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October 13, 2005

**Section:** BUSINESS

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**4 Nobel laureates will be in Tucson**

*David Wichner, ARIZONA DAILY STAR*

TECH FILE

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If you feel a little dumber than usual next week, here's why:

Four Nobel Prize winners - including three 2005 laureates and three with ties to the University of Arizona - will be in Tucson to be honored at Frontiers in Optics 2005, the Optical Society of America's 89th annual meeting and techfest.

The conference, which runs Sunday through Thursday at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort, is an annual reminder of Tucson's status as Optics Valley.

More than 1,100 attendees are registered, including 400 students, and 75 companies will have exhibits. Frontiers in Optics has 139 invited speakers and 483 contributed scientific papers. The concurrent annual meeting of the Division of Laser Science of the American Physical Society has 52 invited speakers and 60 contributed papers.

"It is a coup for us," said Suzanne Gerdes, president of Tucson-based Optical Electronics Inc. and co-chair of the Arizona Optics Industry Association.

Gerdes said the Frontiers meeting is a great way for scientists from different disciplines to collaborate.

"If you're not in the optics industry or familiar with the industry, it's another world," Gerdes said. "All of a sudden, you open that door of partnership."

The conference will explore cutting-edge research with a focus this year on "nanophotonics" - the manipulation and emission of light using nano-scale materials (100 nanometers or less - there are roughly 25 million nanometers in an inch). Another theme is the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's publication of his Theory of Relativity.

This year's Nobel Prize winners in physics - John L. Hall, Roy J. Glauber and Theodor W. Hänsch - will be honored at the conference's plenary session on Monday.

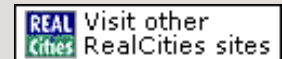
Glauber, a Harvard University professor of physics and adjunct professor of optical sciences at the University of Arizona, won half the physics prize for his research on the quantum nature of coherent light such as light from a laser.

The rest of the physics prize was shared by Hänsch, an honorary UA optics professor based at Germany's Max



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Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, and Hall, a fellow with JILA, a joint institute of the University of Colorado at Boulder and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. They won for developing new methods of laser-based precision measurement.

The optics community also will pay tribute to Nicolaas Bloembergen - a 1981 Nobel laureate in physics and an honorary professor of optical sciences at the UA.

Kathleen Perkins, CEO of meeting co-sponsor **Breault** Research Organization, noted that the event will feature many other top scientists.

Among the emerging technologies to be discussed at the meeting:

- \* Non-invasive optical tools for detecting early stage Alzheimer's disease.
- \* An optical method that "lifts" detailed fingerprints without touching the surface.
- \* A new optical test to detect colon cancer.
- \* New computer-generated movie technology.
- \* Laser-based systems for explosives detection.

"Freedom" rings

Congratulations are in order for the Tucson-based Texas Instruments corporate band Spurious Freedom, which took third place last weekend at the fifth annual Fortune magazine Battle of the Corporate Bands at Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Additionally, band member Tony Zizzo Jr. took the title of best drummer and member Thomas Armendarez won for best vocals.

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If you go

Frontiers in Optics/ Laser Science XXI

When: Sunday through Thursday

Where: Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort, 10000 N. Oracle Road

Cost: Registration ranges from \$225 for Optical Society of America member students to \$745 for nonmember, nonstudents

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