



Research School of Physics and Engineering

Weekly newsletter | Volume 40 Number 22 | 30 June – 4 July

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director will be on annual leave from **Thursday 3 - Wednesday 9 July**. Professor Ken Baldwin will be Acting Director during his absence.

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.

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:

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

SAD NEWS

Professor George D. Dracoulis

19 December 1944 to 19 June 2014



It is with great sadness that we convey the news that Professor George Dracoulis passed away Thursday 19 June after a brief battle with a very aggressive cancer.

George came to the Australian National University as Research Fellow in 1973. He was appointed to a Chair in Physics in 1991 and became Head of the Department of Nuclear Physics in 1992, a position he held until he retired in 2009.

It is universally recognised that George made tremendous contributions to the Department of Nuclear Physics and the Heavy Ion Accelerator Facility it operates, establishing it as one of the most respected nuclear physics laboratories in the world.

The recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to nuclear physics, George was a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics, the American Physical Society, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1997, receiving the Academy's Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal in 2003 for outstanding contributions to our understanding of the structure of atomic nuclei. In 2004 he won the Walter Boas Medal of the Australian Institute of Physics for excellence in research in physics.

George served as a member of the Prime Minister's Select Task Force on Uranium Mining, Processing & Nuclear Energy, in 2006, after which he continued to engage with the media and in the public discussion of nuclear energy and matters related to nuclear technology.

As Professor Emeritus, George remained very active in public education and discussion of nuclear issues. He also continued his nuclear structure research work until only a few weeks ago.

George will be greatly missed here in Australia and around the world.

THE PHYSICS EDUCATION CENTRE

The Physics Education Centre invites interested academic staff to apply for the position of convenor/lecturer for 2nd year Thermal and Statistical Physics (PHYS2020). This position starts in first semester 2015. This is an excellent opportunity for a staff member to become involved in lecturing and to take on a leadership role in the School. The Physics Education Centre is a very supportive environment, and there is a great deal of help and advice available for staff members wishing to take on lecturing as part of their academic activity. Interested staff are encouraged to contact Prof John Close.

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 all staff and students are encouraged to put this date in their calendar.

PHYSICS ANU SOCIAL MEDIA

A reminder that Physics at ANU has a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

<https://twitter.com/PhysicsANU>

<https://www.facebook.com/PhysicsANU>

If you have anything newsworthy you would like to share via social media please let me know and I will be happy to post it.

Examples include:

Significant research findings or publications (especially if you have a media release anyway)

Outreach activities

Grants or awards

'Cool' images that may spark an interest in Physics

Articles in The Conversation (or similar)

Thank you, Jodie Bradby

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

Electronic Materials Engineering

Ultra-Thin InP-Based Materials for Extended Wavelength Single Photon Detectors and High-Power Quantum Cascade Lasers

Dr Christine Wang

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2:00pm Thursday 3rd July

RSPE Link Seminar Room

Electronic Materials Engineering

Wide-Bandgap III-N Ultraviolet Light Emitters and Power Electronic Devices

Professor Russell D. Dupuis

Georgia Institute of Technology in Electrical and Computer Engineering

11:00am Friday 4th July

RSPE Link Seminar Room

OHS BULLETIN

Training courses

OHS training for supervisors (OHSG28) **26 June**

Hazardous waste safety officer training (OHSA15) **2 July**

Manual handling (OHSG06) **16 July**

Electrical Australian design standards (OHSA24) **21 July**

Ionizing radiation safety - Machines (OHSA19) **22 July**

Self Study (e.g. Laser safety, Chemicals, Corrosives)

For staff or students who just missed an essential ANU training course with many months till the next one, you can now request access to the training notes and undertake the exam beforehand. To complete the course and obtain the Certificate you must attend the face-to-face training at the next available course.

To obtain access to these notes you must enrol via HORUS or ISIS and send a request to ohstraining@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.

WELCOME

Atomics & Molecular Physics

Dr Josh Machacek has returned after a short stint as a postdoctoral fellow in the USA. Josh will be working with Steve Buckman and James Sullivan.

Non Linear Physics Centre

Mr Andrei Komar has arrived this week to commence his PhD studies with NLPC. He will have a desk in L2.17 and telephone 53063 .

Department of Nuclear Physics

Dr Gayatri Mohanto and **Dr Prasad Edayillam**, new Postdoctoral Fellows, with the Reaction Dynamics Group. They can be found in office 2.29, ext. 59626.

Mr Raffaele Buompane, PhD student from the Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, Italy, will be visiting the AMS group for 3 months to undertake research on the environmental applications of plutonium, uranium and radium isotopes by utilising the 14UD accelerator. Raffaele will be located in office 2.44, ext.52086.

Dr Silke Merchel, **Dr Georg Rugel** and **Mr Stefan Pavetich** from Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden, Germany, are also visiting the AMS group to undertake collaborative work under the Go8/DAAD project and to attend HIAS2014. They will be visiting until 2 July.