

AIP AND SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

New AIP Centers

Two new centers designed to serve the physics community in the areas of educational apparatus and international communication among scientists have recently been established at the American Institute of Physics.

The Center for Educational Apparatus in Physics is a joint project of the AIP and the American Association of Physics Teachers. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, its aim will be to implement the program of the AAPT Committee on Apparatus for Educational Institutions by stimulating the development of new apparatus and by providing teachers with information on new products, materials, and equipment. The Apparatus Center will be headed by Fritjof E. Christensen, who has taken a year's leave of absence from his post as associate professor of physics at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and the AAPT Committee on Apparatus will serve as its advisory board. The Center's activities are expected to include the holding of conferences on apparatus design, consultation with physics departments developing new courses, and assistance to the apparatus industry in locating prototype equipment. In addition, the Center will provide an apparatus-information service to answer questions on new components and materials, and will arrange for visits by physicists to inspect apparatus developed in various physics departments.

Also supported by an NSF grant is the Information Center on International Physics Activities. The Center is intended to serve as a clearinghouse of information on foreign research activity and as an aid to person-to-person contact between American and foreign physicists. F. Behn Riggs, Jr., formerly a physicist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., will serve as the Center's director. Initial projects will include the compilation of current data on international organizations and conferences related to physics, US scientific attachés and deputies abroad, and federal agencies with interests in international physics activities. In addition, the Center will gather pertinent information on US physicists with temporary assignments abroad and on foreign physicists who are visiting in this country. A further project of the Center will be the continued publication of the *Information Booklet on Physics Organizations Abroad*. Physicists planning to go abroad in a professional capacity are invited to use the Center's facilities and to make known their itineraries to Dr. Riggs.

APS Prizes

The American Physical Society is soliciting nominations for the 1964 Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize and the 1964 Dannie Heineman Prize.



F. Behn Riggs, Jr.



Fritjof E. Christensen

The Buckley Prize is awarded "for a most important contribution to the advancement of solid-state physics, made in North America or in the insular territories of the United States, within the five years immediately preceding the award". APS members can send the names of nominees to the Chairman of the Buckley Prize Committee, Dr. Roman Smoluchowski, School of Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. The Heineman Prize is "for outstanding articles in the field of mathematical physics published in scientific journals". Suggestions should be made to the Chairman of the Heineman Prize Committee, Professor G. F. Chew, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif.

New Sigma Pi Sigma Chapters

Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society, reports the installation of twelve new chapters, totaling about 1600 members, during the 1962-63 academic year. The total membership of Sigma Pi Sigma now numbers about 23 000, of whom approximately 3000 are currently active in the chapters. The remaining 20 000 are classified as "alumni members". The new chapters, listed in the order of their establishment, were installed at Indiana University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Los Angeles State College, Texas Christian University, St. Procopius College, the University of Tulsa, Xavier University, Oklahoma City University, Murray State College, the University of Delaware (where the chapter was reactivated), Southwestern at Memphis, and the University of Detroit.