

MS Sec. AAPT-MAP
Fall Meeting
November 3, 2007

The Mississippi Association of Physicists (MAP) met at the Mississippi State University Center for Advanced Vehicular Studies (CAVS) in Canton, Mississippi. Registration began at 8:30 am. At 9:00 AM. James Sabatier called the meeting to order and provided a welcome to the MAP members and the Louisiana and Alabama Sections who attended the meeting.

Rod Schwartz, Engineering Manager of the body and stamping plants in Nissan Facility was the first speaker. He talked about the responsibilities of his team of 20+ engineering includes controlling the intricate manufacturing processes required to build any one of the five different vehicles produced in Canton MS. He showed that the facility produces about 200 vehicles a day, some of them are sent to Middle East, China, Russia and North America.

Richard W. Peterson, Professor of Physics, Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, was the second speaker. Dr. Peterson was awarded the 1998 American Physical Society's (APS) Prize for outstanding research at an undergraduate school in the U.S. and was elected a Fellow of the APS in 2005. During 2005 – 2007 he served as national President/Past President of AAPT. He talked about the advanced labs and how to attract students in laboratory work. In addition he talked about his research interests that involve new methods of performing highly-transient interferometric and holographic measurements in undergraduate labs.

Following Professor Peterson's presentation, several optic demonstrations were presented by, Chris Sirola from USM and Thomas Jamerson and Jim Sabatier from Olemiss.

Marco Cavaglia (University of Mississippi) – Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Mississippi, was the third speaker. He talked about his current research interests which focus on gravitational waves and black holes physics. He collaborates to the German Max-Planck Institute Outreach Program "Einstein Online". The NSF – sponsored LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC) consists of more than 500 scientists from 47 institutions worldwide, working together to achieve the first-ever detection of a gravitational wave. One of the three LSC interferometers is located near Livingston (LA) and Dr. Cavaglia invited MAP members and high school teachers and their students to visit the site and the newly opened LIGO education center.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm and followed by lunch at the same place.

At the Executive Board meeting, Dr. Sabatier suggested several amendments to the constitution of the MAP to enable MAP to be more effective in its work. These included raising the institutional dues and requiring the Executive Board to prepare a slate of candidates for the Executive Board and Office of the President, Vice President and Secretary.