



# Minutes of the 2024 meeting of the TAAAPT

**Friday and Saturday, March 29-30, 2024**

The annual meeting of the Tennessee section of the Association of American Physics Teachers was held at Middle Tennessee State University on March 29-30, 2024, in the Science Building.

The event commenced on Friday evening, March 29<sup>th</sup>, with registration at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:00 pm, and a presentation by the keynote speaker, Dr. Hanna Terletska, on “The Exciting World of Quantum Science.”

The meeting resumed on Saturday, March 30, with breakfast and registration at 8:00 am. Contributed talks and a student poster session were held from 8:45 am to 11:45 am, followed by business meeting from 11:45 am to 12:00 pm, lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, and a Quantum Science Workshop led by Dr. Hanna Terletska from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Table 1 near the end of the minutes shows the list of faculty attendees. Table 2 lists student attendees and their awards. It is noted that there was a strong showing from student at Middle Tennessee State University. The quality of their posters was also admirable.

## **Business Meeting**

The following matters were discussed during the meeting:

- A. **Officers:** Dr. Jason Alexander from the University of Tennessee at Martin is the chair-elect for 2024-2025. Dr. Tatiana Allen from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga agreed to consult with her department chair regarding hosting the 2026 meeting at her home institute. Dr. Spencer Buckner stepped down from his role as the section representative. We thank him for his service to the organization for the past 15 years (from 2010 to 2024)! Drs. Eugenii Donev and Pei Xiong-Skiba, both from Austin Peay State University, were elected as the section representative and secretary/treasurer of 2024-2025, respectively.
- B. **2025 TAAAPT Meeting:** It will be held at University of Tennessee at Martin. The meeting time will be announced later.
- C. **Tax Exemption:** The organization has been granted federal tax exemption by IRS under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).
- D. **Digital Payment:** Dr. Pei Xiong-Skiba reported that digital payment via PayPal has been established, allowing all members, including non-meeting attendees, to pay their annual dues online. Financially, it appears that the organization is on track to balance its budget for the near future by raising annual membership to \$20.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Nat Smith and Dr. Ron Henderson, and the department of Physics of at Middle Tennessee State University for hosting this meeting! What a beautiful campus! The newly renovated physics department is impressive, the envy of other schools!

Pei Xiong-Skiba  
 Secretary/Treasurer, TAAPT  
 March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Table 1 - List of Faculty Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Presentation
Jason	Alexander	University of Tennessee Martin	Oral & Poster with Student
Tatiana	Allen	University of TN _ Chattanooga	Oral with Student
Spencer	Buckner	Austin Peay State University	
Geoffrey	Burks	Tennessee State University	Oral
Christine	Cheney	University of Tennessee	
Ted	Clarke	Christian Brothers University	
Eugenii	Donev	Austin Peay State University	
Cahit	Erkal	The University of Tennessee at Martin	Oral
Ron	Henderson	Middle Tennessee State University	
Chuck	Higgins	Middle Tennessee State University	Oral
Suman	Neupane	Middle Tennessee State University	
James	Parks	University of Tennessee	
Nau Raj	Pokhrel	University of Tennessee, Knoxville	
William	Robertson	Middle Tennessee State University	Oral
Nat	Smith	Middle Tennessee State University	
Hanna	Terletska	Middle Tennessee State University	Post with Student
John	Varriano	Christian Brothers University	
Pei	Xiong-Skiba	Austin Peay State University	

Table 2 - List of Student Attendees and Awards

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Presentation	Awards
Ian	Alcox	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Oscar	Allen	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Craig	Barbour	Austin Peay State University		
Landon	Boone	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Oral and Poster	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Best Poster Award
Markus	Eisenbach	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Monika	Fouad	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Best Poster Award (shared)
Thomas	Freeman	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Michael	Graff	Austin Peay State University	Poster	

De'Ja	Graves	University of Tennessee at Martin	Poster	
Meleah	Lanier	Austin Peay State University	Poster	
Jair	Martinez	Austin Peay State University	Poster	
Brian	Matthews	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Shelby	Mayhut	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Ariel	Nicastro	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Best Poster Award (shared)
Dylan	Riggins	Middle Tennessee State University		
Isaac	Shirk	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Aubrey	Tidwell	Middle Tennessee State University		
Lindsey	Tran	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Yang	Wang	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	
Ethan	Weiche	Middle Tennessee State University	Poster	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Best Poster Award