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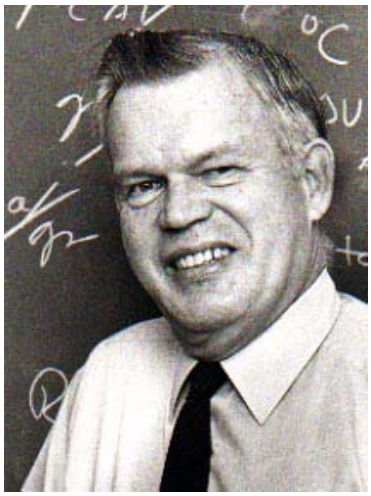
Physica

The Newsletter of UTEP's Department of Physics

Volume I January 2002

Adios Sharp . . .

by C. H. Cooper



It is with great sorrow that we kick off this first issue of Physica, the newsletter of the Physics Department. Last November, our friend, colleague, and professor to some of us, C. Sharp Cook, lost his final battle with cancer.

Sharp joined the UTEP faculty in 1970 as Chairman of the Physics Department. Dr. Cook came to UTEP soon after being the Head of the Physics Division of the Naval Radiological Defense Lab. He received his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from Indiana University in 1948. A successful career followed with a long list of accomplishments. To name a few:

- Project Officer for Operation Teapot, Nevada Test Site. He investigated effects of fallout radiation.
- Fullbright Research Scholar at Aarhus University in Denmark. He worked on gamma and beta-ray spectroscopy and supervised a graduate student in research.
- With the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Lab he was Head of the High Temperature Physics and Solid State Physics Branch; Head of the Nucleonics Division; Physics Consultant to the Director.

While at UTEP, he participated in:

- The University Biohazards Committee.
- The El Paso Solar Energy Task Group.
- The University Coordination Committee for the Texas Energy Council.
- The El Paso Radiation Center Foundation.
- Established the "C. Sharp Cook Physics Professorship Fund" to allow a senior faculty member time to pursue creative activities, such as research.
- Established the "C. Sharp Cook Graduate Scholarship Fund" to support a worthy and deserving graduate students in the Physics Department. Contributed to more than a dozen university funds.

Dr. Cook was a member of many prestigious professional and honor societies including the coveted Fellow of the American Physical Society.

We will miss our friend and we thank him for all the outstanding contributions to our university and our community. He is survived by his son, Wayne; his daughter, Sherma; and his wife, Marian.

Departmental News

Many changes have taken place in recent times. Here is a synopsis:

- **Niescja Turner** has joined the Department in the Spring Semester. **Welcome!**
- **Jorge López** is the new Chair of the Department. **Oops!**
- **Clarence Cooper** is the new Assistant Chair of the Department. **¡ Menos mal !**
- **Rosa Fitzgerald** and **Verne Smith** are now tenured Associate Professors. **Congrats!**
- **M.S. enrollment** grew to 17 students in the Spring 2002. **Very Good!**
- The new departmental **web page** is **http://www.utep.edu/physics. Check it!**
- **Ramon Lopez** was awarded the Sun-Earth Connections NASA grant. **Excellent!**
- In 2001 **Arlene Larabee, Dwight Russell** and **Paul Wang** left us. **Good Luck!**

Remember when ?

Clockwise from top left corner Cathy Chacon, Tim Robinson, and Miguel Cortes, Alan Dean, Sharp Cook, Clarence Cooper, ????, Veronica Alvarado, Alfonso Zamudio, Jose Lozano, Jorge López, Fefo Aranda, Sergio Chaparro. The occasion? Lopez's tenure party at La Hacienda.

WANTED: Old Photos

Want to appear on Physica?
Send your old photos to the Editor!
We promise to return them ASAP!
Or, better, send them digitized by e-mail!

Tenure-Track Position in Material Science

The Dept. of Physics invites applications for a tenure track position in Physics. Applicants should expect to assume full academic responsibilities, conduct a successful research program, and to play a significant role in the Materials Science and Engineering Ph.D. program. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in Physics and a demonstrated potential in teaching, research and student advising. Applications from more senior applicants will be considered. Areas of interest include condensed matter, surface physics and computational materials science. Submit CV, a description of teaching and research interests, and three letters of reference to Dr. Ramon Ravelo, Department of Physics, UTEP, El Paso, Texas, 79968-0515.

Physica
Send news, letters, etc. to: Dr. Jorge A. López, Physics Department, University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave. , El Paso, TX 79968, (915) 747-5715, jorgelopez@utep.edu,

Congratulations to our new M.S. and Ph.D. graduates

- **José Aguilar (Ph.D. Mat. Sci.)**
- **Marco Ávila**
- **Elia Benítez**
- **Omar Vargas**
- **Alex Puga**

Where are YOU? Please send us a line!

Your Support is Welcome!

You can contribute to our success!
Please send your donation to: The Physics Department, UTEP, El Paso, TX 79968, USA

Name:_____ **Amount: $20__ $50__ $100__ Other $**_____
Address:_____

Please use this contribution for:

- **Dr. Thomas G. Barnes** Physics Fund_____
- **Dr. R. Shumaker** Fund_____
- Physics Gift Fund_____
- **Dr. C. Sharp Cook** Graduate Scholarship Fund_____
- **T. E. Morris** Graduate Scholarship Fund _____
- Let the Chair decide how to use this donation_____

You can also contribute during UTEP's annual phone campaign organized by the development office.