

Schwartz of Brooklyn College is new APS education officer

Brian B. Schwartz, professor of physics at Brooklyn College, has been appointed education officer for The American Physical Society after having been chosen by a search committee headed by APS education committee chair Lillian C. McDermott of the University of Washington, Seattle (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, March 1986, pages 127 and 128). Schwartz's appointment, effective 2 February, was announced at the 27 January meeting of the APS Council in San Francisco by his predecessor, Kenneth W. Ford, the new AIP Executive Director.

Schwartz works in condensed matter theory with an emphasis on superconductivity and magnetism. He attended Cooper Union and the City College of New York, where he received his BS in physics in 1959. After earning his PhD in physics from Brown University in 1963, he held a two-year position as a postdoctoral research associate at Rutgers University. Schwartz went to the National Magnet Laboratory at MIT in 1965, and in 1967 he became associate leader of the solid-state theory group. In 1968 he became leader of the theory group and in 1969 associate professor of physics at MIT.

In 1977 Schwartz accepted a position as dean of science and physics professor at Brooklyn College. He became dean of research in 1978 and vice president for development in 1982.

Schwartz plans to continue as a physics professor at Brooklyn College and visiting scientist at the Magnet Lab while working part time at his new position as APS education officer. His current research concerns the development of practical superconducting materials for fusion magnets, studies of magnetic and amorphous materials, and using computer graphic techniques for communicating science to students and the public.

At MIT Schwartz co-founded the Concourse Program, a freshman-year teaching program in which faculty members from the sciences, humanities and engineering integrate their disciplines around a common theme such as the 17th century or the mind-

body problem. He also worked in MIT's Project Interface, a summer preparatory program for academically disadvantaged students. At Brooklyn College he developed a university-industry program to acquaint undergraduate science majors with the use of science and technology in industry and business.

As APS education officer, Schwartz would like to help develop ties among colleges, industries and state governments to upgrade the quality of science education. In addition, Schwartz said he is "particularly interested in the effective communication of science to the public, and in marshaling the power of the APS community to do more outreach to the lay public through individual involvement with high schools, museums, civic organizations, *et cetera*."

Schwartz said he is open to suggestions and will be happy to hear from the membership about how the society



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can assist in educational matters; he welcomes volunteers for the APS education committee and education-related projects.

Grants available for conference travel

APS hopes again to participate in the 1987 and 1988 Short Term Enrichment Program of the Office of Student Support Services of the US Information Agency (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, November 1985, page 135). This program, which is administered through the Institute of International Education, provides awards to foreign graduate students studying in the United States to help defray part of their expenses for travel to attend professional meetings. The maximum permissible award to an individual student is \$300, but because the demand so much exceeds the available funds, most awards are likely to be substantially smaller.

STEP grants are available for APS general and divisional meetings in 1987 and early 1988.

To be eligible for a STEP award, an applicant must be a foreign, full-time graduate student at a US institution of higher learning who has not received a STEP grant previously. Students with

refugee, immigrant or tourist visa status are not eligible. University assistants are normally eligible but US government employees and students with US government fellowship grants are not.

Applicants should submit a letter stating their need for travel funds, their nationality and visa category and affirming their status as full-time graduate students in the US; a letter of nomination from their department head; and a copy of the abstract of the contributed paper to be presented at the meeting. While the deadlines for STEP applications for each meeting are the same as the deadlines for the receipt of abstracts for publication in the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society*, the two submissions should be made separately. The complete STEP application should be sent to STEP Travel Grant Program, The American Physical Society, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017. □