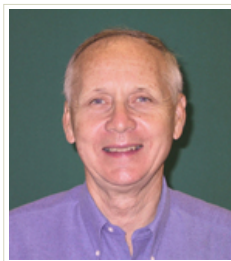


Winter Accolades for Physics

January 11, 2010

Physics faculty and students won a number of honors with the close of the last decade, including prestigious fellowships and collective honors.

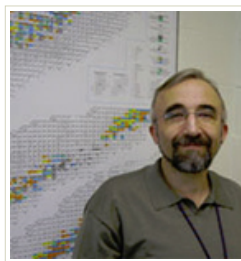
Three physics professors and one adjunct were elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Professors Robert Compton, Elbio Dagotto, and Witek Nazarewicz, as well as Adjunct Professor Stephen Nagler, joined the ranks of those recognized for their contributions to science and technology. They will be honored at the Fellows Forum on February 20 at the AAAS annual meeting, held this year in San Diego.



Dr. Robert Compton



Dr. Elbio Dagotto



Dr. Witek Nazarewicz



Dr. Stephen Nagler

Dr. Compton, who holds a joint appointment with the chemistry department, was recognized for distinguished contributions to the understanding of negative ions and nonlinear laser spectroscopy. Dr. Dagotto, a UT-Oak Ridge National Laboratory Distinguished Scientist and Professor, was recognized for distinguished contributions to the field of theoretical and computational condensed matter physics. Dr. Nazarewicz, who is also Scientific Director of the ORNL Holifield Radioactive Ion Beam Facility, was honored for distinguished contributions to the field of theoretical nuclear structure. Dr. Nagler, chief scientist for ORNL's neutron sciences program, was cited for outstanding contributions to the study of condensed matter, especially pioneering applications of inelastic neutron scattering to low dimensional quantum materials.

In total, the University of Tennessee had 11 new AAAS fellows in the 2010 class of 531.



Dr. Hanno Weitering

Professor Hanno Weitering has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) for contributions to electronic instabilities and magnetic phenomena at surfaces, interfaces, and in thin film materials. Since 2006 Dr. Weitering has also been a Chair of Excellence for the UT-ORNL Joint Institute of Advanced Materials.

Assistant Professor Kate Jones was awarded a **College of Arts & Sciences Junior Research/Creative Achievement Award** at the College Celebration of Faculty on December 1. These awards recognize excellence as a scholar and contributions to the research mission of the college and the university. Dr. Jones was honored for her extensive far-reaching research accomplishments in the study of nuclear structure close to "doubly magic" nuclei via single nucleon transfer in inverse kinematics. Dr. Jones was named a Department of Energy Outstanding Young Investigator in June 2009.



Dr. Kate Jones

Graduate Student Jun Zhao has won a prestigious Miller Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. Intended for candidates of great promise who have recently completed (or are soon to finish) their doctoral degrees, these selective fellowships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and the promise of the candidate's scientific research. Zhao is a member of Professor Pengcheng Dai's research group, and this is his second honor in recent months: in the fall he won the GMAG (Topical Group on Magnetism and its



Jun Zhao

Applications) Student Dissertation Award from the American Physical Society. Zhao was lead author on a *Nature Physics* paper that addressed the role of magnetism in a new class of iron-arsenic superconductors.

The UT chapter of the Society of Physics Students was named a 2009 SPS Outstanding Chapter by the national organization. Only 10 percent of chapters are awarded this honor.

The UT chapter has been active in a cosmic ray observation project with area high schools, liquid nitrogen ice cream sales, and physics demonstrations at the university's homecoming festivities. Chapters are selected based on their involvement in local, zone and national SPS meetings and other professional meetings; participation in SPS programs; outreach efforts to the grades K-12 or the general public; community service; contributions to student recruitment and retention; participation in social events, and interactions with the department's alumni.