

PERTG is the PER Topical Group of the AAPT, which has about 700 members.

Current announcements:

- **Rachel Scherr** and **Noah Finkelstein** are leaving PERLOC after many (MANY) years of service. We are grateful for their work on behalf of the community.
 - Noah will still be the PERC czar – for now. (MANY.)
 - Noah will be assuming roles in policy in other venues:
 - AAPT Public policy advisory committee
 - Nominated to chair APS Committee on Education
- We welcome **Andy Elby** and **Danielle Harlow** as the newest elected members of PERLOC. Their term begins as this meeting concludes.
- **Andrew Heckler**, the incoming RiPE chair, is replacing **Mel Sabella** as the *ex officio* member of PERLOC. Thanks to Mel for all his work!
- Continuing members of PERLOC are
 - **John Thompson** (chair 2011)
 - **Sanjay Rebello** (vice-chair 2011, tentative / unbeknownst; communications director)
 - **Jose Mestre** (treasurer 2011)
 - **Eugenia Etkina**

Things that PERLOC does on an annual basis:

- Conference Scholarships (Feb/Aug applications)
- Mini-grants (Feb/Aug applications)
- Page charge subsidy to *PRST-PER*
- Advisory board for *PER User's Guide*

- Oversees PERC organization

NEW programs:

- Scholar-in-residence grants (Feb/Aug applications)
- PERC Paper award

New one-time items for this year

PER speaker list

***Goal of this meeting: Identify the PER community's needs and desires regarding PERLOC activities.
What do you want us to do for you all?***

In order to inform your thinking on this topic, here is a review of some of PERLOC's activities in the past year:

Ongoing

1. We awarded **conference scholarships** to a number of individuals who showed both financial need and promise of scholarly contributions to the PER community. We will award scholarships every year.
2. We awarded three "**mini-grants**" on the order of \$2500 each to fund projects benefiting the PER community. The "mini-grants" model allows us to respond to the community's needs and interests rather than deciding in advance what those must be. This year's awardees:
 - Podcasts in PER
 - FFPER – Puget Sound
 - Upper Division PER conference

- preparing issue of *Reviews in PER* on comPADRE focusing on upper division issues
3. We will **subsidize page charges for PRST-PER** up to \$3000/year, should AAPT subsidies be inadequate.
 4. We continue to work with AAPT to form a **meaningful and reliable relationship with the AAPT leadership**. We have a regular place on the Executive Board agenda to make the board aware of matters of interest to PERTG. We do not have formal representation on the Executive Board.
 5. We (mostly Noah) selected **PERC 2011** organizers, oversaw their planning, provided continuity, assisted organizers in coordinating with past organizers and with AAPT, and facilitated improvement of logistical details such as registration options. PERC 2011 will be organized by **David Brookes, Brian Frank, Elizabeth Gire, Matty Lau, and Noah Podolefsky**. The theme is **Frontiers in Assessment: Instrumentation, Goals and Practices**.
 - a. abstracts will be due June 3.
 - b. same structure
 - c. website being filled up starting today
 - d. Proceedings Editor - new member - let Mel or Chandralekha know.
 6. We serve as the **advisory board for the PER User's Guide**. The User's Guide Editorial Board will be co-selected by PERLOC and the PER-UG Editor (Sam McKagan).
 7. We awarded the first set of "**Scholar in Residence**" grants to support a faculty member, postdoc, or graduate student in visiting another research group for a period of internship, dialogue, collaboration, training, or the like. Out of 14 proposals, 5 were funded:
 - Warren Christensen, NDSU, to Seattle Pacific U (Rachel Scherr)
 - Mikko Kesonen, U. Eastern Finland, to UW (Paula Heron)
 - Mathew "Sandy" Martinuk, UBC, to UMd (Joe Redish)
 - Jose Mestre & Jennifer Doktor, UI; Sanjay Rebello & Adrian Carmichael, KSU; Elizabeth Gire, Memphis; to UI and K-State

- Jin Wang, Eastern Kentucky U, Scott Bonham, Western Kentucky U, Jon Gaffney, U.Kentucky; reciprocal visits
8. We arranged and awarded a **PERC Paper Award**. Authors self-nominated, referees made first cut, PERLOC made the final decision (with appropriate recusals). The award is / will be / will have been \$200. The finalists (6 of 88) were / are:
- Development and evaluation of large-enrollment, active-learning physical science curriculum
Fred Goldberg, Edward Price, Danielle Harlow, Steve Robinson, Rebecca Kruse, Michael McKean
 - Instructional explanations as an interface - the role of explanatory primitives
Shulamit Kapon and Andrea A. diSessa
 - **Who Becomes a Physics Major? A Long-term Longitudinal Study Examining the Roles of Pre-college Beliefs about Physics and Learning Physics, Interest, and Academic Achievement**
Katherine K. Perkins and Mindy Gratny
 - The use of concept tests and peer instruction in upper-division physics
Steven J. Pollock, Stephanie V. Chasteen, Michael Dubson, Katherine K. Perkins
 - Addressing Student Difficulties with Statistical Mechanics: The Boltzmann Factor
Trevor I. Smith, John R. Thompson, and Donald B. Mountcastle
 - Physics Teacher Characteristics and Classroom Practices
Melissa S. Taylor and Jeffrey A. Phillips

All finalists will get a official letter from PERLOC. The winner may or may not have been notified yet...

