

September 5, 2010

Dear SACS-AAPT Colleagues,

It is an honor for me to serve as the president of our South Atlantic Coast-AAPT section for 2010-2011 year. SACS-AAPT has been and still is instrumental in my growth as an educator. I joined it for the first time in 1989 when I first started teaching at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. I benefited then as now from communicating with my colleagues throughout the region and from the presentations and workshops offered. SACS-AAPT offered fellowship with colleagues dealing with the same issues, avenues for learning about new teaching approaches and techniques, exposure to other physics topics, and a pathway to the national AAPT. I am hoping that SACS-AAPT will continue to offer these same benefits and more to both its current and future members.

When I returned to SACS-AAPT after a few years in Mississippi, I found that it was experiencing the same problems that most AAPT Sections experience. Most noteworthy, is the lack of representation from colleagues from research intensive institutions, k12 schools; and most importantly the young generation of physics teachers. What I am hoping to do this year and afterwards is to help promote several initiatives to rise above these shortcomings. For instance, we need to ensure that our constitution is up to date, and that it meets the needs of the members we aspire to recruit.. We would like to increase our visibility to our colleagues in all k16 settings and to develop avenues for our colleagues to benefit more from contributing to SACS-AAPT. For instance, in my capacity as the webmaster of SACS-AAPT, I have just added two pages to the website. The first links to the first edition of the peer reviewed SACS-AAPT proceedings. We are grateful to our former president and member Tatiana A. Krivosheev for leading that effort. The second is a page listing the recipients of SACS-AAPT's awards. The awards include an award for the newly established Physics Photo Competition and the long running award for papers presented at South Carolina Junior Academy of Science (SCJAS). We are grateful to our former president and member Mikhail Agrest for pushing to make these awards more visible and more inclusive.

Towards these ends, several of our members will examine the constitution and present their recommendations during our Spring meeting. Another group of members will work on ensuring that we increase our visibility to all our K16 colleagues and that we augment the professional benefits and rewards that each of our members and their students can benefit from. A third group of members will examine the organization's website and ensure that it serves all of our needs and that it provides an avenue for publicizing our efforts and maintaining our resources. The last group is all of us; members of SACS-AAPT. I hope we will unleash our creative juices and provide the memberships with ideas for helping us meet our needs as well as continue to support the organization by attending and presenting in meetings, and volunteering to serve as officers or as members of the various task forces, committees and functions.

Sincerely,

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