Director’s Matters

Business 101: The lifeblood of any organization is communication. External communications are essential to promote any organization's products and services to its customers and stakeholders, and to maintain or expand this base in a competitive environment. Internal communications are essential in the organization to produce and deliver quality products and services with efficiency.

On the day last April, when I began my tenure as the new CEO of AIP, I started AIP Matters with a small group of enthusiastic and dedicated AIP staff members as one way to facilitate the internal communications among the various AIP working units and to improve the external communications to our Governing Board and Member Society officers.

It is time to see how we are doing with these two objectives. At the end of 2007, we took advantage of the resident experts in AIP's Statistical Research Center to survey our readers. The results of the survey are available on the AIP Matters Archive site. We are pleased to report that many of you read and appreciate the content of AIP Matters. In fact, 70% of the 262 respondents read AIP Matters on a regular basis, and only 3% indicated that they never read the newsletter. For most respondents, the length and frequency of the issues are "about right." Over 40% of the survey takers gave additional comments . . . thank you! Many are very useful, and we will consider each of them seriously. A recurring suggestion was to provide more information about AIP's structure and its inner workings, which we will address in future issues. People also requested more information about employee activities. AIP Employee Connections will soon replace Inside AIP, and offer human-interest stories. We will, however, add personnel-related stories with an organizational focus to the Around AIP section of AIP Matters.

With that report card, we will continue our efforts to brighten most of your Monday mornings (we'll skip an occasional week) with brief notes on the exciting developments in the AIP community.

Sincerely yours,

Fred

Publishing Matters

Playing a leading role
In recent years, the AIP Conference Proceedings program has shown tremendous growth. The program ended 2007 publishing twice the number of volumes as in 2004. The subject coverage, although still closely associated with physics, has continued to extend to related disciplines, such as mathematics, engineering, biology, medical physics, life sciences, energy sources and alternate energy solutions, geophysics, climate change, technology, and industrial physics. To enhance an already strong presence online, the decision has been made to extend the backfile on Scitation to include AIP Conference Proceedings published prior to 2000. AIP continues to expand its services to conference organizers, offering more publication options and models, and reducing time to publication.

Best supporting role
Peer X-Press (PXP) is playing a key supporting role in the success of the AIP Conference Proceedings program. Over the past few years, PXP has provided manuscript submission and peer-review services for several recurring conferences. Peer X-Press has proven to be a true benefit for not only the conference organizers, editors, authors, and reviewers, but also for AIP staff. In addition to allowing the peer-review process to be conducted online, PXP performs many of the necessary production functions, such as creation of lineups, tables of contents, and subject indices, along with delivery of electronic and hard-copy manuscripts. The result is a significant time savings throughout the entire conference publication process.
**Physics Resource Center Matters**

**The physics in fairy tales**
Carpets can fly... under the right conditions. But—sorry, Rapunzel—no dice on the hair climbing rescue technique. Inside Science News Service's (ISNS) recent story, the Real Science behind Fairy Tales, was picked up by Livescience.com and then featured on the main page of Yahoo! News and on Wired Magazine's website. ISNS brings the science behind today's news to journalists in everyday life. This AIP service brings ready-to-run science news and feature stories to newsrooms throughout the country via the Associated Press.

**PRC advisory committee meetings this week**
The Physics Resources Center (PRC) welcomes volunteers from seven advisory committees to ACP later this week. The Corporate Associates Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, while the Committee on Public Policy meets on Thursday. The Statistical Research Center, History Center, Education, Physics Today Career Network, and Media and Government Relations will all hold meetings on Friday. Finally, the PRC Policy Committee will meet on Saturday. Stay tuned for meeting highlights.

**Around AIP**

**Life events**
Having a child or planning to adopt? Children leaving the nest? Getting married? Forming a same-sex domestic partnership? Some life events can alter your benefit eligibility, and Human Resources can help you sort through it. All benefit enrollments must be submitted within 30 days of the day of the event. After 30 days, you must wait until the next open enrollment period to make a benefits change. If your child loses eligibility for age reasons, medical and dental coverage continues to the end of the calendar year. For reasons other than age, the child loses coverage at the end of the month of the event. Other factors to consider when these life events occur are income tax withholding status, retirement planning needs, emergency contact information and much more. For more information, please visit the Human Resources website or contact any member of the Human Resources team.

We invite your feedback to this newsletter via email to aipmatters@aip.org.

For past issues of this newsletter, visit the AIP Matters archives.