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7 – 13 December 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director will be away at the Australian Institute of Physics Congress next week. **Professor Tim Senden** will be Acting Director from Monday to Thursday.

Graduations for the CPMS will be held next Thursday 13 December in two sessions 10am and 2pm.

MINCE PIES

Please join us in celebrating Christmas and the end of a successful year with mince pies next Friday 14 December from 10:30am in the RSPE tearoom.

DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM



Photo: Tim Wetherell

The final Director's Colloquium of the year was given by Nobel laureate Prof. Brian Schmidt. Brian needed no introduction to the ANU community and the audience filled the Huxley theatre. Those who managed to get a seat were very impressed by Brian's presentation about the Accelerating Universe. He presented a great journey of how this fundamental discovery was made, tested and confirmed, to lead to the most prestigious award in Physics – the Nobel Prize. It was also a great pleasure to see the large number of staff and students who surrounded Brian at the RSPE BBQ to ask him questions and discuss new ideas. Brian finally managed to leave RSPE around 5pm, marking the longest Colloquium event of the

year.

Thanks all the staff and students who helped with the BBQ. Special thanks to Andrea, Kathy and Jo.



Photo: Tim Wetherell

On behalf of the Director and the Committee, we would like to thank all the people that helped and supported the Director's Colloquium this year, as well as to all the staff and students who attended the talks and made the Colloquium the premium Physics forum in the ACT. We are looking forward to another year of interesting talks and welcome your suggestions for interesting topics and high-profile speakers.

NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH STRATEGY LAUNCH

Senator Kate Lundy launched the Australian Academy of Science National Nanotechnology Research Strategy today in the RSPE tearoom. Congratulations on a successful event.



Photo: Tim Wetherell



CONGRATULATIONS

Aidan Byrne: Peter Baume Award

The Peter Baume Award is the University's highest award for exceptional staff members and alumni of the University whose contributions to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community have demonstrated distinguished service of the highest degree.

Emeritus Professor Aidan Byrne is an ANU PhD graduate and has been a staff member of the University since 1991. He was Head of the Department of Physics in the Faculties from 2003 to 2007, and in 2007 he was appointed to the role of Dean of Science and Director of the ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

Emeritus Professor Byrne is a highly published and cited researcher in nuclear science, and an extremely influential researcher in nuclear physics, both in Australia, but also internationally, and is well known for his ground-breaking research into nuclear structure.

This award is in recognition of Emeritus Professor Byrne's research leadership and contribution to nuclear physics and his career at ANU in which he has been continually involved in science education, and been a passionate advocate for new and innovative approaches to science teaching.

The award will be presented at the conferring of degrees ceremony for the ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (Graduate and Research Students only) at 2pm on Thursday, 13th December 2012.

Rana Ganguly: The Vice-Chancellor's Staff Award for Career Advancement

Please join the School in congratulating Mr Rana Ganguly on recently being awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Staff Award for Career Advancement.



Photo: Stuart Hay

Mr Rana Ganguly and Professor Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor.

This award encourages, promotes and recognises staff who provide outstanding support for the career achievement and professional development of other staff at the University. This award acknowledges the value the University places on the

skills, knowledge, expertise and outstanding work performance of academic and professional staff, including their career potential and commitment to the University. The award winners have demonstrated outstanding support for the career advancement and professional development of other staff through mentoring, coaching and other career development mechanisms.



Photo: Stuart Hay

Daniel Schauries: Best Student Poster

Congratulations to Daniel Schauries for winning the "Best Student Poster" Award at the Australian Synchrotron User Meeting last week. There was plenty of competition and the prize is a trip to Japan to attend the Cheiron Synchrotron School at SPring-8 next year.

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

Theoretical Physics

On (non)integrability of strings in p-brane backgrounds

Professor Arkady Tseytlin

Imperial College London

11:00am Monday 10 December

Le Couteur Seminar room 3.17

Anti-ferromagnetic Potts model in two dimensions

Professor Youjin Deng

University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei

11:00am Tuesday 11 December

Le Couteur Seminar room 3.17

Electronics Material Engineering

Self-catalyzed growth of GaAs nanowires and related heterostructures

Professor Anna Fontcuberta i Morral

Institute of Materials, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

2:00pm Monday 10 December

RSPE Link Seminar Room



STAFF MOVEMENT

Centre of Excellence for Antimatter-Matter Studies

Staff from CAMS will be attending next week's AIP Congress at UNSW. The ANU Node led by Dr James Sullivan will be giving eight presentations from its PhD and Honours students along with our visiting Fellows Prof Dennis Mueller and Dr Simon Armitage from the University of North Texas. The Centre's participation at AIP is part of a wider initiative by CAMS that will see each of our seven Nodes, with in-excess of thirty Centre members, making presentations and each of our Node Directors chairing a session. Adam Edwards will also be in Sydney later in the week to host the CAMS Executive Team meeting and the final Advisory Board meeting on Friday.

Electronic Materials Engineering

Dr Hoe Tan will be attending the following conferences between 10-23/12, COMMAD in Melbourne, Photonics Global Conference in Singapore, 5th International Conference on Computers and Devices for Communication in India, and the International Conference on Solar Energy Photovoltaic in India.

The following EME staff will be attending Australian Institute of Physics 20th National Congress in Sydney on the 9-13 December, **Profs Jim Williams & Rob Elliman, Drs Jodie Bradby, Bianca Haberl, Kiran Mangalampalli** and PhD students **Sherman Wong, Clara Townsend** and **Bimo Bayu Aji**.

The following EME staff will be attending COMMAD 2012 in Melbourne 12-14th December, **Prof Chennupati Jagadish, Drs Hoe Tan, Lan Fu, Jenny Wong-Leung, Michael Gao, Hao Wang, Steffen Bruer, Jiandong Ye, Dinesh Venkatachalam, Fouad Karouta, TaeHyun Kim, Pawel Sajewicz**, PhD students **Aruni Fonseka, Kun Peng, Qian Gao, Keng Chan, Haofeng Lu, Amira Ameruddin, Dhruv Saxena, Sam Turner, Fred Yaun, Tim Burgess, Samer Suleiman, Jenny Jiang, Mykhaylo Lysevych** and Masters student **Rex Li**. **Liz Micallef** will also be attending.

RSPE ADMINISTRATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

International Pot Luck lunch

12:30, Wednesday 12 December

Bring in a plate of food or a dessert to share or you may pay Susie \$20 and enjoy your colleague's fine fare.

Please let Jo know what dish you are planning to bring.