

and other factors on the early careers of physics bachelors are expected to be published in the next year.

NEWS NOTES

New S&T director at ONR. Physicist Jane A. "Xan" Alexander has been selected as the new executive director for science and technology at the Office of Naval Research in Arlington, Virginia. Alexander comes to the job from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, where she was the deputy director. In announcing the selection, Rear Admiral Jay Cohen, Chief of Naval Research, said Alexander will "serve as the senior civilian for science and technology in the Navy." Alexander, who received the Department of Defense Distinguished Medal for Civilian Service in 2001, holds a PhD in physics from MIT. She succeeds Fred Saalfeld, who retired from ONR in December. —JLD

Ultrafast science journal. Physical phenomena that last a trillionth of a second or less are the focus of the new *Virtual Journal of Ultrafast Science*. Launched by the American Institute of Physics and the American Physical Society this summer, *VJUS* assembles research and review papers from 50 publications concerning anything ultrafast—from biophysics to high-field physics to applications. The University of Michigan's Philip Bucksbaum is *VJUS*'s founding editor. Produced in cooperation with 16 publishers, *VJUS* is the fifth in AIP and APS's series of

specialty physics virtual journals. *VJUS* tables of contents and abstracts are posted monthly on the Web (see <http://www.vjulftrafast.org>), with full texts of the original articles accessible for free to subscribers of the source journal, and for a fee to others. —TF

OSTP associate directors confirmed. Kathie Olsen, NASA's former chief scientist, and Richard Russell, former deputy chief of staff of the House Science Committee, were confirmed by the Senate in August as the associate directors of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Olsen, who holds a PhD in biology from the University of California, Irvine, will head OSTP's science division. Russell, who has a BA in biology from Yale University, will be the associate director for technology.

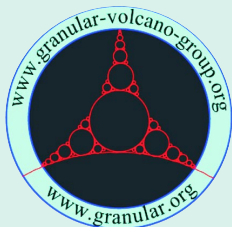
Before she joined NASA in 1999, Olsen was the senior staff associate for NSF's science and technology centers. She did research on neural and genetic mechanisms underlying behavior while she was an assistant professor at SUNY Stony Brook, in the 1980s. Olsen's portfolio at OSTP will include environment; life and physical sciences; social, behavioral sciences, and education.

Russell was the chief of staff at OSTP for several months last year. From 1995 until he joined OSTP, he worked for the House Science Committee, serving as the staff director for the subcommittee on technology before being named chief of staff for the full science committee. He will be responsible for technology, telecommunications, information technology, and space and aeronautics. —JLD ■

WEB WATCH

<http://www.granular.org>

Doctoral student Sébastien Dartevelle, who studies physical volcanology at Michigan Technological University, curates the Web site of the **Granular Volcano Group**. The site seeks to explain and promote the understanding of granular processes, fluid dynamics, supercomputer modeling, and grain-size analysis as applied to volcanology, geophysics, and physics.



<http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/highlite/women/iupap.htm>

Through its numerous tables and quotations, the report **Women Physicists Speak: The 2001 International Study of Women in Physics** illustrates the experiences of women physicists around the world. The Statistical Research Center of the American Institute of Physics put together the report for the working group on women in physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

<http://www.iupac.org/publications/compendium>

The **IUPAC Compendium of Chemical Terminology** is published by Blackwell for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Its more than 7000 cross-references provide, according to IUPAC, the definitive guide to chemical terminology. The online version is freely accessible.

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