

researchers and computers, and the government funds DIAS—which in addition to statistical mechanics has astrophysics, particle physics, geophysics, and Celtic studies.

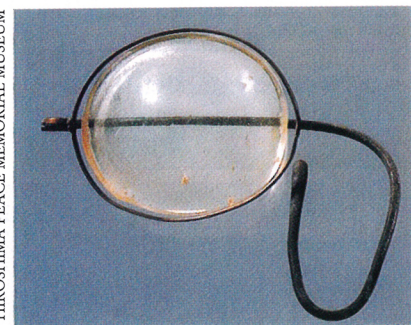
Half a dozen students have graduated from DIAS's applied probability group—the degrees are actually conferred by a partner university, usually Dublin's Trinity College—and companies are snapping them up. At one point, says Lewis, "Microsoft Research tried to recruit all of the key members of the group. Including me." And this past March, two DIAS graduates—who had subsequently joined the institute as faculty—left to start a spin-off company with colleagues from the group's main industrial partner, Telia Research, the research arm of Sweden's telephone company. "We're still able to do basic research," says Lewis. "But by doing this, we are contributing to the growth of the Irish economy. The politicians think it's absolutely marvelous."

So, although the applied probability group was created to keep DIAS open, not to train physicists for industrial careers, it's doing both. Says Lewis, "It was a survival technique."

TONI FEDER

## IN BRIEF

**Atomic history.** Japan's Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum is seeking artifacts from the 1945 atomic bomb that the US dropped on Hiroshima. Founded in 1955 to chronicle the damage caused by the attack and so discourage the future use of nuclear weapons, the museum currently has about 15 000 items, including photos,



HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL MUSEUM

documents, clothing and other personal effects, and building rubble. These eyeglasses, for example, were found melted onto a woman's skull about 1000 meters from ground zero. Most of the current collection was donated by Japanese citizens. The museum is now asking that any bomb relics taken out of the country be returned, for display in a 2005 exhibition. For more information or to

donate items, write to: Kazuhiko Takano, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, 1-2 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811, Japan; phone +81-(0)82-241-4004; fax +81-(0)82-542-7941; e-mail takano@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp; or visit the museum's Web site at <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage0/info/Materials.html>.

**Science advice.** Science academies from around the world have established a body to advise international policymakers on such issues as world

energy resources, global warming, emerging infectious diseases, and Internet security. The InterAcademy Council will assemble scientists, engineers, and medical experts on a project-by-project basis to advise such organizations as the World Bank and the United Nations. The IAC will be based at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, and will be cochaired by Bruce Alberts, president of the US National Academy of Sciences, and Goverdhan Mehta, president of the Indian National Science Academy. ■

## Web Watch

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/bpa/projects/cpu>

The National Academy of Sciences' Board of Physics and Astronomy has charged its **Committee on the Physics of the Universe** with the task of identifying the observational, experimental, and theoretical routes to "understanding the birth, evolution and destiny of the Universe, the laws that govern it, and even the nature of space and time." The committee is expected to publish its report by the end of the year, but its study plan and the minutes of its past meetings are already available on its Web site.



Board on Physics and Astronomy

<http://www.th.physik.uni-frankfurt.de/~jr/physstamps.html>

On his **Physics-Related Stamps** Web page, Joachim Reinhard, a physicist at the University of Frankfurt in Germany, has collected 164 postage stamps that feature famous physicists. Albert Einstein, who appears on ten stamps, is the most philatelically represented physicist.



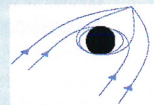
<http://www.aip.org/pubservs/compuscript.html>

From the American Institute of Physics's publishing services division comes **Toolkit 2000**, the latest of several electronic templates—toolkits—that streamline the process of submitting, reviewing, and publishing papers in AIP (and other societies') journals. Using the toolkits not only simplifies the journal production process, but it also helps authors produce good-looking manuscripts.



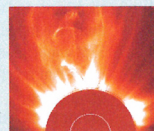
<http://www.netspace.net.au/~gregegan/PLANCK/Planck.html>

"Gisela wanted to understand the universe at its deepest level, to touch the beauty and simplicity that lay beneath it all. That was why she was taking the Planck Dive." Thus runs the blurb of Greg Egan's physics-laced science fiction story "**The Planck Dive**." First published in the February 1998 issue of *Asimov's Science Fiction* magazine, the story is available on Egan's Web site, along with tutorials that explain the underlying physics.



<http://solar.physics.montana.edu/nuggets>

The team that operates the soft x-ray telescope aboard the orbiting Yohkoh solar observatory publishes **Nuggets**, a series of weekly science notes for the nonspecialist. Now in its fourth year, Nuggets covers a different aspect of solar physics with each new installment.



[http://www.pacsci.org/public/education/gallery/high\\_speed\\_photos](http://www.pacsci.org/public/education/gallery/high_speed_photos)

**Student Projects in High-Speed Photography** is the name of an exhibition put on by the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Washington. As well as displaying examples of student work, the exhibition's Web site also contains Loren Winter's article "High-Speed Photography for Amateur Photographers." In the article, Winter, who is a high school teacher in North Carolina, explains how you can take your own high-speed photos.



To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please contact [ptwww@aip.org](mailto:ptwww@aip.org) by e-mail.  
Compiled by CHARLES DAY