



## Research School of Physics and Engineering

Weekly Newsletter | Volume 40 Number 35 | 29 September - 3 October

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director will be participating in collaborative research at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Brazil, as part of a Brazilian Government supported Science without Borders Research Programme. He will be travelling from **22/9 – 30/9** and Professor Tim Senden will be acting Director during this period.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Ping Koy Lam** and **Thomas Symul** (with alumnus **Tim Ralph**) on winning the 2014 Walsh Medal of the Australian Institute of Physics.

The Award is given for physics research and/or development that has led to patents, processes or inventions which, in the opinion of the judging panel, have led to significant industrial and/or commercial outcomes, such as devices that are being manufactured or have influenced a major industrial process

### SCHOOL SEMINAR



#### Right and Wrong in the Conduct of Science

**Professor Mukunda P Das**

Theoretical Physics, RSPE, ANU

**4.00pm Thursday 2 October**

Leonard Huxley Lecture Theatre

Further information at: <http://physics.anu.edu.au/events.php?EventID=227>

*Please join us for drinks and nibbles after the Seminar in the RSPE Tearoom*

### RSPE QUIET WRITING SPACE

The RSPE Conference Room has been booked each Thursday morning (starting October 2nd till the end of the year) from 9-12 to create a space for those wishing to commit one uninterrupted morning per week for writing. 'Writing in progress' sign will be posted asking for the writers not to be interrupted. A similar writing-club/group has been organized in Earth Sciences and by all accounts is very successful.

The Director has been kind enough to fund 20 copies of the book 'How to write a lot' for those who wish to participate.

The definition of 'writing' is very flexible. Simply whatever you need to do to progress your writing project. i.e. writing a manuscript draft, reading and making notes on articles for an introduction of a paper, tidying up a manuscript from a

colleague, analyzing data for a paper or writing a draft for a grant. These all count as 'writing'.

The 'rules' are straightforward:

- No chatting (smiling is ok!).
- No need to turn up every week.
- No need to turn up right at 9 am.
- No need to stay for all three hours.
- No need to commit to each week.
- Stay for an hour or stay for all three.

There is no need to RSVP.

"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on." – [Louis L'Amour](#)

"I hate writing, I love having written." – [Dorothy Parker](#)

### NEW RSPE DIRECTOR SEARCH

The process of appointing a new School Director is underway. Applications have closed and shortlisting is expected to happen in a couple of weeks.

At this stage, input from School members to the Appointment Committee is helpful, and should be given via the Liaison Committee, made up of Yuri Kivshar (Chair), Rana Ganguly, Rod Boswell, Rob Elliman, Andrew Truscott, Ping Koy Lam, Vanessa Robins, and Horst Punzmann.

Any member of School who wishes to make suggestions about candidates to be considered seriously for the position should please talk or email to the Liaison Committee members.

Candidates on the final shortlist will be invited to give a seminar presentation to the School community, most likely during the last two weeks of October. The Liaison committee will canvas School feedback via a questionnaire after these presentations.

### FOUNDER'S DAY



Founder's Day is a RSPE celebration honouring Sir Mark Oliphant. Sir Mark was an eminent Australian physicist and the founding Director of the School. In 1981, Professor John Carver (then Director of RSPE) introduced Founder's Day as an initiative to unite the School in a celebration of the year's achievements.

This year Founder's Day will be held on **Friday 17 October 2014** and will involve research and education highlight presentations, informative talks on the School's achievements during the year, a presentation of the RSPE Endowment awards and School awards. [Programme here](#)



## DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

### ***Nuclear Physics Seminar***

#### **Radioactive Isotopes in nuclear solid state physics**

***Dr Patrick Kessler***

National Metrology Institute of Germany

**11:00am Tuesday 30 September**

Nuclear Physics Seminar Room

### ***Electronic Materials Engineering***

#### **Synthesis, Modelling and Applications of Three-Dimensional Nanostructure Networks made in Flames**

***Dr Antonio Tricoli***

Nanotechnology Research Laboratory, Research School of Engineering, CECS, ANU

**11:00am Wednesday 8 October**

RSPE Link Seminar Room

## 2015 ANU ALUMNI AWARDS

The nominations for the 2015 ANU Alumni Awards are now open. The ANU Alumni Awards recognise the extraordinary achievements and significant contributions made by our graduates and students in Australia and internationally in a range of areas.

### **Categories include:**

- Alumnus of the Year – Philanthropy
- Alumnus of the Year – Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Alumnus of the Year – Research or Academia
- International Alumnus of the Year
- Young Alumnus of the Year
- Student of the Year

If you know a graduate or student who inspires and whose achievements are extraordinary, please contact Kavitha Robinson, Development Manager on [kavitha.robinson@anu.edu.au](mailto:kavitha.robinson@anu.edu.au)

Nominations close on **31 October 2014**.

For more info: <https://alumniandfriends.anu.edu.au/alumni-awards>

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

### ***Nonlinear Physics Centre***

Departmental Administrator Kath Hicks will be absent **30 September to 3 October**. Please contact Yuri Kivshar [yuri.kivshar@anu.edu.au](mailto:yuri.kivshar@anu.edu.au) during this time.

### ***Applied Mathematics***

Departmental Administrator Martina Landsmann will be absent **30 September to 7 October**. Contact Tim Senden [Tim.Senden@anu.edu.au](mailto:Tim.Senden@anu.edu.au) while Martina is away.

### ***Electronic Materials Engineering***

Departmental Administrator Julie Arnold will be absent 30 September to 3 October. Jeff Kealley will back up EME while Julie is away. If it's urgent please email him on [jeffrey.kealley@anu.edu.au](mailto:jeffrey.kealley@anu.edu.au) X 52495

Jeff is available

Tuesday 8.30-4.00

Wednesday 8.30-12.00

Thursday 8.30-4.00