

ENROLLMENTS AND DEGREES SURVEY IS AVAILABLE

AIP's 1987 survey of enrollments and degrees reports increased numbers of PhD and terminal master's degrees awarded and higher enrollments of first-year physics graduate students from foreign countries.

The number of physics doctorates conferred on the class of 1986 was 1051, 8% more than the 972 awarded in 1985. Terminal master's degrees increased sharply as well, rising from 629 in the class of 1985 to 704 this past year. The statistics on PhD production had a strong geographic component: Northeastern universities recorded major increases in PhD recipients while those in the Southeast witnessed a 27% decline.

The number of bachelor's degrees leveled off at 5214 in 1986 after rising sharply for the previous three years: Between 1982 and 1985 the number of bachelor's recipients rose from 4558 to 5188.

A decade ago 25% of first-year physics graduate enrollees were foreign citizens. In 1986 the figure reached 43%. According to Susanne Ellis, the author of the report, the statistics may understate the true representation of students from abroad in graduate programs. She notes that some foreign students enter the graduate system after the first year, and the enrollment surveys do not cover this group. Only 6% of the undergraduate physics population consists of foreign citizens.

The rapid increase in foreign enrollment began in 1979 and was responsible for reversing a gradual decline in the number of graduate physics students. The number of US students dropped from 3000 in the early 1970s to 1600 in 1982 before resuming a very gradual upward trend.

The rise in the number of female PhD recipients this past year, from 74 to 93, is also attributable to the influx of foreign graduate students.

Teaching assistantships provide the primary source of financial aid for first-year physics graduate students. In 1986, approximately half of the assistantships that were filled went to foreign students. Since some schools do not exhaust their allotment of assistantships, which usually does not exceed the number of accepted applicants, assistantships available to American students are not generally jeopardized by the high number granted to foreign students. In 1986, 36 graduate physics departments did

not fill a total of 77 assistantships for first-year students.

For a copy of the report, entitled *Enrollments and Degrees*, write to Susanne Ellis, Education and Employment Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017.

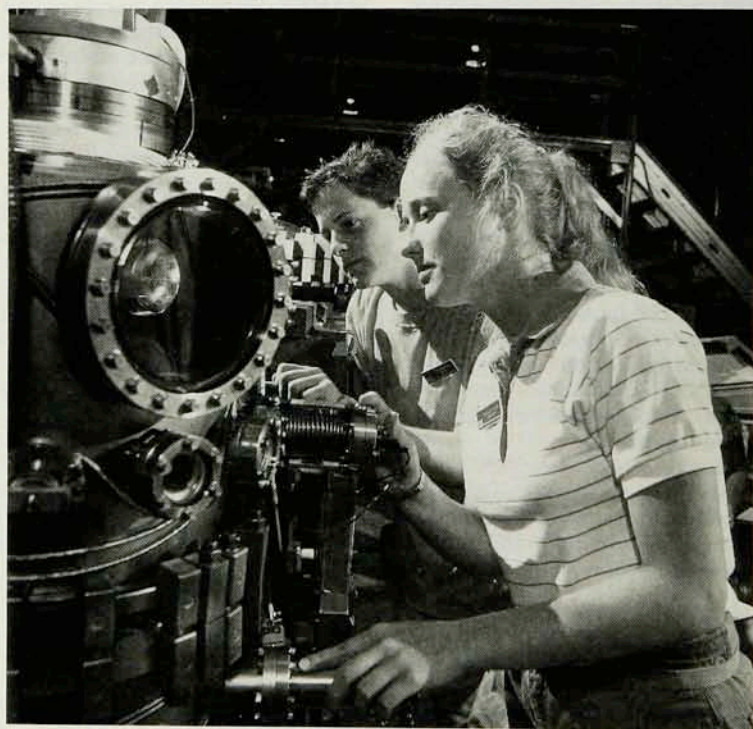
IN BRIEF

ISAAC (Information Sharing for Advanced Academic Computing), an electronic bulletin board, provides information free of charge about IBM computers as teaching and research aids. It is operated by the University of Washington in Seattle and is funded by IBM. A personal access code is necessary to use ISAAC. Application forms can be obtained by writing to ISAAC Bulletin Board Editor, M/S FC-

06, University of Washington, Seattle WS 98195.

Nonlinearity, a new quarterly journal bridging research in nonlinear mathematics and in physics, will be launched in 1988 by the Institute of Physics and the London Mathematical Society. The regular subscription price is \$195.00, but subscribers to *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical Physics* and the LMS's group of journals will receive *Nonlinearity* free for the first year. It is available to members of AIP member societies at a special price of \$23.50. Submitted papers should make significant contributions to the general mathematical and physical understanding of nonlinear systems. Address correspondence to Executive Editor, *Nonlinearity*, IOP Publishing Ltd, Techno House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 6NX, England. ■

DOE summer program places students in national labs



High-school students Suellen Hugan of Park Hills, Kentucky, and Zach Mainen of Winterport, Maine, check the alignment of a tungsten crystal sample for an experiment they did at Brookhaven National Laboratory's National Synchrotron Light Source. As participants in a Department of Energy honors program that brings outstanding students to work at national laboratories during the summer, they were among 104 students from the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia who were placed at Brookhaven and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1986. The previous summer, the program placed 52 students at Livermore alone. This year Fermilab and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory joined the program, and more than 200 students were placed, including some from overseas. In 1988 Oak Ridge National Laboratory will participate and the number of students will again be increased by about 52.