Welcome to PERLOC’s first (?) PERTG newsletter!

What and why is this?! 
Members of PERLOC and RiPE have been considering updating the format of the RiPE and PERTG Town Hall meetings at AAPT in order to facilitate more productivity in both and reduce redundancies. Broadly speaking, the RiPE meeting will focus on national AAPT meetings, both present and future. The PERTG Town Hall will focus on PERC and larger issues in the PER Community. The PERTG Newsletter (this thing!) will primarily be used to keep the community informed about important news, replacing the announcements typically made in the existing RiPE meeting and PERTG town hall.

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PERLOC’s guide to acronyms

AAPT = American Association of Physics Teachers

PERTG = Physics Education Research Topical Group (AAPT members who, as a topical group, assist the advancement, dissemination, and application of knowledge of physics education research)

PERLOC = Physics Education Research Leadership and Organizing Council (A committee of elected representatives who has the general charge of the affairs of the Topical Group.)

RiPE = Research in Physics Education (an area committee within AAPT)

PERGS = Physics Education Research Graduate Students

PERCoGS = PER Consortium of Graduate Students (a committee of elected representatives who has the general charge of the affairs of the PER Graduate Students).

APS = American Physical Society

GPER = Topical Group on Physics Education Research (a group within the APS whose objective is the advancement and diffusion of knowledge concerning the learning and teaching of physics).

PERC = Physics Education Research Conference (overseen by PERLOC, but organized separately by organizers each year. It has a conference proceedings that are organized by 3 editors who serve 3-year terms).

PERLOC 2018

- Luke Conlin – Chair
- Joel Corbo - PERC liaison
- Vashti Sawtelle - Mini-grants
- Chandra Turpen - GPER liaison
- Stamatis Vokos
- Geoff Potvin
- JT Laverty - Ex-officio/RiPE chair
- Eric Williams - PERCoGs Rep
Announcements

Money Matters

Last year, PERLOC learned that the PERTG bank account had accumulated a surplus. Our first order of business was to use that money to benefit students. Starting in 2017, students no longer pay a membership fee to be a PERTG member. Plus, student registration for PERC is now half of the regular registration fee.

In 2018, we will be increasing the money allocated to our mini-grants funds and to support travel to PERC for the organizers and the PERC proceedings editors. We have also formalized the amount of money available to PERC organizers for plenary speaker travel.

Bylaws, by the way

For the past two years, PERLOC has been reviewing the PERTG bylaws. We have proposed a set of amendments that clarify language, policies, better reflect actual PERLOC practice, and update with recent changes to PERTG and PERLOC (such as the inclusion of a graduate student member). Members had the chance to vote on the bylaws in the Fall.

One of the amendments is to clarify voting procedures, such as to impose a quorum (a fraction of PERTG members required to vote for the outcome of the vote to be accepted). Unfortunately, we did not reach this quorum in the fall voting period. Our previous bylaws do not require us to reach this quorum, but we are now concerned that this quorum will restrict PERLOC in future voting situations. Therefore, we propose reducing this quorum (from 25% to 10% of members) in the new amendments. This will be discussed at the PERTG town hall at the AAPT Winter Meeting.

Mini-grants

In Fall 2017 we distributed a number of travel awards and scholar-in-residence awards to PERTG members. We have also increased the amount of funding for international travel to $1000 (with possible further increases). Keep a look out for our Spring 2018 mini-grants solicitation through our website and the PERTG listserv.
Get involved

In Spring 2018, PERLOC will be soliciting nominations and applications for PERC organizers and PERC proceedings editors. As of this year, these positions will now include small travel grants to attend PERC (see Money Matters).

Nominations for joining PERLOC will occur in Fall 2018.

PERC 2018 + Deadlines

Submissions of parallel session proposals and juried talk abstracts for the 2018 PERC are now open. The deadline for both is February 16, 2018.

Here are links to more information about session formats, the juried talk abstract form (soliciting abstracts, not full papers), and the parallel session proposal form.

STEMcoding project releases "Physics of Video Games" Hour of Code activity, launches YouTube channel

Until recently, the world’s most popular K12 computer science website, hourofcode.com, did not have any physics-focused coding activities. This changed with the "Physics of Video Games" Hour of Code video tutorial from the STEMcoding project (go.osu.edu/hourofcode) which was recently posted there.

The STEMcoding project also recently launched a YouTube channel (go.osu.edu/STEMtube) with physics-focused coding tutorials aimed at high school/early college students. Importantly, the channel features a high percentage of underrepresented groups in STEM. Please subscribe to the youtube channel to get notifications about new videos. The STEMcoding project is led by Prof. Chris Orban from Ohio State University and Prof. Richelle Teeling-Smith from the University of Mt. Union. For more info contact Prof. Chris Orban at orban@physics.osu.edu (or find him at the winter 2018 AAPT meeting!)

PEER (Professional-development for Emerging Education Researchers): June 5-16

Applications are currently being accepted for PEER, Professional-development for Emerging Education Researchers, a 2-week professional development and research community field school at Rochester Institute of Technology. PEER seeks to foster the development of qualitative research methodology, from generating observational video data to preparing manuscripts for publication,
through collaborative workshops and active research. Participants may join existing research working groups or propose new ones. After the summer PEER experience, the research team meets biweekly over zoom to continue analysis and get feedback on in-progress papers. This is a great opportunity for solo DBERers who would like to join a productive, geographically distributed research group.

The field school takes place June 5-16, 2018; participants should commit to the entire period. Participants should also commit to participating in bi-weekly meetings throughout the '18-'19 academic year.

We seek scholars who are familiar with independent research and want to expand their methodological repertoire. Preference will be given to junior faculty and DBER "switchers", but outstanding applicants from all levels will be considered. More information on PEER including how to apply can be found on the PEER website, https://www.rit.edu/castle/programs/peer/about.

Upcoming conferences

Foundations and Frontiers in Physics Education Research – Puget Sound

Diablo, WA, June 16-19, 2018

Foundations and Frontiers in Physics Education Research – Puget Sound (FFPER-PS) provides a venue for dialogue among physics education researchers in the Cascadia region and beyond. It is designed to enhance communication and collaboration and to increase the visibility of work that is of high quality but not well known. The conference provides a forum for examining and articulating the current state of the field, exploring future directions, and discussing ways to pursue promising avenues of research. The conference includes plenary talks, targeted sessions, contributed poster sessions, and substantial free time for informal interactions. Details TBA on Compadre.

2018 GIREP-MPTL Meeting

The 2018 GIREP-MPTL Meeting will be held in San Sebastian, Spain, July 8-13, 2018. Important information is found at

**AAPT Summer Meeting + PERC 2018**

Washington DC, July 28-August 1+2

For details on the PERC visit the [website here](#)!

**Gordon Research Conference: Physics Research and Education - “Energy as a Subtle Concept”**

Bryant College, in Smithfield, RI, June 10-15, 2018

For details on visit the [website here](#)!