Physics Department Awards '98-'99 Scholarships

The following scholarships have been endowed through the generous gifts of the friends and family of the UMR Physics Department. Please contact the Physics Department if you would like to add to the endowed fund of these scholarships or would like to establish a new one.

Recipients of the Harold Q Fuller Scholarship/Loan were Ryan Feeler of Rolla, MO and Chris Maloney of Newburgh, IN. The $1,000 scholarship / loan was endowed by the late Dr. Fuller, Chair of the Physics Department from 1948 to 1970 and former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to recognize outstanding achievements among juniors and seniors in physics. One fourth of the scholarship is an interest-free loan that students begin to repay when they start their first jobs.

Recipients of the Burke H. Miller Memorial Scholarship were Steve Alferink of St. Louis, MO, Carmen Doudna of Barnesville, OH, and Keith Winkler of St. Louis, MO. This $1,000 scholarship was established by the Miller family to commemorate the academic achievements of their son, Burke, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics in 1969 and later died during the Vietnam War. This award is for promising and dedicated students in physics.

The Leon E. Woodman Scholarship was awarded to Kari Wojtkowski of Hillsboro, MO. This scholarship was established by the Woodman family in honor of Dr. Leon E. Woodman, Chair of the Physics Department from 1919 to 1948. It is offered to students in physics who are of good moral character, maintain a satisfactory grade point average, and in financial need.

A new scholarship was awarded for 1998-1999. A donation by Charles M. Rice (MS '50) allowed the department to award $1,000 scholarships to undergraduates Amy Morriss of Oklahoma City, OK, and Dan Chitwood of Barnhart, MO, and a $2000 scholarship to graduate student David DiMattio.

In addition to the above endowed scholarships, which are awarded annually to juniors and seniors, the department awarded Special Departmental Scholarships to the following students, who range in academic standing from sophomores to seniors: Jennifer Adams of St. Louis, MO, Joel Buckley of Iberia, MO, Jeremy Gibbs of St. Peters, MO, Orion Grimmer of Bridgeston, MO, Sean McKinney of Springfield, MO, Jamie Schreidel of Yuma, CO, Curtis Straitman of Jefferson City, MO, and Matt Strobel of Madison, AL. Also, Matt Teg of Overland Park, KS, was awarded a Stephen P. Reed Memorial Scholarship, which is given every other year to students in mathematics or science at UMR.

From the President of SPS

Greetings from Amy Morriss, president of the UMR chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS)! This semester proved to be exciting for our chapter, with our usual trip to Argonne National Laboratory and a series of wonderful speakers. The biggest excitement for the semester, however, comes from the formation of a new committee. SPS established this committee to create a series of short physics demonstrations to be filmed and aired on the local cable TV channel. If all goes as planned, the "Physics TV" committee intends to reach a broader audience with the creation of copies for national marketing. Senior Dan Chitwood, SPS secretary, heads up this committee.

In other SPS news, we began the semester with our usual student/faculty volleyball marathon. I am embarrassed to report that the students fell prey to Dr. Greg Story yet again. However, everyone attending had a great time, and the newer students got to meet the faculty in a more casual setting. The next big event was our annual trip to the Argonne National Laboratory Undergraduate Research Symposium. Junior Carmen Doudna presented her research in atomic physics and the other students had the opportunity to see a variety of research presentations and tour the Argonne facilities.

Senior Kari Wojtkowski, SPS Vice President, brought in a diverse group of speakers this semester. UMR Math professor Michael Hilgers kicked off the lecture series with a discussion of opportunities for physics and math experts in the financial world. Over homecoming, SPS students had the opportunity to meet with UMR Physics alumnus Stephen Christiansen (BS '73) who spoke about the wide variety of career paths available to physics graduates. University of Missouri-St. Louis Physics professor Phil Fraundorf traveled to UMR to speak about his work on nanoscale structures. Finally, UMR Physics alumna Shellie Keilholz (BS '97) returned to the department to discuss graduate school opportunities with SPS students. SPS greatly appreciates the opportunity to meet with all of these fabulous speakers.

We ended the semester with election of new officers. Senior Julie Nowakowski replaced Amy Morriss as president, senior Matt Meyers replaced Kari Wojtkowski as vice president, senior Tige Williams replaced Dan Chitwood as secretary, and senior Chris Maloney kept his position as treasurer. With these officers, we're sure to have another stellar semester in SPS this winter!