

the physics community

Margaret Burbidge is president-elect of AAS

E. Margaret Burbidge, professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, has been elected president-elect of the American Astronomical Society. She will serve one year as president-elect before succeeding Robert P. Kraft for a two-year term as president of the AAS. In the same election, Donald Osterbrock of Lick Observatory became vice president of the AAS, and the new councillors are Manuel Peinbert (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de



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Mexico), Harlan J. Smith (University of Texas at Austin) and Gert Westerhout (University of Maryland).

Burbidge joined the physics faculty of the University of California, San Diego in 1962. During 1971-72 she was director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the first woman to be named to that post. Her research interests include chemical composition of stars and the synthesis of their elements, extragalactic astronomy and quasars. She was elected vice president of the AAS in 1972.

Graduate-student survey shows better job prospects

Employment opportunities for new PhD's and master's degree holders continued to improve in 1974, reports the 1973-74 survey of graduate students in physics conducted by the American Institute of Physics. The survey supplies

information on the number and distribution of first-year and advanced graduate students, their sources of support, duration of study, employment offers, work activities and salaries. The report also contains data on minorities, women and foreign students.

The survey shows that the employment market for new holders of advanced degrees has improved over the past five years. The percentage of new doctorate and master's degree recipients without job offers has declined steadily. Of those new master's recipients responding to the survey, 16% were without job offers during the summer of 1974 (compared to 18% in 1973), and 3.8% were unemployed six months or more after graduation. Only 6% of those who specified their work activities were involved in nonphysics professional employment. Among new doctorate holders, 9% were without job offers during the summer of 1974, down from 14% the year before. In January 1975 the percentage of those new PhD's seeking employment had dropped to less than 3%. Starting salaries increased 4.6% for masters and 6.2% for PhD's over the previous year.

The total number of graduate students in physics (11 119) has declined 6% from 1972-73, with an 8% decrease in first-year students. Foreign students comprised 23% of first-year graduate students, in contrast with 14% in 1972-73. This percentage increase results from a 10% decrease in American graduate students, rather than a great influx of foreign students.

Women comprised 7% and minority-group students 16.8% of all graduate students. Each minority group apart from American Indians (Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans, Asian Indians and Orientals) reported a higher percentage of women than the graduate students as a whole.

Copies of the survey may be obtained from Susanne Ellis, Manpower Statistics, American Institute of Physics, 335 E. 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Hendee succeeds Ovadia as AAPM president-elect

The new president-elect of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine is William R. Hendee. Hendee, professor of radiology at the University of Colorado Medical Center, succeeds Jacques Ovadia, who has become president of AAPM. Hendee received his PhD from the University of Texas in 1962. His research interests include theoretical and experimental aspects of gamma-ray albedo studies, the physical



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evaluation of imaging technique in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine and the application of ultrasound and transaxial tomographic imaging to cancer therapy.

Douglas John Wright of Geisinger Medical Center was elected secretary of AAPM, and the new treasurer is Alice L. McCrea, assistant professor at Duke University Medical Center.

Acoustical Society takes on standardization duties

To centralize standardization activities for mechanical vibration and shock, the Acoustical Society of America has assumed responsibility for the secretariat of a technical committee specializing in the field—Technical Committee No. 108 on Mechanical Vibration and Shock of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 108). This international committee is the counterpart of the American National Standards Institute Standards Committee S2 on Mechanical Shock and Vibration, which ASA sponsors jointly with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The centralization of domestic and international standardization activities in this field will facilitate the handling of documentation and coordination of the work between national working groups and their international counterparts. Further information on the activities of ISO/TC 108 may be obtained from the ASA Standards Secretariat, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.