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## Physicists Elect Spalding as Fellow

March 3, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The American Physical Society (APS) has elected Illinois Wesleyan University's Gabriel C. Spalding to Fellowship in the Society. This honor is limited to no more than one-half of one percent of the APS membership.

A professor of **physics** at Illinois Wesleyan, Spalding was honored for his work in creating a community of physics educators focused on physics laboratory instruction beyond the first year; for his creative efforts in making photon-quantum mechanics affordable and accessible in the undergraduate laboratory; and for his leadership in curricular innovations that enhance the role of the laboratory in undergraduate physics education.

APS is a non-profit membership organization working to advance the knowledge of physics through education, outreach, advocacy and international activities. The organization represents over 50,000 members, including physicists in academia, national laboratories and industry in the United States and throughout the world.

Earlier this year Spalding was also elected as a Fellow of SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics. The SPIE fellowship recognizes outstanding members for their technical achievement and for their service to the general optics community and to SPIE in particular.

In the past year Spalding has been recognized with awards from the American Association of Physics Teachers and from APS for his efforts to expand laboratory instruction nationwide for undergraduate students. Spalding was a founder of ALPhA, an association of college and university faculty and staff members dedicated to experimental physics instruction, and served as the association's first president.

Spalding earned a doctorate from Harvard University and joined the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan in 1996. His recent research utilizes holographically textured fields to trap and manipulate matter. For more than 10 years, Spalding has taken Illinois Wesleyan students to the University of St. Andrews and Dundee in Scotland where they take part in "beam sculpting" research projects, most recently developing non-invasive methods of targeting and destroying tumors.



*Gabe Spalding (third from left) was honored by the American Physical Society at its March meeting.*

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