

and Hispanic faculty members are up, but their percentages remain tiny. African Americans make up 2% of physics faculty and 5% of faculty across all fields. Hispanics make up 3% of faculty in physics and across all fields. By contrast, some 10% of physics faculty members are Asian American, more than the 6% that group represents across all disciplines.

In 2004, women were hired into tenure-track or tenured positions at rates at least as high as past degree production, but even more were hired into instructor and adjunct positions.

These and related data may be found in *2004 Physics & Astronomy Academic Workforce*. The report is on the Web at <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/facultytrends.html>. Single copies may be obtained free of charge from AIP, Statistical Research Center, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; e-mail stats@aip.org. **TF**

DHS money down, McQueary gone.

Charles McQueary, who oversaw the growth of the US Department of Homeland Security's science and technology directorate into a \$1.47 billion program, announced he was leaving his job in late March. Although McQueary gave no official reason for leaving, his resignation came as the administration's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal called for cutting the R&D budget for McQueary's directorate by more than 36%. "My objectives have been to build an excellent technical team to lead the

research and development for the department, and to launch breakthrough [R&D] programs to make a difference in our nation's protection from catastrophic events," he said in his 10 February resignation letter to the White House. "The first objective has been achieved, while the second is nearing fruition." **JLD**

BNL director resigning. After three years of steering Brookhaven National Laboratory through difficult financial times, Director Praveen Chaudhari announced he is stepping down to work part-time as a scientist at the lab and to spend more time with his family. Chaudhari, a metallurgist, had a particularly rough time at the lab in recent months when federal funding fell short of what was needed to run the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider. Chaudhari announced the shutdown of RHIC and the prospect of staff layoffs before Jim Simons, a physicist-turned-billionaire investment expert, stepped in with \$13 million to fund RHIC's current run (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, March 2006, page 26). "The laboratory is in very good shape, and I feel it is time for me to make a change," he said. He noted that he has been in a long-distance relationship with his wife since taking the Brookhaven job. "It has been a difficult period for both of us." His announcement came just after the administration proposed a fiscal year 2007 budget that would solve Brookhaven's funding woes. **JLD ■**

WEB WATCH

<http://www.physics.utoronto.ca/nonlinear/sweater.html>



In 1993, the University of Toronto's Stephen Morris and his collaborators discovered that chaotic spirals would spontaneously form in a large-aspect-ratio Rayleigh-Bénard convection system. Mary de Bruyn, Morris's sister, incorporated the spirals in a knitting pattern, which you can find at **Spiral Defect Chaos in Knitting**.

http://atlaswebpub.web.cern.ch/atlaswebpub/web-sites/pages/UX15_webcams.htm

Thanks to the **UX15 Installation** webcams, you can watch workers install the five-story-high ATLAS detector in the UX15 cavern at CERN. When the Large Hadron Collider comes on line next year, ATLAS will explore the physics frontier at 14 TeV.



<http://www.columbia.edu/acis/history>

Columbia University was an early leader in the development of computers and computation. Wallace Eckert (shown here) was among the first scientists to solve complex problems with punch-card machines. You can learn more about Eckert and his fellow pioneers at **Columbia University Computing History**.

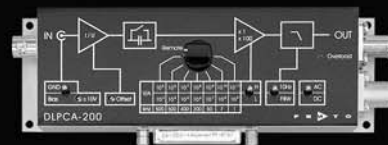
To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit <http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html>.

Compiled and edited by Charles Day

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