

Head of School of Physics Newsletter - July 2010

Nobel Prize Winner Talk - Prof. William Phillips, 1997 Nobel Laureate for Physics and quantum physicist will give a lecture organised by the School as part of Sydney Ideas on Wednesday 4 August at 6.30pm in the Seymour Centre.

Tickets are free to University of Sydney staff and students. Make sure you don't miss this rare opportunity to hear a Nobel Prize winner live. For more info on the talk and tickets:

http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2010/professor_william_d_phillips.shtml

Centres of Excellence Success - The School of Physics has been immensely successful with the recent announcement of our Centres of Excellence (CoE) outcomes. Of the 13 CoE's funded nationally by the ARC, 2 will be housed in the School with a further 3 nodes housed in the School. The Specific details are as follows:

Centres to be housed in the School:

1. All-sky Astrophysics Centre with Bryan Gaensler as Centre Director. Income over the lifetime of the Centre will be \$20,600,000. Elaine Sadler and Scott Croom will also be Chief Investigators from the School of Physics.
2. Ultrahigh Bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems Centre with Ben Eggleton as Centre Director. Income over lifetime of the Centre will be \$23,800,000. Boris Kuhlmeiy, Ross McPedran and Martijn de Sterke will also be Chief Investigators from the School of Physics.

Nodes of Centres to be housed in the School:

3. Engineered Quantum Systems Centre housed at University of Queensland. Income over lifetime of the Centre will be \$24,500,000. Stephen Bartlett, Michael Biercuk, Andrew Doherty and David Reilly will be Chief Investigators from the School of Physics.
4. Particle Physics at the Tera-Scale Centre housed at Melbourne University. Income over lifetime of the Centre will be \$25,200,000. Kevin Varvell and Bruce Yabsley will be Chief Investigators from the School of Physics.
5. Quantum Computation and Communication Technology Centre housed at UNSW. Income over lifetime of the Centre will be \$24,500,000. David McKenzie will be a Chief Investigator from the School of Physics.

More information can be found on the ARC website at http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/ce/2011_coe_funding.htm

All involved in these successful outcomes are to be congratulated. Such successes would be rare for any university School or department in Australia and this is certainly an unprecedented outcome for the School. It is an indication of future likely successes for the School, especially when combined with our recent success in obtained EIF funding for a new building which will house the Australian Institute of Nanoscience.

Other Grant Success - There have been two successful grants outcomes from the Cancer Institute NSW Research Equipment Grant scheme. Zdenka Kuncic as a sole Chief Investigator has been awarded \$165,000 for "The NSW Advanced Computing Facility for Cancer Research". Also, Phil Vial, Zdenka Kuncic and Clive Baldock as Chief Investigators have been awarded \$198,000 for "Making radiotherapy safer and more accurate: Developing detector technology for the next generation in treatment verification

systems". Particular congratulations to Zdenka regarding this outcome. More information can be found on the Cancer Institute NSW website at http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/cancer_inst/grants/successful.html

Selby Award - David Reilly has been awarded the 2010 Selby Research Award. The Selby Scientific Foundation makes the award available to assist an outstanding academic to establish their research career. The value of the award is \$17,000 for one year.

Promotion Success - Congratulations to Jong Won Kim and Jochen Schroeder who have been promoted to Level B in the recent promotion round. It is well deserved and recognition of their excellent research work in the Complex Systems Group and CUDOS respectively.

Reclassifications - George Shan and Lara Davis are to be congratulated in having their positions reclassified to Higher Education Officer (HEO) Levels 7 and 6 respectively. This is recognition of the developed roles in the School of two valued members of staff.

Astronomical Society of Australia - SifA staff did very well at the recent ASA meeting. The prize for best poster was won by Vanessa Moss with runner up for best poster won by Holly Trowland. The Bok Prize for best Honours thesis was Madusha Gunawardhana (for work at AAO/Macquarie) and the Webster prize for best paper by an early career researcher was won by Mike Ireland.

School Party - A School party is planned for 20 August to celebrate our many recent successes. Further details to follow.

Space Audit - A number of members of staff have yet to complete the basic utilization survey for the purposes of the School space audit. Please ensure you do so asap.

SRE Survey - If academic staff haven't as yet completed the survey regarding the SRE data collection exercise as previously brought to your attention by the DVC-Research, then please do so asap. It will potentially have an impact on our research funding. Thanks for your cooperation regarding this matter.