End of Year Party - A reminder that the End of Year Party will be held at The Grandstand on Wednesday 15 December from 1pm-5pm. This is an excellent opportunity to join colleagues in celebrating the many successes in the School in 2010. The cost is $30 per head for staff and $25 per head for students. There will however be a bar tab. For further details contact Alison Muir.

Promotion successes - Congratulations to Drs Joe Khachan and Reza Hashemi-Nezhad who have been promoted to Associate Professor. This is an excellent outcome and recognition for two members of our academic staff. Academic staff who are considering submitting promotion applications in 2011 should be aware that the promotion policy has changed regarding interviews for applicants. From 2011 there will be no interviews for Levels B-D and only borderline cases for Level E will be interviewed. Applicants will need to take great care in submitting quality applications. Further details regarding this will be available in early 2011.

Welcome - Prof David Thwaites has joined the School as Professor of Medical Physics. His position is funded by NSW Health to develop academic links between the School and medical physicists in NSW hospitals. David has expertise in radiotherapy physics and was previously Professor of Medical Physics at Leeds University in the UK. His office will be room 502 in A28.

Daniel Huber represented the School at the 2010 AIP (Australian Institute of Physics) NSW Postgraduate Awards Day on 23 November. I am delighted to report that Daniel's presentation on his research in asteroseismology and interferometry won first prize. Congratulations Daniel.

Associate Heads - 2 associate heads for (i) teaching and learning and (ii) research will be appointed in the School from the beginning of 2011. Further details will be circulated in the near future.

ARC Grant Successes - Congratulations to School of Physics staff who have been awarded ARC Future Fellowships:


*A/Prof Scott M Croom - Dissecting galaxy evolution - $807,897 (2010-2014).

*A/Prof Peter Tuthill - Imaging exoplanets with advanced spaceborne photonics - $905,230 (2010-2014).

*Dr Maryanne Large - The development of novel and tunable metamaterials - $774,566 (2010-2014).

Congratulations also for the award of a Future Fellowship to honorary Professor in the School, Kostya Ostrikov - Nanoscale control of energy and matter for future energy efficient technologies - $919,832 (2010-2014) (Kostya's application was submitted through CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering).

ARC Linkage Grant Success - The Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities scheme supports large-scale cooperative initiatives that share the costs of new equipment and facilities amongst partnered organisations. Congratulations to staff associated with these collaborative projects:

*Prof Ben Eggleton, Dr Mark Pelusi, A/Prof David J Moss, Dr Christelle Monat, Prof Martijn de Sterke - 100 Gbit to 1 Terabit per second optical communication test bed facility - $400,000. Administered through University of Sydney.
Recent ARC Grant Applications:

*Prof Iver Cairns (on behalf of the School of Physics) - Flexible architecture high performance computing facility for the Intersect Consortium of New South Wales - $500,000. Administered through University of Sydney.

*Prof Ross McPhedran, Dr Albert Canagasabey, Prof Martijn de Sterke - Three-dimensional super-resolution nanophotonic fabrication facility - $360,000. Administered through Swinburne University.

*Dr Yongbai Yin - Multi-scale fabrication facility for complex three-dimensional surface generation from nano to macro dimensions - $490,000. Administered through UNSW.

*A/Prof Scott Croom, Prof Joss Bland - Hawthorn-Koala: a new integral field capability for the Anglo-Australian telescope - $350,000. Administered through Macquarie University.

*Prof Anne Green - The NANTEN2 observatory sub-millimetre wave telescope - $150,000. Administered through UNSW.

ARC Grant Applications - The deadline for submission of ARC DP grants has been advised informally to be 21 March 2011. The guidelines will be released in early January. The deadline for the new ECR schemes is expected to be a bit later, but so far no suggested date. A meeting was held last week on campus about proposed changes to the ARC Funding Schemes, but I understand that many researchers were unaware of this. I therefore recommend that all researchers subscribe to the Research Office Weekly Research Opportunities Newsletter, where this and other research funding news is announced: [http://sydney.edu.au/research_support/funding/bulletins.shtm](http://sydney.edu.au/research_support/funding/bulletins.shtm)

Current Building Works - Excavation work has commenced for the new lift which will be installed in A28. This will enable disabled students to gain access to teaching spaces on the upper floors. Work has also commenced to refurbish the ground floor toilets at the Eastern end of A28. The male toilet will be converted to a female toilet and the female toilet will be converted to a disabled toilet. Electrical and phone cabling is being removed from level 2 of the western corridor walls and a false ceiling is being installed. Offices in level 3 south corridor are being refurbished as are level 1 and level 4 laboratories and offices. Other projects are planned to be undertaken prior to Semester 1, 2011, aimed at improving facilities and accommodating people.

New Physics Building:

Progress with formal University approval: Things are really starting to move with our new building. A business case for the University's investment in the project was considered at the meeting on 18 November of the Finance and Audit Committee of Senate and recommended - strongly- for approval at the full Senate meeting in early December. We are also converging with DIISR (Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research) on the contractual agreement covering the payment of the EIF funding for this project. We expect this agreement to be also signed in December, allowing the first instalment of EIF funds to be transferred before the end of the year.

Visit by Marcus Reed: We were fortunate to have a visit from two consultants with world-leading expertise in specifying and designing buildings for the next-generation of research in the physical sciences. Architect Mark Reed and Harvard professor Charlie Marcus were engaged by the School to provide advice on the process of designing such a building, and to review earlier work by consultants previously engaged by the University. Mark and Charlie met with more than a dozen staff in the School as well as with CIS and the Dean during a lightning visit in early November. They provided reports with recommendations that have helped set us on the right track towards a world-leading building for the School. One of the encouraging outcomes of the visit was their observation that our site had many advantages for constructing a high quality, world class building, and that the available funds should be adequate for this purpose.

Design Brief: The Project Control Group, chaired by the Head of School with representation from Physics, Finance, Procurement and CIS has approved the engagement of Design Brief consultants - DEGW - whose task over the next two to three months will be to review the earlier design study and to work with the stakeholders in the new building/AIN project to develop a detailed brief that encapsulates the
specifications and operational requirements of the new building. This will incorporate the requirements of the original EIF proposal, the needs of the users and the physical constraints of the site.

An initial meeting has taken place with DEGW who will now be working intensively with the School on this process. Chris Walsh will assist in developing a schedule of meetings between the consultants and groups of users in the School. This process will be time consuming but rewarding. Our collective input will be critical to determining the form and function of the new building.

Architect: The next step in this project will be to engage architects. The Project Control Group has approved a two stage process that will commence with a call for Expressions of Interest followed by a detailed tender and assessment process for the short-listed applicants. Physics will play a significant role in developing assessment criteria used in the selection process, and in assessing the proposals. We expect that the architect will be engaged by March/April 2011.

Grants for international travel - International Science Linkages - Scientific Visits to Japan. The Australian Academy of Science is inviting applications from professional scientists to visit Japan between 1 April and 30 September 2011 to collaborate with researchers in those countries. See:

Postdoctoral and Invitational Fellowships in Japan 2011. The Australian Academy of Science, in association with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), invites applications from Australian researchers to undertake Postdoctoral and Invitational Fellowships in Japan. See: