S potlight

On Alumnus Dr. Joel Sinsky

Dr. Joel Sinsky, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1967, talks aboout his successful career with the US Navy. In 1992, Sinsky received the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive, the nation's highest executive civil service award.

From left to right are President Bush, Dr. Sinsky, and Ms. Constance Newman, Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Above: Dr. Sinsky receiving his award from President Bush.

The main message I would like to send to new Physics graduates is that Government employment can be very rewarding intellectually, professionally and financially. I always had choices in the Government about where I wanted to work and what kind of work I wanted to do. I started off as a research scientist in the field of Acoustics because that was most like my thesis work calibrating Joe Weber's Gravitational Wave Detector.

After I worked as a research scientist for 8 years at the Naval Research Lab, I decided to change from research scientist to Program Manager. As a manager of research and development of new Navy technology, I impacted the direction of Navy Undersea Surveillance assets. Finally, I evolved into a senior manager and supervisor where I was responsible for the technical integrity of all of the Navy's Undersea Surveillance systems. When the Soviet Union imploded, my colleagues and I experienced a great deal of satisfaction because our successful work stressed the Soviet Submarine Force technically and financially.

Since retiring from the Navy, I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching physics at three local universities and doing seminars. I typically teach about 400 students per year and, in spite of my age and the generation gap, they seem to truly enjoy my courses based on their evaluation.

Please click here for a .pdf of an article in the Spawarrier, discussing Sinsky's career

Tel: 301.405.3401
1117 Physics Bldg.
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Contact the editor.
Contact the webmaster.