

Physics Honors Day 2005

Each spring on Honors Day the physics department rewards students who sacrifice hours of their young lives to excel in classrooms and laboratories. On April 25, Dr. Soren Sorensen hosted members and friends of the department to recognize outstanding students for their scholarship, leadership, and service to the department.

Dr. Lee Martin, a managing member of Clarity Resources and a UT graduate, delivered the Honors Day address. A mechanical engineer by training, Dr. Martin became an entrepreneur and was a co-founder of iPIX (Interactive Pictures Corporation). His talk on "Techonomics" encouraged students to look for trends and opportunities (energy generation, new computational methods, etc.) that will engage their unique training as scientists.

"Your minds and your capabilities are the ones we're going to rely on to solve these problems," he said.

He illustrated the point by explaining that an iPod has more computational power than was required to land a man on the moon in 1969.

After the lecture came the much-anticipated awards. The ceremony began with the induction of students into Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society, followed by the presentation of individual awards. The department honors students at all levels, from the most promising first year to top graduate researchers. The Society of Physics Students, in turn, recognizes extraordinary faculty members with a Teacher of the Year Award, this year adding an additional award for a graduate teacher.

Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees

Mehdi Bolorizadeh
Songxue Chi
Dragoslav Grbovic
Nasrin Mirsaleh Kohan
Eun Ju Moon
Ke Zhao

2005 Honors Day Recipients

Outstanding First Year Physics Student Award
Jeff Hankins

**Robert Talley Award for Outstanding Undergraduate
Research**
James Alsup

**Robert Talley Award for Outstanding Undergraduate
Leadership**
Olga Ovchinnikov and Chad Overcast

Douglas V. Roseberry Award
Gail Zasowski

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Yi-Jung (Frankie) Yang and Ryan L. Holloman

**Paul H. Stelson Fellowship in Physics (For Professional
Promise)**
Xiaoguang Li

**Paul H. Stelson Fellowship in Physics (For Outstanding
Beginning Research)**
Stephen Wilson

Fowler-Marion Outstanding Graduate Student Award
Martin Djongolov

**Robert W. Lide Citation for Outstanding Physics Laboratory
Service and Development**
Jason Therrien

Colloquium Award
Nasrin Mirsaleh Kohan

Honorable Mentions:

Valentina Kuznetsova, Suzanne Parete-Koon, James Wicker

Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award
Dr. Ted Barnes

SPS Outstanding Teacher Award
Dr. Marianne Breinig and Dr. Kermit Duckett

Some Awards Background

Dr. Robert Talley learned the intricacies of the infrared under the tutelage of Dr. Alvin Nielsen, earning his master's and doctoral degrees here. The Robert Talley Awards were introduced this year as a means of acknowledging students for their research expertise and leadership capabilities. Dr. Talley has established a fund at UT to support undergraduate physics education.

In the fall of 1959 the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity established the **Douglas V. Roseberry Award** to honor their fraternity brother

and physics major Doug Roseberry, whose life was cut short by an aneurysm just five months before he was to graduate. Doug took on research and teaching duties in addition to his undergraduate coursework, spending time at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. The Roseberry award has traditionally been reserved for an upper-division student who exemplifies similar dedication and excellence.

The Lide Citations were introduced in 1998 to honor the late **Robert W. Lide**, who joined the physics faculty in 1957. Over three decades in the department he worked tirelessly organizing the undergraduate laboratories, a practice he continued even after his retirement in 1991. The department chose to honor his contributions with citations that recognize students of like qualities.

Dr. Paul Stelson was an adjunct professor of physics at UT from 1967 until his death in 1992, mentoring many young physicists along the way. He finished his Ph.D at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the age of 23. In 1953 he joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a nuclear physicist, becoming associate director of the physics division in 1971 and director in 1973. During his tenure, the Holifield Heavy Ion Research Facility was funded, built, and became operational. His family established the Paul H. Stelson Fellowship in 1993 to support young scientists as they complete their graduate education and to carry on the strong relationship in physics research between UT and ORNL. The fellowship goes to a first or second year graduate student who shows the greatest potential for success in graduate school and demonstrates tremendous promise as a researcher.

The Fowler-Marion Award is named for **Dr. Joseph Fowler and Dr. Jerry Marion**. Dr. Fowler earned his master's degree in physics at UT in 1938 before going on to earn a doctoral degree at Princeton. He later became head of the ORNL Physics Division. In 1960 he teamed up with Dr. Marion of the University of Maryland to edit a textbook called Fast Neutron Physics. They donated the royalties to the physics department. Funds from that gift have provided support for the Fowler-Marion Graduate Student Award, which acknowledges an advanced graduate student who has excelled in scholarship, research, service and leadership.