

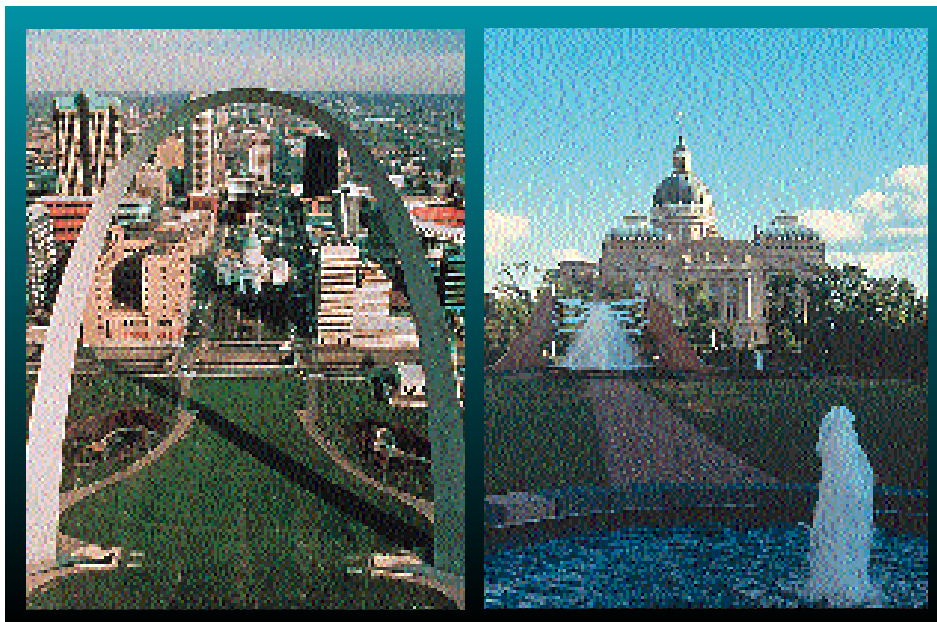
## Meet me in St. Louis—and Indianapolis

A few years ago, industrial and applied physicists felt isolated from the mainstream activities of the American Physical Society (APS). In an attempt to remedy that problem, the APS Committee on Applied Physics (CAP) developed the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics (FIAP), which has received a warm response—becoming APS's largest Forum, with 4,826 members. FIAP's Program Committee co-chairs—Craig Davis of Ford Research Labs and I—are targeting topics and speakers that show the breadth of applied physics and the adaptability of physicists in nontraditional career paths.

FIAP will start achieving its mainstreaming goal this year, when industrial and applied physics play a more visible role in APS meetings. The combined efforts of CAP and FIAP will generate a series of technical sessions—covering topics from optics to economics—at APS's general meetings in St. Louis and Indianapolis. According to FIAP's current Program Plans, these presentations will “illustrate the excitement and importance of applied physics as an endeavor and a career path.”

The process begins at the APS general meeting in St. Louis on March 18–22, when FIAP plans to present five sessions:

- “Toward an All-Optical Communications Network” will cover several technological issues, including next-generation networking, optical switching, and fiber nonlinearities.
- “Physics of Product Design, Development, and Manufacturing Processes” will consider the role of physics in product design from machine tools, to robots, to aircraft.
- “The Industrial Use of Synchrotron Radiation” will reveal applications of this technology for thin films, microelectronics, and pharmaceuticals.
- “Physics of Waste Management” will investigate the future for nuclear waste disposal, the physics of decontamina-



tion of soil, modeling of contaminant removal, and industrial ecology.

- “Physicists and Finance” will explore how physics and physicists can be useful on Wall Street and in other financial environments.

Then on May 2–5, the APS general meeting in Indianapolis will be the site of a second set of FIAP sessions:

- “Futures of Renewable Energy: Efficiency, Fission, and Fusion” will discuss renewable-energy successes from the past and potential savings in the future.
- “Measuring Fundamental Properties of Complex Materials” will examine sensors and techniques for a variety of measurements, including the electrical properties of polymers and the rheology of fluids.
- “Particle Beam Processing of Materials” will provide an overview of advanced-materials processing techniques, including applications to crystallography, composite curing, lithography, surface treatment, and transmutation of nuclear waste.

- “Nuclear Imaging Techniques” will explore the current status of positron-emission tomography instrumentation, gamma-emission mammography, and digital X-ray imaging.

The FIAP Program Committee will offer even more sessions in the future. In fact, members are already preparing for the March 1997 APS general meeting, where they plan to present sessions on the evolution of the Internet, the ubiquity of computers, and the making of successful products.

The committee is eager to discuss opportunities for co-sponsorship and invites suggestions for future topics; send yours to me ([dylla@cebaf.gov](mailto:dylla@cebaf.gov)) or to Craig Davis ([LDavis@smail.sr1.ford.com](mailto:LDavis@smail.sr1.ford.com)). To keep up with future activities, watch for changes on FIAP's World Wide Web site (<http://aps.org/FIAP>)

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