

dress inquiries to Managing Director, Education Development Center, 55 Chapel St., Newton, Mass., 02160.

AIP and US Steel Foundation Create Science-Writing Prize

To promote better public understanding of physics and astronomy, the American Institute of Physics, with United States Steel Foundation sponsorship, has established an AIP-US Steel Foundation \$1500 science-writing award. The prize will recognize the best article or program in physics or astronomy written or produced during 1967 by a journalist for any mass communications medium; it will be presented by the AIP director at the National Association of Science Writers luncheon during the April meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, D. C. Candidates must be permanent residents of the US or Canada; send nominations by 15 Jan. to the AIP public relations division.

Western Michigan Builds 12-MeV Tandem Facility

Construction will soon start on an \$8 million physical science building at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The structure will house a 12-MeV tandem Van de Graaff purchased from High Voltage Engineering Corp. This accelerator was removed from Argonne National Laboratory just before installation of Argonne's HVEC model FN machine was begun. Western Michigan will use its tandem primarily for neutron and charged-particle scattering and reaction studies to investigate nuclear structure. Experiments are expected to begin early in 1969. The building will also contain an IBM 360 model 50 computer that will be available to accelerator staff and science faculty.

IEEE Nuclear Group Joins AIP as Affiliated Society

The American Institute of Physics governing board recently elected the Nuclear Science Group of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers an AIP affiliated society. The 2288-member organization thus became the

19th AIP affiliate and the first affiliate that is also a group connected with an organization in another discipline.

The Nuclear Science Group engages in many activities of interest to both physicists and engineers. Headed by Robert G. Mills of the Princeton plasma-physics laboratory, the organization issues a bimonthly journal, *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*. It also sponsors two series of conferences held in alternate years, the scintillation and semiconductor-counter symposia and the newer national particle-accelerator conferences. Other activities are its nuclear science symposia, an annual conference on radiation damage and an awards program. The group is also active in helping to generate standards for the nuclear-power industry.

AIP Information Program Sets up Seminar Series

The American Institute of Physics with National Science Foundation support has begun a series of seminars as part of its program to develop a national physics-information system. Organized by the AIP information staff, the series will feature lectures by information specialists followed by discussion with institute personnel and others working in the information area. Thus far the speakers have included: (18 Oct.) William T. Knox, former chairman of the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI) and currently vice president for information systems at McGraw-Hill, and (2 Nov.) Kenneth Zabriskie of Bio Science Information Service. Persons interested in the information program and the specialists' talks can learn more about them by writing to Miles A. Libbey, AIP information planning program director.

Knox commenced the seminar series by reviewing some of the steps taken by the federal agencies in the information-systems field. As examples of changes in the past two years in document-oriented systems, Knox mentioned the AEC's increasing emphasis on microfiche, NASA's experience with SDI (selective dissemination of information) and DOD's change to a system whereby the contractor pays for the documents he orders. Experimentation, especially on large-scale sys-

tems, is needed. With respect to information oriented systems, the need is for user-controlled information systems with swift, direct and definite feedback loops from the user himself, not someone else representing him. The user himself can be expected to change, partly because of his education in use of information. This change, said Knox, is one of the factors that makes it hard to say what will be needed more than a few years from now and impossible for ten years from now. The private sector, especially commercial interests, may interact with the information systems more in the marketing of information than in its acquisition and processing.

Society of Nuclear Medicine Opens New York City Office

The Society of Nuclear Medicine is expanding its activities by opening a New York City office (211 East 43rd Street) manned with a four- to five-person staff. Heading the office with the title "administrator" is Margaret Beach Glos, an astronomer-physicist who was assistant editor of *Nucleonics* magazine for seven years and at its demise was assistant managing editor of *Scientific Research*. Her staff will include an administrative assistant and a production editor.

The society, which was founded in 1954, now has 3200 members, the majority of whom are medical doctors working in hospitals. To the members "nuclear medicine" means both research and clinical applications of radioactive isotopes in diagnosis—not therapy. The remainder of the membership is chemists, physicists and also technologists. The present dues of \$18 per year are about to go up to \$25; all members pay additional dues to belong to local chapters.

In the current expansion Mrs Glos becomes managing editor of the society's *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, which has been redesigned and its size increased. The journal, which started in 1959, contains considerable physics. For example, the current issue is about 25% chemistry and physics, and 75% clinical material. According to present plans the journal will, in the future, be more heavily edited and carry regular departments; it also has advertising. □