June 8, 2015

Director's Matters

By Robert G.W. Brown, Chief Executive Officer

A warm welcome

What a remarkable first week. On Monday, June 1, the staff and leadership of the American Institute of Physics welcomed me as their new chief executive officer. I am heartened by the broad, enthusiastic greeting and refreshingly open communication with all whom I have had the pleasure to meet in my first days. I come to AIP with a fair amount of knowledge of and deep appreciation for applied physics and, as an active member of the international physical sciences community, have followed AIP closely throughout my career. The institute has earned high esteem for its decades of service and advancement of the many sciences that draw on physics, and I am honored to be a part of its future.

On my very first day on the job, I was able to meet most of the AIP staff at an all-hands meeting. The enthusiasm of the staff and open dialogue has made me eager to meet everyone again on a more personal level. This will be one of my top priorities this week. By chance, the biannual AIP Member Society CEO's gathering also took place on Monday, hosted by Angela Keyser of AAPM, where I was introduced to the executive officers of six Member Societies. This happy coincidence afforded me a tremendous opportunity to interact with some of AIP's most important stakeholders and to learn a bit about their respective societies' relationships with AIP.

Read more.
Dutch physicist and Nobel laureate Heike Kamerlingh Onnes was born on September 21, 1853, in Groningen, Netherlands. Kamerlingh Onnes' experiments focused on how materials reacted when cooled to nearly absolute zero. These studies included Kamerlingh Onnes' being the first person to liquify helium and his 1911 discovery of superconductivity.

Within AIP's Emilio Segrè Visual Archives is an album of snapshots from daily life in the Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory. These images depict the facilities, experimental lab equipment, and staff portraits.

Around AIP

AIP celebrates Terri Braun

“On my first day on the job, outgoing AAS Executive Officer Bob Milkey said to me, ‘Your greatest asset for the success of AAS isn’t in this building. It’s Terri Braun, head of Human Resources at AIP.’ I soon found out how true those words were. Thank you, Terri, for all you have done for AAS over the years.”

Those were the words of AAS Executive Officer Kevin Marvel, one of the many who stepped forward at Terri’s retirement party to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who has made AIP what it is today. Terri dedicated 36 years of her career to AIP.

Read more.

SPS's Daniel Golombek and *El Telescopio de las Estrellas*

The Hubble Space Telescope's discoveries over the last 25 years have revolutionized our understanding (actually our ignorance) of the cosmos and forced the rewriting of the astronomy textbooks. Before joining AIP's Education Division, Daniel Golombek worked at

[Read more.](#)

### Coming Up

**June 10**

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

**June 12**

- SPS Executive Committee meeting (College Park)

**June 22-24**

- AAPT/APS/AAS New Faculty Workshop (College Park)

**July 3**

- AIP and AIP Publishing closed for the July 4 holiday weekend (College Park and Melville)

**July 12-16**

- AAPM 57th Annual Meeting (Anaheim, CA)

**July 25-29**

- ACA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)
- AAPT Summer Meeting (College Park, MD)

**Through July 31**

- SPS Summer interns in Washington, DC, area