

spend about half his time studying the material properties of plutonium. He will also serve as a senior adviser on lab-related issues to UC president Richard Atkinson, and he plans to continue working with Russian nuclear scientists to reduce the risks from Russian nuclear material. In fact, during the last days of his tenure as director, Hecker was in Siberia.

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University of California Reviews Its Physics Programs

About 60 physicists from the University of California's eight physics and two astronomy departments, and from the three UC-run national labs, met this past spring in Berkeley to review the universities' physics programs at the behest of UC's vice chancellors.

One reason for these systemwide reviews—they've been conducted in history, anthropology, foreign languages and other fields, and more are planned—is to see how things are settling down after the faculty shrinkage that resulted from aggressive early retirement programs earlier this decade. Between 1991 and 1994, the total number of UC faculty "full-time equivalencies" shrank by 13%, according to Jim Litrownik, of UC's Office of the President. Physics lost 75 of 287 eligible professors, with UC Berkeley losing the most (about 21) and UC San Diego, UCLA and UC Riverside losing 10 to 12 each.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting were research equipment and facilities, computers and networking, the need for more start-up money for new faculty, undergraduate and graduate education and how to find the best balance between core physics subjects and subjects that cross boundaries into other fields—in short, a host of issues that concern physics departments across the country. The participants noted that UC could better exploit the intellectual and infrastructure resources at the three UC-run labs (Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley). And a decision was made to conduct a systemwide review of the graduate curriculum "to see what steps can be taken to make this curriculum more relevant to the needs of the students of today," according to UCLA's dean of physical sciences, Roberto Peccei, who organized the meeting.

An annual meeting of UC physics and astronomy chairs and their counterparts from the three labs was suggested as a forum to continue to discuss such issues and to seek ways to improve intercampus and campus-lab

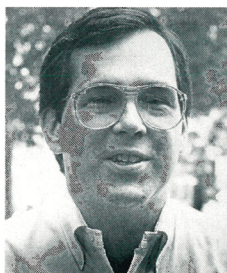
communication and collaboration. However, the meeting participants felt that improving the infrastructure, which had been the other major recommendation to come out of the spring meeting, went beyond physics, and so should be handled by the vice chancellors.

TONI FEDER

Rossnagel Is President-Elect of AVS for 1998

On 1 January, Stephen M. Rossnagel will take office as president-elect of the American Vacuum Society. He will assume the presidency in 1999, succeeding Jerry M. Woodall of Purdue University.

Currently a research staff member at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, Rossnagel earned his BS and MS degrees from Pennsylvania State University in 1975 and 1977, respectively. He then worked on plasma-surface interactions at Princeton University before



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returning to graduate school at Colorado State University, where he received his PhD in physics in 1982. At IBM, his work centers on process technology for interconnect and pack-

aging applications, based mostly on magnetron sputtering. "Over the years, AVS has grown into a number of areas that diverge from the historical realm of vacuum technology," Rossnagel notes, such as biomaterials interfaces, nanostructures and flat-panel displays. "I think the challenge for AVS is to learn how to grow into these different but somehow connected areas while at the same time keeping the underlying core areas in mind," he says.

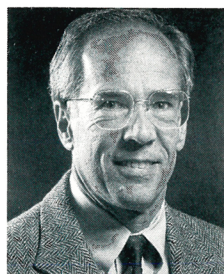
In other results of the AVS election, Joseph E. Greene of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Sweden's Linköping University was reelected clerk, and N. Rey Whetten, AVS's technical director, was reelected treasurer. The new directors are Yip-Wah Chung of Northwestern University, Elizabeth A. Dobisz of the Naval Research Laboratory and Peter Sheldon of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. James M. E. Harper of the T. J. Watson Research Center and

Anne L. Testoni of Digital Equipment Corp were elected trustees of AVS.

Ippen Will Lead OSA in 2000

Members of the Optical Society of America have elected Erich Ippen of MIT to be their vice president for 1998. The following year, he will become president-elect of OSA and in 2000, president. The society's president for 1998 is Gary Bjorklund.

Ippen, the Elihu Thomson Professor of Electrical Engineering and a professor of physics at MIT, is known for his work on developing ultrashort pulse optical sources and measurement



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techniques, and applying them to studies of ultrafast processes in materials and devices. Before joining MIT in 1980, he was a member of the research staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey, for 12 years. He holds a 1968 PhD in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

"As OSA adjusts, along with the rest of us, to changing economic conditions, new communication technologies and increasing globalization," Ippen says, "we need to make sure we preserve its friendly and unbureaucratic character and its high level of professionalism," so as to provide "the strongest foundation for meeting the challenges of the next century head on."

Newly elected to the OSA board of directors are Connie Chang-Hasnain of the University of California, Berkeley, Peter Moulton of Schwartz Electro-Optics and Eric Van Stryland of the University of Central Florida.

IBM Will Open Research Center in India

IBM plans to open a research center in New Delhi, India, next month. The Solutions Research Center will be the company's eighth research center worldwide and will focus on technology development in India and other Pacific Rim countries.

The center's initial projects, according to Paul Horn, IBM's senior vice president for research, will include cyclone and hurricane forecasting—an