conducting research on transportation and energy efficiency. For example, says Rosner, researchers are using the APS to study complex spray geometry in diesel injectors for research on hydrogen generation, fuel cells, and efficient diesel combustion. Winning a bid to build and operate the $1 billion Rare Isotope Accelerator is high on the lab's wish list. Next month, DOE expects an advisory committee report reconsidering the priority of RIA in light of current budget constraints.

Cheryl M. Harris

News Notes

Historical physics sites. In an initiative to make the public aware of physics and its significance in US history, the American Physical Society (APS) is placing plaques around the country to mark the sites of important physics discoveries.

Five sites have been selected this year. They are Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where Albert Michelson and Edward Morley used their interferometer to show that the speed of light is constant; Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, in remembrance of Henry Rowland, who immensely improved diffraction gratings; the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, to honor Benjamin Franklin for his experiments with lightning and electricity; Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where Arthur Compton did the work on x-ray scattering now named for him; and Yale University, at the site where Josiah Willard Gibbs did his work in thermodynamics.

The APS register of historic sites will be expanded every year. "Once we've got the obvious big ones," says John Rigden, who chairs the historic sites committee of the APS forum on history of physics, "we want to honor more local and recent discoveries too, to let people know that exciting things are still happening in physics."

To nominate sites for inclusion in the APS register of historic sites, send an e-mail to historicsites@aps.org. **TF**

Science on stage. Now may be the time to write that play you've been carrying around in your head all these years. The University of California, Santa Barbara, is hosting an international competition for scripts about science and technology.

UCSB's Professional Artists Lab and the California NanoSystems Institute launched the competition. Lab founder and director Nancy Kawalek says, "Our goal is to cultivate appreciation and collaboration between science and the arts, develop art that depicts the technological age in which we live, and foster new, imaginative voices and methods of storytelling."

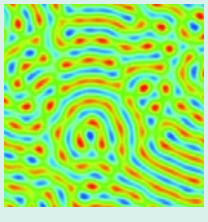
The winner will receive $10 000, a staged reading of the script with a cast of professional actors, and access to scientific and theater-related advice. Submissions must be postmarked by 15 December 2005. For more information, visit http://www.cnsi.ucsb.edu/stage. **TF** ■

Web Watch

http://www.nnin.org

Since March 2004, the NSF-funded **National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network** has served as a national toolbox for nanoscience. By booking a visit to any of the 13 labs in the network, researchers can use state-of-the-art equipment that their home institutions might lack. NNIN also provides training, outreach, and software.

http://www.cmp.caltech.edu/~mcc/Patterns



Caltech's Michael Cross studies systems far from thermodynamic equilibrium. To illustrate some of the equations that describe such systems, Cross has developed a set of Java applets. You can run the applets from his **Pattern Formation in Nonequilibrium Systems** website.

http://www.compadre.org

Teachers, students, and departments are creating online materials for teaching physics. To collect and disseminate those products, five US physics societies have joined forces to form **comPADRE**: Communities for Physics and Astronomy Digital Resources in Education.

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html.

Compiled and edited by **Charles Day**