we hear that

Nielsen wins Bingham Medal

The Society of Rheology has chosen Lawrence E. Nielsen as the 1976 Bingham Medalist. Neilsen is with the corporate research department of Monsanto Co, St Louis, Missouri, where he serves as Distinguished Science Fellow.

Nielsen has spent most of his career studying the relationship between the mechanical properties of high polymers and composite materials to their molecular and colloidal structure. He has also worked on the rheological behavior of concentrated suspensions. His interest in instrumentation led to the development of a torsion pendulum that has been widely used in investigations of the dynamic properties of materials.

Nielsen is the author of *Mechanical Properties of High Polymers*, which was published in 1962. More recently, he has completed a two-volume work entitled, *Mechanical Properties of Polymers and Composites*.

After receiving his PhD in physical chemistry in 1945 from Cornell University, Nielsen joined Monsanto's plastics research laboratory. In 1963 he transferred to the corporate research department, where he holds his current position. He held an affiliate professorship at Washington University, 1965–76.

NIELSEN

The Bingham Medal is presented annually to a resident of North America who has made an outstanding contribution to the science of rheology or who has performed meritorious service to the Society. Nielsen will receive the medal in March at the Society's 47th annual meeting in New York City.

JOHNS

Johns is presented AAPM Coolidge Award

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine has presented the Coolidge Award to Harold E. Johns, who is head of the Ontario Cancer Institute physics division.

The award, which is named for x-ray pioneer William D. Coolidge, recognizes "distinguished careers in medical physics" and consists of a bronze plaque. Johns was cited for his role in the development of the cobalt-60 unit for cancer treatment.

Johns received his doctorate from the University of Toronto in 1939 and later served as a physicist with the Saskatchewan Cancer Commission, 1945–56. He has taught at the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Toronto. He joined the Ontario Cancer Institute in 1956 and, since 1958, he has held a professorship in the University of Toronto department of physics and medical biophysics.

His research interests include the physical basis of radiotherapy, the interaction of radiation with matter and the effects of ultraviolet light on DNA and its components.

Michael M. Holland has joined the fusion division of the General Atomic Co (San Diego, Calif.) as a senior scientist in plasma physics; he was formerly affiliated with the Columbia University physics department.

The Northeastern University physics department has named three new assistant professors—they are **David Johnson** (University of Chicago), **Michael Mallary** (California Institute of Technology) and **Fernando Medina** (Princeton University).

Barney L. Bales, Duane R. Doty, Harbhajan S. Sandhu and **Ryoichi Seki** have all been recently promoted to the rank of professor in the department of physics and astronomy, California State University, Northridge.

The Syracuse University department of physics has announced the appointment of **Edward Lipson** (California Institute of Technology) and **Carl Rosenzweig** (University of California, Berkeley) as assistant professors.

Gerald M. Rothberg has been named head of the department of materials and metallurgical engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J. Rothberg has served as acting head of the department and has also been director of the cryogenics center at Stevens since 1974.

The new chairman of the biophysics research division at the University of Michigan's Institute of Science and Technology is **Samuel Krimm**, professor of physics at the University.

Edward W. Hart, a physicist on the staff of the General Electric Research and Development Center (Schenectady, N.Y.) since 1951, has joined the faculty of Cornell University as professor of mechanics and materials science.

The new director of Yeshiva University's Maxwell R. Maybaum Institute for Material Sciences and Quantum Electronics

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is **Fred H. Pollak,** professor of physics at the University. The Maybaum Institute is a center for research in optics, electronics, lasers, materials and energy-related areas.

At the Colorado School of Mines, **F. Edward Cecil** has joined the faculty as assistant professor of physics.

Newly appointed assistant professors in the Indiana University department of physics are **Steven E. Vigdor** and **Donald H. Weingarten.**

The 1976 Physics Prize of the German Physical Society has been presented to **Werner Lauterborn** (Göttingen University) for his contributions to the understanding of cavitation in liquids.

obituaries

William Nordberg

William Nordberg, director of applications at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, died 3 October 1976 at the age of 46.

A native of Austria, Nordberg earned his PhD at the University at Graz and immigrated to the US in 1953.

Nordberg worked in the meteorology division of the Army Signal Engineering Laboratories until 1959, at which time he went to NASA's Maryland facility to head the physical measurement section in the satellite applications system division. He was appointed chief of the laboratory of meteorology and earth sciences in 1969 and accepted his final post in 1974.

Nordberg was known for his contributions to the remote sensing of Earth and its environment from satellites. Among the honors he received, Nordberg was presented NASA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, in 1975.

John I. Lauritzen Jr

John I. Lauritzen Jr, a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards, died 11 October 1976; he was 50 years old. At the time of his death, Lauritzen was senior scientist in the NBS Institute for Materials Research.

After receiving his doctorate from the California Institute of Technology, Lauritzen joined NBS in 1956 as a physicist in the electricity division at the Institute for Basic Standards. He then worked for the polymers division and, in 1968, he took up a post with the director of the Institute for Materials Research. His research interests included theoretical work on polymer crystallization. □