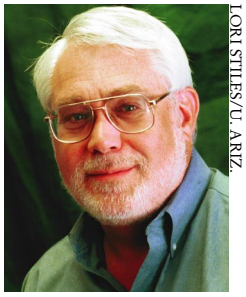
BECK

Amerson, a freshly minted PhD in environmental science and engineering from Oregon Health & Science University in Beaverton, is working in the office of Senator Kent Conrad (D-N.Dak.). OSA–SPIE's Christopher Beck, a postdoctoral researcher in biophysics at Northeastern University, begins his fellowship in January. OSA–MRS fellow Jeffrey Haeni, a new PhD from Pennsylvania State University's materials science and engineering department, joined the office of Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.). APS fellow Benn Tannenbaum, a particle physicist, came to Markey's office after doing a postdoc at UCLA. AIP is sitting out this year, but will restore its fellowship next year, says Audrey Leath, who oversees both the congressional and State Department fellowships for AIP. Applications for the congressional fellowships are due early next year (see the box on page 29).

Physics at State

The inaugural AIP State Department fellows were George Atkinson, a chemist on leave from the University of Arizona, and Barrie Ripin, a plasma physicist who was at the Naval Research Laboratory for many years and later worked at APS headquarters. Both are extending their stints, and this fall they were joined by two new fellows, Gretchen Lindsay, on leave from Aerospace Corp in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Stefi Baum, from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Lindsay began working last June on cyber security in the department's Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Plans, Policy, and Analysis, while Baum, who started her fellowship in November, is focusing on bioengineered food and crop products for the Economics and Business Bureau, where she is initially involved in Southeast Asian affairs. Both last year and this, the State Department ponied up for a second AIP fellow.

Atkinson splits his time between the Intelligence and Research Bureau and the European and Eurasian Bureau. "I spent time going to US embassies and science ministries in Europe. I also talked with representatives from science communities in other countries," says Atkinson. He is developing a program that would bring together policymakers and scientists from Europe and the US to look jointly at key science issues with an eye to the future. The topics, he says, would be "mutually viewed as having societal impact. If this program accomplishes nothing more than informing the policy community, it's a success. But my more ambitious goal is for the policymakers to choose a few areas that merit joint, transatlantic support." In a second program Atkinson is working on, senior academic scientists would go to the State Department for a year and then serve as advisers for several more years. "In the past few years, there has been more and more recognition that science and technology is coming to dominate many foreign policy issues," says Atkinson. "Most faculty members would never consider taking a year off to participate in the process of government." Scientific societies can help, he adds, "by highlighting public discussion about whether this role is appropriate for a tenured professor." Atkinson believes it is: "It's an opportunity for the scientific community and the universities to make available some of their scientific expertise to the nation."



LORI STILES/U. ARIZ.

ATKINSON

In the Bureau of Oceans and Environment and Scientific Affairs, Ripin has spent his fellowship delving into the formulating and negotiating of international agreements related to S&T cooperation and promoting the use of science for sustainable development. For example, he worked on a new type of S&T agreement between

Free Electron Laser Focal Point of Industrial Physics Forum

Cutting-edge laser science, the role of research in industry, and the use of technology to fight terrorism were some of the topics of discussion for attendees at the 2002 Industrial Physics Forum and its academic–industrial workshop, held 27–29 October in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Hosted by the Department of Energy's Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, the annual meeting was sponsored by the Corporate Associates of the American Institute of Physics, the *Industrial Physicist*, the American Physical Society's Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics, and the Southeastern Universities Research Association. Participants in the preconference workshop focused on identifying the differences between academic, industrial, and government laboratories.

CECELIA BRESCIA/AIP

THE MIRRORS AND LENSES of a laser experiment at Jefferson Lab were on display for forum participants.

The workshop opened with an address by NIST Director Arden Bement on the differences in cultures among private, governmental, and academic labs. Researchers from all three sectors explored questions about how different labs are funded, how research priorities are set, how scientists are recruited, and the differences in management models for running labs.

The forum's theme, "New Tools for New Materials," was tied to Jefferson Lab's powerful free electron laser, and several talks focused on research being done with such lasers. Participants were invited to tour the facility's accelerator, the laser, and several research labs.

The forum's policy session included talks by John Marburger, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; Jane Alexander, head of S&T at the Office of Naval Research; and Jill Trewhella, Los Alamos National Laboratory's expert on bioterrorism.

The AIP Award for Science Writing by a Scientist was presented to Lawrence Krauss, head of the physics department at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, for his latest book, *Atom: An Odyssey from the Big Bang to Life on Earth—and Beyond* (Little, Brown, 2001). Next year's forum will be sponsored by Agilent Laboratories in San Jose, California.

JIM DAWSON