

the physics community

March wins his second science-writing award

Robert H. March is the only person who has won two of the annual Science Writing Awards in Physics and Astronomy sponsored by the American Institute of Physics and the United States Steel Foundation. A professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin, March was named 1975 winner for his article "The Quandary Over Quarks," published by *Science Year*. (His book *Physics for Poets* earned him the prize in 1971.) AIP Director H. William Koch will present the award to March on Friday, 3 October during the annual meeting of Corporate Associates to be held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

The award—\$1500, a citation and a Moebius strip trophy—is offered in Spring to a journalist and in Fall to a scientist for "noteworthy writing about physics and astronomy in the media of mass communications." Tom Alexander, associate editor of *Fortune* magazine, received the 1975 journalist's award (PHYSICS TODAY, May, page 71).



MARCH

March has been at the University of Wisconsin since 1961. Weak interactions, particularly tests of time reversal invariance, are his major research interest and he is now working on experi-

ments at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

in brief

High-school students may enter astronomy projects in Boston University's competition for Priscilla and Bart Bok Awards. Project reports and an endorsement from the student's science adviser must be submitted by 15 February; winners will be announced on 15 March. For details contact Chairman, Astronomy Department, Boston University, Boston, Mass. 02215.

Rutgers University and Bell Laboratories have renewed for five years a contract that provides for joint research at the university's tandem Van de Graaff accelerator laboratory.

Knowledge, Power and Public Policy, Science Council of Canada Background Study No. 31, is available from Information Canada, Ottawa for \$2.00.

Profile: Jarus Quinn

Service to the membership appears to be Jarus Quinn's motto, and there is every indication that with his assistance as Executive Director, the Optical Society of America is accomplishing this goal. During the past year the society has launched a new publication, has invited other optics-related groups to become associate-member societies and has revamped its events calendar, scheduling a single national meeting each Fall plus a series of topical meetings throughout the year.

What is Quinn's part in developing these activities? He prefers to regard himself as an implementer rather than a framer of policy, and makes it clear that he does not want to be characterized as OSA's driving force, but instead as the person who tackles the job of attaining goals set by the members and leadership. The atmosphere in the society's Washington, D.C. headquarters is one of quiet efficiency and organization. Quinn himself comes across as an astute, no-nonsense sort of person, a firm and yet flexible administrator who understands the needs of OSA's membership and willingly tailors his role to meet those needs. He spends a full day in the Optical Society offices working on meeting arrangements, acting as liaison between the OSA leadership and its technical council and standing committees, and generally taking care of society business. He also publishes and contributes to *Optics News* and is chairman of the American Institute of Physics publishing policy committee.

Society activities revolve around the goal of facilitating communication among researchers in various optics specialties. *Optics News*, an "occasional" publication that carries information on meetings and articles of professional interest, first appeared in February. The second issue, carrying the society's membership directory, came out in the Spring and the third is due around Labor Day. Recently the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers became the first organization to take advantage of OSA's offer of associate membership to optics groups. This status allows SPIE members to participate in many OSA activities and is an expression of OSA's desire to provide a setting for the exchange of ideas. The current meeting schedule is designed to maximize attendance at the national meeting as well as serve the interests of those who attend small topical sessions held throughout the year.

Quinn became Executive Director of OSA in 1969 after spending twelve years in research and teaching at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. During those years he had become increasingly active in the society, and by 1969 was well-versed in its affairs. Also on the staff of the national office at that time was Executive Secretary Mary Wurga, who had set up the office in 1959 (OSA was actually founded in 1916, but had no national office) and had seen the society's membership grow from 200 to 6000 before her retirement in 1972.



There are now more than 7000 members. Quinn attributes this rapid rate of growth to the advent of the laser.

Where is OSA going? To survive in these times of change any professional society must adapt to the shifting needs of its members, and while he considers OSA a dynamic society, Quinn feels that its future course is as open to speculation as that of technology as a whole. Staying flexible is the key. —DG