The Bohrs: Physics runs in the family

On January 15 the American Institute of Physics hosted the first Lyne Starling Trimble Science Heritage Lecture of 2014 at the American Center for Physics. Dr. Vilhelm Bohr presented a very personal view of his grandfather in his lecture, "Niels Bohr: Life Behind Physics." The attentive audience of 92 was treated to insights from Vilhelm Bohr’s childhood experiences with his remarkable grandfather and especially with his grandmother, Margrethe (Nørlund) Bohr.

Physics runs in the Bohr family. Niels Bohr famously proposed his atomic model 101 years ago in 1913. For this he received the Nobel Prize in 1922, “for his services in the investigation of the structure of atoms and of the radiation emanating from them.” His father before him was a professor of physiology. His brother was a mathematician. His son Aage received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1975. (Three other sons became a medical doctor, a lawyer, and an engineer. Niels and Margrethe had six sons, two of whom died young.) His grandson Vilhelm, our speaker, with doctoral degrees in medicine and science, is a molecular chemist specializing in genetic research and DNA repair. His brother Tomas is a physics professor in Copenhagen, and Vilhelm’s sons are interested in physics. Vilhelm Bohr spoke eloquently about his grandfather and about the remarkably accomplished family that surrounded him, but especially about Margrethe, constant confidant and advisor of Niels.

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SPS recognizes Sharon Rosell as "Outstanding Chapter Advisor"
In what has become an annual tradition, the Society of Physics Students presented its highest honor, the Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award, during an awards session at the AAPT 2014 Winter Meeting. The 2013 recipient is Dr. Sharon Rosell of Central Washington University.

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Member Society Spotlight

AAPT celebrates the wonder that is physics

“The 2014 Winter Meeting in Orlando celebrated the wonder that is physics,” so begins AAPT communications and membership director Marilyn Gardner’s account of the AAPT meeting that took place January 5-9. More than 700 teachers and students attended for several days of workshops, contributed sessions, invited talks, posters, and topical discussions, and to walk the exhibit hall.

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Coming Up

February 2-6

- AMS 94th Meeting (Atlanta, GA)

February 5-7

- 2014 PSP Annual Conference (Washington, DC)

February 12

- Birthday social, 9:30 am (College Park)

February 13-17

- AAAS Annual Conference (Chicago, IL)

February 18

- AIP Investment Advisory Committee (Phoenix, AZ)

February 21
AIP Publishing Board of Managers meeting (New York, NY)
February 27- 28
  • PRC Advisory Committee meetings (College Park, MD)
March 1
  • PRC Policy Committee Meeting (College Park)