SHEA

Sigma, Tendam, received his PhD from Purdue University, where he has been teaching since 1940. He is presently associate head of its physics department. White, whom he succeeds, is now the honor society's official historian, after serving for more than 40 years as its executive secretary and as SPS president for the last two years.

At the spring meeting, two physics undergraduates, Richard A. Thomas (William Jewell College) and Sandra M. Mohr (Clark University) received the H. R. Nelson Memorial Awards, to be given by SPS only once.

National study evaluates math courses for physicists

As part of a National Study of Mathematics Requirements for Scientists and Engineers, a group of physicists were asked to evaluate math courses in graduate education and their relevance to the daily activity of a working physicist.

The survey, sponsored by the Office of Education, was answered by 874 physicists, who represented 80% of those mailed questionnaires. In total 10 000 scientists and engineers were carefully selected for the study from the biological sciences, chemistry, physics and engineering.

Responses showed that for the potential PhD the important courses were: three semesters of calculus, vectors, tensor analysis, elementary differential equations, intermediate ordinary differential equations, the first course in partial differential equations, advanced calculus and elementary complex variables.

In a physicist's day-to-day work, the most relevant courses were: first-year college mathematics, first-year calculus, third-semester calculus, vectors, elementary differential equations and the first course in partial differential equations. Yet for both groups, individual answers differed according to specialization. For example, those in elementary particles placed more emphasis on group representation and Lie algebras; those in fluids and mechanics, the first course in numerical analysis.

Other questions revealed that physicists working in elementary particles and mechanics used the most mathematics, and thermal physicists, the least. In general, the majority preferred math courses that were evenly split between theory and application. For further information contact G. H. Miller, Edinboro State College, Edinboro, Pa.

APS delays unsupported papers for *Physical Review*

The American Physical Society has reinstated a delay for articles in *The Physical Review* for which page charges are not honored (see PHYSICS TODAY, February, page 66).

Since the delay was suspended in January 1970, page-charge honoring has dropped to 78%, which, if continued, would result in a $250,000 loss of income for 1970. "To prevent a loss of this magnitude," explained William W. Havens, Jr, APS executive secretary, "the number of pages published for which the charge is not paid must be limited to a maximum of about 15% of the honored pages, starting with articles accepted last June." APS has been treating each section of *The Physical Review* as a separate journal in determining the number of pages affected by the delay.

ACA appoints S. C. Abrahams to new managing-editor post

Sidney C. Abrahams of Bell Telephone Laboratories and former president of the American Crystallographic Association was named to the newly created position of managing editor of the ACA.

During his three-year term, he will oversee all major publications, handling their business relations and setting and maintaining their format standards; he will also be ex officio on the publication committee. Abrahams is not handling the newsletter, which is still being done by the secretary, Walter L. Roth.

New ASA committee studies acoustics and environment

A committee to deal with the problems of acoustics and the environment was named recently by the executive council of the Acoustical Society of America. Headed by John Bouyoucos of General Dynamics Co, the committee plans to study the society's role as a key source of information and advice on environmental problems that deal with acoustics and its role as a medium for gathering new information on these problems.

Isadore Rudnick, ASA past president, says that the committee could explore, for example, "ways to facilitate or increase the flow of information on noise pollution and interpret this information for legislative bodies on the city, state and national levels."

Other committee members are Martin Greenspan, National Bureau of Standards; Ira J. Hirsh, Washington University; John C. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University, and Ernest Yeager, Case Western Reserve University.

Physics interviewing project evaluates foreign students

The Physics Interviewing Project is waiting to see if its interviewers' first trip to seven Far Eastern countries was successful. During last winter Francis E. Dart and Michael J. Moravcsik, both of the University of Oregon, spoke to 145 students who would like to take up graduate education in the US (see PHYSICS TODAY, December, page 63). The project report is due after the interviewed and admitted students have been evaluated in January 1971.

"The goal of the project," says Moravcsik, "has been to supplement or eventually replace the presently available information on foreign applicants. . . . With a more uniform and a more relevant type of evaluation procedure, the existing positions for these students can be awarded to a more suitable set of candidates."

Each 45-minute interview was aimed at probing the student's understanding of physics and his ability to solve problems. It resulted in a written report that evaluated the student's background and potential, his proficiency in English and his ability to hold a teaching assistantship during the first year of graduate school. The individual reports were given to any interested physics department; the project does not take any stand on how many foreign students should be admitted.

This first trip, sponsored by the Universities of California at Los Angeles, Michigan, Oregon and Pittsburgh, was experimental and its success will be gauged when the students are evaluated by their respective institutions to ascertain whether the interviews represent a reliable basis for selection. The evaluation will probably be handled by the Committee on International Education in Physics of the American Association of Physics Teachers. □