



LEADERS IN PHYSICS EDUCATION

The Elon University chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) was selected as an Outstanding SPS Chapter based on the depth and breadth of student activities. Notable SPS events at Elon included the Great Pumpkin Smash, the Physics Bridge Challenge, and the hosting of the Zone 5 SPS meeting in the spring.

Read more: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=940957>

In 2010, the Department of Physics hosted a sectional meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers. The conference piloted a new, workshop-centered format for the 100 physics professors, high school teachers, and students that attended. The two keynote speakers were 2002 Nobel laureate Wolfgang Ketterle and winner of the 2009 Millikan Award for physics education, Arthur Eisenkraft. Read more: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=944877>



INNOVATIVE PHYSICS CURRICULUM

In 2010, Elon University will adopt the new Matter & Interactions freshman physics curriculum, the first private college in the state to do so. This curriculum introduces students to relativity and computing as freshman where most traditional programs do not cover this until the sophomore and junior years. General Physics students also put knowledge to practice during "The Elon Physics Phenomena Photography Project," of a photo contest and multimedia show for undergraduates taking General Physics classes.

Read more: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=940957>

Students taking introductory astronomy classes learn what it is like to be a scientist through a new role-playing game, "The Pluto Debate." This project, funded through a \$190,000 grant from the National Science Foundations, builds upon the well-established Reacting to the Past pedagogy created at Barnard College. Elon faculty are writing and assessing the learning that takes place in such games.

Read more: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=946442>

Our faculty have reconfigured our two primary classrooms from a "face forward" setup to one that promotes discussion and lab work in groups of three. This room layout is patterned after the successful "Workshop Physics/ SCALEUP/ TEAL" rooms at several other institutions, including MIT and NCSU.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

Our faculty recruit physics students, including freshmen, into research programs such as nanotechnology, magnetics, and high-energy astrophysics. All physics majors conduct research by their junior year and many receive regional and national awards for their work. Elon faculty have also received several grants averaging \$1 million annually from the National Science Foundation and private donors. Read more: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=941340>