

Department of Physics & Astronomy

PHYSICS NEWS FLASH

Dr. Carrol Bingham Elected as APS Fellow



Dr. Carrol Bingham

A nucleus can have its limits, you know. Dr. Carrol Bingham understands that, and for his efforts he has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Dr. Bingham is a professor of physics specializing in the structure of the nucleus—the heart of the atom. Figuring out how fundamental forces affect the protons and neutrons inside the nucleus sheds light on why matter behaves the way it does. The lifespan (or half-life) of a nucleus is the first clue to how stable it is. As nuclei approach the limits of stability, their lives become increasingly brief—a fraction of a second. This

is the territory Dr. Bingham has spent much of his career exploring and the work for which the APS membership elected him as a fellow.

Dr. Bingham joined the faculty in 1966, just one year after earning his doctorate in physics at UT. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina State University in nuclear engineering and applied physics, respectively. He is also co-director of the Joint Institute for Heavy Ion Research, a research collaborative between UT, Vanderbilt, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The institute supports the Holifield Radioactive Ion Beam Facility and serves as an intellectual hub for heavy ion research. In 1999 Dr. Bingham won a UT Chancellor's Award for Research and Creative Achievement for his research on how the shape of a nucleus can influence radioactivity. He is the author or co-author of approximately 300 research papers in nuclear physics and has been a principal investigator for a Department of Energy research project on Nuclear Spectroscopic Studies since 1975.

The APS Fellowship Program recognizes members who have advanced the physical sciences through original research, applications to science and technology, or teaching. Each year, no more than one-half of one percent of the current membership is elected. Dr. Bingham is the 21st current member or associate of the physics department to have this honor. His election was announced in late November 2005.