



Research School of Physics and Engineering

Weekly newsletter | Volume 40 Number 20 | 16 – 20 June

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

After consultation with the HoDs, an advertisement for the Directorship of RSPE has been created and is now live (please see <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/PositionDetail.aspx?p=3989>). We have an internal group from central HR acting as search consultants to help approach suitable candidates for this crucial role. You are encouraged to work with ANU Search (anu.search@anu.edu.au) to help identify suitable individuals – whether internal or external – for the Directorship. The position will also be advertised soon in the Higher Education Supplement of The Australian.

The Dean, Professor Andrew Roberts, will be present in the Oliphant Building tearoom at **3 pm on Thursday, June 19**, to discuss details of the process and likely timeline for searching, short-listing, interviewing and appointing the next Director. We would welcome participation from all stakeholder groups within our School. Colleagues from the Senior Recruitments team of the Central HR Division will also be present. This will also be an opportunity to seek clarifications and offer suggestions in the matter. Please enter this date and time in your diaries to ensure you are there.

SCHOOL SEMINAR



**Biophotonics with a twist:
the chiral Gyroid photonic
crystal in butterfly wing-scales**

Dr Gerd Schröder-Turk

Applied Mathematics, RSPE

4:00pm Thursday 26 June

Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre

*Drinks and nibbles will be held in the
RSPE Tearoom after the seminar*

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Two members of our School received recognition in this year's Queens Birthday Honours list.

Steve Buckman was awarded an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) for '... significant service to science in the field of experimental atomic physics as a leading researcher, academic and author.'

Barry Ninham (Founding Professor of Applied Mathematics) was honoured with an OA (Officer of Order of Australia) for '... distinguished service to physical sciences through landmark theoretical and practical advances in colloids and surfaces, and as an academic, educator and mentor.'

PHYSICS EDUCATION SPRING PLANING DAY

The Education Spring Planning Day will be held on the **12th of September** this year. We have three working groups who are designing our new physics curriculum and course structure. The findings of these groups will be presented in the morning of the planning day and discussed in the afternoon. This will be an important meeting for the School, and I encourage all interested staff to put this date in their calendar.

PHYSICS PROJECT MARKET DAY

On **19th August 2014** (11.30am to 2pm) there will be an opportunity for staff to showcase their research and potential projects in Melville Hall to both undergraduate students at all levels as well as graduate students. The event is being held during Science Week and will be heavily promoted by undergraduate lecturers. Hence a strong participation of the undergraduate student cohort is expected. Academics are strongly encouraged to participate in this event by preparing a poster summarizing their research projects on offer and personally attending Market Day to speak with students from First Year through to Honours. This day has been organised in recognition of the challenges faced in attracting students to different research groups across the school. As part of this event, we will be requesting that projects are updated on the website. The projects will be put into booklet form that will be distributed.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Attention Technology Developers!

In conjunction with RSPE, the Technology Transfer Office will be holding a series of workshops over the next few months. All staff and students are welcome.

1st July: **Licensing 101** (3 hr) - good as a refresher or for the novice.

5th August: **Establishing a Start-Up** (3 hr) - basics covered, funding, marketing and stories shared.

2nd September: **Industry Engagement** (3 hr) - A guide to presenting your ideas and maintaining relationships with industry.

The workshops run the first Tuesday of each month starting at 9:30 in the Link Seminar Room.

For catering purposes please register with Tim Senden two days before each workshop.

FAREWELL

Electronic Materials Engineering

Farewells **Thomas Bierschenk** who has submitted his thesis and is off to Melbourne for a while and then over to Germany. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Electronic Materials Engineering

Departmental Administrator **Julie Arnold** will on leave 16 – 27 June. Any queries please contact her Admin buddy **Sonia Padrun** in Laser Physics.

VISITOR

Atomics & Molecular Physics

Professor Dennis Mueller of the University Of North Texas is visiting AMPL from 11 June - 3 July and will be working with Dr James Sullivan.

