Welcome to the PERTG newsletter!

What and why is this?
This is the Winter edition of the biannual newsletter published by PERLOC to keep AAPT’s Physics Education Research Topical Group informed about important news. We think of this newsletter as taking on the role of the announcements historically made in the existing RiPE meeting and PERTG town hall, allowing those meetings to be more interactive and, well, useful! In addition to streamlining those meetings, this will also allow people who are not at the AAPT meeting to stay informed about what is going on in the community.

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What is PERLOC?

PERLOC is the leadership body of the PER Topical Group of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) founded in 2006. PERLOC was formed to address a growing need for communication and decision-making structures within the PER community, and a desire to promote and advance PER within AAPT and beyond. Many of the constituents of our organization are committed teachers (at universities/colleges, at high/middle/elementary schools, and in informal science learning settings) and/or scholars that research physics education across these many settings.

Who are we?

- Luke Conlin – Chair
- Joel Corbo - PERC liaison
- Vashti Sawtelle - Vice-chair/Treasurer
- Chandra Turpen - GPER liaison
- Stamatis Vokos - Mini-grants
- Geoff Potvin - PERC Proceedings Update Committee
- JT Laverty - Ex-officio/RiPE chair
- Abhilash Nair - PERCoGs Rep (thanks also to Eric Williams for your service!)

Thank you for your service to members rotating off at the end of AAPT WM19!

- Luke Conlin
- Joel Corbo
- JT Laverty
- Abhilash Nair

Welcome to new representatives joining PERLOC at AAPT WM19!

- Erin Scanlon
- Ed Price
- Hannah Sabo - PERCoGs Rep
- Gina Passante - Ex-officio/RiPE chair

What does PERLOC do?

We find and support PERC Organizers...

PERLOC solicits proposals for the annual PER Conference and from these applications chooses the PERC theme and associated PERC organizing team. PERLOC works to maintain institutional memory
from one PERC organizing team to the next, and assists the PERC organizing team in coordinating with AAPT to successfully run PERC.

**We find and support PERC Proceedings Editors...**

PERLOC solicits and selects editors for the **PERC proceedings** and works with the PERC editors to refine its operation. From the set of highly reviewed PERC proceedings papers, PERLOC selects a few “notable papers” to highlight to the community.

**We handle PERTG’s $$$ and give out minigrants...**

PERLOC coordinates with AAPT to collect and then spend the **membership dues** that it collects. A significant portion of these membership dues are fed back into community activities through the twice annual **PERTG mini-grant** solicitation.

**We help maintain and grow the PER community...**

PERLOC receives regular updates about the **health and well-being of our primary publication venues** (e.g. Phys. Rev. PER, American Journal of Physics, and The Physics Teacher) and considers any actions that might be prudent. PERLOC periodically reflects on the **health and well-being of our community** (such as considering appropriate actions that should follow the RiPE social activities survey). PERLOC also **communicates and coordinates** with: (a) its members (through the PERTG listserv, and updating our web presence on Compadre), (b) other AAPT committees, and (c) GPER within American Physical Society.

**PERLOC wants YOU!**

Serving on PERLOC is a great way to give back to the PER Community, while being the change you want to see! Please consider running for a position on PERLOC (next election will begin in August).

**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 Announcements**

**Money Matters**

Our finances are looking really good as PERTG membership is on the rise and PERC expenses have stabilized over the last few years. With increased financial stability, PERLOC has been working to reduce the cost of PERTG participation for graduate students. We have eliminated the PERTG membership fee for students and reduced the cost of student registration to PERC. We also began funding travel for PERC organizers and the PERC proceedings editors to attend PERC. In 2018 we
evaluated the effect of these changes and established that our finances continue to look good. Looking forward to 2019 we plan to bring an accessibility expert to SM19 PERC to provide feedback on changes we could make to improve accessibility for conference attendees, consider additional proposed special projects, and slightly increase our travel expense budget. Thank you to all PERTG members for your active support.

Mini-grants

In Fall 2018 we funded or partially funded 18 proposals for PERTG Minigrants, including a number of travel awards and several scholar-in-residence awards to PERTG members (see a list of awardees on PER Central). We continue to offer increased funding for international travel ($1000). Keep a look out for our Spring 2019 mini-grants solicitation through our website and the PERTG listserv.

PERC 2020 Organization Team + Theme announced!

PERLOC is pleased to announce that the organizers of PERC 2020 in Grand Rapids, Michigan will be Beth Cunningham, Lin Ding, Alexis Knaub, and Steve Maier. Their theme is Insights, Reflections, & Future Directions: Emergent Themes in the Evolving PER Community.

2019 AAPT WM info

If you are at the 2019 AAPT Winter Meeting in Houston, TX, here are a few events and meetings that PERTG members should be aware of...

- **SUNDAY** 7pm-8:30pm RiPE Committee Meeting in Tanglewood
- **SUNDAY** 1:30-3pm PER in Latin America and at Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the U.S. held from in San Felipe
- **SUNDAY** 5:30pm-6:30pm PER: Student & Instructor Support & Professional Development held from in Sage
- **SUNDAY** 9pm-11:59pm Game Night is now an official AAPT event at winter & summer meetings. This winter it will be held in Westin Oaks - The Roof
- **MONDAY 6:30–8:30pm** PER and Student Motivation: Beyond Single Course Content in Sage
- **MONDAY 6:30–8:30pm** FF Results from the First Safe Space for People of Color Meeting in PERC in Westchester
- **TUESDAY 7:30am–8:30am** PERTG Town Hall Meeting will be held (bright and early!) in Galleria I. Come get and share important updates and have your voice heard!!
- **TUESDAY 12:30–1:20** PER: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Plaza I
- **TUESDAY 12:30–1:30** PER: Assessment, Grading and Feedback in Plaza II
Community Announcements

Upcoming conferences

2019 Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC)
The 2019 conference of the Physics Teacher Education Coalition will be held March 2-3 at the Westin Boston Waterfront, and is the nation's largest meeting dedicated to the education of future physics teachers. This year's conference will feature the new "Get the Facts Out" toolkit for recruiting teachers, new results from a study of thriving physics teacher education programs, and networking with leaders in the field. Visit phystec.org for more information.

APS March Meeting
From March 4 to 8, Boston will transform into the hub of physics as more than 11,000 attendees arrive for the APS March Meeting 2019. Showcase your work for a global audience of physicists, scientists, and students representing 28 APS units and committees to explore groundbreaking research from industry, academia, and major labs. See the members of the committee working on this year's program.

APS April Meeting
The APS April Meeting encapsulates the full range of physical scales including astrophysics, particle physics, nuclear physics, and gravitation. To experience the meeting is to explore research from the "Quarks to the Cosmos (Q2C)," which is the true essence of the meeting. See the members of the committee working on this year's program.

AAPT SM 2019 + PERC 2019
AAPT Summer Meeting will be held July 20 - July 24 in Provo, Utah. The PERC 2019 theme will be “Physics Outside of the Classroom: Teaching, Learning, and Cultural Engagement in Informal Physics Environments.”