## we hear that

## Dan Q. Posin wins Grady award

Dan Q. Posin, professor of physical science and chairman of the department of interdisciplinary sciences at San Francisco State College, has received the American Chemical Society's 1972 James T. Grady Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public. The award, which consists of \$2000, a certificate, a gold medal and a bronze replica of the medal, recognizes reporting "which materially increases the public's knowledge and understanding of chemistry, chemical engineering and related fields."

Posin, who received his PhD in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, received the award for his cumulative work since 1945, when he began making speeches on the atom. Since then he has produced a film, "The Atom and You," has written a novelized biography of Dmitri Mendeleyev, Mendeleyev, the Story of a Great Scientist and has produced 1500 television shows including, "Out of This World," "What's New" and "On the Shoulders of Giants." He also conducted a weekly show reporting on science for Chicago's WTTW-TV.

## Phillips and Peterlin receive APS awards

During the March meeting of the American Physical Society in Atlantic City, N. J., the Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize was awarded to James C. Phillips of Bell Telephone Laboratories, and the 1972 APS High-Polymer Physics Prize was awarded to Anton Peterlin of the Research Triangle Institute. They will each receive \$1000 and a certificate.

The Buckley prize, which is endowed by Bell Labs, was presented to Phillips "for his synthesis of theoretical and empirical knowledge of band structures and optical properties, and for his use of this understanding to unify the physical and chemical approaches to crystalline bonding." Before coming to Bell Labs, he was on the faculty of the University of Chicago, from which he received his PhD in 1956. Phillips spoke on the "Quantum Structure of Solids."

The High-Polymer Physics Prize. sponsored by the Ford Motor Co, cited Peterlin for his contributions to the rheology of polymer solutions and the deformation of solid polymers. Peterlin is director of the Camille Dreyfus Laboratory at the Research Triangle Institute and is also adjunct professor at Duke University. In 1960, one year before Peterlin joined the Dreyfus laboratory, he was head of the Experimental Physics Institute at the Technical University in Munich. Before that, he was professor of physics at the University of Ljubljana for 20 years and also head of the J. Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, which he organized for the Yugoslav Atomic Energy Commission in 1949. His talk at the meeting was on "Plastic Deformation of Crystalline Polymers."

### OSA medals honor Byer and Fastie

Robert L. Byer and William G. Fastie were honored by the Optical Society of America during its spring meeting in April. Byer, assistant professor at Stanford Univer-



BYER

sity, received the Adolph Lomb Medal, and Fastie, adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University, received the David Richardson Medal. bienially to a person who has contributed to optics before reaching the age of 30, cited Byer for his contributions to lasers, laser devices and parametric converters. Byer is presently serving as secretarytreasurer of the Northern Califor-

The Lomb medal, which is awarded



FASTIE

as secretarytreasurer of the Northern California section of OSA. His current research is aimed at generating tunable infrared radiation in the 2-15-micron region. As

an outgrowth of this research, the possibility of using infrared coherent light sources for air-pollution monitoring has been investigated. Byer has also initiated and helped the Stanford Clean Car Club enter and win the 1970 Clean Air Car Race with its alcohol-fueled car.

Fastie was acknowledged for his contribution to optical instrumentation. The Richardson medal is presented annually for contributions to applied optics. Fastie has been involved with optics since 1945, when he began to work for Leeds and Northrup, doing work in thermopile design and directing the development of spectroscopic equipment for spectrochemical analysis. Currently, he is doing research on optics to study geophysical and astrophysical phenomena and aircraft-borne and ground-based spectroscopic observations. He is also making underwater measurements of biological interest.

Mildred S. Dresselhaus, a former solidstate physicist for Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory and currently a professor of electrical engineering at MIT, has been promoted to head of the department of electrical engineering.

Ronald C. Beeh has been appointed director of research and engineering for Packard Instrument Co, a division of AMBAC Industries Inc. He was previously technical consultant to the group vice-president of the electronics and aerospace division at AMBAC.

Joining the research and development staff of Arthur D. Little Inc is **Leonardo Peusner**. Peusner will be involved in biophysical and biomedical research and health-care delivery.

Recently appointed professor and chairman of the department of physics at the University of Nebraska is Leo Sartori, formerly of Massachusetts In-

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stitute of Technology. Other new appointments include Don Taylor, from the Steward Observatory at the University of Arizona, as associate professor and Roger Kirby, from the University of Illinois, as assistant professor. Promoted to associate professor was Robert J. Hardy.

Sandia Laboratories has promoted Jim Powell to supervisor of the laser plasma-physics division.

L. G. Polgar has returned from a year's postdoctoral appointment in the low-temperature group at the Eindhoven

University of Technology to join The Research Corporation of New England as a research scientist in the environmental-sciences division.

At the University of South Florida Stanley R. Deans has been promoted to associate professor, and Robert Gilmore, formerly of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed assistant professor.

Lars Onsager, the winner of the 1968 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, will leave Yale University in September to join the University of Miami Center for Theoretical Studies as Distinguished University Professor.

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### obituaries

### Maria Goeppert Mayer

Maria Goeppert Mayer, 1963 Nobel Prize laureate, died on 20 February. Although her health had been impaired for some time, the news of her death was a shock to her many colleagues and friends, close and more distant. Her modesty, unpretentiousness, charming personality and the sincerity of her interest in her subjects of study endeared her to all.

Mayer was descended from a long line of German scholars; her father was professor of pediatrics at the University of Göttingen. She also spent her student years at the University of Göttingen, with the exception of one year's study in Cambridge, UK. As a student she was popular with teachers and students alike. She also met Joseph Mayer in Göttingen and married him in 1930, the same year she took her PhD degree with Max Born. In 1930, the couple moved to Johns Hopkins University; because of the nepotism regulations of that university, and since her husband was a member of the chemistry department, she was a "volunteer" in the physics department there. The couple moved to Columbia University in 1939 (where similar nepotism rules were in effect). While at Columbia she also taught at Sarah Lawrence College, and during the war she worked on the nuclear-energy project. After the war the Mayers moved to the University of Chicago, and she made a deep imprint on the physics department of that institution as well as on the Argonne National Laboratory where she held the title of senior physicist. It was during this period that she created the shell model for nuclei (independently but almost simultaneously with J. Hans D. Jensen of Heidelberg). In 1960 the couple moved from Chicago to the University of California at San Diego. She was professor in the physics department; her husband, professor of chemistry.

Mayer's scientific work extended over several areas, all of which she contributed to not only by means of origi-



MAYER

nal ideas but also by the lucidity of her exposition and the clarity of the articles (and books) she authored or coauthored. Her first paper, on the probability of the emission of two light quanta in a single atomic transition, is a masterpiece of clarity and concreteness. From the quantum theory of

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