Greetings Iowa physics faculty and instructors…

My name is Kristen Thompson and I am acting president of the Iowa section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) for the 2016 calendar year.  Let me start by thanking you for taking the time to open this email message during such a busy time of year!  I hope your semester is off to a great start and your students are back from their breaks fully energized and ready to learn.

I am Associate Professor in the Physics and Engineering programs at Loras College. One of my favorite classes to teach is the Algebra based Physics primarily populated with pre-heath students studying biology, chemistry, and kinesiology. This gives the opportunity to show these skeptical students that the study of Physics can be fun despite also being quite challenging.  My typical teaching load also includes physics as a general education course as well as several upper level engineering courses.

With this in mind, I want to take a minute to personally invite you to our annual section meeting of the AAPT, happening **Saturday**, **November 5, at the University of Iowa, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, Lecture Room 2 (LRII), Van Allen Hall, Iowa City, IA**.  Parking is available in the ramp across the street on Iowa Ave. or the parking lot at the NE corner of Iowa and Gilbert (do not park in the first row next to the building which is "reserved" parking on weekends.) Thank you Dale Stille for agreeing to be our local host this fall!!  The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and coffee, doughnuts, fruit, and other snacks will be provided.

Registration for this meeting is $7 which will help to cover these costs

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The morning sessions will include opening remarks, an provided by our chapter representative (Prof. John Zwart – Dordt College – Sioux Center, Iowa), comments from those who attended this summer’s national meeting in Sacramento, CA, and any other pertinent information from the national AAPT office.  The remainder of the time before lunch, will consist of presentations.  **We are currently seeking proposals and abstracts** from any of you who might be interested in giving a short (8 min) talk about things that you and your students are doing in the physics classroom.  This could be anything from a lab activity that you have designed, research projects you or your students are working on, or something you picked up at another workshop or professional development experience.  Anything relevant you can think of that you’d like to share with the broader community of physics teachers in the state of Iowa would be great and we would love to hear from you.  If you’re interested in presenting please submit your abstract by Friday, Oct. 21st, 2016 to Dale Stille at dale-stille@uiowa.edu.  Be sure to include any special needs you might have related to technology.  PowerPoint and internet access will be available, along with a USB drive.  Please supply your own power cords, and adapters if you plan on using your own laptop.

Following the presentations, we will eat lunch together.  Your response to this invitation will dictate what we end up doing for lunch, so please RSVP to this invitation by Oct. 21, 2016 so that we can get an idea of our potential headcount.  We will update you as to our decision for lunch once we have a better understanding of how many people will be in attendance.

After lunch we will have our annual section board meeting, and hold elections to determine officers for 2016.  Section officers in attendance should attend this meeting and participate in elections. John will be seeking re-election as the chapter representative, so we will be looking for a new chapter representative. We will also be electing a future president from the ranks of those teaching at the high school level. This meeting is also open to the general audience and your participation is welcome.

Presenting is not required (but it is strongly encouraged) and membership to AAPT is also not a prerequisite to attend our state section meeting.  If you just want to come, hang out, listen to the presentations, and have some coffee…that is fine!  Simply attending this meeting will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and network with other physics teachers from around the state.  In a place like Iowa, where we are spread out, often working in small districts, we have the tendency to feel isolated and alone.  Don’t let this happen to you!  Please, come say ‘hello’ and introduce yourself.  We would love to see you in Iowa City, on November 5th.

On behalf of the other members of our chapter officer team, thank you for taking the time to read this and please consider attending our chapter meeting.  If this message was delivered to you in error, but you know of physics teachers in your building or on your campus that might benefit from this, please feel free to forward our message on to them.

We hope to see all of you at the University of Iowa!

Kristen Thompson (President – AAPT Iowa Section), (Ph.D Chemical Engineering ’08, B.S. Chemical Engineering ’96,)

IAAPT Webpage = <http://faraday.physics.uiowa.edu/IAAPT_index.htm>

Dale Stille and Craig Kletzing

IAAPT Co-Secretaries

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