

we hear that

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 □