

June 2, 2014

## Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO



### Life lessons to help change the world

This is commencement season, a time to recognize the toil and dedication of students who have successfully completed their degree requirements. Leading up to graduation, the students have a specific, clearly defined job—follow the curriculum, do well. But commencement signals a new beginning; graduates must set their own goals, forge their own paths, and often gauge their own success.

Each year we hear about a few select commencement addresses that particularly resonate, giving new graduates food for thought as they begin their professional lives. I urge you to read one such [address that was given to University of Texas graduates on May 17 by Admiral William H. McRaven](#). The admiral, who currently heads the US Special Operations Command, recounted 10 lessons in life that he distilled from enduring the six months of intensive basic training given to all who want to be called Navy SEALs. SEAL training pushes recruits to the limits of physical and emotional endurance, specifically, to strengthen their ability to handle dangerous and unpredictable situations in many environments with the goal of surviving and succeeding in the mission. Those who can survive such training are likely to show determination and leadership in stressful environments for the rest of their lives.

You might wonder how this elite training experience could translate to lessons for an average citizen.

» [Read more](#)

## Physics Resources Matters

### National User Facilities Exposition planned

AIP's government relations staff attended the annual meeting of the National User Facilities Organization (NUFO), which challenged attendees to look for new ways of collaborating across national user facilities to accelerate scientific advancement. On June 10, NUFO will hold a hands-on exhibit on Capitol Hill. » [Read more](#)

## Perspectives on policy: The undergraduate internship



The AIP Education communications team has recently collaborated with members of the [APS Forum on Physics & Society](#) (FPS) to share mutually beneficial opportunities between members. What began as a simple sharing of information via electronic newsletters and social media channels is growing to include more substantial exchanges, such as this recent Q&A article featuring 2013 AIP Mather Policy Intern [Nikki Sanford](#).

Penned by the FPS's Social Media Editor, Matthew Parsons, the piece is titled "Perspectives on Policy: The Undergraduate Internship," and appears in the Forum's April e-newsletter and website.

» [Read more](#)

## Member Society Spotlight

### 2014 US Physics Team members start boot camp at UMD

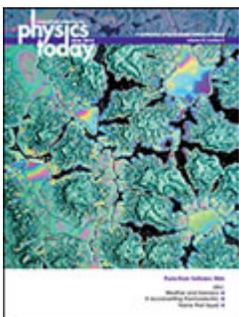


Photo credit: Jane Chambers, AAPT

AAPT welcomed the 19 members of the [US Physics Team](#) and their five coaches to the University of Maryland campus last Wednesday, May 28, for 10 days of intensive training. To get there, they had to outperform more than 4200 of their peers from across the United States who engaged in the yearlong competition.

» [Read more](#)

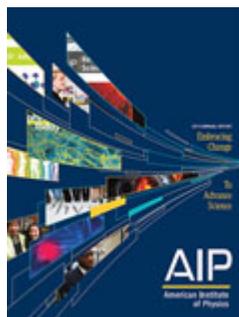
## Off the Press



### [Physics Today, June 2014 issue](#)

Cover: In this optical microscopy image, a polymer film breaks up into patchy areas atop a silicon surface (black). This issue includes a historical

account of the properties, applications, and deposition techniques of organic thin films and a



### AIP 2013 Annual Report, "[Embracing Change to Advance Science](#)"

Programs for the physical sciences community and for the public run by AIP, often in partnership with its Member Societies, continued to thrive in 2013. This report provides a sampling of the successes over the year.

feature on a new development in self-assembled films. (Image courtesy of VISUAL, Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst.)

## Coming Up

June 1-5

- AAS 224th Meeting (Boston, MA)

June 6

- SPS Executive Committee meeting (College Park)

June 6-8

- 2014 Physics Department Chairs Conference (College Park)

June 8-10

- SLA Annual Conference (Vancouver, Canada)

June 8-13

- CLEO (San Jose, CA)

June 11

- June birthday socials (College Park and Melville)

June 12

- Learning Together - PSP Webinar: Funding and Research Fusion (Melville)

June 20-22

- AIP Executive Committee Retreat (Hot Springs, VA)

June 23-26

- New Faculty Physics and Astronomy Workshop (College Park)