US PHYSICS STUDENTS HOLD THEIR OWN AS ENROLLMENTS CONTINUE TO RISE

The latest AIP survey of enrollments and degrees reports a leveling off of the number of foreign physics students entering graduate school in the US—a marked change from the trend of the past nine years—and a sharp increase in the number of entering students from the US. The survey also shows continuing rises in the numbers of students awarded graduate and undergraduate physics degrees.

The number of physics doctorates awarded in 1987 rose 5% over the previous year, from 1051 to 1105. The number of master's degrees awarded en route to a PhD exhibited a still more noticeable change, increasing 10%, from 885 to 973.

The number of bachelor's degrees given in 1987 was 5253—only a slight increase from the 1986 figure of 5214. The number of bachelor's degrees has climbed steadily since 1979, when it bottomed out at 4416.

Foreign citizens made up 40.6% of the first-year graduate enrollment in 1987–88, a drop of 2.5 percentage points from the previous academic year. During the five years before that, the percentage of foreign students in entering graduate classes increased by 5 percentage points (see table).

Susanne Ellis, the author of the report, cautions that the past year's data do not suffice to establish the beginning of a downward trend in the percentage of foreign physics graduate students at US institutions. She points out, however, that the drop in the percentage of foreign students was the largest since AIP began gathering these statistics in the early 1970s.

In contrast, the number of entering graduate students from the US jumped by more than 7% in 1987-88, from 1799 to 1944—the first major increase in US-student enrollment in five years.

The percentages of women among those granted physics degrees in 1987 increased slightly over the previous year's figure, except for recipients of nonterminal master's degrees. Women garnered 15% of the bachelor's degrees awarded in 1987, and 9% of the PhDs; in the three years to 1987 the number of black women among physics bachelors more than doubled.

Details about teaching assistantships—the major source of support for entering graduate students—are also given in the report. Despite the decreased foreign graduate enrollment in 1987-88, about half of the assistantships that were filled went to foreign students. Even so, many schools did not fill their available numbers of assistantships for the year: A total of 63 assistantships went unfilled at 31 schools.

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

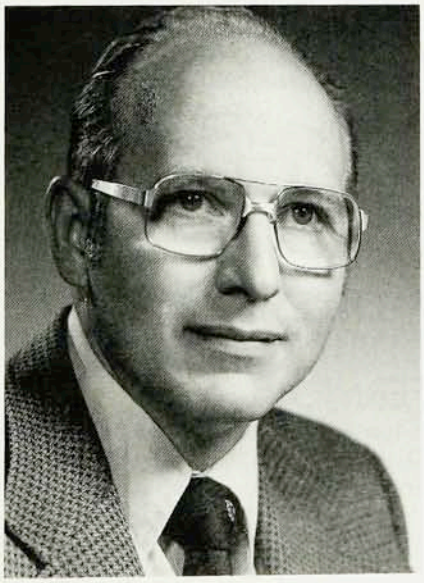
Entering US and foreign graduate physics students, 1978–88

Academic year	Number of first-year graduate students US	Foreign	Total	Proportion of foreign students (%)
1978-79	1840	618	2458	25.1
1979-80	1700	739	2439	30.3
1980-81	1720	844	2564	32.9
1981-82	1654	983	2637	37.3
1982-83	1576	1054	2630	40.1
1983-84	1763	1092	2855	38.2
1984-85	1747	1116	2863	39.0
1985-86	1721	1260	2981	42.3
1986-87	1799	1363	3162	43.1
1987-88	1944	1330	3274	40.6

DUCHAMP IS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHERS

David J. Duchamp, director of physical and analytical chemistry research in the pharmaceutical research and development division at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan, is the newly elected vice president of the American Crystallographic Association for 1989. Duchamp will become ACA president in 1990, succeeding Bryan M. Craven, chairman of the crystallography department at the University of Pittsburgh. In other election results, S. Narasinga Rao, a physicist in the school of mathematics and science at Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, has been elected to a three-year term as ACA treasurer.

David J. Duchamp



Duchamp earned a BS in chemistry and mathematics at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1961 and a PhD in physical chemistry at Caltech in 1965. He has been a research scientist at Upjohn since 1965. His research interests concern crystallographic determination of molecular structures, molecular mechanics, structural chemistry of biologically active molecules, drug design, crystallographic computing and laboratory automation.

AIP SALARY SURVEY REGISTERS LARGE ONE-YEAR INCREASE

The news about 1986 salaries for AIP society members is good—except for those employed by the government. The latest AIP salary report, entitled "1986 Salaries: Society Membership Survey," reveals trends largely similar to those found in the 1985 survey, outlined extensively in March in PHYSICS TODAY (page 80). The 1986