

AIP | Matters

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Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO



Reminding Congress that basic research pays off

"The total cost of all basic research from Archimedes to the present," my former teacher, the late physicist and international science leader Victor Weisskopf wrote in 1969, "is less than the value of ten days of the world's present industrial production."

Weisskopf's words are highly relevant as Congress begins writing appropriations bills providing federal support for basic research in the new fiscal year starting on October 1. The House of Representatives has passed a bill that includes money for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the major supporter of basic research funding for the physical sciences community. The budget for this office would increase 0.6 percent under this legislation. (See [FYI #53](#).) Another key bill that includes money for the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is moving in the House. All of these agencies fund research performed by the researchers represented by our Member Societies.



Few people understood American competitiveness as well as Weisskopf did. His career included contributions to quantum mechanics and the Manhattan Project, a stint as director-general of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), and chairmanship of one of the world's largest physics departments at MIT. Commenting on the launch of Sputnik during the Cold War, Weisskopf wrote: *"Fundamental research creates the intellectual climate in which our modern civilization flourishes. It pumps the lifeblood of ideas and inventiveness not only into the technological laboratories and factories, but into every cultural activity of our time. The case for generous support for pure and fundamental science is as simple as that."*

[Read more.](#)

Physics Resources Matters

Working to advance STEM ed

The Physical Sciences Education Policy Coalition (PSEPC: AAPT, AAS, APS, OSA, AIP) has been advocating for a collective policy agenda on Capitol Hill to advance K-12 STEM education in the United States. PSEPC has been working with Senate staff on the *Every Child Ready for College or Career Act*, which would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

[Read more.](#)

SPS research award fuels new technologies



The [SPS Chapter Research Award](#) program provides annual grants of up to \$2,000 to support imaginative chapter research activities. The Saint Peter's University SPS chapter in Jersey City, NJ, is using their 2014 award to explore technologies that could help to prevent or minimize the impact of accidents like the one at the oil-drilling rig Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico.

[Read more.](#)

Member Society Spotlight

AAPM Expanding Horizons Travel Grants

AAPM invites applications for its [Expanding Horizons Travel Grants](#). AAPM awards up to twenty \$1,000 travel grants per year to provide support for student and trainee travel to conferences that are not specifically geared toward medical physics.



[Read more.](#)

Coming Up

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)
- Retirement celebration for Terri Braun, Vice President, Human Resources, 3 pm. All staff are welcome to attend. (College Park)

June 10

- Retirement celebration for Fred Dylla, Executive Director & CEO, 3 pm. All staff are welcome to attend. (College Park)

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