

KHOURY SUCCEEDS WILSON AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF AAPT

Bernard V. Khoury, formerly associate vice chancellor for policy and planning at the University of Maryland, is the new executive officer of the American Association of Physics Teachers. He took office on 1 July, succeeding Jack M. Wilson, who is now director of the Center for Innovation in Undergraduate Education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, January, page 68).

"Wilson has been a splendid executive officer for AAPT," says Judy Franz, president of AAPT. "Under his able leadership, the association has initiated a number of very visible and effective programs, such as the International Physics Olympiad and the Physics Teaching Resource Agents Program." Wilson was instrumental in persuading the US physics community to sponsor American high school teams in the Olympiad, in which they have done much better than some predicted; the resource agents program has generated a national network in which outstanding high school physics teachers assist other physics teachers (see article by Yvette A. Van Hise and Jim Nelson in *PHYSICS TODAY*, March 1988, page 47).

Khoury has had a long career as an educator and education specialist. "The executive board [of AAPT] is confident that he will continue the effective leadership that has characterized AAPT in the past," Franz says.

Khoury earned a bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Lowell in 1965 and a PhD in physics at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1972. He became an assistant professor in the physics and astronomy department at the University of Maryland in 1972 and was also appointed assistant dean for graduate studies and research the same year. From 1974 to 1977 he worked for the Association of American Universities in Washington, DC, and from 1977 to 1984 he was program director and then executive director of the Graduate Record Examinations Program at



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the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. Khoury returned to the University of Maryland as associate vice president for aca-

demic affairs in 1984, and in 1988 he became associate vice chancellor for policy and planning.

About a week before actually assuming his new title, Khoury met with AAPT board members to look at the organization's long-range plans. Among the topics discussed were the following:

- ▷ Evaluating recent efforts in science education reform and encouraging research in physics education
- ▷ Organizing a conference on recruiting and retaining women in physics (to be held in November in the Washington, DC, area)

- ▷ Encouraging better preparation for teaching assistants in physics departments

- ▷ Examining the interaction of AAPT sections with the national organization and evaluating AAPT membership and services.

Khoury says that as executive officer, he plans to be involved in these and other activities.

OSA BOARD WITHDRAWS PROPOSAL TO CHANGE SOCIETY'S NAME

At least for the foreseeable future, the Optical Society of America will remain the Optical Society of America. On 20 May, the OSA board of directors voted to drop its previous recommendation to change the society's name to the Optics and Photonics Society (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, January, page 68). The board decided to reverse itself when OSA members reacted strongly against the proposal.

After the board's renaming idea was first announced last December, OSA received 200 or so letters from members, most opposing the proposal. Many questioned the procedure that had been used to initiate the name change. According to laws in New York State, where OSA is incorporated, a proposed name change must be approved by a public ballot at a

meeting. Had the name change recommendation been kept, members would have had the opportunity to vote whether or not to adopt the new name at the upcoming fall meeting; a simple majority would have been sufficient to ratify the change under New York law. OSA bylaws did not provide for proxy voting, a situation that the board corrected at its May meeting. The directors said they now plan to implement procedures so that in the future any similar change could only be made with strong membership approval.

But one new name still stands: OSA's monthly publication *Optics & Photonics News*, which was renamed at the same time that the society's name change was proposed, will not revert to its former title, *Optics News*.