

## Schools Assessed

Bryn Mawr College  
Harvard University  
University of Illinois,  
Urbana-Champaign  
Kansas State University  
University of Maryland  
Michigan State University  
University of New Mexico  
North Carolina State University  
(fall 1994)  
University of Pennsylvania  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
University of Rochester  
Stanford University  
State University of New York,  
Stony Brook  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Virginia

opinions, compared with 72% of US women.

In keeping with what Franz and the site-visit teams observed, 57% of all respondents cited "long-term career opportunities" as causing them to be discouraged about physics. About one-third of US women said the department climate was a reason for discouragement, compared with 20% of US men and 12% of non-US men.

According to Roman Czujko, head of the AIP statistics division, the differences between the men's and women's responses are generally not earth-shattering, but the fact that in nearly every category women gave a less positive assessment than did the men is significant. "And keep in mind that this is a self-selecting group," Czujko said. "The folks having the roughest time would've already dropped out."

Almost 85% of respondents, both men and women, said they definitely or probably will become professional physicists. When asked whether they would go into physics if they had to do it over again, about 80% of the US respondents and 65% of non-US respondents said they would.

## Conclusions, expectations

Franz, Dresselhaus and Clark will soon complete a report summarizing their visits to physics departments. "From everything we hear," Franz said, the site-visit teams "have had an impact. We were able to point out to the department chair or to the faculty advisers some things that were causing frustration or discomfort to the women." Department chairs often later met with women students; in some cases more women colloquium speakers were invited.

It's yet to be decided whether more

site visits will be conducted, Franz says. She, Dresselhaus and Clark hope to develop a way for departments to assess themselves. And they plan to give talks on their findings, possibly at next year's APS March meeting or APS-AAPT April meeting. Beyond physics, the Association for Women in Science has received funding to carry out a similar site-visit program for other sciences, and Franz has talked to several groups that want to replicate the APS-AAPT approach for their respective disciplines.

"We've raised the consciousness within at least a few physics departments," Franz said. "That's a wonderful first step."

— JEAN KUMAGAI

## CENTER FOR HISTORY OF PHYSICS RECEIVES \$600 000

Rose Hutchisson, the widow of the second director of the American Institute of Physics, has endowed the Center for History of Physics with \$600 000 for the Rose and Elmer Hutchisson Fund. The endowment, which has come to AIP following Rose Hutchisson's death, adds to the existing endowment of the Friends of the Center for History of Physics, which had reached \$1 million before this substantial contribution.

For Spencer Weart, the director of the history center, the endowment means more flexibility: "If we see an

opportunity to save documentation of great historical interest, we don't have to apply for a grant and wait the better part of a year before we know whether we can act or not."

The center will use the first proceeds from the new endowment to support worldwide collection of information useful to scholars studying the history of physics and allied sciences. For example, data on collections of correspondence will be indexed and made available on-line, and AIP will support oral-history interviewing in the former Soviet Union.

Rose Valasek, who graduated from Flora Stone Mather College in Cleveland, married Elmer Hutchisson in 1925. She was offered an assistantship for graduate work in history at the University of Minnesota, but at the time two people from one family were not permitted to have jobs at the university, so she was denied the opportunity. Elmer Hutchisson was assistant director of AIP in 1936-37 and director from 1957 through 1964, and he originated the Center for History of Physics and its Niels Bohr Library. He died in 1983 (see PHYSICS TODAY, August 1983, page 77).

Some of Elmer Hutchisson's other accomplishments as director included establishing AIP's advisory committees, its education department and its translation program for Russian-language physics journals, and originating the annual meeting of the Corporate Associates. While at AIP he also founded the *Journal of Applied Physics* and was its editor from 1937 through 1953.



AIP EMILIO SEGRE VISUAL ARCHIVES

**Elmer and Rose Hutchisson** admiring tokens of appreciation at his AIP retirement party in New York, September 1964.