

Meeting Report to the Forum for Graduate Student Affairs APS March Meeting

Austin, TX
March 3, 2003 – March 7, 2003

Submitted by: Anne Catllá , Chair-Elect

Purpose:

The APS March meeting is a joint meeting of several units of the APS. The APS divisions involved include: Condensed Matter Physics, Materials Physics, High Polymer Physics, Chemical Physics, Biological Physics, Fluid Dynamics, Laser Science, Computational Physics and Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics. Topical groups involved include: Instrument and Measurement Science, Magnetism and Its Applications, Shock Compression of Condensed Matter, Statistical and Nonlinear Physics. Forums involved include: Industrial and Applied Physics, Physics and Society, History of Physics, International Physics, and Education and Physics; Graduate Student Affairs.

Table of Contents

- 1.0 FGSA events at the meeting**
 - 1.1 Lunch with an expert**
 - 1.2 Student reception**
- 2.0 Programming meeting**
- 3.0 Informal meetings**
 - 3.1 Programming**
 - 3.2 Women graduate students**
 - 3.3 Committee on Careers and Professional Development (CCPD)**

1.0 FGSA events at the March meeting

- 1.1 Lunch with an expert (March 5, 2003, 12:30-1:30 p.m.)**

FGSA sponsored a table with Thomas Gordan, chair of the Forum for Industrial and Applied Physics (FIAP), discussing the topic “Careers in Industrial and Applied Physics”. Thomas Gordan was ill, but arranged to

have Dan Fleetwood, Chair-Elect of FIAP, attend in his place. The table was full a half hour after sign up began, so the topic was popular. I was able to sign up for the last place at the table, so I attended our table. Dan was great. He led a lively discussion, had good advice, and made certain that everyone was involved. This is an event that is definitely worth the effort for future conferences.

1.2 Graduate student reception (March 4, 2003, 5:30-6:30 p.m.)

Myrian Sarachik, President of APS, opened the reception with a brief welcome. I then put up a couple of slides saying what FGSA has done in the past year, what we were planning on doing this year (including CAM), and why/how to join FGSA. At this time, people were arriving, eating, and chatting, so it was rather chaotic. I was approached by a couple of people who were interested in CAM, so a few people were paying attention.

While people were eating, they were also filling out the trivia quiz. Before the reception started, we put the quizzes on the tables, and then we had people turn it in for grading 15 minutes before the end of the reception. Once all the quizzes were graded, the winner was announced, and I read the solutions as well as projecting them on the overhead. I had bought some sand/water toys as prizes for the winning team.

2.0 Programming meeting (March 5, 2003, 7:30-9:30 a.m.)

Judy Franz and Donna Baudrau led the March Meeting 2004 Programming Meeting. FGSA has one session for this meeting, so we can share sessions with two other units or do one session on our own. A session consists of four 30 minute talks. I received a planning schedule for the 2004 March Meeting. Of importance to us is the Programming Committee meeting in August where final organization will take place. We will need to decide if we want to send a representative to this organizing meeting. Donna advised me that we would not need to attend if we have our sessions organized beforehand.

3.0 Informal meetings

3.1 Programming

I spoke briefly with Dan Fleetwood of FIAP about putting together a joint session at the 2004 March Meeting. One idea that I had was a session on career options. We could have speakers from industry, national labs, teaching oriented colleges, and research oriented colleges. Another possibility would be to focus on careers in industry and have people from industry come in to discuss what it is like to work in industry, things to consider when considering a career in industry, etc. Debbie and I could

include a couple of questions in our census to get a feel for what people would be most interested.

I also spoke with Frances Hellman, a member of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP), about a session on issues of women graduate students. Frances was interested in the possibility of having a graduate student speak at one of the CSWP sessions at the March Meeting 2004. She is not in charge of programming for the CSWP though, so I will be getting in touch with their programming chair to discuss a possible joint session. I think that this topic would be of particular interest based on the response to the CSWP's session on applying Title IX to women faculty members in the sciences. At this session, one of the speakers said that despite the increasing number of women graduate students in the sciences, the number of women who go into academia is still very low. People seemed very interested in understanding why women graduate students are not going into academia. I think that a session addressing issues of women graduate students would be of interest.

3.2 Women graduate students

After the reception that followed the aforementioned CSWP session, I spoke with several women graduate students. There was a lot of interest in organizing and participating in a committee on the status of women graduate students within FGSA. The most popular idea for this committee was putting together a website with resources for women graduate students, including a praise page highlighting programs and faculty who take action to address problems faced by women in physics. Such a committee could also help with organizing sessions at meetings addressing women's issues. There are several people within APS that we would want to coordinate with such as the CSWP and Judy Franz.

3.3 Committee on Careers and Professional Development

I spoke with Arlene Modeste Knowles from CCPD about the committee's desire to have more graduate student input. We specifically discussed the possibility of having an FGSA representative at the upcoming meeting of the CCPD.

This report was written by Anne Catllá for the Forum for Graduate Student Affairs.