

October 23, 2008

Dear SCAAPT Member

The Department of Physics at Cal Poly Pomona will host the SCAAPT Fall meeting during the weekend of November 7-8, 2008. We have also planned a special dedication of a plaque in one of our new Physics labs in the renovated Building 3 on Saturday, November 8, at 1:15 to recognize Dr. Harvey Leff for his many contributions to AAPT and the University.

For 22 years Harvey was a member of the Cal Poly Pomona Physics Department, serving as department chair from 1983 to 1995. During his tenure as chair, he hired seven new faculty and worked with hundreds of students. In 2007 he served as President of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), and during 2006-2008 he has served as a member of the governing board of the American Institute of Physics (AIP).

Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Harvey and know that he championed a vision of synergy between research and teaching. Our Physics Department culture, centered on student success and support for faculty-student research, is a tribute to Harvey's leadership. Faculty and staff in the Physics Department are a team, continually supporting, encouraging, and challenging one another to be innovative.

Harvey has written two books on Maxwell's Demon and is the author of over fifty articles as well as numerous essay letters and reviews. He is also the lead drummer for the "Out-Laws of Physics", a country rock band comprised of members from our Department. Proceeds from band gigs are donated to a scholarship fund for outstanding physics students.

We can't replace Harvey, but we can work together to ensure that the high standards of student centered teaching and research he established will continue. To do so, the Physics Department established the Leff Fund to help provide scholarships, lab and lecture facilities for current and future Cal Poly students who take physics courses.

We hope that you can join us on November 8th as we celebrate Harvey's achievements. For more information on how you can support Cal Poly Pomona physics teaching and research through the Leff Fund, you may contact Mary Jo Gruca at mgruca@csupomona.edu or call 909-869-5070.

Sincerely Yours,

Steve McCauley, Chair

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