One-time

9. We worked with AAPT to **change the meeting abstract submission options** from “Research Techniques in Education” to “Physics Education Research.” This change makes it easier for contributors to identify as participating in PER.

10. We **gathered community feedback regarding the PRST-PER editorial process** and worked with the journal to incorporate that feedback into their operations.
11. We **collaborated with AAPT, APS, NSBP, and NSHP** to organize the joint session that took place at the 2010 Winter meeting.
12. With APS, we set up a **PER Speakers List** (<http://www.aps.org/programs/education/speakers/index.cfm>) that is still very much under construction and having names added.

may go live in Feb or March - watch listservs

In addition to the efforts described above, we are considering a variety of activities for the coming year and welcome your input.

Announcements

FFPER 2011 registration will be up soon, says Paula Heron.

APS April meeting abstract deadline this Friday, January 14.

If attending FEd sessions only, no registration necessary

Two committees from AAPT to organize sessions through Forum on Education at APS

Have had PER Focus sessions at March and April meetings for a couple years

APS Committee on Education

Award to departments - contact Noah.

K-12: partnership with teachers and outreach

site reviews setting up

graduate committees

minority bridge committee

conference on graduate education in August

Follow-ups:

1. Grad-student oriented grant-writing workshop leading to mentoring:
 - a. Ellie Sayre and Warren Christensen are putting together a wiki on grantsmanship. From junior people, they would like questions to put in FAQ. From senior people, they would like successful grants, abbreviated budget, reviews, etc. to use as examples.
 - went live on Saturday
 - not full getting fuller
 - grantsmanship.pbworks.com
 - b. Paula Englehardt is doing Grantwriting 101 workshop at Jacksonville meeting.
 - it was good. CD distributed, materials will go up on wiki.
 - interest in smaller (~\$5K) grants
 - a. high school teachers as grant writers
 - b. seed money for larger grant
 - c. if people look for grants, and find some, post on wiki.
 - d. requesting grants from PER folks - funded or not - anonymize - reviews, etc.
2. **Should the PER community start a PER Topical Group in APS?**
 - a. benefits
 - i. get APS sessions allocated for PER
 - ii. endorse other meetings/conferences
 - b. need 200 members within 18 months of Council approval;
300 w/in 3 years
 - c. how to proceed?

start exploratory task force - volunteers? John T. will chair (unless someone else really wants to)
 - d. discussion
 - i. challenges
 1. expensive to join APS

2. governance issues between AAPT and APS PERTGs
- ii. concerns brought up
 1. spreading too thin among different societies
 2. Might it dilute PER in APS if through FEd vs. its own TG?
- iii. Other societies were mentioned
 1. AERA
 - may be too big need focus on physics dept's as a critical audience, and phys depts recognize APS
 - maybe it is the place to be, after AAPT and APS, -- it is so big you can find folks.. like good late night food in NYC
 2. NSTA or others: little PER in NSTA and it could go a long way
 3. ICLS and cog. sci societies
- iv. APS is where physicists are, goes to support
- v. 2007 FFER had Working Group, wrote article in APS FEd Newsletter
 1. prior conclusion: Stay the Course
 2. stay in AAPT or APS since physics is core
 3. *audience* of PER is AAPT/APS
- vi. OK but we need more coordinated leadership.
 - Set up coordinated governance structures
- vii. Move that we EXPLORE creating a topical group**
 - 1. so moved**
 - 2. and so voted (no "Nay" votes)**
- viii. who will
 - Andrew H. and John T. and Eric B and Noah F.

3. We want to promote awareness of and collaboration with PER efforts in other countries. We strongly encourage members to attend the “PER Around the World” sessions at this meeting. We are considering: establishing an “international liaison” role on PERLOC; choosing the PERC topic for next year to be PER Around the World; and/or inviting a short overview of PER in a special-focus country to be disseminated to PERTG.
 - a. session this morning not well attended, in Jerry Touger’s opinion
 - i. international committee-sponsored sessions also not well attended
 - b. isolating international contributors?
4. Other items
 - a. Noah F urged us to consider PER as activist voice.
 - b. Suggestion was made to make PERC deadlines uniform from year to year
 - i. Steve K dissents: local issues, beyond control of organizers
 - ii. maybe more advanced notice, at the very least
announce critical dates at winter PERTG TH
 - iii. PERC 2012 - think about proposals!
 - c. Vince K: Still need a procedure for electing managing editor for PERCentral