

the physics community

New bachelors again see improving job prospects

For the second consecutive year students graduating with bachelor's degrees in physics are enjoying a favorable employment market as salaries climb and the number of job offers and graduate assistantships increases. The percentage of students choosing to go on to graduate study dropped from 55% to 31% during 1966-71 and now appears to be leveling off in the low thirties, leading to a decline in the number of persons with advanced degrees competing for jobs.

This information, as well as data on minority students, fields of graduate study, usefulness of physics training and sources of employment is included in the 12th annual "Survey of Physics Bachelor's Degree Recipients" conducted during the Summer of 1974 by Susanne Ellis of AIP's Manpower Division. Approximately 4700 students received bachelor's degrees during the 1973-74 academic year, a slight drop from the previous year's 4900. Sixty-two percent of these (2897) responded to the survey.

About 25% of the respondents entered graduate schools in areas outside of physics, mainly engineering, followed by astronomy, astrophysics, medicine and other sciences, as well as a sprinkling of various non-scientific fields. Not as many of these students expect to receive teaching assistantships as do physics graduate students—19% versus 63%, and only 76% of the non-physics students are assured this support as opposed to assured assistantships among 90% of the physics graduate students. The students in other disciplines do, however, anticipate more research assistantships than do their physics counterparts—20% compared to 12%.

Of the bachelor's recipients seeking work upon graduation (36%), only 18% had no job offers as opposed to 26% in 1973. Better than half of those employed are involved in industry, the most lucrative choice with median salaries in the range of \$890-\$930 per month. High-school teaching, offering the lowest salaries (around \$665 per month), continues to decline in popularity—only 10% of the 1974 graduates entered this field. The portion choosing civilian government employ and military careers (paying about \$835 per month) jumped from 8% in 1973 to 20% in 1974, the highest it has been in ten years, possibly as a result of the growth of government interest in energy-related research, according to Ellis. In all areas, men and women are receiving very nearly equal pay.

Post-baccalaureate plans and employment opportunities are included for Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexican Americans, Native American Indians, Asian Indians and Orientals.

For free copies of the survey summary report (pub. no. 211.6) as well as for copies of reports from previous years, write Susanne Ellis, AIP Manpower Division, 335 E. 45th St, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Robert Karplus becomes AAPT vice-president

Robert Karplus, professor of physics at the University of California-Berkeley and associate director of the Lawrence Hall of Science, is the new vice-president of AAPT. He took office on 31 January. Karplus is a theoretical physicist, but he is best known for leadership in the development of instructional materials that stimulate the natural curiosity of children about physical phenomena and provide opportunities for them to seek answers through observation and model making. In recent years he has studied the work of Jean Piaget, the noted Swiss learning psychologist, and is now helping other AAPT members to apply new understandings about the development of human learning capacities to high-school and college physics teaching. He has also written a book emphasizing a model-building approach to the study of science which is suitable as an elementary college text.

AAPT procedures call for Karplus to serve in his present capacity for one year, and then to assume the duties of

president-elect, president, and past-president during the subsequent three years. Janet Guernsey, Wellesley College, elected to this sequence of offices two years ago, assumed the duties of AAPT president on 31 January.

James Gerhart of the University of Washington was reelected to a third two-year term as AAPT secretary. The election also determined new members of AAPT boards, councils, and committees. Herbert Gottlieb, chairman of the physical science department at Martin Van Buren High School in Queens Village, New York, will serve for the next three years on the AAPT executive board.

AIP states its policy on replacing missing issues

An increasing number of subscribers are requesting replacement copies of journals published by AIP to make up for issues apparently not received. AIP will honor a request for a missing journal issue only within six months of that issue's actual date of publication. Requests received for missing issues beyond six months of the publication date will not be honored; the issues may, however, be purchased at the single-copy price.

in brief

The board of directors of the Optical Society of America has authorized a new publication, *Optics News*, which will contain abstracts of papers to be presented at OSA meetings, technical articles of general interest and information concerning society members. Two issues are planned for 1975 to coincide with the Spring conference and the annual meeting in the Fall. All OSA members will receive *Optics News* as part of their membership privileges.

Journal of Physics G: Nuclear Physics, a new publication of the (British) Institute of Physics, is scheduled to appear nine times during 1975. The existing *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical, Nuclear and General* will drop "nuclear" from its title and eliminate nuclear topics from its format, and twelve issues will be published in 1975.

The American Nuclear Society has announced the establishment of John W. Simpson Westinghouse Fellowships in Nuclear Engineering. Two \$7000 fellowships will be awarded each year to students in an MS nuclear-engineering program.



KARPLUS