Fellows Elected to NAS
Two OSA fellows, Ilesanmi Adesida and Tom Koch, have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering's membership. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to "engineering research, practice or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature," and to the "pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education."

Air Force Scientist Retires
OSA Fellow Robert Fugate, one of the Air Force's most senior scientists, is retiring after 35 years of service. Fugate was presented with the Air Force's Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award at a ceremony marking his retirement. Since 1979, Fugate has served as the technical director at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Starfire Optical Range (SOR).

Under Fugate's direction, the SOR has grown from a single project with five employees to its current status as a multi-site division with over 500 personnel working on 30 projects.

Fugate received his doctorate from Iowa State University in 1970 and has specialized in the research on the physics of light propagation through atmospheric turbulence and a technique called laser guidestar adaptive optics that corrects distortion caused by the atmosphere.

His research has resulted in significant advances in military, space surveillance and satellite diagnostic capabilities and has enabled laser propagation over long distances. Nearly every major astronomical telescope in the world now has or is building an adaptive optical system based on the techniques developed at the SOR.

Fugate has been the recipient of numerous awards, recognizing his contributions to scientific technology, including the first Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for Senior Professionals in 2003 and his 2004 election to the National Academy of Engineering.

>> Last fall, OSA's Yerevan State Student Chapter participated in the "Young Opticians Meeting," held in Moscow, Russia. The meeting's aim is to bring together optical students, particularly from the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and Eastern Europe, under the flag of OSA, where they can communicate with each other, make new contacts and talk about problems frequently encountered by young scientists. The meeting brought together four Moscow OSA chapters as well as chapter members from St. Petersburg, Tomsk, Saratov and Novosibirsk. The meeting even drew the attention of some local SPIE student chapter members.

During the meeting, chapter members presented their chapter's latest activities and discussed future collaboration efforts between chapters. Participants were given the opportunity to visit scientific centers and museums.

Encouraged by the success of the Young Opticians Meeting, Nikolay Balasanyan of the Yerevan Student Chapter says his chapter is organizing the Young Optician School, which will be the first school of optics located in the region. The school's emphasis will be on the latest developments in contemporary optics.

[ Susannah Lehman (slehma@osa.org) is OSA's publications coordinator. ]
Optical Measurements, Innovation and Competitiveness

Do you need some measurement help? The National Institute of Standards and Technology would like to know about it. NIST is carrying out a major assessment of the U.S. measurement system (www.usms.nist.gov) to learn about the country’s most urgent measurement needs and provide timely research and measurement services.

Optical science and engineering are well represented in this project, which is aimed at improving innovation and national competitiveness. The assessment includes:

- Conducting technical workshops nationally;
- Mining information from interdisciplinary strategic working groups on nanotechnology, homeland security, and biosystems and health;
- Exploring the measurement needs of three major industrial sectors (semiconductor, automotive and software engineering);
- Identifying the emerging needs of the scientific and engineering disciplines; and
- Identifying opportunities for improving measurement traceability to the international (SI) system of units.

NIST will organize one-page measurement-need descriptors, authenticated by representatives from the technical community, into a database, which will be used to establish priorities for new measurement research and services in consultation with appropriate advisory groups. Input from the optics community is more than welcome. Contact William.ott@nist.gov.

CREOL Announces MURI Awards

CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida, will be the lead university on two of the 30 Department of Defense (DoD) Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) awards recently announced by the DoD. The school is also a participant in two other MURIs.

Two OSA Fellows, OSA 2006 President Eric Van Stryland and Martin Richardson, will be the Principal Investigators on research projects titled “Ultrafast Switching for Optical Imaging,” and “Ultrafast Laser Interaction Processes for LIBS and Other Sensing Technologies.” The awards are given to conduct multidisciplinary research in 26 topic areas of basic science and engineering under the DoD MURI program. The awards will provide long-term support for research, graduate students and laboratory instrumentation development that supports specific science and engineering research themes vital to national defense. The average award will be $1 million per year over a three-year period.

Travel Grants Available through OSA

OSA offers travel grants of up to $1,500 to OSA Fellows for travel in developing nations. In 2005, OSA Fellows lectured in many diverse countries, including Egypt, India and Argentina. The next deadline for applications is May 5, 2006.

The program aims to foster optics programs in developing countries by increasing interaction and collaboration between OSA Fellows and the optics communities in these areas.

Successful applicants will be asked to serve as an “ambassador” from OSA. Upon returning, the applicant will be asked to complete a trip report detailing the state of science in the visited region (active programs, schools, labs, etc.). More information may be found online at www.osa.org/aboutosa/awards/other/feltravgrant.asp or by contacting the OSA Awards Office at tel: +1 202 416 1960 or e-mail: awards@osa.org.

International Optical Design Conference (IODC)
June 4-8, 2006, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
> Pre-registration: May 12, 2006
www.osa.org/iodc

Photonic Metamaterials: From Random to Periodic
June 5-8, 2006 Grand Bahama Island, The Bahamas
> Pre-registration: May 12, 2006
www.osa.org/meta

Optical Fabrication & Testing Topical Meeting (OF&T)
Oct. 9-11, 2006, Rochester, N.Y.
> Submissions: June 1, 2006, noon EST
> Pre-registration: September 15, 2006
www.osa.org/oft

18th International Conference on Optical Fiber Sensors (OFS)
Oct. 23-27, 2006, Cancún, Mexico
> Submissions: May 9, 2006, noon EST
> Pre-registration: September 1, 2006
www.osa.org/ofc