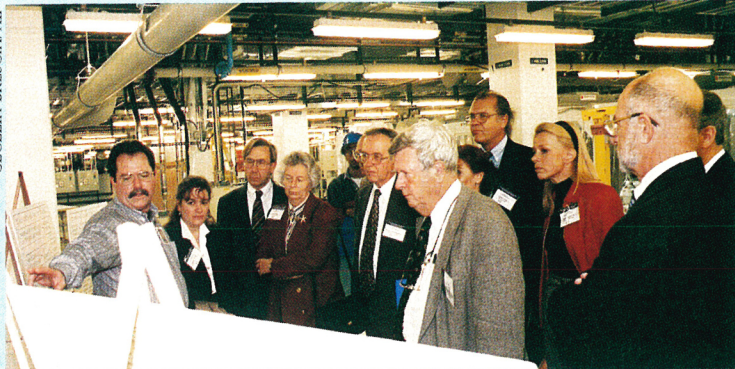




TEXAS INSTRUMENTS hosted the annual meeting of the American Institute of Physics' Corporate Associates this past October. The photo shows some of the more than 150 attendees during a tour of the company's Dallas headquarters. The theme of the meeting was "Semiconductor Electronics and the Networked Society"; the program included a panel discussion on policy issues relating to the Internet, among them intellectual property rights, patent and trademark rights, cryptography and control of the Internet. The next Corporate Associates meeting will be hosted by Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California, on 26-27 October.

needs" these days. "How do we address the expanding demands—such as to prepare physicists to exploit connections with business and other areas, and to give them good communications skills—while maintaining the essential core of physics?" says Stith. "Does the current curriculum provide the necessary foundation?"

For his part, Rigden, who was director of physics programs for more than ten years, is staying on part-time at AIP to head a newly created special projects program. Among other things, he's working on a study of physicists in technical industrial jobs and a study of physicists who go into the workforce with a physics bachelor's degree and then lose their connections with the physics community, as well as on what he calls a "coffee table" book on 20th-century physics.

APS Elects Langer Vice President for 1998

On 1 January, James S. Langer of the University of California, Santa Barbara, became vice president of the American Physical Society. He will serve one year in that position, becoming president-elect in 1999 and then president in 2000. Langer succeeds Jerome I. Friedman of MIT.

Langer, a theorist whose research has focused on nonequilibrium phenomena in condensed matter, earned his PhD in mathematical physics from the UK's University of Birmingham in 1958. He then joined the physics department at Carnegie-Mellon University, moving in 1982 to UCSB, where he is a professor of physics and a mem-

ber of the Institute for Theoretical Physics. He served as director of the ITP from 1989 to 1995.

It's clear that Langer's presidency will be an active one. "As by far the most important professional organization for physicists in this country, the APS has the responsibility for making the case for physics—and science as a whole—on a nationwide scale," he told PHYSICS TODAY. "That means lobbying, testifying in Congress, communicating with the media and generally using every means at our disposal to increase public awareness of the importance of what we're doing." Such a level of politicking will be "a big change in style for the APS," Langer added, "but I think it's absolutely necessary....

Whether we feel comfortable about this or not, we shall have to become just as professional in our political activities as we are in our scientific research." As an example, Langer points to APS's lead role in organizing the re-



JAMES S. LANGER

cent "Decade of Investment" statement; signed by over 100 science and engineering societies, it calls for a doubling of the Federal R&D budget over the next ten years (see PHYSICS TODAY, December 1997, page 49).

In other results of the APS elections, Daniel Kleppner of MIT was chosen chair-elect of the nominating committee, which is responsible for the slate

of candidates for society elections. The four newly elected general councillors are Cynthia McIntyre (George Mason University), Roberto Peccei (UCLA), Beverly Berger (Oakland University) and Helen Quinn (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center).

Sears Will Lead AAPT in 2000

The American Association of Physics Teachers has a new vice president: He is Robert F. Sears Jr., who took office on 8 January and will assume the presidency in 2000. AAPT's president for 1998 is Thomas L. O'Kuma of Lee College.

After earning his PhD in physics from the University of Colorado in 1968, Sears joined Austin Peay State University, where he is now a professor of physics and the department chair. Although his doctoral research was in experimental particle physics, he has been primarily involved in physics education for the past 30 years. "I am convinced that students are exposed to a lot of physics in their precollege education," says Sears, "but much of it is not identified as physics." What's more, he adds,

"many physical phenomena may not be understood by the teachers or may not be taught in the best way. I hope that we can turn on students to physics, rather than turn them off by their experiences in elementary and secondary school." AAPT is working to improve physics education at all levels, he notes, but "all of us who have training in physics need to reach out to the entire population."

In addition to electing Sears, AAPT members reelected Alexander K. Dickison of Seminole Community College as treasurer and elected Priscilla W. Laws of Dickinson College to the executive board as the four-year college and university representative.



ROBERT F. SEARS

Larson Is Elected President of SoR

Ronald G. Larson, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Michigan, is the new president of the Society of Rheology. His