New APS prize will honor undergraduate work in physics

The Council of The American Physical Society has authorized the establishment of the Apker Award to recognize outstanding achievement in physics by an undergraduate student. The award will be presented annually, beginning with the 1977–78 academic year. Jean Dickey Apker has donated an endowment for the funding of the award as a memorial to her husband, LeRoy Apker, to provide "encouragement to a young physicist who has demonstrated great potential for future scientific accomplishment."

The Apker Award will consist of $2000, a travel allowance to the APS annual meeting where the award will be presented, and a certificate citing the research and the school at which the winner did the work. The winner will be invited to present a paper at an appropriate technical session during the annual meeting. Arrangements for this talk and the award presentation will be made in collaboration with the American Association of Physics Teachers and the Society of Physics Students.

Nominations are open to undergraduate students at US colleges and universities, but only one candidate may be nominated by a physics department. The nomination should include: a letter of nomination from the department head, a copy of the student's academic transcript, a senior thesis, publication or other documentation, including a 1000-word summary written by the student describing the original contribution to physics, and two letters of recommendation from physicists who know the candidate's personal contribution to the work submitted.

William A. Fowler (California Institute of Technology) is chairman of the selection committee; the other members are Nina Byers (University of California, Los Angeles), Joseph A. Burton (APS), David L. Dexter (University of Rochester), Milan D. Fiske (GE, Schenectady, N.Y.), Roger H. Herman (Pennsylvania State University) and J. A. Krumhansl (Cornell University).

Applications and inquiries should be addressed to J. A. Burton, Administrator for the LeRoy Apker Award Program, APS, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 (tel 212 682-7341). The deadline for receipt of applications and nomination materials is 15 June 1978.

The Committee notes that no comparable award for undergraduate achievement is presently known to exist. The award will provide recognition and encouragement to a young physicist when it is most needed. The prize money of $2000 may be used as the winner chooses—for example, to attend a summer physics school or to visit research institutions abroad. Being chosen as one of the four finalists should also be a significant recognition of meritorious work in physics.

LEROY APKER 1915–70

LeRoy Apker was born and educated in Rochester, N.Y. He studied as an undergraduate at the University of Rochester and went on to receive his PhD (1941) for work on the photelectric effect, under the supervision of Lee DuBridge.

He spent the bulk of his professional career at the General Electric Research Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y. (now known as the GE Research and Development Center), where his research interests included nonlinear microwave networks, microwave spectrum analyzers, photoemission and semiconductors. He had joined GE in 1941 and became head of the semiconductor division in 1949. Apker was named the third recipient of the Oliver E. Buckley Solid-State Physics Prize (1955) for his work with Jean Dickey and other colleagues on photoelectric measurements of the band structures of electrons in solids. Apker was on the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of the Physics and Chemistry of Solids* and was a member of the NAS–NRC solid-state advisory panel, 1963–68.

Textile physicists will speak in Miami

As part of this year's activities of the APS Committee on the Applications of Physics, James Parker (American ENKA Co., Enka, N.C.) has organized a special session on "Physics for the Textile Industry," which will be held 21 November, during the general meeting of the Society in Miami. The Committee intends to show that the opportunities and problems encountered in an industrial-research laboratory provide rewards and challenges comparable to those in the academic world. Because industrial-research physicists work on problems that are not only circumscribed by customer specifications, but also required to fit the production scheme of a customer's plant, ingenious solutions to "undoable problems" often result.

Four industrial physicists will present invited papers on the following topics:

- William H. Stewart (Deering Milliken Research Corp, Spartanburg, S.C.): The Development of the Millitron Computer Injection Dyeing Process,
- Robert Van Veld (E.I. DuPont de Nemours, Kinston, N.C.): The Physical Optics of Textiles,
- Charles Boye (Tennessee Eastman Co, Kingsport): Applications of Thermal Analysis in the Fiber and Plastics Industry, and
- Michael Jaffe (Celanese Research Co, Summit, N.J.): Thermal Mechanical Analysis of Fibers. □