



## Research School of Physics and Engineering

Weekly newsletter | Volume 39 Number 42 | 25-31 October 2013

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

I want to personally thank all staff and students for their contributions to a fantastic Founders Day last week.

Organising Founders Day is a BIG task and it only works so well because so many of our staff and students put in such a great effort on the day, and in the lead up.

Particular thanks to Laura Walmsley and DQS for organising the luncheon part of the day, to all of the helpers on the BBQ and food/drink preparation, to those that helped with the logistics of setting up and cleaning up after, to the IT guys for their smooth and efficient operation of the morning talk schedule, to all of the speakers for an entertaining morning, to Andrea and Julia for directing operations from my office, to Kavitha, Luda, Karen and Tim for organising the awards, to Christine, Rod and Bruce for the cool music - sincere thanks to you all from all of the School for making our most important day of the year such a success.

Congratulations to Professor David McClelland of DQS who has been elected as a Fellow of the Optical Society of America. David was cited "for leadership in developing squeezed light sources for improving the sensitivity of the LIGO gravitational wave detectors".

### DIRECTOR'S COLLOQUIUM



#### **Molecular Imaging: Unravelling the genetic, molecular and environmental factors in brain disease**

##### **Professor Steven Meikle**

Professor of Medical Imaging Physics, Head of the Imaging Physics Laboratory, Brain and Mind Research Institute, University of Sydney

### **12:00 Thursday 7 November**

Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre

Snacks will be provided at 11:30am prior to the Colloquium RSPE tearoom Oliphant Building 60, ANU Campus

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Matthew Hole of the Plasma Theory and Modelling Group, and his wife Vanessa Haverd on the safe arrival of daughter Erica on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Best wishes to the family.

### STAFF MOVEMENTS

#### **Theoretical Physics**

**Dr Xiwen Guan** will visit Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, 27 October-10 November where he will conduct research collaboration and give a talk for the program "Quantum Lunch". He will also conduct a scientific visit 11-14 November to Professor Randall Hulet's laboratory at the Rice University.

#### **Nuclear Physics**

**Mr Dimitrios Tsifakis** will be away in the period 28 October - 1 November in which time he will be participating in the cryogenic course being held at ANSTO, Lucas Heights.

### DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

#### **Applied Mathematics**

**Hofmeister phenomena: weak and strong electrolytes in aqueous protein systems**

##### **Dr Andrea Salis**

Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Cagliari

**3:17pm Friday 25 October**

Le Couteur Building L3.17

#### **Non-Linear Physics Centre**

**Optical metamaterials: symmetries vs. optical properties**

##### **Sergey Kruk, PhD student**

Mid-Term Review Seminar

Non-Linear Physics Centre

**11:00am Monday 28 October**

Oliphant Building Seminar Room

## **Electronic Materials Engineering**

### **Inferring Biological Evolution from Fracture Patterns in Teeth**

**Professor Brian Lawn**

National Institute of Standards and Technology, MD  
USA

**11:00am Wednesday 30th October**

RSPE Link Seminar Room

## **Plasma Research Laboratory**

### **Vacuum Arc Deposition (or. All about those cathode spots, and using them for fun and profit)**

**Dr Raymond L. Boxman**

Tel Aviv University

**2:00pm Friday 1st November**

Oliphant Building Seminar Room

## **PHYSICS EDUCATION REPORT**

The honours students will be holding final talks on their projects on the Tuesday 12th of November. Talks will start at 9:00 am and will be held in the honours lecture room in Huxley near the School computing unit. I will circulate a schedule of talks including titles and abstracts prior to the talks. All staff and students are encouraged to attend this event. Honours is an important year for the students and for RSPE, and your support for the honours students at this event is very much appreciated by the students, by PEC and by the School.

## **2014 ALUMNI AWARDS**

The ANU Alumni Awards celebrate and showcase the outstanding and diverse range of ANU graduates.

This is RSPE's chance to celebrate and promote alumni who are making the difference and to say thank you to alumni for contributing to the University's reputation by being extraordinary.

Categories Available:

1. Alumnus of the Year (the highest honour),
2. International Alumnus of the Year,
3. Young Alumnus of the Year,
4. Student of the Year and
5. Alumni Volunteer Leader of the Year

**Nominations Open: Friday 16 August 2013 &**

**Nominations Close: 30 November 2013 Midnight (AEST)**

W: <https://alumniandfriends.anu.edu.au/alumni-awards-2014>

Please consider nominating outstanding alumni from the School. Contact: Kavitha Robinson, Development Manager, E: [kavitha.robinson@anu.edu.au](mailto:kavitha.robinson@anu.edu.au)

## **FRIDAY PHYSICS SOCIAL CLUB**

On the first Friday of every month the Friday **Physics Social Club** will be held in the Physics North (near Department of Quantum Science) courtyard. The next event will be held on

Friday November 1st and will start at 4pm. There are two aims to these events. Firstly, it is an opportunity to interact with undergraduate students in an informal atmosphere. Secondly, it provides an opportunity to bring Physics North and South staff together in a relaxed setting. Please contact Cormac Corr ([cormac.corr@anu.edu.au](mailto:cormac.corr@anu.edu.au)) or Colin Campbell ([U5105921@anu.edu.au](mailto:U5105921@anu.edu.au)) if you have any questions.

## **MOVEMBER**

Mo Bros and Sisters next week is the start of the season of Mo growing. If you want to join the Physics team please go to

<http://au.movember.com/team/1009153>