

Franz To Become New APS Executive Officer in April

At its November meeting, the APS Council selected Judy Franz, a professor of physics at the University of Alabama, to be the Society's new executive officer. Franz will take office in April, replacing former Executive Secretary N. Richard Werthamer, who resigned last June. APS Treasurer Harry Lustig has been serving as acting executive secretary since Werthamer's resignation. "The APS is very gratified and proud that a physicist of Judy Franz's stature, experience and commitment will serve as one of its operating officers," said APS President Burton Richter (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) of the appointment.

Franz was the unanimous choice to succeed Werthamer, according to former APS President Ernest Henley, who chaired the search committee. "The search committee had excellent candidates to consider, but concluded that Judy Franz was the best person for the job," he said. "She has the outstanding background, sensibility, energy, initiative, character, ability and connections to do the job well and to make sure the APS continues to thrive in the years ahead."

Upon accepting her new position, Franz said, "I look forward very much

to the many challenges I will face as executive officer of the APS. The next few years will be a period of immense change for physicists and for the Society." She cited preserving funding for high-quality research, improving Congressional relations, and electronic publishing as particularly high priorities for the APS at this critical juncture in its history.

Franz came by her penchant for math and science naturally. Both of her parents held Ph.D.s in physics and chemistry, so it wasn't surprising that she displayed a keen interest in mathematics as a child. However, she never studied physics until her sophomore year at Cornell University, when she enrolled in an introductory physics course taught by Donald Holcomb. She found the subject to be "an interesting means of applying the mathematics I loved that was both fun and useful," and switched her major from mathematics to physics.

After completing her B.S. in 1959, Franz's love of physics led her to attend graduate school, although she had no definite career plans in mind. "In my day, to be honest, women really were

not allowed to think about careers. Career was almost a dirty word," she said. "But I enjoyed studying physics and since both my parents held Ph.D.s it seemed natural to want to do the same. And once I had the degree, it seemed equally natural to find a job in which I could make use of it."

She received her Ph.D. in physics from the University of Illinois in 1965 and spent the next two years as a postdoctoral research physicist at the IBM Research Laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland, where her son, Eric, was born. Upon returning to the U.S., she joined the faculty of Indiana University as a part-time assistant professor, becoming a full-time faculty member in 1970 and a full professor in 1979. She joined the faculty of West Virginia University in 1986, and has been a professor and chair of the physics department at the University of Alabama since 1991. Her field of research is condensed mat-

ter theory, and she has published extensively in the area of electronic properties of disordered materials.



In addition to her teaching, administrative and research activities, Franz has built up an extraordinary history of service to the scientific community. She has served extensively on numerous APS

committees, and just completed her term as chair of the Division of Condensed Matter Physics (DCMP). She is also a former president of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), and has served on the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics, the Council of the Association of Women in Science and the Advisory Committee of the NSF Division of Materials Research.

Her involvement with the APS began in 1977, when she was asked to serve

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APS Council Issues Statement in Response to Colorado

The APS Council approved a statement on protection of its members against discrimination at its November meeting, resolving not to hold Society-sponsored meetings in any state or locality that discriminates or prohibits protection from discrimination of any group. Drafted in response to a state constitutional amendment in Colorado that would deny homosexuals legal protection against discrimination, the statement was endorsed by the APS Executive Board last September and forwarded to Council for final approval.

The APS ban does not apply to the continued participation of individual physicists engaged in activities for Colorado-based physics organizations. With regard to meetings, the ban remains in suspension as long as the

court-ordered injunction against implementation of the Colorado constitutional amendment remains effective.

"It is tempting to say that this is not an issue for the APS, but we do have homosexual members whose safety and concerns must be taken into account," said Stephen Adler (Institute for Advanced Study), a member last year of the APS Panel on Public Affairs, which drafted the statement in tandem with the Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists. "By scheduling meetings in Colorado, we would potentially place those members in the position of having to risk discrimination by attending." He added that because APS meetings can be held anywhere in the country, and are often hotly contested for, implementation of the policy would not impede APS activities.

In November of 1992, a majority of voters in Colorado ratified a ballot proposition amending Article II of the State Constitution to prohibit the adoption or enforcement of any law entitling homosexual, lesbian and bisexual persons to minority status or protection from discrimination. Implementation of the amendment was blocked by the Colorado courts, but the text of the amendment's constitutionality is likely to reach the United States Supreme Court.

According to Adler, the amendment would effectively legalize discrimination against gays and lesbians in Colorado. In addition, it would nullify actions in such communities as Boulder, Aspen and Denver, in which a majority of the citizens had passed ordinances affording protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation. "By eliminating legal protections, the amendment sanctions prejudicial acts against homosexual, lesbian and bisexual persons," said Adler.

and the American Association for the Advancement of Science canceled its plans to hold its 1999 annual meeting in Denver. The APS statement will be distributed to many of these societies, as well as such organizations as the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project.

The text of the APS statement follows.

The elected Council of The American Physical Society affirms the commitment of the Society to the protection of the rights of all scientists, including freedom from discrimination based on race, gender, nationality, religion or sexual orientation. The Society bears a particular responsibility to protect the participants in its meetings from possible discrimination.

Therefore, the Council resolves that The American Physical Society will not sponsor meetings in any state or locality that discriminates or prohibits protection from discrimination.

Specifically, the Council deplors the passage on 3 November 1992 of Amendment II to the Constitution of the State of Colorado removing and prohibiting protection from discrimination of persons owing to sexual orientation. Although implementation of Amendment II has been suspended pending judicial review of its constitutionality, the APS prohibition on meetings would apply if the suspension were lifted.

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