Really Important Stuff! See application information included, along with a letter for administrators. This program is exciting. PHYSICS TEACHING RESOURCE AGENTS (PTRA) PROGRAM: AAPT National has approved the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, as a new Rural Regional Site (RRS) in the Rural PTRA Program starting summer of 2005. A one-week summer institute for physics and physical science teachers in high schools and middle schools will be held June 28-July1. There are follow up sessions, and there is a series of annual summer events. Participants will be able to attend 36 workshop hours per year. This year’s participants will get priority (and an increased stipend) as we rotate through a 4-summer list of topics. The AAPT/PTRA Program is supported in part by the NSF.

The topics for this summer and the two follow-up sessions during 2005 - 2006 are: (1)Teaching about Kinematics (2)Teaching about Newton's Second Law. There will also be a computer technology component for both of these topics using PASCO, TI and/or Vernier equipment. This equipment will be borrowed from the companies. The Rural AAPT/PTRA program is an initiative to serve isolated and neglected rural teachers. It provides opportunities for these teachers to grow professionally in physics content, use of instructional technology, and established teaching strategies. Additionally they will form the foundation of a professional, supportive network for physics teachers.

Non-rural participants may attend for a small fee from their school, or apply for one of two physics department scholarships for the program. Potential national PTRAs are selected based on physics content mastery, creativity, successful teaching experience, familiarity with physics education research, and the capacity for professional leadership. The opportunity for continuity and expansion of training is offered each year at an intense summer institute at which AAPT/PTRA commissioned workshops are developed. What emerges, then, are teachers who go out to meet the specific needs in their local area.

If you teach in a rural or small-city school district there is no cost to attend (neither to the attendee nor to the school division). Lodging and meals will be provided on campus. Attendees will arrive Sunday afternoon, June 26; the workshop will conclude on Friday, July 1.

Included are a letter from Jim Nelson, AAPT’s Vice President and the Principal Investigator for PTRA, and an application form. In the interest of time, I am sending this directly to you, but please feel free to share this information with your administrator in case there are other teachers in your district that might benefit. If you are not eligible or interested but know someone who might be interested, please pass this information along to them.

Questions, comments, and completed applications can be addressed to me as site coordinator. I hope to see you in June! Gay Stewart
The Talent Search is a cool World Year of Physics Event… Visit our newsletter on the web for each of these to be a link, or go to www.aps.org and click on the World Year of Physics Logo!

**Physics Talent Search**: Is one of your students the next Einstein? You never know without trying! To start, why not participate in the WYP 2005 Physics Talent Search? Students can earn points by visiting a physics lab (High School Physics Day counts!), making a poster, writing a play, or doing a physics experiment in your school's science fair. If they earn 10 points, they earn the right to be called a "United States Physics Talent." For more points, who knows? They might become one of the United States "Physics Young Ambassadors." Reduced Gravity Experiments: High School Teachers, Research in Freefall with NASA Climb aboard NASA's flying, reduced-gravity laboratory and run your high school classroom’s physics experiment. PhysicsQuest In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's 'miraculous year' of 1905, and coincidentally, also the 50th anniversary of his death in 1955, APS invites middle school students from all across the United States to solve a mystery. The solution to that mystery reveals the location of a treasure somewhere in Princeton, NJ where Einstein taught and continued to do research for the last 23 years of his life. Can your class solve the mystery? Measure the Earth with Shadows Eratosthenes first measured the diameter of the Earth with an ingenious technique using just sticks, shadows and a little mathematics. Now students, collaborating with others in distant schools, will combine their efforts to recreate this experiment on the largest scale ever attempted. **Sign up for the World Year of Physics Newsletter**!