

AKPA Newsletter

재미 한인 물리학자 협회

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The current and past AKPA news can be found in the AKPA website: <http://www.akpa.org/>.

1. President's Message

It is a privilege to be a physicist. Physicists are paid for doing what they like to do. Additionally, our tradition includes famous historical persons such as Newton, Maxwell, Einstein, Heisenberg, and Schrödinger --- to name a few. Furthermore, it is a privilege to be a physicist in the 21st century. We are informed about many amazing new discoveries, which were unknown to even great physicists of the past.

Personally, it is a great honor to serve as the President of AKPA, which includes many outstanding physicists and former Presidents who served honorably. It is a great challenge to follow the footsteps of former presidents. Especially, Professor Paik initiated many programs to re-invigorate AKPA. Following his example, I will continue the public lecture series, OYRA, membership maintenance, and publication of Newsletters.



To serve for AKPA is a kind community service, which is necessary for a democratic society to function smoothly. We need volunteers to serve for AKPA in various capacities in addition to officers. I encourage senior members who are well established in their career to serve for AKPA. I also encourage junior members to serve to form a good habit of community service and get networking.

Taeil Bai
President of AKPA

2. New Officers

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3. Dr. Cheung's Ho-Am Prize

Professor Sang-Wook Cheung, Donald H. Jacobs Chair and Director of the Rutgers Center for Emergent Materials of Rutgers University, received a 2007 Ho-Am Prize in April, with a prize money of W200 million (roughly equivalent to \$200,000). Ho-Am prizes are annually awarded by the Ho-Am foundation to “those who have made outstanding contributions to the development of science and culture and the enhancement of the welfare of mankind.” Since receiving his Ph. D. from UCLA in 1989, Dr. Cheung has written numerous papers on condensed matter physics. He is one of the most cited scientists in his field.

Dr. Cheung has provided a new paradigm in the field of physical properties of emergent materials and discovered high tunability of electric polarization by external magnetic fields in multiferroics, where ferroelectric and magnetic orders coexist.

It is a great honor for a member of our organization to receive a Ho-Am prize. In 2005, Professor Young-Kee Kim of University of Chicago also received the same prize for her contribution in particle physics.

4. Dr. Oh's Candidacy for APS International Councilor

Professor Se-Jung Oh of Seoul National University is running for an international councilor for the American Physical Society (APS). The deadline for the vote was August 31. AKPA sent out an email message to its members urging to vote for him.

According to the Bylaws, the council, the governing body of APS, consists of the President, the President Elect, the Vice President, the most recent Past President, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, the Chairperson of the Panel on Public Affairs, who is elected by Council according to procedures specified in the Bylaws, the Operating Officers (Executive Officer, Treasurer, Editor in Chief), and Councilors: eight General Councilors, *one International Councilor*, whose primary residence is outside the United States, and Councilors representing the Divisions, Forums and Sections.

Dr. Oh got his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1981 and has been teaching and researching on solid state physics at Seoul National University since 1984.

5. Public Lecture in Honolulu

Dr. Taeil Bai made a public lecture at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Honolulu on May 27, 2007 on relation between science and Christianity. He took advantage of his trip to Honolulu to attend the 210th meeting of the American Astronomical Society held from May 27 to 31.

In *Science and Anti-Science* (1998, Harvard Univ. Press), Gerald Holton of Harvard claims that anti-science sentiment and movements are strong in the U. S. He also notices that creation science (or scientific creationism), which is popular among Christian fundamentalists, is a foe of science to be reckoned. In this sense, it is important for scientists who are familiar with Christianity to enlighten Christians about the proper relation between science and Christianity. Being an elder of a Presbyterian church, Dr. Bai utilized his church connection to arrange a lecture at the largest Presbyterian Korean-American church in Honolulu. The lecture held on Sunday evening was attended by about 200 people, including members of the hosting church and other Korean residents of Honolulu.



In the lecture, Dr. Bai said that Christians do not accept most key teachings of the Old Testament literally: For example, Christians do not observe sacrificial offerings, do not practice Jewish religious ceremonies, do not accept the Kosher food tradition, observe Sunday instead of the sabbath, do not stone adulterers to death, and so on. Therefore, it is consistent even if we do not interpret Genesis texts relating to the creation and scientific issues as literal descriptions of historical events. Once this huddle is over, according to Bai, we can deeply appreciate the immensity and subtle beauty of the Universe, which the Bible says was created by the creator. Furthermore, we can build a new theology compatible with the new view of the physical world according to modern science.

INVITATION TO NOMINATE THE 2007 AKPA OUTSTANDING YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD (OYRA)

PURPOSE: To recognize and promote excellence in research by outstanding young ethnic Korean physicists in North America who are working at research universities/institutions, or at industrial/government laboratories in North America. The OYRA has been awarded annually by the Association of Korean Physicists in America (AKPA) since 1994.

QUALIFICATION and NOMINATION: Candidates are limited to those who received the doctoral degree after January 1, 2003, and are to be nominated by the Chair or Head of the Department where they are employed or by the candidate's former thesis advisor in a letter detailing the importance and impact of the candidate's work. Supporting documents should include the candidate's curriculum vitae with representative publications and three letters of recommendation. (Exceptions to the rule of candidates being within 5 years of his/her Ph. D. degree can be allowed for extenuating circumstances such as military services and any extended medical leaves. In such cases, such interruptions will not count toward the 5-year rule.)

DEADLINE: December 1, 2007 for nominations and December 31, 2007 for supporting documents. The awardee will be selected by the Awards Committee.

PRESENTATION: The award of \$1,500 with a plaque will be presented at the AKPA annual meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the American Physical Society March Meeting on March 10-14, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The exact location of the annual meeting and time will be announced later. Nominations and supporting letters are to be sent electronically, preferably in PDF form, to Professor Yong Wook Kim, Chair, AKPA OYRA Committee at ywk0@lehigh.edu and a copy to Dr. Taeil Bai, President, AKPA at bai@sun.stanford.edu.

Dues and Contributions

The annual membership fee for regular members is \$25. AKPA has introduced a lifetime membership. You can pay a one-time fee of \$300 to become a lifetime member. The annual membership fee for associate members (graduate students) is \$5. Anybody can become a corporate member/honorary member by making a contribution of \$300 or more.

Now you can pay your due and/or contribution electronically. Please go to www.akpa.org, click "membership & donations," and follow the instruction. Or in the old-fashioned way, you can mail your check to Dr. Taeil Bai, MC 4085, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.

**AKPA Newsletter is published by the Association of Korean Physicists in America.
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