Greetings from the Chair

Keith Andrew

Greetings from the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Let me introduce myself as a new addition to the department, having just started as the Department Head in August of 2004. Dr. Richard Hackney was serving as the interim Department Head during the search and has done a fantastic job of keeping everything going. I have received a warm welcome by everyone here, and am acclimating to the excitement of the University and to the Bowling Green community, having moved here from Illinois.

Our Newsletter is sent periodically to alumni and friends of the department to update you on our people and their activities and accomplishments. For more frequent updates, we invite you to visit our web site at http://physics.wku.edu. There you can always learn about the most recent activities of our faculty and the current students in the program.

One of the first things I have noticed is this outstanding energy and commitment level of the students and faculty in our department. In the course of one week I heard about acoustic cooling, data from an eight meter telescope, the kappa squared problem, the Society of Physics Students, the wonders of Hardin Planetarium, the Hilltopper Astronomy Club, the WKU Bell Astrophysical Observatory, the Applied Physics Institute, a state of the art learning and teaching set of rooms, and Diddle Arena.

Let me also offer congratulations to the student who recently graduated: Byron Pennycuff, with a degree in Physics and Mathematics. The ultimate success of our department is reflected in the success of our graduates. We are always happy to hear from former students and to learn where they are, what they are doing now, and how their careers have developed after preparing in our program. We invite you to call, write, or e-mail at any time to let us hear from you. In general, the e-mail address for a faculty member at Western is based on the name, as first.last@wku.edu. We would like to add your e-mail address to our list to be able to keep you up to date with department happenings. To be added to the mailing list please send an email to physics.astronomy@wku.edu. Please let us hear from you and let us know what you are doing.