



Minutes of the 2025 TAAPT Annual Meeting

Friday and Saturday, April 4th and 5th, 2025
Latimer-Smith Building, University of Tennessee at Martin

The annual meeting of the Tennessee section of the Association of American Physics Teachers (TAAPT) was held on April 4–5, 2025, at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event began on Friday evening with registration at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The keynote speaker, Dr. Peggy Hill, Professor of Physics Emerita at Southeast Missouri State University, delivered a presentation titled "*Making an Unlikely Connection: CATE2024 Team 017.*"

Saturday's session began with breakfast and registration at 8:00 a.m. Contributed talks took place from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., followed by the business meeting from 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. The student poster session and awards were held from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., and concluded with a tour of the Latimer-Smith Building. Attendees especially enjoyed a visit to the rooftop observatory.

Table 1 lists the faculty attendees, and Table 2 details student participants and award recipients. The meeting was well attended.

Business Meeting Summary

A. National Update

Dr. Eugenii Donev, the section representative, shared updates from the national AAPT and encouraged greater faculty membership.

B. Financial Report

Dr. Pei Xiong-Skiba, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the organization's financial report. She expressed appreciation to members who contributed additional dues to support student activities, noting that TAAPT is on solid financial footing.

C. Officer Elections

- Dr. Tatiana Allen (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) was elected Chair-Elect for 2025-2026 and host the 2026 meeting.
- Dr. Eugenii Donev and Dr. Pei Xiong-Skiba (Austin Peay State University) were re-elected as Section Representative and Secretary/Treasurer for 2024–2025.

D. Future Meetings

- The 2026 TAAPT meeting will be hosted at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Dates will be announced.
- The 2027 TAAPT meeting will be hosted at Austin Peay State University.

F. High School Teacher of the Year Award

Ms. Kim Crews (Obion County Central High School) was honored for her outstanding teaching over the past two decades.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Drs. Jason Alexandra and Cahit Erkal, and the Department of Chemistry and Physics at UT Martin, for hosting the meeting. Despite severe weather alerts—including tornado, flood, and storm warnings—attendee enthusiasm remained high throughout the event.

Pei Xiong-Skiba

Secretary/Treasurer, TAAPT

April 5th, 2025

Table 1 - List of Faculty Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Presentation
Buckner	Spencer	Austin Peay State University	
Burks	Geoffrey	Tennessee State University	Oral
Clarke	Ted	Christian Brothers University	
Crews	Kim	Obion County Central High School	
Crews	Lionel	UT Martin	
Donev	Eugenii	Austin Peay State University	
Ellington	Thomas	University of Tennessee at Martin	
Erkal	Cahit	UT Martin	
Getaneh	Misganaw	University of Tennessee at Martin	
Peterson	Randolph	University of the South	
Smith	Nat	MTSU	Oral
Varriano	John	Christian Brothers University	Oral
Xiong-Skiba	Pei	Austin Peay State University	Oral

Table 2 - List of Student Attendees and Awards

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Presentation	Awards
Bariavic	Tyler	UT Martin		
Bouchard	Thomas	Austin Peay State University	Poster	
Byassee	Kyla	UT Martin		
Canier	Melesa	Austin Peay State University		
Caudel	Amaya	Austin Peay State University	Poster	2nd best
Decker	Tiffany	UT Martin	Poster	3rd best
Foster	Alex	UT Martin		
Gao	Austin	University of South		

Gao	Justin	University of South		
Gordon	Jeremy	UT Martin	Poster	3rd best
Graves	DeJa	University of Tennessee at Martin	Poster	
Grimes	Sandra	UTHSC Memphis		
Jones	Kennedy	UT Martin		
Kope	Eden	Austin Peay State University		
Lanier	Meleah	Austin Peay State University		
Laster	Keisei	UT Martin		
Loy	Li	Austin Peay State University	Poster	
Lunch	Curt	UT Martin		
Martinez	Jair	Austin Peay State University	Poster	
Milan	Laura	UT Martin		
Monaghan	Kylene	University of South	Poster	1st best
Nail	Scarlett	UT Martin		
Sedney	Eckhardt	UT Martin		
Scott	Keira	Austin Peay State University	Poster	
Silva	Nathan	University of South		
Wang	Leonardo	University of South	Poster	
Watson	Ashton	Friend of presenter		