

the physics community

King is named new AAS president-elect

The new president-elect of the American Astronomical Society is Ivan R. King, professor of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley. He will serve for one year before succeeding E. Margaret Burbidge to a two-year term as president of the Society. Also elected to AAS posts were: Harlan J. Smith (University of Texas, Austin) as vice-president, and Jeremiah P. Ostriker (Princeton University), Vera C. Rubin (Carnegie Institution of Washington) and Elske v. P. Smith (University of Maryland), all as councilors.

King earned his doctorate from Harvard University in 1952 and then took up a position with the Department of Defense, first as a naval officer and then as a civilian employee, until 1956. He was a faculty member of the University of Illinois astronomy department for eight years and has been at Berkeley since 1964. He served as chairman of the astronomy department there, 1967-70. King's research interests, both observational and theoretical, concern the structure of star clusters and galaxies.

Shwe is elected SPS Council president

The Society of Physics Students has elected Hla Shwe to a two-year term as president of the SPS Council. Shwe is professor of physics and dean of the faculty of science at East Stroudsburg State College (Pennsylvania).

Councillors that were elected to serve three-year terms are: William W. Eidson (Drexel University), Rexford Adelberger (Guilford College), Edgar B. Singleton (Bowling Green State University) and Thorsten Stromberg (New Mexico State University).

AIP placement centers draw more industrial employers

An increasing number of industrial employers are offering jobs through Placement Service Centers of the American Institute of Physics, which have been organized at meetings of The American Physical Society.

At the joint annual meeting of the APS and the American Association of Physics Teachers held in New York City in February 1976, five industrial employers were present interviewing for eight openings. By comparison, at this year's meeting in Chicago, 72 positions in industry were advertised by 19 industrial employers. An average of only four such employers



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had been present at these meetings since 1973.

In 1977, for the first time, a Placement Service Center was organized for the APS March Meeting. At this meeting in San Diego, more than 145 positions were listed by industrial, government and nonprofit laboratories; this number represents a significant increase in view of the downward trend of all employment opportunities in physics since 1973. The utilization of the Placement Service by academic employers has remained virtually the same.

Survey shows further drop in physics degrees in 1976

The most recent "Survey of Enrollments and Degrees" in physics and astronomy reports that the number of physics degrees granted at all levels continued to decline in the 1975-76 academic year. There were 746 terminal master's and 1111 doctorate degrees awarded, in comparison with 849 and 1167, respectively, during the previous year.

Information in the survey indicates that, on the undergraduate level, at least 300 of the 5400 senior physics majors have chosen to remain seniors for a fifth year of college.

The survey, which is compiled by the American Institute of Physics Manpower Statistics Division, describes the 1976-77 physics and astronomy enrollments and, for the first time in four years, examines "special courses" that combine introductory physics with art, humanities or day-to-day life.

Copies of the survey (AIP Pub. no. R-

151.14) are available free of charge from AIP Manpower Statistics Division, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

National Science Foundation announces student grants

Among the numerous grants announced this spring by the National Science Foundation, one-half of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Postdoctoral Fellowships in Science were awarded to students in the physical sciences (including mathematics and engineering). The NATO-funded program is administered by the NSF at the request of the US Department of State. For full-time study, the 40 NATO fellows will each receive a stipend of \$10 800 for 12 months or \$8100 for nine months.

Among other financial-support awards to individual science students were the Graduate Fellowships and the National Needs Postdoctoral Fellowships, both supported by the NSF. Of the 550 fellowships given for full-time graduate study, 117 were granted in the physical sciences (physics, chemistry and earth sciences). These fellowships provide for three years of study, or a five-year period of study combined with teaching or research experience. The fellowship stipend consists of \$3900 and a \$3400 education allowance to US institutions.

For demonstrated aptitude and interest in research applied to national needs, 89 young scientists were presented postdoctoral fellowships—of these, 26 were in the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. The postdoctoral fellowship stipend is \$12 000 per year plus an institutional allowance of \$1200.

in brief

The new Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering has been officially established. Limited by statute to 200 members, the Academy currently has 110 members, including most National Academy of Sciences-National Academy of Engineering members residing or working in Connecticut.

A packet of information on the science-court concept is available to colloquia chairpersons and others who wish to plan discussions or seminars about the science court. The packet contains reprints of key papers and a list of possible speakers. For a free copy, write to Thomas P. Sheahan, APS Forum on Physics and Society, Tech-A158, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.