

Yale Department of Physics

Yale Physics Newsletter

July 14, 2017

News

Workday is here, please be patient!

For questions please contact the Finance Support Center (FSC) by phone at 203-432-5394 or by email at sharedservices@yale.edu.

Please check your Workday inbox for any actions needed for reports.

§

Joseph Johnson III, a 1965 PhD alumni of this department passed away on June 25th, 2017. Joe wrote a thesis on pion production under the supervision of Henry Kraybill (who also passed away at 95 in 2013).

After Yale, Joe's research focused on a wide range of phenomena in fluids and plasmas including important work on turbulence. Joe held the Herbert Kayser Professorship of Science and Engineering at City College before leaving to become a Distinguished Professor of Science and Engineering and Professor of Physics at Florida A&M University.

Joe was the second African American PhD in Physics, sadly a long 89 years after Edward Bouchet in 1876. As his obituary (<http://nsbp.org/joseph-johnson-iii/>) on the National Society of Black Physicists website states, Joe played an important role in mentoring many other minority physicists. He received the Bouchet Leadership Award Medal during the Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education held here in 2016.

§

Edward Alexander Bouchet was an American physicist and educator. He was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from any American university, completing his dissertation in physics at Yale in 1876. In 1874, he had become one of the first African Americans to graduate from Yale College. He was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society in 1874.

In 2014, a Physics Department committee (chaired by Prof. Jack Harris) proposed that the site of Bouchet's Ph.D. work be recognized by the American Physical Society's Historic Sites Initiative. The proposal was accepted by the APS in 2016. As with the other 40-odd sites that have been selected since the program began in 2004, the APS provided a bronze plaque along with

the stipulation that it be placed at the physical location of the event being commemorated.

Bouchet's Ph.D. predates both the existing Sloane Physics Laboratory (completed in 1911) and the previous Sloane Physics Laboratory (completed in 1882). His thesis work was carried out in a building known even then as the "Old Laboratory" (built in 1782), the site of which overlapped with present-day Vanderbilt Hall and McClellan Hall.

The plaque is now installed on the north face of Vanderbilt Hall, and was unveiled as part of a ceremony held on April 7, 2017. The ceremony began in Linsley-Chittenden Hall and included remarks from noted historians of Bouchet's life (Prof. Curtis Patton of Yale, Prof. Kenneth Bechtel of Wake Forest University, and Prof. Ronald Mickens of Clark Atlanta University); the Past President of the APS (Prof. Homer Neal of the University of Michigan); Prof. Jack Harris; and Michelle Nearon (Associate Dean for Graduate Student Development and Diversity at Yale). The plaque was unveiled by Prof. Neal and Prof. Scott Miller (Irénee du Pont Professor of Chemistry and Division Director, Sciences, Yale University).

These events also served to open the 2017 Annual Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education, which was organized by Dean Nearon.

More information on the APS Historic Sites Initiative is here:

<https://www.aps.org/programs/outreach/history/historicsites/>

[Click here](#) for the Yale Daily News article about the dedication ceremony.

The full schedule for the 2017 Annual Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education: <http://gsas.yale.edu/diversity/edward-bouchet-conference/annual-conference/preliminary-schedule>

§

Helen Caines, Professor of Physics, has been elected co-spokesperson of the STAR experiment at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at Brookhaven National Laboratory. STAR is a large collider detector that investigates the quark-gluon plasma that existed in the first microseconds after the Big Bang. The STAR Collaboration consists of around 600 faculty, national laboratory scientists, postdoctoral fellows, engineers

Yale Department of Physics

Yale Physics Newsletter

July 14, 2017

and students from 61 institutions in 13 countries. Professor Caines will commence her three-year term on July 1, 2017, with newly-elected fellow co-spokeperson Dr. Zhangbu Xu, a Yale Ph.D. graduate with Professor Jack Sandweiss and currently a Staff Scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

[STAR Collaboration](#)

[Click here](#) for Yale News story

For more news see: <http://physics.yale.edu/news>

Announcements

For further information on any of the items included here or if you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, send email to [Daphne Klemme](mailto:Daphne.Klemme).

§

Please [click here](#) for updates on the Yale Science Building, including information about the YSB Construction Phase Pedestrian Impact. The project encompasses the construction of a new state of the art sciences laboratory at the approximate location of the demolished J.W. Gibbs building, a comprehensive renovation of the KBT Plaza, a lecture hall, and a common area at the south end of KBT Plaza.

§

Minors and Visiting Undergraduates

Environmental Health and Safety has recently created a new set of Frequently Asked Questions regarding Minors and Visiting Undergraduates Participating in Research or Clinical Activities. These FAQs cover a variety of topics including how to submit an application, how to obtain a NetID and how to see any outstanding training or compliance issues, among others. [Click here](#) to see the new FAQs.

Applications for minors and visiting undergraduates participating in research or clinical activities can be found at <https://ehsis.yale.edu/EHSIntegrator/Registration>. An [instructional help guide](#) is also available to assist you with getting started.

Applications must be submitted and approved prior to the individual's arrival and participation in any research or clinical activities. Applications will not be authorized until all training and compliance issues have been completed. The University has revised its policies regarding minors and visiting undergraduates in this

area to assure compliance, address safety concerns and optimize the research or clinical experience.

- [Minors Participating in Research or Clinical Activities Policy](#)
- [Visiting Undergraduates Participating in Research or Clinical Activities Policy](#)

§

Check out our new walking directions! [Click here](#) to see photographic walking directions to our various buildings!

Save the Date

Fall term classes end Friday, December 8, 2017

Seminars

Friday, July 14 Applied Physics Special Seminar. Nicholas M. Musyoka, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa "Materials-based hydrogen storage at the South African hydrogen infrastructure (HySA Infrastructure) Center of Competence", YQI (17 Hillhouse, 4th Floor) Seminar Room, 11:00am.

Tuesday, July 18 2017 Sackler/NSF REU Oral Presentations. Bass 405, 2:30-4:50pm. [Click here](#) for list of talks. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served.

For more seminars see: <http://physics.yale.edu/calendar>