

Introduction

| APS Committee on Careers and Professional Development members for 2010. | | |
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| Benjamin Brown (12/10) US Dept of Energy | Barbara L. Whitten (12/10) Colorado College | Mark F Wilson (12/10) Opequon Associates Inc. |
| Catherine Mader (12/11) Hope College (chair) | I Cevdet Noyan (12/11) IBM T J Watson Research Ctr. | Peter Stoltz (12/11) Tech-X Corp |
| Gordon A Thomas (12/10) New Jersey Inst. of Technology | Alice White (12/12) Alcatel-Lucent/Bell Labs | Stephen Asztalos (12/12) X-Ray Instrumentation Assoc. |
| | APS - Senior Staff Ted Hodapp, APS | APS - Committee Administrator Crystal Bailey, APS |

In 2010, the Committee on Careers and Professional Development (CCPD) met in-person at the APS twice and held two conference calls. In addition, occasional interactions via the CCPD listserv (ccpd@aps.org) and the CCPD wiki (<https://apsccpd.pbworks.com>) occurred. Several projects begun in 2009 are still underway and several new projects have been undertaken. A brief summary of these initiatives follows.

Continuing Projects from 2009

- Website Revisions:** Revision of the Careers section of the APS website has been under discussion for several years. Efforts to update and move the content into a more web-friendly style has been underway for a while with the assistance of Pegi Black (APS IT staff). However, a detailed analysis of what is there and how it is organized has not been done in quite some time. The committee met for a full afternoon in the spring of 2010 with Pegi Black, Sara Connors (APS IT staff) and Crystal Bailey in order to determine the audiences for the Careers website and what information is needed for these audiences. After the audience and content needs were defined, Crystal Bailey spent several months (spring and summer of 2010) analyzing the existing content from the Careers site to determine where it fit in the redesigned website structure. The committee reviewed Crystal's analysis during the summer conference call and identified gaps in the content. Efforts are underway to fill these gaps. The revision of the website is underway by APS staff. An estimated time for the launch of the new site has not yet been provided.
- Professional Development Guide Revisions:** As the website has been reviewed, it has become clear that the Professional Development Guide needs to be revised to a more web-friendly format. In addition, some content needs to be updated. Ben Brown has taken the lead on these revisions. His drafts were published on the CCPD wiki for committee members to provide feedback. The new guide will be published when the new Careers website is launched.

- **Career Development Speaker Travel grants:** One career development speaker travel grant request was supported during the 2010 year. The title and abstract for this talk will be added to the website to provide ideas for other institutions that may want to apply for the travel awards.
- **Careers in Physics Blog:** The CCPD members had created a blog (<http://apsphysicsjobs.wordpress.com/>) intended to allow for more interaction with Physicists and CCPD members. The blog served as a forum for answering questions Physicists have about career issues. To get things started, APS staff provided a list of questions they have received from members in recent times which CCPD members then answered. These Q&A documents are posted on the blog. The traffic on the blog is not high and so as discussion of the website redesign proceeded, it was decided that the content from the blog would move to the new website in the form of an FAQ section.

New Projects for 2010

- **Economics of a Physics Education:** Mark Wilson wrote up a brief analysis of the costs (in dollars) and earnings associated with pursuing an undergraduate degree in physics and then entering the workforces versus the costs and earnings associated with entering the workforce immediately upon completing a high school education. The punchline is that within a few years of completion of a bachelors degree, the typical physicist will catch up to the non-bachelor's recipient in real dollars earned and will quickly surpass them in yearly salary. The information was summarized briefly on the CCPD website. An APS student intern helped to revise the document for a younger audience (high school or college level physics students).
- **Webinars:** The APS Education and Diversity staff is organizing a series of webinars on topics of interest to APS members. Several of the topics are likely to be of interest to the CCPD members and committee members have agreed to serve as webinar presenters when appropriate. There are plans for a Webinar on searching for and applying to summer research programs in January. Cathy Mader will present this webinar.

Other items

- **Ex-officio members invited to join CCPD:** The interests and activities of the CCPD overlap regularly with those of FIAP and FGSA, so the members of CCPD have invited the leadership of FIAP and FGSA to serve as ex-officio members of CCPD. Both organizations have agreed and identified members of their leadership group to participate. We are looking forward to working with these groups more closely in the coming year.
- **Best practices for advising physics majors:** Physics majors seeking career advice while undergraduates often turn to faculty members who may not have ever pursued careers outside of academia and may not have received and training on career advising. The CCPD members are exploring the possibility of producing a short document which can help faculty to provide accurate and useful career and academic guidance to student who may not be pursuing graduate degrees in physics.