



SPS NEWSLETTER

September 25, 1989

Greetings fellow SPS members and friends:

A warm welcome back to all you veteran SPS'ers and an enthusiastic hello to the large number of new faces present at Thursday's meeting! The first edition of the Drew Society of Physics Students' newsletter has finally been completed and, evidently, has reached your mailbox. The purpose of the "SPS Newsletter," as it has temporarily been named, is to provide SPS members with information on upcoming events, current news from the world of physics, and also to provide a forum for our SPS chapter members to interact, intellectually or otherwise.

SPS Membership

The Society of Physics Students is an organization for those who are interested in physics. Drew University's chapter of SPS, which includes a chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma— a nationally recognized physics honor society, is affiliated with the national organization of SPS. Membership costs only \$15.00 (a \$13.00 national membership fee plus \$2.00 Drew SPS chapter fee) and comes with a subscription to Physics Today (an \$85.00+ value), the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Physics, and, of course, the SPS Newsletter! SPS members are also eligible to apply for SPS scholarships, a privilege denied non-members.

If you are interested in joining SPS and have not already filled out a membership form or paid the \$15.00 fee, please contact Sandy Sweller(x4275, CM1750) or Dr. Fenstermacher in HS-201 before October 1.

1989 SPS Officers

Mike Kelly - President	x4035	CM 893
Mike Richichi-Vice President	x4404	CM 1411
Sandy Sweller-Secretary/Treas.	x4275	CM 1750
Jon Spanier- Activities Director	x4998	CM 1641

SPS Advisor:

Dr. Robert Fenstermacher	x3371	Office: HS-201
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Upcoming Events

Thursday, Sept. 28- This is the first of our weekly gatherings. We will be meeting in the advanced lab, second floor Hall of Sciences, at 4:30pm and proceed to HS-316 to watch part 1 of the PBS Oppenheimer Series. Mike Kelly, our president, will be bringing a fresh-baked batch of his world famous peanut butter cookies, so be sure to be there!!!

Thursday, Sept. 28- Freeman Dyson, famous physicist and philosopher, will be giving a lecture on "Science and Space" at Rutgers on Thursday evening. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jon Spanier, our "cruise director", or Dr. Fenstermacher before Wednesday so that adequate transportation can be arranged.

Near future- SPS will be doing radon testing at a reduced price for members of the Drew faculty and staff. We need members to assist in the canister testing and analysis. If you are interested in learning about this testing process, please contact Mike Kelly or Jon Spanier.

Future- Future SPS events for this semester include:

- a question-and-answer session with Drew Alumnus Chris Kendziora, now in his second year of the graduate physics program at SUNY-Stoney Brook. Chris came back last year and gave a very informative talk on graduate study in physics and we are hoping to have him back to give us part two of his saga.
- a trip to a nearby museum or other scientific place of interest (Any ideas?)
- SPS movie study breaks in the Riker lounge. (Seen any good movies lately?)

If you have any questions or ideas relating to upcoming SPS events, please contact one of the officers. (We need your input!!)

BIRTHDAY OF THE MONTH



MURRAY GELL-MANN (SEPTEMBER 15, 1929-)

Murray Gell-Mann, an American theoretical physicist, graduated from Yale University in 1948 and gained his PhD from MIT in 1951. Gell-Mann's chosen subject was the theoretical study of elementary particles. His first major contribution to the world of physics came in 1953 when he introduced the idea of 'strangeness'. The concept came from the fact that certain mesons were 'strange particles' in the sense that they had unexpectedly large lifetimes. This concept was also advanced independently by the Japanese physicist Kazuhiko Nishijima. Strangeness, as defined by Gell-Mann and Nishijima, is a quantum property conserved in any 'strong' interaction of elementary particles.

Gell-Mann is also known for other revolutionary work with elementary particles. He felt that it should be possible to explain many of the properties of the known elementary particles by postulating even more basic particles, later to be called 'quarks'. Quarks, together with their antiparticles, would normally be in combination as constituents of the more familiar nucleons and mesons. This idea challenged established thinking, and has greatly influenced the direction of high-energy theory and experiments.

Gell-Mann received the 1969 Nobel Prize for physics, cited for his "contributions and discoveries concerning the elementary particles and their interactions." He is currently professor of theoretical physics at the California Institute of Technology's Lauritsen High-Energy Physics Laboratory.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

[Biographical Encyclopedia of Scientists Vol.1, 1981]

Closing Note

If you are interested in being a part of the SFS Newsletter staff, or if you would like to submit an article to be printed in the next edition, please contact Sandy x4275, CM 1750.

We are also in search of a more exciting, physics-related title for the newsletter. The creator of the winning title will receive a tin full of delicious, homebaked grandma's-recipe chocolate chip cookies (YUM YUM!!!). Submit ideas to Sandy.
