FIAP Newsletter Summer 2025



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A few highlights from the Global Physics Summit in March

More than 14,000 people registered for the Global Physics Summit in Los Angeles. Some joined remotely, but judging by the crowds, a good portion attended in person! There's always many talks and activities to see and hear during this very full week, and I enjoyed many different sessions. FIAP had a full program organized by FIAP Vice Chair Marilena Longobardi with a strong focus on Quantum Science including talks about a broad range of activities in the private sector. This meshed very well with the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, and Marilena deserves our thanks for arranging these sessions and also for organizing a variety of Quantum activities the weekend before the GPS. Thank you, Marilena!

A new feature this year was the Industry Room, a large meeting room where the focus was on physics careers in the private sector. There were panel discussions in partnership with other APS Units and with APS Careers including the annual "Meet Your Future" pizza lunch on Monday. The Industry Room schedule included many speakers with experience in the private sector who shared work experiences and career advice. The room was often full, showing the high level of interest in topics related to physics careers. This experiment went very well and I hope it will be back in 2026.

FIAP wrapped up the meeting with the Industry Day Closing Reception on Thursday afternoon. Hundreds of people came to an upper level patio and enjoyed refreshments and networking. Other units partnered with FIAP to fund this event, and the leaders gave brief remarks about helping physicists expand their career opportunities. Great way to wrap up the GPS!

My favorite session this year was W-10 "Physics for Everyone" at 8AM on Friday, a challenge to attend given the early hour and so late in the conference. The first talk by Robert Dudley of UC Berkeley featured slow motion videos from his lab of hummingbirds flying through openings and in wind tunnels with turbulence. It was amazing that these tiny birds could effortlessly navigate such artificial conditions. Other speakers discussed the history of physicists and wine, physics analysis of athletics, novel aspects of physics in music, and neuromorphic computing. This session was sponsored by the Division of Materials Physics and was well-attended.



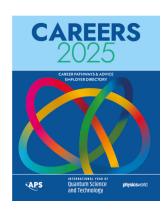
The GPS next year will be held in Denver March 16-20, 2026. Hope to see you there!

Welcome new members of FIAP!

Large meetings are always an excellent opportunity to recruit new members for FIAP, and this year was no exception. APS made it very easy to scan badges of attendees so they could join FIAP, and many people at the reception consented to this quick process. The result is that FIAP membership increased by 255 people! The FIAP Executive Committee is interested in hearing from new or longtime members about concerns we might address, and we will stay in touch through this quarterly Newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns: SELsanjose@gmail.com

APS Careers Guide 2025 available on-line

The sixth edition of the APS Careers Guide was released at the Global Physics Summit in March. It's full of helpful career information including profiles of physicists from many different backgrounds, overviews of exciting new fields with a strong focus on quantum technology, and twenty profiles of organizations employing physicists including how to apply for a job. Features that may be particularly helpful are "How to survive a physics Ph.D." and Career Advice from physicists working in six different fields. They highlight the many pathways you can follow by studying physics. You can browse a softcopy or request a hardcopy at this link: https://www.aps.org/career-resource/careers-guide Check it out!



Physics-Inspired Computing from Physical Review Applied

Celebrate 10 years of <u>Physical Review Applied!</u> Content collections commemorating the best of PRApplied will be coming out as part of the festivities, with the first collection dedicated to Quantum Information Science and Technology. Join us for planned celebrations at both DAMOP and the 2025 MRS Fall Meeting and Exhibit. For more information on the ongoing anniversary celebrations, sign up for journal alerts.

Do you actually want to be a manager? IEEE article with a useful perspective

One aspect of working in the private sector is career progression. Many people assume they will have a trajectory of increasing responsibility including becoming a manager. That's not the only way to have a successful career as highlighted in this short article from IEEE. A brief extract:

"As a manager, you'll be expected to drive business and organizational success through the decisions you make and those you influence. You'll also be expected to shape and nurture employees by providing feedback and guidance. . . The technical path can be alluring as well, especially if you are passionate about solving technical challenges and increasing your expertise in your area of specialization. You won't be supervising large numbers of employees, but you will manage significant projects and programs and have opportunities to propose and define such initiatives."

The authors of this article both have long careers in industry, and this article is worth a look if you are working in the private sector. It's available at this link: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10705373

Suggestions for the Newsletter are welcome, comments too. Please email the Newsletter Editor Steven Lambert at SELsanjose@gmail.com