

we hear that

Sir Charles Frank of the University of Bristol has been awarded the first Crystal Growth Award of the American Association for Crystal Growth. The Award, consisting of a ruby crystal and a cash prize, was given to Frank for his outstanding contributions to the field of crystal growth.

First-prize winners of the Gravity Research Foundation Awards for Essays are jointly **R. Brout**, **F. Englert** and **E. Gunzig**, of the University of Brussels. Their essay is entitled *The Causal Universe*.

New assistant professors in the physics department of the University of Oregon

are **James R. Chelikowski**, formerly of Bell Labs, and **David R. Sokoloff**, from the University of Michigan at Dearborn.

All Javan, professor of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been named Francis Wright Davis professor of physics there.

Geoffrey Burbidge will move in Fall 1978 from his position as professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, to become director of the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, Arizona.

The new president of the University of Maryland is **John Toll**, who leaves his former position as president of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

obituaries

William Wright

William E. Wright died at his home in Bethesda, Maryland on 9 March; he was 57 years old. Many readers of *PHYSICS TODAY* will have known him as a dedicated and very effective advocate for basic research. In his 28 years' career in the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation he had received many rewards and recognitions from both agencies.

Wright was born in Illinois and had his early upbringing there. In 1942 he received his BA degree in mathematics from DePauw University, and during World War II he served in the US Naval Reserve. The war's end found him on active duty at the Office of Naval Research, soon to emerge as the first federal agency for across-the-board support of basic research. Upon discharge to inactive duty he went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned a PhD in nuclear physics. This completed, in 1950 Wright rejoined the Nuclear Physics Branch of the Office of Naval Research. There he served successively as Head, Nuclear Physics Branch (1953-62) and as Director, Physical Sciences Division (1962-66).

In 1966 Wright moved to the National Science Foundation as Deputy Director of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. Within that year he became Division Director and served in that capacity and as Director of the Physics Division until last year when he became Senior Planning Officer for the Directorate of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Engineering. He was serving in that post at the time of his death.

If one wished to characterize William Wright in few words, those words would be: integrity, conviction, understanding and good will. He possessed all of these qualities to a remarkable degree. He felt



deeply both the value of basic research and his responsibility toward the citizens and government of the United States. He was completely dedicated to the public interest and to enhancing the contributions made by scientific research to that interest. Moreover, he had an unusually keen and quick understanding of policy issues, and of the needs both of scientists engaged in research and of government officials having responsibility for the use of public funds. He was good at visualizing the probable impact of proposed new policies. Finally, he was much appreciated by his colleagues, because of his unfailing good humor, and—more than that—his genuine goodwill toward all the people in and out of the government with whom he had dealings. Wright will always be remembered by his colleagues as one who recognized that loyalty in a hierarchical organization should extend downward as well as upward, and who acted accordingly.

Wright used all of these qualities to good effect, both in increasing the amount of Federal support available to science

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ASSISTANT ASTRONOMER

The Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii, has a position available for an Observational Infrared Astronomer with some background in instrumentation. The position is full-time, federally funded, to begin approximately October 1978, for one year initially, and annually renewable for at least 3 years dependent on availability of funds. The incumbent will have the responsibility for the development and maintenance of infrared instrumentation and will be required to provide some aid to visiting scientists on the 3-meter Infrared Telescope. The incumbent will also carry out independent research in ground-based infrared astronomy. The position will be located at the Institute for Astronomy in Manoa, but the incumbent will be expected to travel to Mauna Kea at least once a month. Good health is required for work at 14,000 ft. elevation. Minimum qualifications: PhD in Physics and/or Astronomy, and success as a researcher as demonstrated by record of publications. Special preference will be given to candidates with background in planetary infrared observations and their interpretation. Minimum monthly salary \$1284/mo. Applicants should send a curriculum vita (including a list of publications and a statement of research interests) together with the names of at least three references to **Dr. John T. Jefferies, Director, Institute for Astronomy, 2680 Woodlawn Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822** by July 31, 1978.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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and in making that support available to active research workers with the minimum of unnecessary red tape, delay, or irrelevant restriction. This fact will be well known and appreciated by those physicists who have depended upon ONR and NSF for research support during the post-World-War-II period. Wright fought like a lion to preserve administrative flexibility and to defend the use of independent scientific judgment in sponsored research; he fought just as fiercely to foster among researchers a responsible regard for the public interest. He was insistent upon tailoring administrative methods to the desired end results and upon reducing and simplifying bureaucratic procedures.

