August 10, 2015

**Director's Matters**

_By Catherine O'Riordan, Vice-President for Physics Resources_

**Gemant awardee shines light on STEM Ed**

On July 28, about 300 people gathered to hear 2015 Andrew Gemant awardee Ainissa Ramirez’s lecture, “Our Sputnik Moment in STEM Education.” The lecture was cohosted by AAPT and held during their summer meeting at the University of Maryland. It attracted high school and college physics teachers and students attending the meeting, as well as members from the university community and the general public.

Ramirez contends that America needs to galvanize itself around the nation’s commitment to STEM education (STEM Ed) and recognize our collective power to preserve the US position as a global leader in technology and innovation. For this to happen, the importance of STEM Ed and the belief in our ability to excel in STEM must be well understood, appreciated, and advanced—uniformly—by our policy makers, teachers, parents, and mentors. Ramirez calls herself a “science evangelist” because she believes that bringing this message to audiences across the United States and around the world will create a more robust and creative scientific community. She called upon the teachers present to help her in this quest.

In a land where the quick fix and short-term return on investment is increasingly valued, the effort can be challenging, because STEM careers require in-depth knowledge and innovation requires trial and error. “How many materials did Edison test for his light bulb before he found one with the right conductive properties?” posed Ramirez.

[Read more](#)

**Physics Resources Matters**

Telling the stories of women and African Americans in the physical sciences
In conjunction with the 2015 AAPT Summer Meeting, AIP sponsored a four-day history workshop for K-12 teachers, “Telling the Stories of Women and African Americans in the Physical Sciences.” The goal of the workshop was to expose teachers to AIP’s Teaching Guides on Women and Minorities in the Physical Sciences and to get their feedback for improvements.

Read more.

Member Society Spotlight

AAPT heats up College Park

Physics teachers enjoyed their largest meeting in recent history at the 2015 AAPT Summer Meeting, held July 25-29 on the University of Maryland’s main campus in College Park. Meeting highlights will soon be available through the AAPT website.

Because of the proximity of the conference to AIP headquarters, 22 AIP staff members were able to enjoy interactions with the AAPT community. AAPT history buffs were also invited to a special library tour and discussion of AIP resources for classrooms. Several staff gave presentations or led discussions on topics ranging from history, careers, and student outreach to teacher demographics and preparedness.

Read more.

Around AIP

ACP and LEGO inspirations

The American Center for Physics, which opened in 1993, is one of the architectural gems of the DC metro region. This year, Finley Stein, the 12-year-old son of Inside Science director Ben Stein, completed a LEGO model of the ACP. The model was displayed this month at BrickFair Virginia, a regional show for LEGO fans who display original models made of LEGO bricks.

Read more.
Coming Up

Through August 11
  - ACP School Supply Drive (College Park)

August 3-14
  - XXIX IAU General Assembly, AAS (Honolulu, HI)

August 11
  - AIP Publishing Board of Managers meeting (New York, NY)

August 12
  - Birthday celebrations (College Park and Melville)

August 14
  - Milk-and-Cookies Social, 1:30 pm (College Park)

September 7
  - Labor Day. AIP and AIP Publishing offices closed.

September 9
  - Birthday celebrations (College Park and Melville)

September 15-17
  - AIP Sales & Marketing meeting (Oxon Hill, MD)

September 17-20
  - SPS Council meeting (College Park)

September 18
  - Milk-and-Cookies Social, 1:30 pm (College Park)

September 24
  - ACP Picnic (College Park)

September 28
  - Journal Editors Conference (Melville, NY)

September 28-29
  - AIP Board of Directors meeting (Washington, DC)

September 30
• Publishing Partnership Committee meeting (Melville, NY)
  October 1
• ACP Blood Drive (College Park)