**

EME welcomes Mr Joshua Carr who has taken on the position of Technical Officer. Joshua was recently at Questacon and previous to that worked at Earth Sciences. Josh is replacing Tom Kitchen who has moved to USA.

## **EDUCATION MATTERS**

As we come to the end of first semester, PEC would like to thank all RSPE staff, PhD and Honours students who contributed to the successful running of the undergraduate program. It is gratifying to see a continued increase in contribution from those who haven't been involved in coursework in the past.

## **COMPETITION: WIN A FINE RED WINE**

The School is launching an alumni newsletter for its community. This newsletter will be issued 2-3 times a year and will contain highlights, achievements and updates of School and School Development activities and initiatives.

We are after a 'catchy' name for this newsletter and welcome suggestions from staff, students or friends of the School. Please forward all entries to Kavitha Robinson, RSPE Development Manager, E:[development@physics.anu.edu.au](mailto:development@physics.anu.edu.au) by COB Tuesday 12 June 2012. The best entry will win a bottle of fine red wine from the Director.



## **PHYSICS AT ANU IS LAUNCHING ITSELF GENTLY INTO THE WORLD OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Physics at ANU is launching itself gently into the world of social media. 'PhysicsANU' is now live on Twitter and Facebook and we would like to encourage everyone to follow these links. The accounts will be used to promote content that we already generate via such terrific sources as Sciencewise and the Research Highlights put together by Tim Wetherell. We will also be posting things of general interest to physicists here in Canberra such as announcements for Seminars and Colloquium. In addition we hope to be doing two 'regular' posts. The first will be 'Describe your research in 140 characters' and the second will be posting cool-looking pics of scientific equipment with a short description of what they do.



Follow us (Twitter) @PhysicsANU

Like us (Facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/PhysicsANU>

Send 'tweetable' items to Jodie Bradby or Tim Wetherell.

For those new to social media, the ABC has put together a nice FAQ page on Twitter:

<http://www.abc.net.au/services/twitter/faq.ht>

## **AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**



The final tally is in and we raised \$635.10! Great work every one!

## **EME THREE MINUTE THESIS PRESENTATION**

On Friday 1st June EME held the 1st EME 3 Minute Thesis presentation judged by Prof. Neville Fletcher, Mrs. Julie Arnold, Mr. James Dedrick and Ms. Natasha Thomas. The students were given a maximum of three minutes to describe their research to the judges, fellow staff and students. 17 students participated covering a wide range of research. The competition was very close but the winner of the Judge's choice went to Ian Wenas for a very interesting and concise presentation.

The people's choice was tied between Thomas Bierschenk, Aruni Fonseka, and Ian Wenas. All winners will be presented with their Co-op book vouchers at the Department meeting on the 16th June.