

March 10, 2014

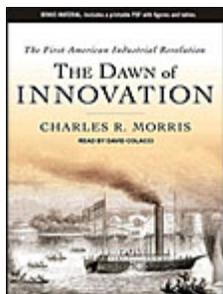
Director's Matters

By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO



The Dawn of Innovation, a book by Charles R. Morris

We often attribute the spark of America's economic engines to the second half of the 20th century. Prodigious inventions and discoveries resulted from the post-World War II economic boon and fears of second-class world status in technology after the Soviet Union's successful Sputnik launch. We are still benefiting from the innovation which poured from the corporate research laboratories of America's blue-chip companies and the fast-growing populations of America's research universities.



However, author Charles Morris expertly illustrates how the tradition of innovation in America began just as the new country was getting started. Morris' recent book, [*The Dawn of Innovation*](#), describes the transformation of a young nation from a minor player on the world stage at the opening of the 19th century to eclipsing the British Empire at the end of the century as the world's largest economy and manufacturer.

Some of the more famous inventions marking America's developing industrialization include Robert Fulton's steamboat (1777), Eli Whitney's cotton gin (1793), and Samuel Colt's systemized manufacture of firearms with interchangeable parts (1836).

Morris, a distinguished banker and lawyer by trade, has authored more than a dozen books on American history, with an emphasis on events and personalities that had a profound influence on America's economic development. With the subtitle, "*The First American Industrial Revolution*," his newest book provides an engaging account of the remarkable technologies, businesses, and distribution systems that were put in place across the American continent as settlements rapidly moved west by foot, wagon, boat, and rail.

» [Read more](#)

Physics Resources Matters

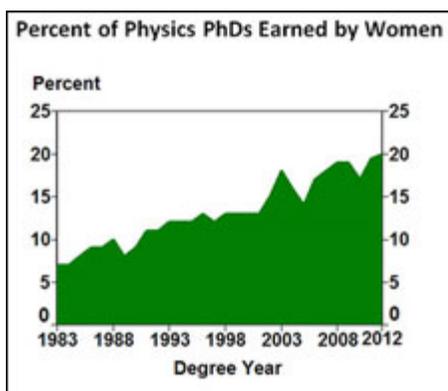
Who got a piece of the SPS/ $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ pi?



With generous support from the physics community and Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$) members, the Society of Physics Students and $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ have supported tens of thousands of students along their journey to becoming physics-trained professionals. Inspired by Pi Day (March 14, in honor of the mathematical constant pi, 3.14 . . .), Sigma Pi Sigma has launched an awareness and fundraising campaign to get the word out about how SPS changes lives and we can together support even more students along their physics path.

» [Read more](#)

More women receive physics PhDs than ever before



The representation of women among new PhDs has reached an all-time high in the class of 2012. In the class of 2012, 20% of the physics PhDs were earned by women, while they earned only 13% of new physics PhDs 11 years earlier. This increase, along with growth in the overall number of physics PhDs awarded, has resulted in a surge in the number of women receiving degrees.

» [Read more](#)

Member Society Spotlight

ACA helps mark the International Year of Crystallography



The [American Crystallographic Association](#) and its members, along with crystallographers from around the world, are planning exciting activities to commemorate the [International Year of Crystallography 2014](#) (IYCr2014). IYCr2014 marks the centennial of X-ray diffraction, which allowed the detailed study of crystalline material. The celebration also highlights the 400th anniversary of Kepler's 1611 observation of the symmetrical form of ice crystals, which began the wider study of the role of symmetry in matter.

» [Read more](#)

Coming Up

March 12

- Birthday socials (Melville and College Park)

March 14

- Sigma Pi Sigma Pi Day

March 15-18

- AAPM Spring Clinical Meeting (Denver, CO)

March 26

- AIP Executive Committee meeting (College Park)
- Audit Committee meeting (College Park)

March 27

- Assembly of Society Officers (College Park)

March 28

- AIP Governing Board meeting (College Park)

March 30-April 1

- 2nd AIP Conference for Early-Career Historians of Science (College Park)

March 31

- Lyne S. Trimble Public Lecture. "The Guiding Hand of History: Ernst Mach on the Past and Future of Physics," 7:00 pm (College Park)

April 1-2

- AIP senior staff retreat (Annapolis, MD)