

Becklin receives AAS Pierce Prize

Eric E. Becklin has won the 1975 Newton Lacy Pierce Prize of the American Astronomical Society. The prize is presented annually to an astronomer under 35 years of age for outstanding work during the past five years in instrumentation or observational research. Becklin is scheduled to receive the award on 18 August during the society's annual meeting in San Diego.

He specializes in infrared astronomy, especially radiation from regions of recent star formation and from galactic centers. One of his goals is to learn more about how stars are formed. According to the AAS committee that nominated Becklin for the Pierce Prize, "His facility with instrumentation is not limited to observing at the telescope, but includes design, testing and calibration of a whole observing system."

Becklin is a research associate in physics at the California Institute of Technology (where he earned his doctorate in 1968) and a staff associate at



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Hale Observatories. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the Harvard College Observatory are among his previous employers.

Gold named Luce Professor at Mount Holyoke College

Thomas Gold has been named the first Henry R. Luce Professor of Cosmology at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. This is the first time that the professorship, supported by a five-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, has been awarded to a college for women. Since 1959 Gold has been director of Cornell University's center for radiophysics and space research.

Together with Sir Herman Bondi and Sir Fred Hoyle, Gold originated the theory of continuous creation of matter, a part of the "steady state" theory of cosmology. He has also made contributions in the areas of radioastronomy (he postulated the existence of pulsars), geophysics and biophysics.

Weinberg awarded Heinrich Hertz Prize

Alvin M. Weinberg has been awarded the first Heinrich Hertz Prize for his contributions to the science and tech-

nology of nuclear energy. The award, consisting of a gold plaque and 30 000 Deutsche Mark, will be presented every three years by a foundation established by the Badenwerk-Aktiengesellschaft, a large utility that supplies electricity to southwest Germany.

Weinberg, who has devoted much of his career to the development of nuclear fission, was director of Oak Ridge (now Holifield) National Laboratory during 1955-74. He is also the founder and director of the Institute for Energy Analysis of Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and former head of research and development for the Federal Energy Office.

Murray appointed director of Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Bruce C. Murray has been appointed director of the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He is professor of planetary science at Caltech and an authority on Mars, Mercury and Venus. Murray is now completing scientific descriptions of Venus and Mercury from Mariner 10

data and comparing the surface histories of Mercury, Venus, Mars and the Moon with that of the Earth.

Murray succeeds William H. Pickering, who is retiring after 21 years as head of JPL. Under Pickering's direction JPL designed and built Explorer I, the free world's first satellite, and also designed the Ranger, Surveyor and Mariner spacecraft. Caltech operates JPL, which is nearly 40 years old, for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

1975 Pioneer Award presented to Getting

Ivan A. Getting is the recipient of the 1975 Pioneer Award presented by the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The award honors Getting's outstanding leadership in the development of microwave radar and fire-control systems. He was responsible for development of the first automatic tracking radar, which was used extensively in World War II, and he also worked on a radar-controlled anti-aircraft system for the Navy.

Getting attended Oxford University as a graduate Rhodes Scholar and earned his doctorate in astrophysics in 1935. Since 1960 he has been president of the Aerospace Corporation, a non-profit company that provides engineering and research services to various branches of the US government.

AGU honors Sykes for research in tectonics

Lynn R. Sykes, professor of geology and head of the seismology group at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, has been awarded the 1975 Walter H. Bucher Medal by the American Geophysical Union. The medal is given every two years for "original contributions to the basic knowledge of the earth's crust."

While doing research in the late 1960's, Sykes's group of Lamont-Doherty scientists coined the phrase "the new global tectonics," which applies to their finding that the Earth's crust is composed of several large plates, 60 miles thick, moving in relation to each other. Also an authority on earthquake prediction and detection of underground nuclear explosions, he led the