



Research School of Physics and Engineering

Weekly newsletter | Volume 39 Number 2 | 18 – 24 January 2013

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director will be on Long Service Leave 22 January to 1 February. **Professor Ken Baldwin** will be Acting Director during this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Wach for his many years of service to the School. John has been with the School since 1986. John has been with the H-1 project since its inception, responsible for the vacuum system, and later taking on the main mechanical design role. He has made major contributions to the design of many of the advanced diagnostics on H-1 and has been generous with his time outside of H-1, sharing his CAD and vacuum skills.

His last working day is Thursday 17 January; please join us in wishing him the best for his future.

WELCOME

Theoretical Physics.

We welcome Professor Angela Foerster who is visiting with Murray Batchelor and Xiwen Guan from Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil for one year.

We also welcome Dr Zengo Tsuboi, from Humboldt University Berlin, who will be working with Vladimir Bazhanov on an ARC funded project for one year

FAREWELL JOHN WACH

John Wach, a Senior Technician, started at Stromlo in 1979, and joined PRL in 1986 as the first person recruited specifically to work on H-1. His initial responsibility was H-1 vacuum and operations, and later took over CAD design, and made the painstaking conversion of H-1 drawings to AutoCAD, creating an extremely valuable resource for design and data analysis. John was a perfectionist, essential for quality vacuum conditions, and was very generous and patient in his advice and assistance to students and academics. He made major contributions to most of the remote measurement (diagnostic) and RF systems on H-1, and was known as the "go-to" person for any tricky H-1, CAD or vacuum question. Recently he had a major role in establishing the new Materials Diagnostic Facility "MAGPie", and setting it up in a specially refurbished new lab. John's friendship and wry sense of humour were appreciated by many around the School. We thank John for his contributions to H-1 and PRL which were at the highest level, and we wish him all the best in his retirement. – All in PRL.

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

Nonlinear Physics Center

Tuning and Coupling in Metamaterials

PHD MID-TERM SEMINAR

Ms Kirsty Hannam

PhD student, Nonlinear Physics Center

11:00am Wednesday 23 January

Link Building Seminar Room, Oliphant Building

All welcome

Laser Physics Centre & DQS

Heisenberg Uncertainty Relations for Photons

Professor Iwo Bialynicki-Birula,

Centre for Theoretical Physics, Warsaw, Poland

11:00am Monday 4 February

Room CQQT2 (DQS),

All welcome

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Applied Mathematics

Professor Tim Senden will be on leave until 4 February 2013. During his absence Professor Vince Craig will be Acting HoD from 16 January to 4 February 2013.

EDUCATION MATTERS

CPT (Centre for Physics Teaching) Report

The first day of honours this year will be Monday 4th of February. In this first week, we have two events planned. There will be a meeting of all honours students and all interested staff on **Monday the 4th of February** starting at 11:30 am. The aim of this first meeting is to give the new honours student's important information on the honours timetable, coursework, thesis requirements and thesis grading guidelines. I encourage all honours lecturers to attend this meeting. Lunch will be provided.

A second meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6th of February** from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Departments are invited to give a ten minute presentation on their research activities. Potential supervisors and all interested staff are invited to attend. There will be time for the new honours students to meet and talk with potential supervisors. More details on this event will be provided in an email to Heads of Department early next week. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Liudmila (research.student@physics.anu.edu.au) on or before Friday 1st of February.

Both meetings will be held in the new honours lecture room on the first floor of Huxley adjacent to the School Computing Unit.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRIBUTION

The Australian Government has committed \$58.65 million in program funding over four years towards the Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education which is administered by the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT).

\$8 million (indicative) has been allocated to Grants programs in 2013, to provide funding for academics and professional staff to investigate, develop and implement innovations in learning and teaching.

Information is available to interested academics at the following site:

- <http://chelt.anu.edu.au/awards-grants/educational-grants/national/olt-grants-schemes#ANU>

Please Note:

- The Research Office is currently seeking notification ASAP if you are considering submitting an Expression of Interest (Eoi) or application for the above grants.
- Completed Nol's for internal submission must be received at the JAG Research Office by 30 January 2013.

For information and directions on writing an Eoi :

[Four step guide for ANU applicants](#) and [OLT guidelines](#)

- There are two rounds of applications in 2013 however in Round 2, **only applicants who have submitted successful Eois in Round 1 will be invited to submit full proposals.**

Information sessions 17 January 2013, 2.00-3.30pm and 23 January 2013, 12.30-2.00 pm at the [CHELT Seminar Room, Building 10T](#). This seminar will provide opportunities to discuss proposals and insights into preparing OLT grant proposals. To register contact teaching.grants@anu.edu.au

Please notify Research Management at ro.rm@anu.edu.au as soon as possible if you intend to submit an Eoi. On notification, your research management officer will be in contact to provide information, support and details.

Please contact DDE Professor John Close for further details (john.close@anu.edu.au).

RENAMING OF THE BULLETIN

Congratulations to Michael Blacksell for winning the renaming of the bulletin with his entry 'The Event Horizon'.

Michael received a fine wine from the Director's cellar.

Thanks to Tim Wetherall for designing the new look to the Event Horizon.