

Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers

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Michael C. Faleski
2010-2011 President



Join us for the Spring MIAAPT meeting at Grand Valley State University – Allendale, April 15 – 16

Spring 2011 Meeting

Contents

Spring 2011 Meeting	1
We still want to know...	1
Fall '10 Meeting Recap	2
Election and Thank you!	2
US Physics Team Comp...	3
Resources for Teachers	3
Upcoming National Sum...	4
Modeling in High School...	4

April 15-16, 2011

The Spring Meeting of MIAAPT will take place April 15-16, 2011 at Grand Valley State University - Allendale, MI.

We are happy to announce that the keynote speaker for the meeting is David R. Sokoloff. David was the winner of the 2007 [Robert A. Millikan award](#) of AAPT for “notable and creative contributions to the teaching of physics.” Also, he was awarded the 2010 [Excellence in Physics Education Award](#) by the American Physical Society (with Priscilla Laws, Ronald Thornton and the Activity Based Physics Group.) Currently, David is serving as AAPT’s President.

In addition, the meeting will have

contributed presentations, posters, and more. We also have David Sokoloff presenting a workshop for Saturday morning (April 16), as well as an “open to all” colloquium on Friday afternoon at GVSU. Please check the website (www.miaapt.org) for further details as they become available.

The meeting fee is \$10, lunch costs typically ~\$7.50, and the regular meeting begins at ~8:30 AM on Saturday. We hope to see you there!

All presentation abstracts, details, and updates for this meeting will be available on the MIAAPT website (www.miaapt.org). Maps and directions to the GVSU campus can be found at the following website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/maps.htm>.

We still want to know...

We want to know what you think!

At the Fall 2010 meeting of MIAAPT, we had a special portion of the business meeting set aside for discussion of how to increase membership into MIAAPT and how to improve/change the sectional meetings. This feedback was excellent! And now... We’d like to know more...

Why do you come to meetings? What would you like to see happen at meetings? Would you prefer to have only one larger meeting a year rather than two meetings? Would you like more workshops? Fewer workshops? Time dedicated to work on curriculum/activities? Do you come for the keynote speakers or is not something that interests you?

A *questionnaire* is available for members to fill out...

<http://web.miaapt.org/survey>

The above is the link to the Google doc that you can fill out to guide us feedback...

The form is short and should very little time to fill out.

The Executive Board is very interested in what you think to make our meetings better and better.

Thank you for your time!



MIAAPT President 2010 - 2011
Michael C. Faleski
Delta College



1st Vice-President 2010-2011
Brad Ambrose
Grand Vallev State University

Fall 2010 MIAAPT Meeting Recap



2nd Vice President 2010 - 2011
James Gell
Plymouth High School



Section Rep. 2009 - 2012
Al Gibson
Adams Rochester HS (ret.)



Secretary/Webmaster 2010 -
Steve Dickie
Divine Child High School



Treasurer 2010 -
Don Pata
Grosse Pointe North HS

The Physics Department at UM-Dearborn hosted a vibrant Fall 2010 MIAAPT meeting for the approximately 40 instructors and students in attendance. Despite a last-minute cancellation by AAPT President David Sokoloff—who is appearing at the upcoming Spring 2011 meeting at Grand Valley State University—the Fall meeting included a lively mix of workshops, oral presentations, and an informal idea-generating discussion about what future MIAAPT meetings might look like.

We sincerely thank the workshop presenters for sharing their enthusiasm and expertise at the Fall 2010 meeting:

- Kevin Dehne (Delta College), demonstrated hands-on activities in astronomy.
- Michael LoPresto, Steve Murrell, Brian Kirchner (Henry Ford Community College, and Don Bord, Carrie Swift, Eric Rasmussen (UM-Dearborn) led a workshop and tour of UMD/HFCC astronomy public outreach facilities.
- Mary Wyatt (The Henry Ford) discussed OnInnovation as well as the physics of auto racing.

We are also grateful to Carrie Swift and Eric Rasmussen (UM-Dearborn) who offered tour and observation sessions at the UM-D observatory on Friday and Saturday evenings. Unfortunately Mother Nature foiled us by making skies overcast on both nights, but the tours were well received nonetheless.

Contributed presentations covered a variety of physics and earth science topics, including teaching innovations and outreach to the greater community. Highlights included talks

from Mike LoPresto on building an astronomy outreach program with limited dollars but energetic faculty, from Laura Ritter and Don Pata on modeling workshops for Michigan teachers, and from Chandler Benjamin on meteorite research at Saginaw Valley State.

In addition, MIAAPT President Mike Faleski led an interactive group discussion to generate ideas for outreach and recruitment to grow our membership. In a think-pair-share format the attendees brainstormed some ideas for us to explore further. Some questions and ideas that were raised include the following:

- How can MIAAPT meetings provide more “classroom-tested, classroom-ready” ideas for teachers?
- How can current MIAAPT members be involved in inviting and recruiting colleagues and students, and how can MIAAPT help in that effort?
- Should SB-CEUs be offered for workshops at MIAAPT meetings?
- How can we make the most of online resources (e.g., Facebook)? How can MIAAPT support the new AAPT e-mentoring program for teachers?

We will continue to need your help in the weeks and months ahead as we commit ourselves to new and more efficient ways to promote quality physics teaching and learning in Michigan. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming Prof. David Sokoloff for an exciting Spring 2011 meeting at Grand Valley State University on April 15 & 16. We hope to see you there!