PROMOTIONS

The 2014 Academic Promotions round opens on **1 June 2014** and applications will close on **31 July 2014**.

Many aspects of the academic promotions round have changed this year. These changes are summarized in the [information sheet](#) on the [Academic Promotions webpage](#).

The School promotions round will be coordinated through the RSPE Director's Office with support from **Tim Gray** from College HR. Could you please send an email to Director.RSPE@anu.edu.au with your intention to apply including your name, current level and the promotion level by **close of business on Friday, 27 June 2014**.

Several information sessions for both supervisors and staff members will be held throughout May, and June. Please see the Academic Promotions webpage for information on dates, times and locations for these sessions. The first of these was held on Tuesday 13 May. Please don't hesitate to contact **Tim Gray** (tim.gray@anu.edu.au /52580) or **Andrea Butler** (Director.RSPE@anu.edu.au /52476) if you have any questions relating to the process.

3 MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

The [3MT](#) international research student competition is on again for 2014 and the Australian National University is currently preparing for the school heat, college and ANU finals of the [3 Minute Thesis competition](#).

The school encourages all research students to participate in this exciting and rewarding competition. To ensure you do well the school recommends that you attend as many 3MT preparatory workshops as possible such as:

26 June - [ANU 3MT workshop](#), Room N1.01, CSIT (Computer Science and Information Technology) Building 108

3 July - [Designing effective presentations](#)

8 July - [Three Minute Theatre](#)

The school's 3MT heat (including a light lunch) will be held on **24 July 2014**, followed by the College final in August ready for the final ANU 3MT competition on Wednesday 17 September 2014.

In regard to prizes on offer, for ANU college 3MT winners will receive \$1,000 research support grant and up to \$4,000 on offer for ANU final 3MT winners.

Further information: rspe.hdr.sa@anu.edu.au

ROBERT AND HELEN CROMPTON AWARD

Nominations are being sought for the Robert and Helen Crompton Award 2014. This Award provides funding of up to \$15,000 to assist postgraduate research students enrolled at the Research School of Physics and Engineering to undertake part of their research program overseas or make a collaborative visit to an overseas institution, for three to six months. **Applications will open 1 June 2014 and close 30 June 2014**. Please send your application to rspe.hdr.sa@anu.edu.au by 5pm 30 June 2014.

For enquiries and Conditions of Award, please contact the RSPE student office via rspe.hdr.sa@anu.edu.au.

FROM FACILITIES & SERVICES MANAGER

Lighting Upgrades

We are assessing the viability of a major LED upgrade for our lighting systems. There are some samples of luminaires available for viewing at the Cockcroft Building lift level 3 (near the tea room) along with the respective costs.

To ensure we can achieve this target can everyone please ensure that all equipment, computers, lights etc are off when not in use, even for short periods of time.

Excessive Water Use

We have undertaken the first stage of a water use audit of general use areas around the School. A number of items were identified as using excessive amounts of water – in particular some of our shower heads and single flush toilets.

A replacement program of these items is underway with some shower heads replaced in the last week with low flow models.

If you notice water waste, dripping taps or have suggestions to improve energy and water use please contact **David Anderson** (David.Anderson@anu.edu.au) - the chair of our local environment committee.

UPDATE OF WEBPAGES

As part of an update and revamp of our webpages, we're asking people for their feedback on what the priorities of the new pages should be via the Apollo form at:

<https://apollo.anu.edu.au/apollo/default.asp?pid=8132>

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

Electronic Materials Engineering

InP Nanowires Grown by Selective-area Metalorganic Vapour Phase Epitaxy

Qian Gao

PhD Mid Term Seminar

11:00am Tuesday 17th June

RSPE Link Seminar Room

Understanding the growth of ternary Antimonide nanowires

Xiaoming (Fred) Yuan

PhD Mid Term Seminar

11:00am Friday 20th June

RSPE Link Seminar Room