

KU DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

College of Liberal Arts
& Sciences

SUMMER 2011

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS & ALUMNI OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY



*Understanding
Nature
Starts Here*



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**
The University of Kansas

1082 Malott
1251 Wescoe Hall Dr.
Lawrence, KS
66045-7582

Phone 785 - 864-4626
FAX 785 - 864-5262
Email physics@ku.edu



Making Contact, Staying In Touch

Dear Friends and Alumni,

The purpose of this inaugural email communication is to follow up on an important discussion during the Departmental Advisory Board meeting in Lawrence in early May. Two continuing points of emphasis over the last few years have been the expansion of financial support for students and enhanced communication between the Department and alumni. In an effort to obtain the benefits of both simultaneously, the Board

has recommended that the Department seek the consent of alumni and friends to establish regular and direct communication through email rather than regular mail. The Department will send the annual newsletter, *Momentum*, and periodic updates emphasizing Departmental events of interest via email to any and all alumni and friends who agree to this format. For every 250 alumni who agree to this option, the Department will be able to offer ~\$1000 in additional scholarship funds, while diminishing the amount of paper flowing through the system.

Since you are receiving this email, we clearly have an email address for you. However, you may prefer that we use an alternate address or that we continue to communicate with you via regular mail. In the former case, simply send an email from your preferred email address to physics@ku.edu with your name included in the message. In the latter case, send an email with *unsubscribe* in the subject line and your name in the message. It should be emphasized that your email address will be for Department use only – *it will not be posted or made available to anyone outside KU.*

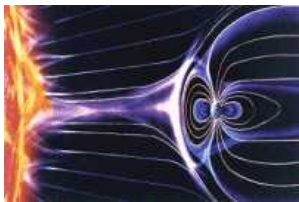
Coming Home



As a first application for this avenue of communication, we would like some feedback. To encourage alumni to renew and/or expand their association with the Department, Physics and Astronomy would like to hold a one-day gathering of regional alumni in Fall 2011. The event will take place on a football Saturday other than Homecoming Weekend (tentative options are 9/10 or 11/12) and will include a guided tour of the renovated and expanded facilities within Malott Hall, conversations with faculty and students, a public talk by Prof. Steve Hawley discussing his recent book about the achievements of the Shuttle program, and an alumni dinner for all those wishing to attend. All events will be scheduled to allow anyone interested to attend the football game. If any aspect of this event



150 YEARS
and Counting
SCIENCE IN KANSAS
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Alumni News



appeals to you and you would consider coming to KU for any portion of it, even if you aren't currently certain that it will fit your schedule, please send an email to physics@ku.edu with

I'M INTERESTED

in the subject line and your name in the message.

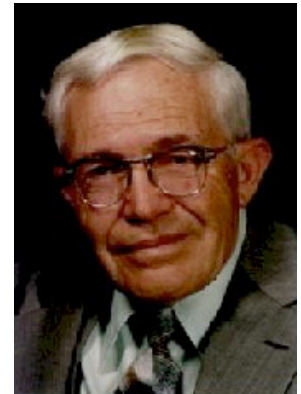
Making a Difference

Speaking of Steve Hawley, as part of the sesquicentennial celebration of the state of Kansas, the public science group *Ad Astra* coordinated a project called *Science in*



Kansas, 150 Years and Counting. During 2011, they have highlighted 150 Kansas scientists, both **past and present**, and their contributions by providing free trading cards with information about KS scientists. Four scientists associated with the Department (as both alumni and/or faculty) were selected among the 150, including two current faculty and one professor emeritus. The four are Clyde Tombaugh (BA 1936, MA Astronomy 1939), Prof. Emeritus Tom Armstrong (BS Physics 1962), Prof. Steve Hawley (BA Astronomy, Physics 1973), and Dr.

Judy Wu, University Distinguished Professor.



The complete set of monthly trading cards will accessible as announced at

http://www.adastra-ks.org/events/150_scientists_index.html

In Closing

While we hope that this new link will allow us to keep you better informed about the Department and its programs, it remains crucial that it operate as just one additional element in an array of two-way communications that collectively supply regular opportunities for you to tell us what is going on in your life and feedback about how we can make the Physics and Astronomy programs better. Whether you follow us regularly on **Facebook** or sporadically peruse the departmental and alumni news items on our web site, we appreciate your time and interest. We hope to hear from you soon.

Stephen J. Sanders, Chair

PS – New endeavors of this type rarely proceed without a hitch. While we have tried to minimize these, we ask that you bear with us as we transition to the email format; contact us if any problems/issues arise when the newsletters arrive.

To UNSUBSCRIBE: Please send an email to physics@ku.edu with the word **unsubscribe** in the subject line.