

Australian Institute of Physics | Postgraduate Awards Day Report

The NSW Branch of the AIP in conjunction with the Royal Society of NSW held its annual Postgraduate Awards Day on **Tuesday 22 November 2011 in the Slade Lecture Theatre, University of Sydney**. Each New South Wales University was invited to nominate one student to compete for the **\$500 prize and Postgraduate medal** on that day.

The Royal Society of NSW as the co-sponsor also awarded a Scholarship **prize of \$500 as a separate award category for this event**. Students nominated for the awards were also invited as guests for the NSW AIP Branch annual dinner that followed the presentations. These awards were created to encourage excellence in postgraduate work, and all nominees that participated in the Postgraduate Awards Day received a **special certificate** recognising their high standing.

Students were asked to make a **20-minute presentation** on their postgraduate **research in Physics**, and the presentation was judged on the criteria (1) content and scientific quality, (2) clarity and (3) presentation skills. The nominated speakers for 2011 were:

- **Martin Fuechsle, University of New South Wales** - *From Single Atoms towards the Most Powerful Computer*
- **Robert Williams, Macquarie University** - *Lasers Switched on by Light: An Optically-Driven All-Fibre Q-Switch*
- **Alessandro Tuniz, University of Sydney** - *Drawing the Invisible: Fibres for Hyperlenses and Emperor's Clothes*
- **Igor Golovchanskiy, University of Wollongong** - *Flux Quantum Pinning Model with Feedback to Nanotechnology of Superconductors*
- **Danielle Wuchenich, Australian National University** - *The GRACE Follow-On Laser Ranging Instrument*
- **Michael Wilczynska, University of New South Wales** - *Dissolving the Controversy: Concordance of Recent Results on a Varying Fine-Structure Constant*

The winner of the AIP Postgraduate Presentation for 2011 was awarded to **Alessandro Tuniz, University of Sydney** for his talk on *Drawing the Invisible Fibres for Hyperlenses and Emperor's Clothes*. Alessandro received the 2011 Crystal Postgraduate figurine, and a \$500 cheque from the AIP. The judging panel also awarded a highly commended prize to **Robert Williams, Macquarie University** for his talk on *Lasers Switched on by Light: An Optically-Driven All-Fibre Q-Switch*. Robert received a \$150 cheque from the AIP.



Dr Frederick Osman with Mr. Alessandro Tuniz (USYD) – 2011 AIP Postgraduate Awards winner



Dr Frederick Osman with Mr. Martin Fuechsle (UNSW) – 2011 Royal Society of NSW Scholarship winner

The AIP congratulates Alessandro on this excellent achievement. The five runner's up all received a small AIP medal and a special certificate recognising their high standing.

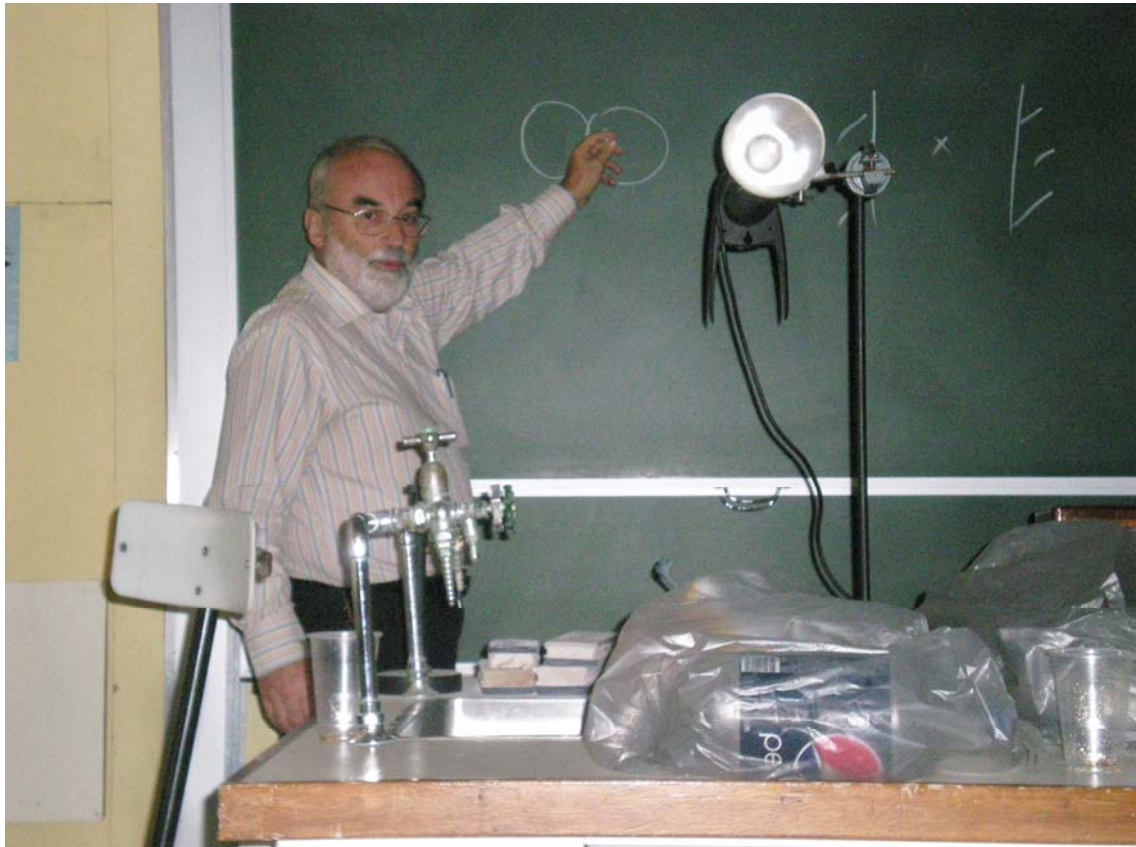
The winner of the Royal Society of NSW Scholarship Prize for 2011 was awarded to **Martin Fuechsle, University of New South Wales** for his talk on *From Single Atoms towards the Most Powerful Computer*.

