

## Director's Matters

*Guest Column*

*by Sean Bentley, Director, Society of Physics Students & Sigma Pi Sigma*



### Beyond the walls of classrooms

Membership of the Society of Physics Students is dynamic. With the majority of members being undergraduates, the ranks of this 4,500-member society are constantly changing, but always include active and enthusiastic students. SPS membership is open to anyone interested in physics, astronomy, and related fields. Students join for a wide variety of reasons, including social interaction with others in their field, an opportunity for a scholarship or internship, and a chance to grow as a leader. While many are primarily active within their own local chapters, SPS encourages involvement at the regional and national levels. Building connections between these students across the nation and around the world is central to SPS activities. With our goal to aid the development of students into well-rounded professionals and members of society, we need to help them see beyond the walls of their classrooms and the gates of their schools to a world full of possibilities to explore and problems to address. The SPS National Council helps define the path for creating such a robust society.



2014-15 SPS National Council

Every year at this time, physics faculty and students from across the nation assemble at ACP for the Society of Physics Students National Council meeting, and the 2014–15

Council just wrapped up its annual meeting yesterday. The council consists of members of the SPS Executive Committee and one student and one advisor from each of the 18 SPS zones. They represent a wonderfully diverse cross section of the membership. This year's council hails from private and public institutions, community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and large research universities. Consistent with SPS's tradition of strong representation of women in leadership, half of the student councilors are women. In 2010, I experienced my first council meeting as councilor for Zone 2 (New York, Ontario, and Quebec). It was an honor to engage the council in a different role this year, as the new director of SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma.

» [Read more](#)

## Physics Resources Matters

---

### Underwriters join Inside Science for annual meeting at ACP

On September 12, representatives of the scientific societies that support Inside Science as program underwriters joined AIP staff for their annual meeting. The underwriters received the latest news and information on the program, provided ideas and feedback, and explored ways to use Inside Science to advance their missions and outreach efforts.

» [Read more](#)



Special guests included former interns who explained how writing for Inside Science has helped their burgeoning careers.

### Help spread the word: AIP seeks applicants for State Department Fellowship



AIP is seeking applicants for its 2015–2016 State Department Science Fellowship; the application deadline is November 3. This program is an opportunity for scientists to make a unique and substantial contribution to the foreign policy process by spending a year working at the US State Department.

» [Read more](#)

## Around AIP

---

### Fred Dylla honored for broadening public access

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) honored Fred Dylla, AIP Executive Director and CEO, for "his efforts to develop and implement



creative solutions for broadening access to scholarly publications." For more information, read the AIP [press release](#).

» [Read more](#)



Simon Ross, ALPSP Council chair, presents Fred Dylla with his award. Photo courtesy of ALPSP.

## Member Society Spotlight

OSA announces winners of the “Enabled by Optics” contest

From an [OSA press release of September 16](#): OSA announced the winners of its second “Enabled by Optics” contest. The contest, which is comprised of two tracks—one for companies and one for students—seeks to raise public awareness of the importance of optics and photonics technologies in furthering innovation and positively impacting society.

» [Read more](#)

## Coming Up

September 23

- *Physics Today* Google Hangout, 6 pm Eastern. Jané Kondev will present “Physics of Bacteria.”
- AIP Investment Advisory Committee meeting (Chicago, IL)

September 28-October 3

- AIP ICTP Industrial Physics Forum (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

September 30

- AIP Executive Committee meeting (College Park)

October 1

- Career Network webinar: “Network Yourself to a Great Career!”

October 2

- ACP Blood Drive

October 5-9

- SOR 86th Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)

October 6

- “Anticipating Nobel” Development event (Bethesda, MD)

October 6-8

- Nobel Prize announcements for Physiology or Medicine (10/6), Physics (10/7), and Chemistry (10/8)

October 7

- Staff training: Email in the workplace (College Park)

October 8

- Birthday socials (Melville and College Park)

October 8-12

- Frankfurt Book Fair (Frankfurt, Germany)

October 14

- Staff training: Proofreading skills and strategies (College Park)
- ACP Art Reception (College Park)

October 15

- ACP Flu Shot Clinic

October 16

- AIP Annual Milestone Presentations

October 19-20

- AIP Publishing 2014 Journal Editors’ Fall Conference (Melville)

October 19-23

- OSA 98th Annual Meeting and Exhibition (FIO) (Tucson, AZ)