

John Dawson receives APS Maxwell plasma-physics prize

The American Physical Society has awarded its James Clerk Maxwell Prize for outstanding efforts in plasma physics to John M. Dawson of the University of California at Los Angeles. The Maxwell Prize consists of \$3500 and a certificate citing the contributions made by the recipient, and has been awarded annually since 1965. The citation recognized Dawson's "contributions to plasma physics and controlled fusion as both an innovative theorist and a prolific inventor, whose ideas have provided the basis for several fusion configurations." The certificate lauded Dawson's use of computer simulation as a new and powerful tool in the study of plasmas, and his role in inspiring and training a group of younger theorists to continue the development of computer simulation.

John Dawson, born in 1930 in Illinois, earned his BS from the University of Maryland in 1952. He remained at the University and received his master's (physics) in 1954, and his PhD (physics)



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in 1956. Upon graduation, Dawson joined the Plasma Physics Laboratory at Princeton University as a research phys-

icist and in 1962 was named senior research physicist there. He served concurrently as associate head (1964) and then head (1966) of the Theoretical Group at the Plasma Physics Laboratory. After 17 years at Princeton, Dawson was appointed to the faculty of UCLA in 1973 and in 1976 was chosen director of the Center for Plasma Physics and Fusion Engineering at UCLA.

A former Chairman of The American Physical Society's Plasma Division in 1971 and elected to the National Academy of Science in 1977, Dawson has received numerous awards and distinctions for his work in plasma physics. He has published extensively on the topics of computer simulation of plasmas, radiation, kinetic theory and transport phenomena associated with plasmas. At the present time Dawson is proposing a number of advanced-concept fusion devices, particularly involving laser-produced plasmas, beam-driven fusion and multipole devices.

German Physical Society honors Walter Thirring

The German Physical Society (Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft) awarded its Max Planck Medal for 1977 to Walter Thirring in Karlsruhe, West Germany last month. Thirring was cited for his outstanding contributions in the fields of relativistic quantum theory and the physics of elementary particles.

Known for his "Thirring model," a model that permits the exact solution of certain equations in relativistic structure, Thirring has also been active in the areas of statistical mechanics and the physics of solids.

Thirring was born in Vienna in 1927 and received his PhD from the University of Vienna in 1949, where he returned to head the Institute for Theoretical Physics in 1959. He was a visiting professor at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies (1953-54), at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1965-57) and at the University of Washington, Seattle (1957-58). Recently Thirring published a book entitled *Textbook for Quantum Mechanics*. His current research focuses on problems

combining quantum mechanics and thermodynamics, such as the stability of systems composed of charged particles.

The Max Planck Medal is awarded annually by the Society for achievements in physics particularly relevant to the work of Max Planck.

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory has announced the appointment of **Harry Dreicer** to head the Laboratory's Controlled Thermonuclear Research Division. Dreicer has been a Los Alamos staff member for 23 years.

William W. N. Yu, who has been a member of the physics department of City College of the City University of New York, has joined Hamamatsu Corp (Middlesex, N.J.) as product line manager.

Adrianus Korpel, formerly director of research in engineering physics at Zenith Radio Corporation has been named professor of information engineering at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

The Argonne National Laboratory has appointed **Charles C. Baker** as director of

the Fusion Power Program. Baker came to Argonne from the General Atomic Company where he was responsible for fusion reactor design.

Former Presidential science adviser and current AAAS president-elect **Edward E. David Jr** has been named president of the Exxon Research and Engineering Co, in Florham Park, New Jersey.

George Gatewood of the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Pittsburgh has been chosen director of the University's Allegheny Observatory. Gatewood succeeds Joost Kiewiet de Jonge in the post; both will continue as faculty members of the recently merged department of physics and astronomy.

Joseph B. Aviles Jr has been named head of the radiation-matter interactions branch of the Naval Research Laboratory's Radiation Technology Division.

The Polish Physical Society has awarded its 1977 Marian Smoluchowski Medal to **Victor F. Weisskopf** in recognition of his "splendid contribution to science." The