

The AIP Center  
for History of Physics

# Let's Make History

The history of physics must be preserved, accurately and fully. Otherwise physicists, their students, and the public will scarcely be able to understand the development of physics and its deep importance for our civilization.

## The AIP Center for History of Physics

is dedicated to promoting better understanding of the history of physics and its meaning for society. Programs include:

- Aid to physicists and their families in preserving their papers at appropriate repositories.
- Reference services for textbook writers, historians, and the public.
- Historical research, publications, exhibits.
- A *Newsletter* available free on request.
- The extensive collections of the *Niels Bohr Library*: personal papers of physicists . . . archival records of physics societies . . . oral history interviews conducted by the Center and others . . . photographs . . . etc.

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of research programs in several universities in Europe and America; AIP sponsored a special symposium on the Scott Effect in 1970.

One of the unique features of Scott's research work was that it required nonmagnetic laboratories. Consequently, he participated in the design and construction of a series of laboratories dedicated to magnetism studies; the last of these was built at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, in 1969. Scott retired from the General Motors Research Laboratories in 1973. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society.

LERINDA FROST

*General Motors Research Laboratories*

## Donald E. Cunningham

Donald E. Cunningham, who served as an AIP staff officer from 1959–62, died on 6 March 1984, ending a widely ranging career in teaching, research, administration and public-policy studies.

Cunningham was born in Providence, Rhode Island on 18 May 1930, and received his PhD in physics in 1959 from Case University. While completing his doctoral work, he served as a plasma-physics group leader at Thompson-Ramo-Wooldridge, Inc. His research interests included atomic collisions, optical pumping and plasma physics.

His appointment, in 1959, to the staff at AIP in the newly formed Department of Education turned his attention to the challenge of national problems in physics education. His first assignment was as administrator of the Visiting Scientists Program in Physics, jointly conducted by AIP and AAPT, and comprising three distinct programs: one directed toward colleges, another toward high schools and a third that arranged visits by distinguished foreign physicists. Later he took over the AIP Student Section program and developed the Bendix awards project within it. The impetus he gave the program eventually led to the Section's merger with Sigma Pi Sigma into the Society of Physics Students. Cunningham regarded this work as one of his proudest achievements.

In 1970, after teaching physics for several years—first at Adelphi University, where he eventually became the director of programs in the space-related sciences, then at Miami University in Ohio, where he also served as dean of research and established the Institute of Environmental Sciences—Cunningham became a special assistant to the director of NSF, with responsibilities for policy studies of the



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role of science in regional development. This interest led him to join the University of Denver Research Institute in 1974, where he studied regional resource development. In 1979, he and several colleagues formed the independent Center for Public Issues; he became director and worked for this organization until his death.

Cunningham will be best remembered by his former associates at AIP for his wit, his friendliness and his missionary zeal: he once taught a lunch-hour course in basic physics to the support staff at AIP "to institute some physics at the American Institute of Physics."

WILLIAM C. KELLY  
*Bethesda, Maryland*

## Winfred M. Schwarz

Winfred M. Schwarz, emeritus professor at Union College in Schenectady, died 3 May 1984, at age 70.

Born in St. Louis, he received his BS and MS degrees from Washington University, and his PhD in 1941 from Ohio State. Schwarz came to Union College in 1946 as an assistant professor, and was appointed to the Frank Bailey Professorship in 1975. Until his retirement in 1979, he taught the College's electricity and magnetism course almost continuously, producing the textbook *Intermediate Electromagnetic Theory*, which was well received. Other interests led to calculations modeling thermal effects in geologic flow associated with plate tectonic movements, with Stephen E. DeLong and Roger Anderson of the State University of New York and Lamont-Doherty Laboratory. He continued these studies after retirement, working actively until a few months before his death.