



## Research School of Physics and Engineering

Weekly newsletter | Volume 39 Number 22 | 7 – 13 June 2013

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director will be spending two weeks at the University of Malaya as a Distinguished Visiting Professor from June 3-18. During this period he will investigate education and research possibilities, following up on a recent MoU signed between the ANU and UM in April of this year. He will also visit the University Technology Petronas to present a seminar and follow up on collaborative discussions between Petronas and RSPE. Professor Tim Senden will be Acting Director 10 - 15 June

### DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM



#### Seeing is believing!

At the Colloquium of Professor Anthony Burkitt – “The quest to restore vision for the blind with medical bionics”, we saw the unbelievable. Staff and students were enlightened by the presentation. Giving vision to blind people is a most noble cause and especially exciting when enabled by a multidisciplinary research where physics, medicine and computer technology meet together. We thank Prof. Burkitt for his interesting talk. It was especially pleasing to see the Huxley theatre filled with staff and students from both within RSPE and across the university.

### STAFF MOVEMENTS

#### Nuclear Physics Department

**Professor Andrew Stuchbery** will be overseas in the period 8 - 16 June. He will attend the Nuclear Chemistry Gordon Research Conference (GRC), New London, NH, USA as a former GRC Chair and Discussion Leader in a session entitled “Precision measurements of nuclear properties”.

#### Department of Quantum Science

**Professor Ping Koy Lam** will be travelling from 9- 17 June to participate as an invited speaker at ICOLS 2013 in Berkeley, California.

#### Laser Physics Centre

Departmental Administrator **Sonia Pandrun** will be away from 5 June – 22 July. All enquiries should be forwarded to Professor Wieslaw Krolikowski or Julie Arnold (EME DA)

#### Electronics Material Engineering

**Professor Jim Williams** will be attending the Particle – Surface Interactions conference (PASI 2013) in Luxembourg 3- 5 June, visit with collaborators at Advanced Laser Separation International (ALSI) in the Netherlands 7 – 9 June, The WATER Advisory Meeting and ARC collaboration at Catania Italy 10-18 June, then onto Oxford and Harvard Universities for further ARC collaboration 19 – 27 June, and finally attending the 7th (ICMAT 2013) in Singapore 30 June – 6 July.

### WELCOME

#### Nuclear Physics Department

Welcome's **Mr Nick Withers** our new Embedded Systems Programmer for the Heavy Ion Accelerator Facility. Nick is located in office 2.26, ext. 52091.

#### School Materials Store

We welcome to the School community our new storeman, **Ben Parker**, who comes to us with stores experience from Brindabella Airlines. Ben will be located in the School Materials Store & can be contacted on x52410.

### DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

#### Nonlinear Physics Centre

Massless Dirac electrons in topological insulator Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>

**Professor Michael S. Fuhrer, ACT Laureate Fellow**  
School of Physics, Monash University

**11:00am Tuesday 11 June**

Oliphant Building Seminar Room

## Extraordinary spin and momentum in evanescent waves

**Dr Konstantin Bliokh**

Digital Materials Laboratory, the Advanced Science Institute, RIKEN, Tokyo, Japan

**2:00pm Wednesday 12 June**

Oliphant Building Seminar Room

### PHYSICS EDUCATION REPORT

As we come to the end of the first semester, there are some important dates that RSPE staff needs to be aware of. On the afternoon of Tuesday 11th of June, the honours students will hold mid-year talks on their projects in the honours lecture room in Huxley. The room is located next to the school computing unit.

A schedule of talks (talks beginning at 2:00 pm) will be circulated in the next days. The examiners meeting for all undergraduate physics courses and postgraduate coursework courses will be held on Tuesday 25th of June starting at 10:00 am in the CQC2T conference room in the Department of Quantum Science. All grades should be completed and returned to Laura Walmsley by Thursday 20th of June at 5:00 pm.

### FRAME YOUR PHYSICS

Following on from last year "Frame your Physics" competition, the ACT branch of the AIP will again run the competition in 2013 to promote the communication of physics to a general audience. The idea is to make a video of up to 3 minutes presenting a topic in physics in an entertaining and informative way. There will be various prizes up for grabs including for high school students, schools and also for university students. We have been advertising the competition in our undergraduate courses and we encourage supervisors to promote the competition with their Honours and PhD students as well. Entries must be submitted by August 19. Further information can be obtained from the "Frame Your Physics" website at [www.act.aip.org.au/Frame\\_Your\\_Physics](http://www.act.aip.org.au/Frame_Your_Physics) or contact us: Andre Carvalho ([andre.carvalho@anu.edu.au](mailto:andre.carvalho@anu.edu.au)) and Cormac Corr ([cormac.corr@anu.edu.au](mailto:cormac.corr@anu.edu.au))

### FROM FACILITIES & SERVICES MANAGER

#### **Smoking around ANU Buildings**

Just a gentle reminder that the ANU Procedure on Smoking in the Workplace states that "persons who wish to smoke outside a University building are asked, while smoking, to keep at least 10 metres away from any entrance way, doorway, window or ventilation intake of the building.

There are a number of areas of RSPE where this distance is not being noted and this is unfortunately affecting other staff and students.

More information is available at:-

[https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP\\_000573](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000573)

### OHS BULLETIN

OHS training course venue – now

5 Liversidge Street Building 69.

**Electrical Australian design standards (OHSA24) - 20 June**

To book in for courses login to HORUS

Email: [origins@simonsfoundation.org](mailto:origins@simonsfoundation.org)

### THE JAZZ BAND HARMONIC PROPULSION

Christine Charles, Patrick Kluth and Rod Boswell are playing at University House bar on Friday 7 of June from 5.30 pm. Matching food will be available.