Martin received a Scholarship prize of \$500 from the Royal Society of NSW. The Royal Society of New South Wales congratulates Martin on this excellent achievement.

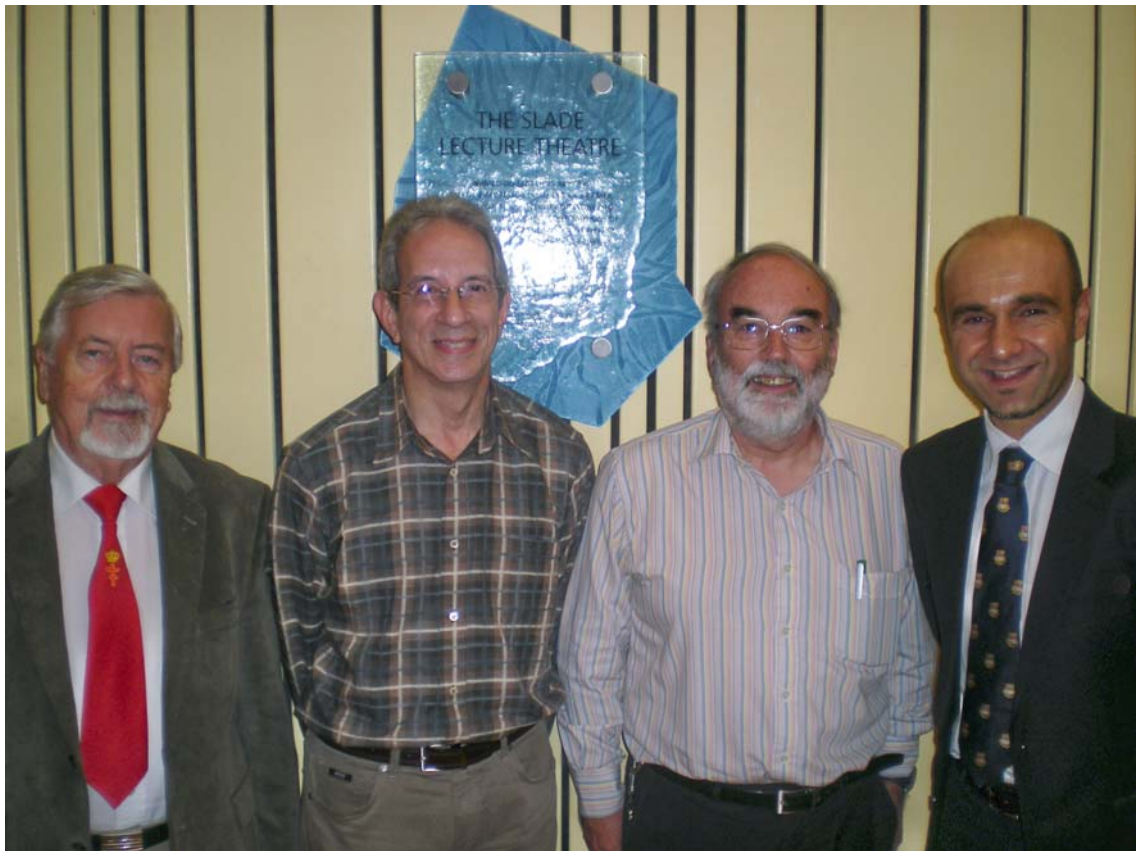


2011 Postgraduate Group Photo: Professor Ross McPhedran, Robert Williams (MAQ), Martin Fuechsle (UNSW), Alessandro Tuniz (USYD), Igor Golovchanskiy (UOW), Danielle Wuchenich (ANU), Michael Wilczynska (UNSW) and Dr Frederick Osman (AIP)

The Postgraduate Awards day was followed by a talk from our invited speaker Professor Ross McPhedran FAA from *CUDOS Centre of Excellence and School of Physics, University of Sydney*. His entitled talk was on "Some Useful Physics".



Professor Ross McPhedran (2011 AIP NSW Postgraduate Awards Invited Speaker)



Professor Heinrich Hora, Dr Jesse Shore, Professor Ross McPhedran and Dr Frederick Osman (AIP Branch Postgraduate Coordinator)

The talks were well received and geared to scientists and members of the public alike with many discussions continuing later during the Annual dinner at the Buon Gusto Italian restaurant. The Australian Institute of Physics thanks Professor Ross McPhedran and all the Postgraduate speakers for their outstanding lectures!



The 2011 Awards Event was proudly sponsored by: The Australian Institute of Physics, The Royal Society of New South Wales, Campus Review and the CSIRO.



COLLAGE OF PHOTOS DURING THE 2011 POSTGRADUATE AWARDS



Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world. ~*Albert Einstein 1879-1955*

Dr Frederick Osman – AIP NSW Branch Postgraduate Awards Coordinator