March 2, 2016

Director's Matters

Guest column by Emilie Lorditch, Assistant News Director, News Division

Lights, cameras, SCIENCE!

When audiences curl up on the couch at home or sink into the plush chairs of a darkened movie theater in order to immerse themselves in another time and place, most of them are unaware of all the science that goes into movie production. For the last 8 years, Inside Science has been highlighting the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences' annual Scientific and Technical Achievement Awards ceremony—the other Oscar awards ceremony that receives only a brief mention during the national telecast. The scientists and engineers who are honored spend countless hours agonizing over every single detail that passes through a moviegoer’s field of view in just a split-second.

As a result of interviewing these award winners, I have a greater appreciation for film production. Over the years, I have learned about the advances in optics that have improved movie camera lenses from Richard Edlund, chair of the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee and an Academy Award-winning visual effects artist for films such as Star Wars and Raiders of the Lost Ark.

Read more.

Physics Resources Matters

AIP Celebrates relaunch of Plutonium-238 Production in the US.

AIP is proud to be part of the group of scientific societies, including AAS and AGU that lobbied Congress for funding to restart Pu-238 production. As covered in the FYI, scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory are now reporting that they have created the first plutonium-238 made in the United States in nearly 30 years.

Read more.

3.14: The Pi Awakens
Sigma Pi Sigma’s third annual Pi Day campaign, themed “The Pi Awakens” in a nod to the multi-generational cultural phenomenon Star Wars, will launch March 14 (in honor of the mathematical constant pi, 3.14...). This year’s campaign will help raise awareness and funds for student travel to Sigma Pi Sigma’s 2016 Quadrennial Physics Congress (PhysCon), taking place November 3-5 in California’s Silicon Valley. See how students got a "Piece of the Pi(e)" at PhysCon 2012 here, and join us in helping students across the United States travel to this dynamic gathering. Supporters are asked to give back to the undergraduate physics community with donations in increments of $\pi$.

Read more.

Off the Press

**Physics Today, March 2016 issue**

Cover: The addition of cobalt, copper, iron, nickel, and zinc salts to a sodium silicate solution resulted in the 2.5 cm x 3.5 cm chemical garden seen here. (Image courtesy of Bruno Batista)

Read more.

Coming Up

March 5-8

- AAPM Spring Clinical Meeting (Salt Lake City, UT)

March 9

- “AIP Chatters” monthly staff gathering (College Park)

March 13

- Journal Editors Spring Conference (JESC) (Baltimore, MD)

March 14-18

- APS March Meeting (Baltimore, MD)
March 18-19
- AAPT Experienced Faculty Workshop (College Park)

March 23
- AIP Board of Directors meeting (College Park)

March 24
- Assembly of Society Officers (College Park)

March 25
- AIP Board of Directors meeting (College Park)