

Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO



Member Society Spotlight: AVS captures the art of engagement



Scientists convened in Baltimore for the [2014 AVS International Symposium and Exhibition](#) from November 9-14 for a rich technical program of science and technology involving materials, interfaces, and processing. The symposium “fosters a multidisciplinary environment that cuts across traditional boundaries between disciplines, featuring papers from AVS technical divisions, technology groups, and focus topics on emerging technologies. The equipment exhibition is one of the largest in the world and provides an excellent opportunity to view the latest products and services offered by over 200 participating companies. More than 2,000 scientists and engineers gather from around the world to attend.”



Pablo Picasso, The Blue Room, 1901. Image credit: The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC.

Among the popular sessions were those connected to the special focus topic Conservation Studies of Heritage Materials, which I had the honor of helping to organize along with Associate Professor Amy Walker from the University of Texas at Dallas. I have always considered the intersection of art and science a unique teaching

tool for increasing the public’s appreciation in both subjects. This standing-room-only session at the AVS symposium proved the point. The invited speakers included conservators from The Phillips Collection in Washington, Delaware’s Winterthur Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago. I invite you to read Inside Science contributor Joel Shurkin’s article on this session, [Science and Art Meet, Unveiling Mystery and Cultural Tragedy](#). The contemporary art conservator needs to be well versed in physics and in chemistry. The conservators who presented showed how they analyze, and often unlock, mysteries from great works with such techniques as x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy using synchrotron radiation, ultraviolet-induced fluorescence, and infrared imaging. [Read more.](#)

Research Award provides "Astronomical Opportunities"



SPS members from Lamar University analyze data from a Hertzsprung-Russell diagram experiment.

During the 2012 Quadrennial Physics Congress of Sigma Pi Sigma, SPS members from Lamar University (Beaumont, TX) met and talked to physics Nobel laureate John Mather about his work. The conversation was a turning point—the students decided to apply for an [SPS Chapter Research Award](#) to fund astronomy research that would include several studies of blackbody radiation. [Read more.](#)

Around AIP

Holiday drives



The ACP Events Committee is working with the [College Park Youth and Family Services](#) (CPYFS) to organize donations of gifts and basic necessities to local families. Staff may select a gift request from one of the pantries and deliver the wrapped gift (with the gift slip attached to the outside) to Human Resources. Donations will be accepted through December 18.

AIP Publishing is taking part in the annual [Toys for Tots](#) campaign, operated by the US Marines of Alpha Company, 6th Communications Battalion. To make wishes come true for impoverished children in Suffolk County, NY, employees are invited to donate new, unwrapped gifts.

AIP Publishing is also collecting food to support the [Long Island Cares](#) food bank that serves local families. Both AIP Publishing drives take place through December 15. Collection boxes are located in the Elements Café pantry area.



Coming Up

December 10

- AIP and AIP Publishing birthday celebrations (College Park and Melville)

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)

Through December 15

- Long Island Cares food drive (Melville)
- Toys for Tots gift drive (Melville)

December 17

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

Through December 18

- College Park Youth and Family Services gift drive (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 1-2

- 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)