Director's Matters

Guest column by Philip "Bo" Hammer, Associate Vice President, Physics Resources

Prize for physicists in industry shows impact on the economy

Since 1978, the American Institute of Physics has awarded the Prize for Industrial Applications of Physics, thanks to the generous financial support of General Motors and careful vetting of nominations by the AIP Corporate Associates Advisory Committee. The $10,000 prize was established to recognize outstanding contributions to industry and technology through applications of physics. All recipients have been honored for their scientific work performed while employed in the private sector, and without exception, their innovations have become the devices and technical backbone of modern society, ranging from optical fibers (the subject of the first prize awarded) to the most recent recognition of the tiny electromechanical filters that have enabled the miniaturization of mobile phones. (See the story that follows—development of technology was so groundbreaking that it was the subject of a 32-count indictment handed down in federal court last month.) Recipients of the prize exemplify the ongoing and necessary role of physical scientists in creating the technology that drives our economy, and AIP is proud to honor them on behalf of the physical sciences community.

The story behind the corporate espionage

A cell phone component was the subject of an industrial physics prize and the target of intellectual property theft.

By John Arnst, Media Services Writer, AIP

Unless you are an engineer in the telecommunications industry (or are for some other reason extraordinarily knowledgeable about component technologies for consumer electronics), then chances are you have never heard of an FBAR filter.

But you probably have about 10 FBARs in your pocket right now.

Read more on Physics Today.

Physics Resources Matters

AIP joins call to action for stronger R&D
On June 23, AIP joined over 250 industry, science, and higher education organizations in endorsing a call to action for an American “Innovation Imperative” calling for stronger federal policies and investment to drive domestic research and development. This action follows the release of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences report, “Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream.” The Innovation Imperative underscores the findings—and warnings—contained in the report, which notes, “There is a deficit between what America is investing and what it should be investing to remain competitive, not only in research but in innovation and job creation.”

Read more.

AIP staff celebrates Fred Dylla

On June 10 the staff of AIP gathered to celebrate Fred Dylla and wish him well in his retirement. To catch a glimpse of the comradery engendered by Fred during his past eight years as executive director & CEO, and the esteem with which he is regarded by his colleagues, you need to look no further than the event photos. Below are a few, you can see many more on Dropbox. (All images by Amanda McMath)

Dr. Rachel Ivie has been selected to lead the Statistical Research Center (SRC) at the American Institute of Physics. Ivie has been part of the SRC team since 1998 and has served both as assistant director and as associate director of the SRC.

Read more.
The secrets of baby talk, tracking single whales by traits in their calls, a robotic sonar system inspired by bats, and natural sounds that can improve mood and productivity in the workplace were among the litany of inventions and discoveries featured at the 169th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, held May 18-22 in Pittsburgh, PA.

The issue will be available on July 1 on the Physics Today website.

Read more.
Coming Up

July 3
- AIP and AIP Publishing closed for the July 4th holiday weekend (College Park and Melville)

July 8
- Birthday socials (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