

## Announcing the APS/MAS 2018 Annual Meeting

Registration and abstract submission websites are now open for the [2018 Annual Meeting of the APS Mid-Atlantic Section](#). The meeting will convene in the [Edward St. John Learning and Teaching Center](#) on the campus of the [University of Maryland, College Park](#). The meeting will begin late afternoon November 9 with a special Nobel Laureate Plenary session featuring John Mather (NASA, UMD) and Bill Phillips (JQI). Saturday will feature parallel sessions with invited and contributed talks, lab tours of popular facilities, a panel discussion on STEM education as well as lunch, dinner and awards for the best student presentations. All of this is available for one low price. Please see the conference webpage for more information, including a list of invited speakers. We look forward to seeing many of you in November.

- Conference Information: <http://hillslab.umd.edu/NewPage/MAS2018/>
- Registration: [https://www.aps.org/memb-sec/meeting/startpage.cfm?event\\_id=1272](https://www.aps.org/memb-sec/meeting/startpage.cfm?event_id=1272)
- Abstract Submission: <https://submissions.mirasmart.com/APSPHysics/MAS18/>

## Election results

The APS MAS held elections in December of 2017. The election filled seats for the Vice Chair, Secretary, a Member-at-Large and a Student Member. The APS MAS Executive Committee is happy to announce the results of the election and congratulate the following new members:

- Dr. Andrei Sirenko was elected Vice Chair, and will serve, over the next four years, as the Vice Chair, Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair. He is a Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Physics at the NJ Institute of Technology.
- Dr. Tomek Kott was elected Secretary after previously serving as a Member-at-Large for the APS MAS. He is a Section Supervisor and Senior Professional Staff member at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.
- Dr. Elizabeth Goldschmidt was elected Member-at-Large. She is a scientist at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.
- Navjot Panchhi was elected as the Student Member on the Executive Committee. He is an undergraduate at the NJ Institute of Technology.

During the election, the membership also voted on two by-law changes that were both approved. The first changed the term of Members-at-Large to three years, rather than two. This aligns with the typical practice for APS units. Second, the wording regarding the nomination of Executive Committee Members was updated to make clear the goal of nominating female candidates and candidates who are members of underrepresented minority groups.

## Summary of the APS/MAS 2017 meeting

In November of 2017, more than 300 scientists and educators affiliated with universities, national laboratories, and other research organizations came to New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) for a three-day meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Section of the American Physical Society (MAS-APS). The theme of the meeting was "Illuminating Our World," in recognition of the centennial anniversary of Albert Einstein's publication of "On the Quantum Theory of Radiation." This 1917 theoretical paper on stimulated light emission foreshadowed the demonstration of the first working laser in 1960 and the first continuous output ruby laser two years later.

For the past century, researchers on the frontiers of physics have been illuminating our world despite times of troubling darkness, including two devastating world wars. This illumination has been literal as in the case of the laser, and metaphorical with respect to new knowledge in numerous other areas ranging from the quantum level, to the cellular level, to the greatest distances that we can see into the universe. The physics of gravitational waves, neurophysiology, and superconductivity were among the many diverse and scientifically timely topics explored at the event sponsored by the NJIT Provost's Office and the MAS-APS.

The event was well attended, with nearly 240 abstracts submitted for the conference in addition to the 80 invited talks and four plenary talks. Around 80 posters were judged at the poster session. Best Poster Award Committee identified five posters to receive prizes. The recipients were:

<b>Name, Affiliation</b>	<b>Poster Title</b>
Scott Madaras, College of William and Mary	<i>Effects of Surface Plasmonic Electric Field Enhancements on Thin Film Vanadium Dioxide's Insulator to Metal Transition State.</i>
Abby Robinson, Rutgers University, Camden	<i>Wavelength tunable nanoparticle mediated release of polymersomes using ultrafast single pulse irradiation</i>
Kaho Long, Drexel University	<i>Insulin Assembly at neutral pH: Comparison and Relevance to A-beta assembly</i>
Arooj Aslam, New Jersey Institute of Technology	<i>High Speed Imaging to Measure Vibrational Modes of Microtubules</i>
Sean Brennan, Rutgers University	<i>Studying dark matter substructure with gravitational lensing</i>

We thank NJIT for a very successful meeting and look forward to the 2018 Meeting to be held November 9-11 at the University of Maryland.