

technical portfolio of AVS now runs the gamut from its historical roots in vacuum technology to the new frontiers of biological and ecological systems.



ested individuals into an international science and technology organization with approximately 6,000 members and a global reach. It has initiated two regular international conferences.

Global influence

AVS also plays an important role in the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique, and Applications (IUVSTA), a union of national professional societies in whose 1962 formation AVS had a seminal role. IUVSTA sponsors triennial International Vacuum Congresses, the latest of which (the 15th) was held in San Francisco in 2001 in conjunction with the 48th International Symposium of AVS and ICSS-11.

The educational programs of AVS include short courses at the basic and advanced levels, video presentations, and monographs. During a typical year, the society sponsors approximately 100 individual short courses with a total attendance of up to 3,000. The society also encourages interest in science by participation in programs such as local science fairs and Science Educators Day.

AVS presents awards at the national, divisional, and chapter level. A Board of Trustees administers the national awards. The society's premier honor is the Medard W. Welch Award "to recognize and encourage outstanding research in the fields of interest to AVS." AVS sponsors an array of other professional, educational, student, and service awards that are described on its Web page. Another coveted AVS national award is the Honorary Membership, which the society has awarded to only 33 individuals over its 50-year history. The list of awardees reads like a *Who's Who* of the folks who have made AVS what it is today.

AVS is a truly volunteer-run society. Unlike many AIP member societies, it does not have an executive director who is responsible for the society's business affairs. Rather, it works through a network of active volunteer committees, overseen by a Board of Directors. Day-to-day operations are performed by a small administrative office of nine people led by Administrative Director Yvonne Towse, and run from offices in New York City and Santa Clara, California.

AVS has grown from the initial 295 inter-

ferences. It is the source of record for technical information in the vacuum equipment industry. As a member of the AIP family, it is the major vehicle whereby AIP reaches out to the global vacuum-processing, vacuum-coating, and microelectronics industries, as well as the surface and biological-science communities. In 50 years, AVS has come a long way.

Further reading


Additional information about AVS, including how to become a member, is available at www.avs.org.

Duke, C. B. Birth and evolution of surface science: Child of the union of science and technology. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2003**, *100*, 3858–3864. Details the intimate link between the evolution of surface science as a discipline and AVS as a professional society.

Duke, C. B.; Plummer, E. W., Eds. Frontiers in Surface and Interface Science. *Surf. Sci.* **2002**, *500*, 1–1053. A collection of semi-popular articles written by leaders in their fields on topics of current interest to AVS at the forefront of surface and interface science.

Information about the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique, and Applications is available at www.iuvsta.org.

Lafferty, J. M. History of the American Vacuum Society and the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique, and Applications. *J. Vac. Sci. Technol. A* **1984**, *2*, 102–109.

Redhead, P. A., Ed. *Vacuum Science and Technology: Pioneers of the 20th Century*; AIP Press: New York, 1994; 229 pp. A collection of articles that describe the formative years of AVS and the career contributions of the pioneers in vacuum science and technology, plus reprints of seminal papers. 

B I O G R A P H Y

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