

Aspen Center for Physics Fact Sheet Compiled for 50th Anniversary in 2012

Mission

The Aspen Center for Physics is a research center where theoretical physicists work in an unstructured environment free to interact across their fields of specialization.

Founded in 1962 by

- George Stranahan, a graduate student at the Carnegie Institute of Technology
- Professor Michael Cohen of the University of Pennsylvania
- Bob Craig, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies

- ACP was opened as the Physics Division of the Aspen Institute in summer, 1962
- in 1968 ACP became an independent Colorado non-profit corporation
- in 1991 ACP received permanent ownership of its four-acre campus, the *circle of serenity*

Participants, 1962-2012

- 10,000 physicists have participated at least once in winter, summer or both
- more than 500 summer physicists have attended more than 5 times
- 65 countries have been represented
- 53 Nobel Laureates in Physics have participated

Summer Program

- each year about 500 (513 average for past 5 years) physicists are accepted out of about 875 (879.4 average for past 5 years) applications
- about 85 physicists are in residence each week for 16 weeks; average stay is about 2.6 weeks
- each year, about 40% of have never attended before
- worldwide, about 12% of physics faculty members are women; at ACP, 14 to 17% are women <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/highlite/women3/faculty.htm>

Winter Conferences

- six or more intensive week-long conferences host 50 to 100 physicists each week from graduate students to full professors, theorists to experimentalists
- nearly 5,000 physicists have attended since the Winter Conferences began in 1985

Scientific Impact

- more than 10,000 scientific papers have acknowledged work done at the Aspen Center for Physics
- string theory made significant headway here
- the germ of Supersymmetry was conceived here
- the concept for arXiv was born here

Impact on Aspen

- physicists (not including family members) have spent more than 324,000 pillow nights in Aspen in summer; in 2012, physicists pillow nights will exceed 9,700
- in summer 2011, the ACP spent more than \$686,000 for housing
- in winter, physicists have spent 40,000 pillow nights in Aspen
- in winter 2012, physicists spent more than \$500,000 for housing
- ACP owns more than 100 bicycles for use by physicists and family members
- physicists bring their families, enroll their children in camps, shop, dine, attend concerts and special events, hike, bike, climb and enjoy every aspect of life in Aspen
- Aspen businesses and residents have befriended the Center for the past 50 years

Facilities

- Stranahan Hall was completed in 1962
- Hilbert Hall (temporary, now removed) was completed in 1968
- Bethe Hall was completed in 1972
- Smart Hall, Hosier Hall and Flug Forum were completed in 1996
- facilities include 43 double offices, a 100 seat auditorium, a 40 person seminar room, 2 breakout rooms, and a patio meeting space that is most in demand

Community Involvement

- free public lectures and informal dialogues include the Heinz R. Pagels Memorial Lectures in summer and Maggie and Nick DeWolf Lectures in winter totaling about 20 events each year; audiences often exceed 250
- in summer, family barbecues for local and visiting youth (with the Aspen Science Center) offer physics activities and an entertaining and informative physics talk
- during the Physics Café before each winter lecture (also with the Aspen Science Center), the general public is invited to ask physicists questions informally
- physicists visit schools and engage in one-on-one conversations with interested high school students

Funding

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<http://aspenphys.org/50th/index.html>