

We hear that

ive H. Perry (who will be on leave at the Max Planck Institute this year) and Eugene J. Saletan. Also promoted were Robert P. Lowndes to associate professor and David R. Earles to assistant professor. Joining the department as assistant professor is Irving M. Asher.

artin C. Steele, formerly head of RCA Laboratories' general device research, has joined General Motors Research Laboratories as director of the semiconductor group.

ay M. Pasachoff, of the Hale Observatories, has been appointed assistant professor of astronomy and chairman of the department of astronomy at Williams College and director of the Hop-

kins Observatory and Milham Planetarium. He succeeds Theodore G. Mehlin, who died recently.

Lars Onsager, the 1968 Nobel laureate in chemistry and a Yale University faculty member since 1935, recently joined the University of Miami's Center for Theoretical Studies as Distinguished University Professor.

Among the eight new members of the National Science Board of the National Science Foundation are T. Marshall Hahn Jr, president of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, William A. Nierenberg, director of Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Russell D. O'Neal, vice-president for instruction and research of Louisiana State University.

Obituaries

Robert B. F. Duncan

Robert B. F. Duncan, noted chemist and former professor at the University of Rochester, died on 29 August at the age of 69. Since 1970 he had been a visiting professor in the department of astronomy at the University of Virgin-

Duncan was very active in early research in photochemistry and in the general field of spectroscopy. His work in molecular spectroscopy, culminating in a recent book on the Rydberg series of atoms and molecules established him as a leading authority on molecular chemistry. Most recently he had been working in the new field of intermolecular molecules.

Besides his research and teaching interests, Duncan was also assistant editor of both the *Journal of Physical Chemistry* and the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

CHARLES R. TOLBERT
Leander McCormick Observatory,
University of Virginia

Joseph H. Lunacek

Joseph H. Lunacek, an experimental physicist and an instructor at the University of California at Santa Barbara, died in an automobile accident on 13 July.

While a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (from which he received his PhD in 1970), Lunacek made important contributions to the application of optical-mixing spectroscopy to biological molecules.

In his thesis experiment he made valuable studies of the phonon lifetimes in solids by ultrahigh resolution measurements of the Brillouin spectra. He also helped develop a novel technique that permits accurate measurement of the correlation range in fluids near their critical point. In 1969, while still a graduate student, he was a cowinner of the First Prize at the Apparatus Competition held at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

As a teacher he contributed to the establishment and operation of innovative and stimulating courses in undergraduate experimental physics. And in the laboratory he was always ready to use his considerable talents to solve the problems of others.

GEORGE BENEDEK
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
DAVID CANNELL
University of California, Santa Barbara

Frederick W. Brock

Frederick W. Brock, an optometrist and member of the Optical Society of America, died on 1 August.

Brock, who had been practising in Staten Island for the last 41 years, had studied strabismus (a condition where one or both eyes do not move or focus properly). In 1939 his research led to a new method of treatment for this condition. As a member of OSA, Brock was chairman of the committee on orthoptics and visual training and also a member of the finance committee. □

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