Election and Thank you!

At the upcoming MIAAPT meeting... we are going to be electing a new Two-Year College person for the position of 2nd Vice-President! If you have any interest, please contact the current board members for more information!

This is a great chance to get involved with MIAAPT!

Also... a huge Thank You from MIAAPT to Brad Ambrose for his tireless work this year as Program Chair. With all of the last-minute changes that had to occur, Brad did a great job getting everything put together! Thanks, Brad!!!!

US Physics Team Competition

In January of 2010, physics students from around the country entered the US Physics Team first round exam called "F=ma". The top ~350 student scores on this difficult multiple choice contest in the country are then invited to participate in the next round of the competition. These outstanding students get to take an even more difficult physics exam testing their problem-solving abilities over the course of three hours.

The state of Michigan did very well in the first round with many students placing in the top 350 from 7 different schools. These outstanding students (and teachers) are

Dalton J. Allen from Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy in Saginaw Michigan (*teacher: David Allen*)

David C. Lu, Christopher M. Schulte, Alex Song, and **Allen Yuan** from Detroit Country Day High School in Beverly Hills,

MI (*teacher: Dan Berger*):

Adhitya Venkatesh from Rochester High School in Rochester Hills, MI (*teacher: Richard Forrest*):

Marie L. Lhota and **Michael J. MacFarlane** from Wylie E. Groves High School in Beverly Hills, MI (*teacher: Chris Marentette*):

Allen J. Chen, Matthew Cui, and **Mason Liang** from Troy High School in Troy, MI (*teacher: John Morrison*):

Kevin X. Wu from Saint Joseph's high School in Saint Joseph, MI (*teacher: Nita Nicholie*):

Rajeev A. Vadhavkar from Northville High School in Northville, MI (*teacher: Jon Palmer*)

Congratulations to all and good luck in the next round!!



MIAAPT Liaison to MI State Bd of Ed.
Kathy Mirakovits
Portage Northern High School



MIAAPT Liaison to MSTA
Alex Azima
Lansing Community College

Resources for Teachers

Are you starting out as a physics teacher? If so, consider becoming a member of the MIAAPT by attending one of our meetings. The next meeting will be Friday-Saturday, April 15-16 at Grand Valley State University. For more information, see www.miaapt.org!

For New Physics Teachers:

Used Math, by Clifford E. Swartz (AAPT).

Teaching Introductory Physics, by Arnold B. Arons (Wiley).

For the New Teacher, column in *The Physics Teacher* edited by Patricia Blanton.

compadre.org/portal/index.cfm, Digital Resources for Physics and Astronomy Education. Contains information for K-12 and college faculty.

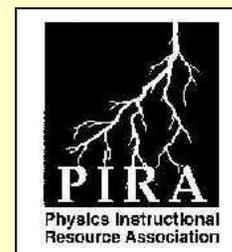
psrc.aapt.org, the Physical Science Resource Center website of the AAPT. Contains ideas for lessons, assessment, and more.

www.physicscentral.com, the Physics Central website. Contains up-to-date physics-related news, stories of general interest, and an excellent collection of web links.

www.physics.ncsu.edu/pira/, the Physics Instructional Resource Association web index of physics demonstrations.



Physical Sciences Resource Center





**The Michigan Section of
The American Association of
Physics Teachers**

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Delta College

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Grand Valley State U

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Website:

www.miaapt.org

Upcoming National Summer Meeting

The 2011 Summer Meeting of AAPT is coming to Omaha, NE from July 30 - August 3. For full information, go to www.aapt.org.

Abstracts for the meeting are due by March 21, but if this deadline is missed, abstracts can still be submitted and will be considered "post-deadline".

The theme of the meeting will be related to the communication of physics. From the AAPT website about the meeting: "Physicists speak a special language. We pride ourselves on

defining our terms in a very precise and consistent way. And yet, too much of the world what we say is unintelligible. Likewise, it's sometimes hard for us to hear the physics in what nonscientists are saying. At this meeting we will focus on the art (possibly even the science?) of talking about the science we love with that larger audience beyond the students who come to our classes intent (or at least attempting!) to learn the language of physics..."

We hope to see many of you at the meeting!

Modeling in High Schools Physics Instruction

Don Pata (Grosse Pointe North High School) and Laura Ritter (Troy High School) will be co-facilitating a physics modeling workshop this coming summer in Royal Oak, MI.

This three-week summer workshop will thoroughly ground physics teachers in the methods of "Modeling Instruction" - an approach recognized as EXEMPLARY by the U.S. Department of Education. The content focus will be on Mechanics, typically a first semester of high school physics.

The workshop will take place Thursday, June 23, 2011 to Friday, July 15, 2011 (no class on weekends or July 4th &

5th) 8:00 AM-4:00 PM each day.

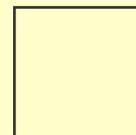
The workshop will take place at the Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast, 5055 Delemere Avenue, Royal Oak, MI

The cost is \$100, which includes coffee, lunch, and materials.

Registration:

1. Interested teachers must complete an *Application for Review* online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/modelingphysics>
2. The deadline to complete an application is May 20, 2011.
3. Selected participants will receive a link to register and pay online through Oakland Schools Event Management.

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