

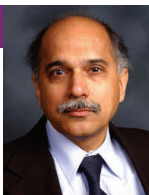


Science Chairs' Newsletter

tips and news for FAS science chairs, from the Office of the Provost



SPRING SEMESTER SPOTLIGHT

RAMAMURTI SHANKAR

Dr. Shankar will step down as Physics Chair on July 1, having served in that position since 2001. During this period, he oversaw many positive changes to the department. The undergraduate curriculum was revamped, reducing unnecessary requirements for the major, adding new electives in exciting fields, and creating a second track for those interested in careers outside of Physics after graduation. The labs were revamped and updated, and as many students as possible were given opportunities for research apprenticeships. Undergraduate enrollments notably increased, from 1,284 in 2001-02 to 1,644 in 2005-06. He was also instrumental in improving the culture of the department, creating many opportunities for discussions and social interactions between faculty and undergraduates. Finally, Dr. Shankar has been very effective in attracting women and minorities into Physics, through individual counseling, hiring four new role models, celebrating the Year of the Woman with endowed lectures by distinguished women, and by providing funds for focus groups to meet and travel to conferences. Such diversity efforts in the recruitment of new faculty have recently resulted in the appointment of one woman and one minority to senior positions. Our thanks to Shankar for a job well done!

FIRST ISSUE INTRODUCTION

The Science Chairs' newsletter is a new informational resource that will be distributed periodically by the Provost's office, and will contain items of use and interest to science Chairs at Yale. All suggestions for future topics, announcements, graphics, or ideas for improving the newsletter are welcome and encouraged. Send all submissions, suggestions and feedback to: robert.burger@yale.edu.

BEST PRACTICES TIPS

- ◆ David Gingerella, **Shared Science Services Branch**, strongly recommends that Department Chairs invite their business managers to the first part of each faculty meeting to provide an opportunity to ask and answer questions, and to facilitate increased communication between the faculty and department business personnel.
- ◆ #13 From the "23 Best Practices for Chairs" list: Facilitate and create regular opportunities for junior faculty mentoring with senior faculty. Many departments are formulating mentoring programs based on junior faculty recommendations. These might include meeting with an advisory committee of senior faculty, occasional meetings with the chair, or facilitating peer mentoring opportunities. We strongly encourage these efforts in your department if similar initiatives are not currently underway.

NEW COORDINATION OF SCIENCE HILL SHARED RESOURCES

As many of you know, there are numerous shared instruments and facilities in FAS available to faculty. Some of these instruments and facilities are well established and heavily utilized; others are less well known and may represent opportunities for increased use and new collaborations. There are also frequent requests for additional shared facilities. The Provost's office is now in the process of more closely coordinating these FAS resources and evaluating unmet needs. An administrative position has been created for a PhD-level staff member who will have responsibilities for coordinating these resources. A top priority of new coordinator will be to gain a clear understanding of the availability and capabilities of the shared resources, and will assist the staff and managers of the resources with publicizing their availability and maximizing their utilization. Some examples of core facilities include: The Center for Genomics and Proteomics, High Performance Computing, the Gibbs Machine Shop, the Becton Clean Room, and many others. This initiative will broaden research and collaborative opportunities across the Hill. More information to follow soon!

NEW RESOURCE FOR DUAL RECRUITMENTS

In order to better facilitate dual recruitments and provide a wider variety of career opportunities for spouses of potential faculty, Yale has joined the Metro New York and Southern Connecticut Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC), which consolidates job opportunities at 42 different institutions in the southern Connecticut and Metro New York Region. Jobs can be searched by institution or location, and include academic, staff and executive positions. Yale joined on February 22nd, and positions can now be searched for all institutions on the HERC website: <http://www.mnyscherc.org>. We encourage all chairs to use this new resource for your dual recruits and assisting your faculty with career opportunities for their spouses and partners.

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS



Following the appointment of John Alvaro as the campus-wide Director of Postdoctoral Affairs, we are happy to announce the hiring of Monica Vella-Angelastro, Ph.D. as the Associate Director. Dr. Vella-Angelastro was a graduate student in the lab of Frank Slack (MCDB) and received her doctorate from Yale in 2004. She is now finishing postdoctoral work in the lab of Rory McCrimmon (Internal Medicine). Dr. Vella-Angelastro will focus primarily on postdoctoral issues relevant to the Central Campus and will be located on the first floor of Gibbs. She begins her new position on June 1 and looks forward to interacting with the members of your department.

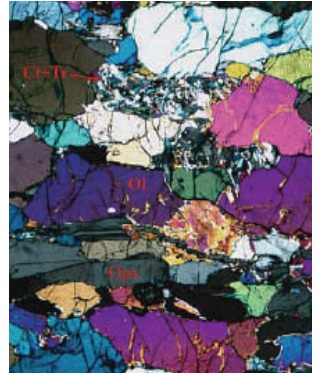
New Director of OEOP

We are pleased to announce that Valarie Stanley has returned to the Office for Equal Opportunity Programs as Director and will head EEO/Affirmative Action efforts. As you may know, Valarie was the Assistant Director for EEO for over 25 years. Valarie's years of experience will provide continuity of leadership and facilitate Yale's commitment to faculty and staff diversity through affirmative action compliance activities, implementation of equal opportunity and affirmative action policies, initiatives and programs, and the education and training of diversity representatives from faculty search committees. We will continue to utilize the current process for filling faculty positions appropriate for each school or department.

Questions or comments? Email robert.burger@yale.edu or call 203-432-4448

Division of Science and Technology, Office of the Deputy Provost for Science, Technology, and Faculty Development

IMAGE OF THE MONTH



Mineral microstructures in peridotite. From a 2006 *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology* paper by Yale Geologists Skemer, Katayama, and Karato.