John C. Slater Receives 1967 Irving Langmuir Prize

The 1967 Irving Langmuir Prize has been awarded to John C. Slater by the American Physical Society in recognition of "his penetrating analysis, by calculations of his own and of many students he guided, of the mechanisms which bond atoms in molecules and solids." The annual prize of $5000 is sponsored by the General Electric Foundation and is awarded alternately by the APS and the American Chemical Society.

Slater is emeritus professor of physics at MIT from which he retired in 1966. He is also graduate research professor of physics at the University of Florida, Gainesville. He has made important contributions to understanding phenomena over a wide range of physics: atomic physics, solid state, microwaves, chemical physics.

His contributions to the development of MIT as an institution are also notable. He was chairman of the physics department for nearly 20 years; he played an essential role in transforming the basic research division of the wartime MIT Radiation Laboratory into the Research Laboratory of Electronics and also in establishing the Laboratory for Nuclear Science. In the early 1950's, he took the lead in forming the MIT solid-state and molecular-theory group; as an associated activity he assisted in the planning of MIT's new Center for Materials Science and Engineering, which was established in 1961.

1967 Dannie Heineman Prize Awarded to Gian Carlo Wick

The American Institute of Physics and the American Physical Society presented the 1967 Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics to Gian Carlo Wick at the April meeting of the APS in Washington, D. C. The award, a check for $2,500, is presented each year in recognition of outstanding publication in the field of mathematical physics. As the citation reads, Wick was given the award "for his contributions to quantum field theory, for his investigation of the theory of scattering of particles with spin, and his recent deep analysis of the symmetry principles in physics."

Wick, currently in the physics department of Columbia University, has specialized in the study of quantum mechanics and high energy physics; his research has been especially concerned with the theory of nuclear reactions. Before he came to Columbia as full professor in 1965, he held various professorships in Italy and the US.

Rosenbluth Receives 1967 Einstein Award

Marshall N. Rosenbluth, a theoretical physicist at the University of California, San Diego, was presented with the Albert Einstein Award of $5,000 and a gold medal for his distinguished achievement in physics.

The early part of Rosenbluth's career was spent primarily in high-energy physics, discovering a formula (called the Rosenbluth formula) describing how high-energy electrons are scattered by protons, a theory that has been verified at all electron energies used in scattering experiments. He has made many contributions to theoretical understanding of the confinement of thermonuclear plasmas and was one of the scientists who developed the hydrogen bomb. More recently, he has been investigating thermonuclear fusion.

Richard E. Halsted Dies, Was With General Electric

On 2 December 1966 Richard E. Halsted died at the age of 42. Halstead received his PhD in 1952 from the University of Minnesota and joined the staff of the General Electric research and development center, where his major interest was the preparation and properties of II-VI semiconducting compounds. He made significant contributions to the understanding of both the electrical and luminescent properties of these materials. Other fields of special interest were electro-optical devices, solar energy conversion and thin film devices.

Julian Blanchard Dies, Physicist at Bell Labs

Julian Blanchard, retired physicist for the Bell Research Laboratories, died of a heart ailment on 25 March at his home in New York City. Born in 1885, Blanchard was graduated from Trinity College (now Duke University) in 1905. He received his PhD from Columbia University in 1917. He was a physicist in the research laboratories of Eastman Kodak Company from 1915 to 1917 and research engineer for Western Electric Company from 1917 to 1924. He was employed with Bell Research Laboratories for 26 years until his retirement in 1950.

Francisco X. Roser, S.J., Noted Brazilian Physicist

On 12 Feb. Father Francisco Xavier Roser, director of the Instituto de Fisica, Pontificia Universidade Catolica of Rio de Janeiro, drowned in turbulent waters off the coast of Rio.

He was born near Linz, Austria in 1904. At the age of 19 he went to Brazil to join the Jesuitical order. The Jesuits converted him to physics and sent him back to Innsbruck in 1939 to earn his doctorate in cosmic rays under Victor Hess. He returned to Brazil in 1940 and spent several years teaching in the Colégio Anchieta (1940–46) in Nova Friburgo and the Colégio Santo Inácio (1946–49) in Rio.

Father Roser belonged to a generation of Brazilian physicists that spent several years in the US after the war to learn the new physics. He carried on postdoctoral studies at Oak Ridge, Chicago, Stanford and Fordham. He studied under six Nobel Prize winners: V. Hess, Enrico Fermi, Willis Lamb, Robert Hofstadter, Felix Bloch and Richard Feynman. He returned to Brazil in 1956. His many publications ranged from cosmic radiation through scintillation crystals, nuclear magnetic resonance to natural and artificial radioactive contamination of the environment. □