

## Physics Foyer Re-opening

The foyer of the Physics Building was officially re-opened on 3rd July, following several months of refurbishment, involving heritage architects and the University's Campus Infrastructure Services. A ribbon was cut by honorary staff member and museum benefactor Dr Roy Allen. The foyer now has on show some beautiful apparatus from the museum collection, displayed in stunning custom glass cabinets. Many thanks to Nathan Apps for managing this project.

## ISS2009

As many of you are aware the 35th Professor Harry Messel International Science School (ISS): Genes to Galaxies, ran from 12-25 July 2009 here in the School of Physics. One hundred and forty Year 11 and 12 students from Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, the UK and the USA stayed on campus at the Women's College for this science program run by the Science Foundation for Physics. In 2009 all five places for the Indigenous Science Scholars were filled. The girls were thrilled to meet Dr Karl and we were thrilled to have them here.

The ISS also invited brilliant scientists who donated their time to lecture to these outstanding students. Some of these ISS 2009 speakers were Julius Sumner Miller Fellow, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, our own Professor Geraint Lewis and Director of SETI, Professor Jill Tarter and Mr Wayne Lee from NASA's Mars Mission. Click [here](#) to see photos and hear the ISS lectures podcast.

## Staff - Welcome

A warm welcome to our new staff:

Christie Nelan	Sharma Sanjib
Andrew Phillips	Jochen Schroeder
Kunwar Singh	Charles Hemmings

## Staff - Farewell

And some staff are moving onwards and upwards:

Tessa Davis	Christian Karnusch
Qijin Cheng	Helen Gustavsson
Rodger Ashwell	Martina Lattermann
Kali Madden	Aisling Clarke
Sacha Van Albada	Igor Levchenko
Arne Geschke	Victor Zhou
Denis Bucher	

## Staff - Promotions/Awards

In recognition of outstanding achievements, Dr Michael Ireland has been promoted to level B, and Drs Bo Li and Helen Johnston have been promoted to Level C. Congratulations to Mike, Bo and Helen.

Dr Zdenka Kuncic has been awarded the 2009 Selby Research Award in the Faculty of Science. The Selby Scientific Foundation makes the award available to assist an outstanding academic (TLR) in their research career.

Eureka Prize Finalists - Professors Marcela Bilek and David McKenzie, together with Cristobel dos Remedios and Anthony Weiss, are finalists in the ARC prize for interdisciplinary research that uses physics and biology to create technology that binds active biomolecules to any synthetic surface. The result will be announced on Tuesday 18th August at a black tie event.

## Website

After a couple of months of working full-time on the website, Lara Davis is now working (nominally) one day per week in this role as part of Outreach.

## Postgrad Info Day

Postgrad Info Day will be on 11 September. Academics will be speaking to prospective students about projects and studying at Sydney Uni. Physoc will be hosting a BBQ on the day, to which students and academics alike are invited. For more information, visit <http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/future/pginfoday.shtml>.

## Apollo Exhibition

Launched during the ISS, the SciTech library is hosting an exhibition on the Apollo 11 mission called "Small Step, Giant Leap". Initiated by the Science Foundation for Physics, it was curated by the Powerhouse and will be on display until 10 Sept.

## Outreach

Astronomy was again the theme for Gifted and Talented in July, this time with activities on spectroscopy and rockets - not at the same time, though. 60 students in year 9 and 10 from around NSW spent a day exploring physics.

Water rockets with simple fins and counter weighted nose-cones, all made by the students, went flying over St Paul's oval at distances up to 50m. In the lab they compared the emission spectra of distant objects in four different wavelength ranges.

Science in the City was a hit again at the Australian Museum with students in both high and primary school entertained by physics shows. They also investigated the problem of why cans of diet soft drinks float, and sugar-laden ones don't.

Do you have any news? Or a new banner for the newsletter? Send it to: [outreach@physics.usyd.edu.au](mailto:outreach@physics.usyd.edu.au).