

Welcome to Jacksonville!

You are in for a treat. Jacksonville is a delightful city situated on the secluded north Florida coast, with the St. Johns River splitting the town. Our meeting venue is right on the Riverfront in a classic urban setting with immediate access to a friendly pedestrian walking/running path that will host the return of the much anticipated 2nd AAPT Walk/Run, a fundraiser that supports our meetings and conferences.

Attendees will also have a chance to visit area attractions, including historical St. Augustine, the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in the US, and the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute, one of only 8 treatment centers in the country employing this revolutionary new cancer therapy. High school teachers will have the opportunity to investigate the physics behind NASCAR and the World Golf Hall of Fame in a series of special workshops and tours arranged by the Southern Atlantic Coast Section (SACS).

Like Jacksonville, the 2011 AAPT Winter Meeting has much to offer. Our celebration of 100 Years of Nuclear Physics will feature a visit from Marie Curie, the legacy of Ernest Rutherford, and the latest in nuclear energy and nuclear medicine. Our own Fred Dylla will delve into AIP's extensive historical archives to give us new insight into the discovery of the nucleus and the development of nuclear physics over the last century. Lee Peddicord, director of the Texas A&M Nuclear Power Institute, will give us an update on the state of the art in nuclear power production, focusing on breeder reactors. Nancy Mendenhall of the UF Proton Therapy Institute will talk about applications of physics in medicine.

The 2011 Winter Meeting will also give us a chance for updates from Capitol Hill as we once again host a session on policy, featuring retired Congressman Vernon Ehlers, first research physicist elected to Congress, Dahlia Sokolov, Staff Director in the House Science Committee and Michael Lach from the Department of Education. We'll also hear the latest on many initiatives including the Two Year College Tandem Meeting, the T-TEP report from the Task Force on Physics Teacher Education, and the newly implemented PhysTEC II. We'll get the scoop on the change from the NSF CCLI program to the new TUES and its possibilities for funding.

We'll hear talks on everything from using Facebook, Wii, and iPads to teach physics to what "Item Response Theory" really means for standardized tests. We'll learn how high school students can build their own windmills, whether there is any truth in rumors that the gender gap in physics has finally been closed, and how anxiety and frustration can affect physics learning.

It will be a busy meeting and I'm excited to have you here! Please send me your feedback and stories from the 2011 Winter Meeting.

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2011 Program Chair