

AIP | Matters

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Director's Matters

Guest column by Brad Conrad, SPS Director



The Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Congress

Four years of hard work by the SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma National Office and over 100 volunteers came together this month at the Sigma Pi Sigma 2016 Quadrennial Physics Congress, also known as PhysCon. This year's PhysCon took place in San Francisco and the Silicon Valley, marking the latest of a long line of congresses hosted by Sigma Pi Sigma. Congresses have played an integral role in the development of Sigma Pi Sigma as an honor society, and, while the meeting has evolved over the years, one of its core purposes has stayed the same: to provide direction and vision to Sigma Pi Sigma. With over 1,200 attendees, over 340 poster presenters, 15 art submissions, eight workshops, and an evening dance party, this year's PhysCon was a resounding success.

[Read more.](#)

Around AIP

Silicon Valley Tours

Tours are some of the most highly anticipated events at PhysCon and are open to all attendees. This year's meeting kicked off with tours of the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Google [X], California Academy of Sciences, and the Computer History Museum.

[Read more.](#)



Once in a lifetime plenaries

We were simply amazed by the great lineup of world-class speakers at this year's event. No physics student, young or simply young at heart, can avoid goose bumps when hearing Jocelyn Bell Burnell sharing her discovery of pulsars. The entire congress was entranced listening to Nobel laureate Eric Cornell's recounting of the experimental realization of the condensate that Einstein and Bose predicted so many years ago and how deviations from perfect symmetry might be observable by taking a very, very close look at the humblest and most commonplace particle, the electron.

[Read more.](#)



Coming Up

November 22

- ACP Harvest Happy Hour (College Park, MD)

November 24–25

- AIP and AIP Publishing closed – Thanksgiving holiday

December 8

- TIAA One-on-one counseling sessions (College Park, MD)

December 9

- AIP Holiday Cheer with CEO (College Park, MD)

December 14

- AIP Holiday Party (Mitchellville, MD)

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