

Department of Physics & Astronomy

PHYSICS NEWS FLASH

Physics Celebrates Honors Day

April 23, 2007

See Honors Day Photos [Here](#).

Physics paid tribute to outstanding achievement on April 23 at the department's annual Honors Day celebration. Each spring, top students are recognized for their academic and research accomplishments, while the students themselves select a faculty member to honor with the Society of Physics Students Teacher of the Year award.

[Dr. Loren Crabtree](#), Chancellor of the Knoxville campus, was the invited speaker for the event. He reflected on C.P. Snow's 1959 Rede Lecture on *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution* and addressed the need for a wider, more all-encompassing view of the world that bridges science and the humanities, borrowing from the strengths of each.

The physics department also honored the late Dr. Edward Arakawa with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Arakawa, who passed away in March, earned the Ph.D. in 1957 working with Dr. Alvin Nielsen and was an important figure in the lives of many UTK physics graduate students. His citation read, "For his outstanding contributions to optical spectroscopy and condensed matter physics; and for his many years of service to graduate education through the mentoring of graduate students working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory." Mrs. Harue Arakawa accepted the award on her husband's behalf. The department instituted the award in 2004. Previous honorees include Sam Hurst, Raymond Murray, Rufus Ritchie, and Robert Talley.



Dr. Arakawa

The 2007 student honors included a new accolade: The Wayne Kincaid Award. Wayne Kincaid was both an alumnus of the department and a research associate who was deeply interested in educational technology, astronomy education, and scientific writing. He passed away in 2004, and with this award the department recognizes a student who shares his interests and has made similar contributions.

The student awards and recipients were as follows:

Outstanding First Year Physics Student

John Whittingham

Robert Talley Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research

John Sinclair

Douglas V. Roseberry Award

Jason King

Robert W. Lide Citations

Billy Grubb, Meagan White, Jay Billings

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Kyle Schmitt

Wayne Kincaid Award

Suzanne Parete-Koon

Colloquium Award

Hua Chen and Rachel Wooten

Paul H. Stelson Fellowship for Beginning Research

Usama Al-Binni

Paul H. Stelson Fellowship for Professional Promise

Juan Urrego-Blanco

Fowler-Marion Award Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Stephen Wilson

The Society of Physics Students Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Alex Zucker.

Additionally, the following students were inducted into **Sigma Pi Sigma**, the physics honors society: Jay Billings, Te-Yu Chien, Jack Hunt, Byron Kilbourne, Ozgur Polat, and Alex Woods.

The department also honored the **Class of 2007**, graduating in May:

Undergraduates

Steven Boada
John Carruth
Joe Hawks
Shaun Kelly
Jason King
Jesse Ogle
John Sinclair
Jason Therrien

Graduate Students

Phil Evans
Junsoo Shin
Zia Tompkins
Jim Trimble
Tony Wald
Stephen Wilson