

the physics community

Industry lends staff to minority colleges

At the start of the new academic year, engineers and scientists from some of the nation's leading corporations went to work as "visiting professors" at traditionally black colleges and universities. They have begun work there to prepare black and other minority students for professional careers in science, thus helping to increase minority representation in the US technical and scientific community.

Bell Laboratories, International Business Machines and Hewlett-Packard are three companies that have had such programs in existence for several years; IBM's "Faculty Loan Program" starting in 1971, Bell Laboratories's "Visiting Professors" in 1973 and Hewlett-Packard's in 1975.

The Bell program annually assigns six to eight company scientists and engineers to minority institutions. Alex Tillman, supervisor of the program, explained that "the objectives of this program are to encourage student interest in engineering, help design new university courses, assist in curriculum development and bring industrial experience and guidance into the classroom."

Tom Wing, a physicist at Bell Labs, participated in the program the past academic year and worked at Howard University in Washington, DC. In addition to the electronics design course he offered, Wing taught electromagnetic theory and found his industrial background helpful in both. By drawing from problems he encountered in working at Bell, he was better able to illustrate classical textbook situations by using his own experience.

The IBM program, somewhat larger in scope, sends 25 to 30 professionals out each year to teach at minority institutions, including Spanish-American and Native-American colleges and universities. The program participants offer courses in mathematics, physics, computer science and engineering as well as working with the administrations of the individual institutions to set up new laboratory spaces and to develop new courses. Though no physicist has participated in the program this year, D. Dale Kleppinger, physicist and staff engineer at IBM's Burlington, Vermont laboratory, worked at El Paso Community College teaching electricity and technical physics in the 1975-76 academic year.

Hewlett-Packard developed a program that combines the features of a faculty loan project with a concurrent instrument donation plan. Working primarily at Howard University, Southern University, Tuskegee Institute and North Carolina



Industrial physicist Tom Wing illustrates an electronics problem at Howard University. Wing was a participant in the Bell Labs "Visiting Professor" program designed to aid black colleges.

Agricultural and Technical University, Hewlett-Packard scientists and engineers teach mathematics and basic science using the donated equipment in "hands-on" courses involving computer systems

that might be otherwise unavailable.

General Motors operates a faculty-assistance program to aid minority students in fields appropriate to the auto industry.

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OSA elects Smith vice-president

Warren J. Smith, director of research at Infrared Industries in Santa Barbara, California, has been elected vice-president of the Optical Society of America for 1978. Jean M. Bennett, research physicist at Michelson Laboratory, Naval Weapons Center, Stephen A. Benton, senior research scientist with the Polaroid

Corporation and Marlan O. Scully, professor of optical sciences and physics at the University of Arizona have all been elected directors-at-large and will take office 1 January 1978. The Society's election system, initiated in 1976, provides for a four-year progression of elected officers from vice-president to president-elect, president and junior past president. The officer remains on the Board of Directors for the entire term. Smith will succeed Dudley Williams, professor of physics at Kansas State University, who will become president-elect. Emil Wolf of the University of Rochester, the current president-elect, ascends to the presidency and Peter Franken, the director of the Optical Sciences Center of the University of Arizona and president of the society will move on to become the junior past president.

Smith graduated from the University of Rochester's Institute of Optics in 1944 and joined the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In 1946 he became chief optical engineer with the Simpson Optical Manufacturing Company in Chicago. He joined Raytheon's Infrared Optical Section in 1959 and remained until his move to Infrared Industries in 1962. His primary research interests are in the areas of optical design, engineering and fabrication.



SMITH