

AIP | Matters

A weekly publication of the American Institute of Physics

May 11, 2015

Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO



Go visit a (science) museum

Last week, I encountered throngs of students and patient chaperones at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History on my way to visit with the Smithsonian Press publishing team. This annual ritual of field trips, from the first hint of the cherry blossoms until the June graduation ceremonies, reminds me of what a superb resource museums and science centers are for all aspects of our culture. It is true that our school systems lack resources—we lament over the shortage of properly trained science teachers and insufficient teaching resources that can make science come alive when students see and touch real fossils, charge up their hair with a Van de Graaf generator, or get bedazzled with a planetarium show showing our galaxy in a way that can't be seen during the day. Tapping into the troves of museums and science centers can make a big difference.

When I was growing up in the 1950s, people had to travel to a major city like Washington, DC, or New York to experience a well-appointed science museum. I attended high school in a southern New Jersey rural suburb school system with few resources to kindle my science interests. Fortunately, I could hop on a bus bound for Philadelphia to spend many afternoons at the Franklin Institute. My teachers would often grant me an extended pass for the day . . . as long as I kept up my grades. I loved this museum, and it fed my appetite for science and technology until I left for college. It is still true that our big cities host the best-resourced and most famous of science museums, but now there are nearly 400 science and technology museums throughout the country.



The National Center for Technological Literacy at the Museum of Science, Boston, also received the NSB's 2015 Public Service Award. Credit: *Michael Malyszko*

[Read more.](#)

Physics Resources Matters

McMaster University professor's work featured in *Physics Today*

Researcher Kathryn Grandfield's appearance on the April cover of *Physics Today* was the subject of a

recent [press release](#) from McMaster University, where Grandfield is an assistant professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. “Making the cover of *Physics Today* for a scientist is like a musician making the front of *Rolling Stone*,” according to the release.

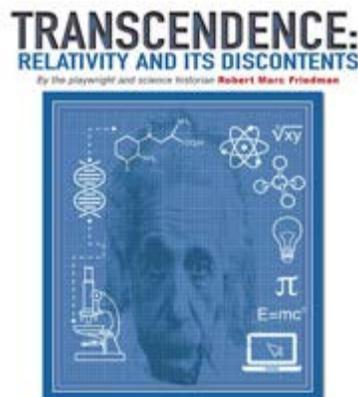
[Read more.](#)

Member Society Spotlight

Transcendence: A new play read at the 2015 APS April Meeting explores the Einstein Nobel Prize controversy

You would think it's impossible to simultaneously spurn a professor and award him the greatest academic prize in the world, but you are not Allvar Gullstrand, and you are not snubbing Albert Einstein. Rather than award Einstein for his groundbreaking theory of relativity, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences gave him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922 for discovering the photoelectric effect—unarguably significant work that helped in proving quantum theory, but not the theory that reshaped the fundamental understanding of matter and time.

[Read more.](#)



Coming Up

May 10-15

- CLEO 2015 (San Jose, CA)

May 13

- Birthday celebrations (College Park and Melville)
- Brown bag lunch. Benjamin Johnson of Fritz Haber Institute in Berlin, Germany, will discuss “Charles Galton Darwin and the Statistical Conservation of Energy, 1911-1927.” (College Park)

May 14

- AIP Publishing Board of Managers meeting (Melville)
- Brown bag lunch. Joseph Bassi of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide will discuss “The Beginnings of a Scientific Peak: Post-WWII Sun-Earth Connection Research in Boulder, Colorado.” (College Park)

May 18

- US Physics Team welcome reception at the University of Maryland (College Park)

May 18-22

- ASA 169th Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA)

May 19

- AIP Publishing 1-year anniversary celebration of its new Melville office (Melville)

May 25

- Memorial Day. AIP and AIP Publishing closed. (College Park and Melville)

May 26

- SPS Summer Intern orientation. The interns will be working at ACP and in the Washington, DC, area from May 26 through July 31.

May 27

- Brown bag lunch. Albert E. (Skip) Theberge of NOAA Central Library will discuss “Stealing the Rift, Missing Fracture Zones and Magnetic Anomalies: How Bruce Heezen and Marie Tharp ‘Discovered’ the Mid-Atlantic Rift Valley.” (College Park)
- TIAA CREF one-on-one counseling sessions (College Park)

June 3

- TIAA CREF one-on-one counseling sessions (College Park)

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Contact us](#)