

the physics community

American Vacuum Society elected a member of AIP

The American Vacuum Society, an affiliated member society of the American Institute of Physics since 1963, has been elected a member society of AIP. Following a unanimous nomination by the eight other member societies, the membership of the AVS was formally approved at the AIP corporate board meeting this spring. N. Rey Whetten of the General Electric Research and Development Center in Schenectady, N.Y. is currently the president of the 2300-member Society.

The Society originated in 1953 under the name of the "Committee on Vacuum Techniques." At that time the 56-member group was concerned with the production and measurement of vacuum environments. Since then the initial orientation of the Society has broadened and now includes technical programs in the areas of solid-state physics, surface chemistry and materials science—the AVS structure now comprises four divisions as a reflection of this change: thin films, surface science, vacuum metallurgy and vacuum technology.

Education and the dissemination of technical information are considered the primary functions of the Society, and these are carried out by means of the annual meeting and symposium, professional short courses, technical programs by local chapters and publications. The Society's bimonthly journal, the *Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology*, regularly includes conference proceedings, technical papers and material from the AVS Standards Committee, which produced the first "Glossary of Terms Used in Vacuum Technology."

Snowdon and Embleton win ASA elections

Recently elected to executive posts of the Acoustical Society of America are John C. Snowdon (Pennsylvania State University) as president-elect and Tony F. Embleton (National Research Council of Canada) as vice president-elect. Last year's president-elect, Kenneth N. Stevens of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, automatically succeeds to the ASA presidency, and James L. Flanagan of Bell Laboratories has become vice-president. Elected to the Council of the Society were Frederick H. Fisher of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Richard H. Lyon of MIT; both will serve for three-year terms.

Snowdon, a native of England, earned his doctorate at Imperial College in 1956.



SNOWDON

In 1961 he joined the faculty of Pennsylvania State University, where he assumed his current position as professor of engineering research in 1967. His research interests include the vibration of internally damped structures and the mechanical properties of high polymers.

Embleton, also a native of England, is senior research officer of the National Research Council of Canada. His affiliation with the Council dates from 1952, the same year he received his doctorate from the University of London. Acoustic radiation forces and standards and industrial noise control are among his specialties.

Enrollment increases in introductory courses

A substantial increase in the enrollment of students in introductory physics courses is an unexpected finding of the latest AIP "Survey of Enrollments and Degrees" in physics and astronomy. Last year's survey reported a decline in the number of physics majors at all levels of physics education and, based on accumulated data each year since 1965, projected a leveling-off of the decline by 1977-80 (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, August 1975, page 63). Although the largest increase in enrollment in introductory courses occurred at institutions that granted bachelor's degrees, a significant increase was also evident at PhD-granting institutions, which the majority of physics students attend, even as undergraduates.

The number of bachelor's degrees granted and the figures for first-year graduate enrollment are stabilizing at 4500 and 2600, respectively—a trend that indicates this is the last year of a declining number of physics degrees granted. The

downward trend of PhD's granted is predicted to last for two more years, however, as the increase in enrollment will not be reflected immediately in the degree statistics.

Details on Blacks and other minority groups are included in this survey, in addition to breakdowns of enrollment and degree figures on the basis of sex, geographic area and type of degree-granting institution. Tables on both combined physics-astronomy and separate astronomy departments give additional information. For a free copy of the survey, No. R-151-13, write to Susanne Ellis, Manpower Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

AAPT-APS store-front exhibit contest begins

The American Association of Physics Teachers and The American Physical Society have announced another "Store-Front Physics Exhibit Contest." Members of the physics community are invited to design, build, try out and evaluate an exhibit whose purpose is to present information about physics concepts to the general public. Prizes of \$200 each will be awarded for the three best exhibits at the joint AAPT/APS meeting in Chicago, 9-12 February 1977.

The competition is jointly sponsored by the AAPT, APS, the Ontario Science Center (Canada) and the Association of Science Technology Centers. Members of the AAPT/APS Committee on Science Education for the General Public and representatives of the sponsoring organizations will serve as judges. Entries are due by 1 December, and further information is available from Dean Zollman, AAPT Executive Office, Graduate Physics Building, State University of New York, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794.

in brief

More than 500 awards for university lecturing and postdoctoral research in over 75 countries will be made to Americans for the academic year 1977-78, the thirtieth year of the senior Fulbright-Hays program. Applications for 1976-77 are at present under review, but some awards remain open to application. Information for either year of the program is available from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036.