Some Reflections on the Journey to AIP Governance Restructure

As of November 21, 2014, the AIP Governing Board and AIP Member Societies approved a restructure of AIP's governance, a historic achievement for the Institute. Among other changes, the membership of the corporation's Board of Directors will be 22 or fewer members (currently 15) from the previous 40-plus members of the Governing Board. The revised bylaws also eliminate AIP’s longstanding managing board—the Executive Committee. The new board with its key committees (such as Finance, Audit, Membership) will be strategic and engaged, capable of streamlined oversight and decision-making. A more effective board will ensure the value proposition for AIP's Member Societies (MS), as well as enabling AIP's ability to keep pace with the fast-changing global environment of physical science communication, education, and outreach.

AIP's basic governance structure had been in place essentially since the 1930s, AIP’s founding decade. This governance had served AIP, its MS, and the physical science community well until recent times. In recent years, significant legal changes have occurred in the governance responsibilities for profit and nonprofit corporations, and dramatic changes have occurred in the distribution of technical publications and data. Thus it was evident from many directions that AIP's governance required deep examination—and possibly revolutionary revamping. It was also evident that such an examination was a board-level responsibility. AIP's CEO Fred Dylla fully agreed with the need for governance examination and for its residence in the board. As such, beginning in 2010 with meetings I held with Eva Adams (corporate strategist) and Ben Snavely (corporate secretary), a decision was made to examine AIP Board member perceptions and MS views. This was accomplished under the auspices of a board-sanctioned Governance Task Force (GTF). CEO Dylla joined the GTF in 2012 following an initial board self-examination. Judy Flippen-Anderson assumed Ben's responsibilities upon his retirement in 2013.

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AIP science writers recently wrote about the science-fiction movie *Interstellar* in a collection of online pieces for Inside Science and *Physics Today*. The new movie, directed by Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight, Memento*), features an all-star cast, including Anne Hathaway, Matthew McConaughey, Jessica Chastain, and Michael Caine. *Interstellar* incorporates numerous striking concepts from modern physics, including wormholes, time travel, and extra dimensions. Physicist Kip Thorne, a longtime Caltech professor until his retirement five years ago, was the movie's science consultant and one of the film's executive producers. Thorne is also the winner of a 1994 AIP Science Writing Award for his book *Black Holes and Time Warps*, and his new book, *The Science of Interstellar*, describes the rationales for many of the science ideas used in the movie.

Inside Science used the occasion of the movie, which features a supermassive black hole, to discuss the history of black hole research. Read more.

**Off the Press**

*Physics Today, December 2015 issue*

Cover: Dynamic stencil lithography is an emerging technique for fabricating arbitrary two-dimensional nanostructures. In this colorized scanning electron micrograph, the stencil (orange) is a dodecagonal plate 155 μm across; it moves over a substrate while atoms rain down from above. Each of the squares in the middle of the stencil contains a 200-nm aperture, not visible in the image. The shutter (purple), positioned above the stencil, stops and starts the flow of atoms through the apertures.

**Coming Up**

November 30-December 5

- RSNA Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)

December 11

- AIP Publishing holiday party, 1-4 pm (Melville)

December 12

- Forms due to change contributions to TIAA-CREF’s Supplemental Retirement Annuity (College Park and Melville)

December 17
- AIP Holiday Party, 12-4 pm, University of Maryland Conference Center (College Park)

December 24
- AIP and AIP Publishing close at 3 pm for Christmas Eve (College Park and Melville)

December 25-26
- AIP and AIP Publishing closed for the Christmas holiday (College Park and Melville)

December 31
- AIP and AIP Publishing close at 3 pm for New Year’s Eve (College Park and Melville)

January 1
- AIP and AIP Publishing closed for New Year’s Day (College Park and Melville)

January 3-6
- AAPT Winter Meeting (San Diego, CA)

January 4-8
- AAS 225th Meeting (Seattle, WA)
- AMS 95th Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)