Course and Scheduling Changes

- SM205 Great Ideas in Science
  In order to be able to offer more courses, we have switched a few low enrollment courses to every other year offering. It will be next offered S09. This course is the department recommendation for GE Area VI.

- PHY240/242/244 evening recitations
  Starting F08, the recitation times have been changed to 4:10, 5:05 and 6:05PM Thursdays instead of the old times of 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30PM.

- PHY260 Introduction to Modern Physics
  The times have been changed to 1:30-2:45PM on TR (lectures) and 12:15-2:05PM on Wednesday (labs).

- PHY315 Physics Instrumentation I
  Starting F08, PHY260 will no longer be a prerequisite.

- PHY432 Lasers
  Has been switched to every other year offering. It will be next offered S09.

- PHY440 Introduction to Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
  For 2008-9, the nano course, PHY440, has been moved to Fall quarter. Can be used towards free electives, honors program, and minor.

Honors Program Changes

“The Department of Physics offers an honors program designed to provide superior students with a program that offers greater creativity and intellectual challenge. Students who wish to participate in this program must apply to the department during the spring quarter before they plan to enter the honors program. Interested students should have and maintain at least a 3.2 GPA overall and at least a 3.2 in physics courses numbered 300 and above. To graduate with honors in physics, students are required to complete at least 2 PHY400-level and above beyond those required by the program, and nine hours of senior research (494).”

Academic Advising

Starting F08, we will start the trial of mandatory academic advising for all intending and current physics majors. This is to ensure that all students are aware of the latest changes in the various programs and to make sure that you can complete your program in a timely manner. Thus, you will not be able to register for F08 classes until you have met with a physics advisor. For my advisees, I will be available during the Advising Open House: Wednesday, May 7, 11-2 in Rm 242 Fawcett.
Other News

• Lockers

We have lockers available for use by physics majors at no charge. Please check with Pam in the office if you would like one.

• Computer Lab

The departmental computer lab (Rm 240 Fawcett) has recently been renovated with 10 new PC’s and a 65in plasma screen, and is now available for your use 24/7. Access is restricted to physics and engineering physics majors. Please check with Pam in the office for the access code.

• TeraWright Research Labs

The WSU Terahertz and Ultrafast Photonics Research Laboratory will soon be opening for research. A major room renovation was recently completed and followed by the installation of optical tables. A diode-pumped Titanium:Sapphire ultrafast laser system will be delivered shortly. Dr. Jason Deibel will use this system to perform ultrafast and terahertz spectroscopy and imaging experiments. "Terahertz" refers to a section of the electromagnetic spectrum that lies between the microwave and infrared. "Ultrafast" specifies a timescale on the order of 100 femtoseconds or less (1 femto = 1E-15).

Several of Dr. Deibel’s ongoing research projects include:
- Terahertz spectroscopic and thermal characterization of combustion environments.
- Terahertz imaging of corrosion processes in paints and metals.
- Spectroscopy of novel nanomaterials.
- Development of a terahertz microscope.
- Terahertz biomedical spectroscopy and imaging.
- Computational electromagnetics.

Any interested students should contact Dr. Deibel.

• Latest Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees

Recently inducted into ΣΠΣ are: Zachary Gault, Michael Moulton and Lori Smith. ΣΠΣ is the national physics honor society and members are elected based upon academic record. The local chapter was started in 1969 and currently numbers 256 members.

• Ohio Section of American Physical Society

This meeting will be held at WSU from October 10-11 and is being co-organized by us and AFIT. The two-day program will consist of talks on ‘Protein folding’, ‘Ultrafast science’, ‘Paleoatmospheres: Search for habitable worlds’, ‘Nanoscience’, and a public lecture by the founder of the Ig Nobel Prize. There will also be opportunities for everybody to give oral presentations and posters. Physics majors can register for free. Those who volunteer will receive free meals on both days. Please get in touch with me if interested.

Faculty and Staff

Basista, Beth. PhD (Cincinnati). Physics education.

Instructor

Lohner, William. MEd (WSU).

Staff

O’Brien, Barbara. Administrative staff.
Sturm, Pamela. Administrative staff.
Wagner, William. Lab manager.

Society of Physics Students’ Corner

SPS has participated in several successful outreach and social activities this year, including Fall Fest, Techfest, and the Trebuchet contest. This quarter, we are preparing for our second annual May Daze Human Chess Tournament against the engineering department and have a team playing in the intramural volleyball league. We are also happy to see the formation of the new WSU Astronomy Club, which has been hosting solar viewing sessions out on the quad this quarter. We have just completed elections and congratulate Lindsay Owens and April Heddings on being elected as next year’s co-presidents, and Zach Gault as next year’s treasurer. If you would like to be added to the SPS mailing list, please contact owens.60@wright.edu.

Scott Eilerman, SPS President