Such qualities as these made Wright a leader both in ONR and in the NSF. He was able to exert a favorable influence on the way in which the traditions and precedents evolved in these two organizations. Especially in the ONR in the early days of the large accelerators and later, when NSF assumed support of the Materials Research Laboratories, he played an important role in establishing the stylistic approach of these agencies to support of major projects. His was an open, direct style not encumbered by unnecessary formalities—one which constantly placed uppermost the expediting of the actual research work.

This approach served American science in good stead. We have lost a most valuable friend, but let us hope that his good influence will be preserved.

WAYNE R. GRUNER
National Science Foundation

Sunil Kumar Sen

Sunil Kumar Sen, professor of physics at the University of Manitoba since 1961, died in March aged 54.

Sen studied at the University of Calcutta, the city of his birth, receiving BSc, MSc and D.Phil degrees there. His doctorate was awarded in 1951. For the next ten years he worked as a research fellow with accelerator groups in India, England, Germany and Canada. In 1961 he joined the physics department at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg as an assistant professor; he became full professor in 1969 and remained at the university until his sudden and untimely death.

At the University of Manitoba Sen's research work was initially in the field of nuclear spectroscopy, continuing from his previous work with accelerators. By the time of his death he was becoming involved in ESCA and surface physics.

His students will remember Sen for the enthusiasm with which he approached his subject. His lectures were always carefully prepared and his excitement with the subject matter was always present.

Sen's active involvement in science fairs was rewarded in 1977 when the Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba made him an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his services to science education in the province.

In his department, where he has worked so hard and so well, he will be remembered for his enthusiasm, his courteous affability and his sincere concern for the welfare of others.

FREDERICK M. KELLY
University of Manitoba

Mary Wigner

Mary Wheeler Wigner, wife of Eugene Wigner and a physicist herself, died in Princeton last November aged 76.

Mary Wigner was born in 1901 in Vermont and attended Wellesley College, graduating with a BA in 1923. Following a few years teaching at high schools in Delaware and Wisconsin she entered Yale graduate school in 1927. There her PhD in physics was awarded in 1932 for research with Louis W. McKeehan.

Immediately after completion of her PhD, Wigner moved to Vassar College, where she remained a professor of physics until her marriage to Eugene Wigner in 1941. She spent the war years in Chicago, where her husband was involved with the Manhattan Project at Stagg Field.

In later life—after raising their son and daughter—Mary Wigner returned to teaching. She was on the faculty of Douglass College at Rutgers University in New Jersey until she retired in 1964.

Dorothy Gleason

Dorothy G. Gleason died on 8 April at the age of 61. She had served as executive secretary to the successive directors of the American Institute of Physics for 15 years; Elmer Hutchisson, Ralph Sawyer (acting director), Van Zandt Williams,



and since the end of 1966, H. William Koch.

Gleason was well known to the many physicists who dealt with the Director's office over the years. In addition, she was a familiar face working at the placement service held during many physics meetings. The AIP Placement Supervisor, Margot Breslaw, was her friend. Last year after Breslaw's death, Gleason became Placement Supervisor, a job she held until her death.

Before joining AIP, Gleason was employed by Tectron, Inc, Burlington Industries, Eagle Pencil Co. and James Talcott Inc.

Gleason was a dedicated opera and theater goer, music lover and visitor to art exhibits, and active in the League of Women Voters. She was a concerned, considerate and loving friend.

Detlef Matz

Detlef Matz, professor of physics at Université de Montréal, died suddenly on 9 April at the age of 41.

Matz was born in the small town of Berlinchen, then in Brandenburg, Germany but since 1945 in Poland—the town's name having been changed to Barlinek. He studied physics and mathematics at the University of British Columbia, and earned a PhD degree from McGill University in 1962. From 1962 to 1964 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois, and he was employed at the Eastman Kodak Research Laboratory in Rochester from 1964 to 1972, first as a senior physicist, then a research associate and finally as a group leader. In 1972 he came to Université de Montréal as associate professor of physics, and he became a full professor in 1977.

A solid-state theorist, Matz had worked on the large polaron problem and on non-ohmic transport. His work was characterized by a constant preoccupation with the fundamental aspects of the problem being considered; both before coming to Montreal and with his students and collaborators here he made significant contributions to the theory of the large polaron. It is a tribute to him that, in his short tenure at the Université, no less than three of his students obtained a PhD, and twice that many obtained their master's degree.

Notwithstanding the painful and crippling physical symptoms he experienced for the last three years, he still managed to retain his equanimity and sense of humor, all the while maintaining his work output under these trying conditions. His untimely death has cut short an active and productive scientific career and has saddened all his friends at Université de Montréal, colleagues and students alike.

JACQUES DESTRY
Université de Montréal □