



Volume 38 Number 23

15-21 June 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



The School congratulates "one of ours", Professor Aidan Byrne, on his appointment as CEO of the ARC. Aidan commenced his PhD here in Nuclear Physics in 1981, and following several postdoctoral appointments returned to the School as a Research Fellow in 1989. He then held a joint appointment between the Department of Physics, in the Faculty of Science and the Department of Nuclear Physics, in the Research School for many years and was Head of the Department of Physics from 2003 to 2007. Most recently he has been the Dean of Science and Director of the ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Aidan is known internationally, for his ground-breaking research into nuclear structure and the application of nuclear techniques to materials analysis.

We are all sad to see Aidan go but also all wish him well in his new position.

The process for appointing a new Dean of the College is underway.



It is also with great regret that we inform the School that Deputy Director (Education), Dr Anna Wilson has tendered her resignation from the University to take up a post at Oxford University, UK.

Anna has been a member of staff in the School for the past 11 years, initially as a Research Fellow, then moving to a joint Lecturer appointment between the School and the former Department of Physics, and most recently Deputy Director Education for approximately the last 8 months. She has played a major role in the development of Physics Education at the ANU and at the same time maintained a highly productive research career in Nuclear Structure Physics. She has also conducted significant research in Science Education, won several awards for her teaching, and many grants both for Nuclear Research and Education Research.

Anna will be leaving us later in the year to take up the post of Educational Development Consultant (Sciences) at Oxford. It will no doubt enable her to engage more fully in her passion for education and education research, and be closer to her immediate family. We will all wish her well in her new endeavours, and note that she will be sorely missed in our School.

Plans to attempt to fill the significant "hole" that Anna's departure will leave in our Education program will be announced shortly

SCHOOL SEMINAR

Towards low-loss optical metamaterials

Dr. Andrey Miroshnichenko

Nonlinear Physics Centre



Thursday 21 June, 4pm

Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre

The event details and abstract can be found on the RSPE website

<http://physics.anu.edu.au/events.php?EventID=65>

Refreshments will be provided after the seminar in the RSPE tearoom

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

Nonlinear Physics Centre

Collective phenomena in semiconductor microcavities

Prof Ivan A. Shelykh

Wednesday, 4 July at 11am

Link Seminar Room, Oliphant Building

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

All welcome

FAREWELL

Farewell to Johannes Binder who is leaving EME to return to Poland.

Laser Physics Centre farewells Dr Sarah Beavan and Dr Sven Wittig who will be moving to Germany to start a new phase of their lives. We thank them for their many contributions to the academic and social life of the School. Sarah's last role as a representative of School will be to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting held from 1st-6th July in Lindau, Germany.



WELCOME

Dr Luca Chiari (pictured left) from Flinders University will be spending the next three months with the Centre for Antimatter-Matter Studies (CAMS). Luca will be assisting the Centre's PhD and Honours students with their research on the Centre's Positron Beamline.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

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 Edinborough and visiting organisations in the UK (Surrey Space Center, Astrium, University of York) and France (University of Orleans) 11 June - 20 July.



Nuclear Physics

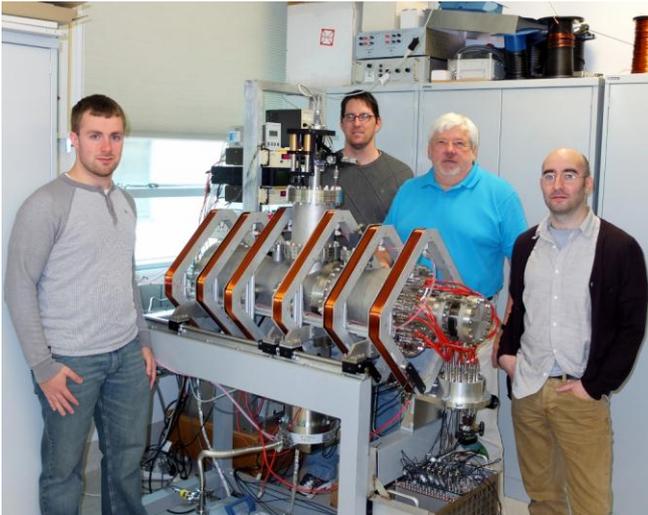
Professor George Dracoulis will be overseas in the period 4– 29 June.

Dr Nikolai Lobanov will be attending the 12th Heavy Ion Accelerators Technology Conference and High-Mass RIB Workshop at ANL, USA, from 18th June - 22nd June and the NSCL for collaboration on accelerator science and technology from 25 -28 June.

VISITORS

Texas Cowboys visit Centre for Antimatter-Matter Studies (CAMS).

CAMS is pleased to welcome four visitors from the University of North Texas to the ANU. Led by Professor Dennis Mueller, along with Dr Simon Armitage, and students Chris Lee and Corbin Vermet (pictured below), the visitors will be here for the next two months as part of a US National Science Foundation grant to collaborate with CAMS on Antimatter Research. During their stay the Texan team will finalise the commissioning of the CAMS Positron Reaction microscope.



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.

Exam period has started: thanks to all those involved in setting and marking the exams. Don't forget that the PEC examiners' meeting will be held on Monday 25th June at 11am in the CQC2T seminar room. Course convenors are reminded that marks are due with Laura by COB Friday 22nd June. Remember that Wattle will also be unavailable from this time, so make sure you have downloaded all your grades from your course sites.

Second semester course convenors: don't forget to set up your new course sites on the Moodle 2 system. Your old site

will not just roll over, and the user interface is different so worth getting used to in advance.

NAMING COMPETITION - WINNER ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Tim Burgess, PhD candidate at the Department of Electronic Materials Engineering. Tim's suggestion of 'Resonance' has been selected for the School's alumni newsletter. Tim wins a bottle of fine red wine from the Director.

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition. The judges had a hard time selecting the winning name from several 'catchy' entries.

WINTER SOLSTICE BBQ

For general staff only

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