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Astronomical Society of the Pacific presents awards

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific recently presented two awards for major contributions to the field of astronomy. The Society selected Hendrik C. van de Hulst, professor and director of the Leiden University Observatory, as the 1978 Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medalist and Patrick Moore, a noted British media personality, winner of the 1978 Dorothea Klumpke–Roberts Award.

Van de Hulst, who received the gold medal "for distinguished services to astronomy," earned his PhD in 1946 at the University of Utrecht. In 1944 van de Hulst predicted that there should be a change in energy, due to the reversal of the spin of the electron in the ground state of neutral hydrogen, which would result in a 21-cm spectral line from interstellar clouds of atomic hydrogen. In 1951, while van de Hulst was a visiting professor at Harvard University, the 21-cm radiation was detected there by Edward Purcell and Harold Ewen. Van de Hulst, Jan Oort and C. A. Muller conducted a systematic study of the profile of the 21-cm line in the galactic plane that provided the first clear picture of the detailed spiral structure of the galaxy.

Van de Hulst's other research interests have included magnetic fields and polarization, interstellar particles, gamma-ray and infrared astronomy, and light-scattering problems of the solar corona, the zodiacal light and the Earth's atmosphere.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's van de Hulst became involved in the planning of European participation in space research. He was especially active during the formative years of COSPAR, the Committee for Space Research. He served as president of COSPAR for four years beginning in 1958. Later he also assisted the development of the European Space Research Organization and served as chairman of the ESRO council.

Moore received the Klumpke–Roberts Award for "special contributions to enhancing public education in astronomy." Since the early 1950's he has been a freelance writer and has written, edited or translated more than 100 books, mostly about astronomy. Since 1957 he has been broadcasting a monthly television show produced by the BBC called "The Sky at Night," in which he discusses a wide range of topics from the history of astronomy to modern astrophysics. Moore has also been involved in the affairs of the British Astronomical Association and in 1965–68 served as director of the Armagh Planetarium in Northern Ireland.

Tape wins Nuclear Statesman Award

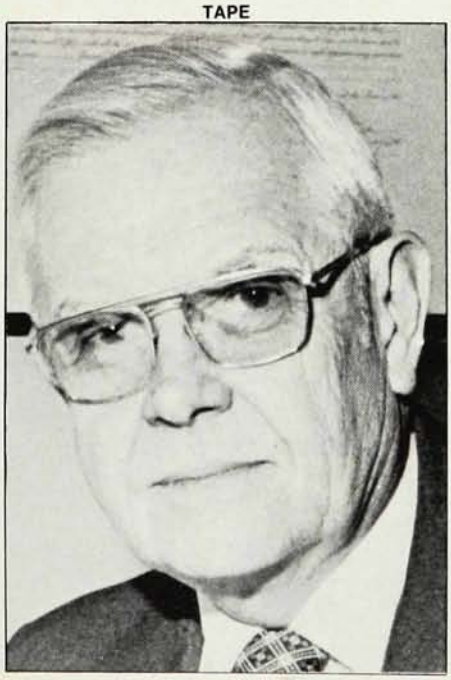
Gerald F. Tape, president of Associated Universities, Inc. and former US ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, was presented the Henry DeWolf Smyth Nuclear Statesman Award of the Atomic Industrial Forum and the American Nuclear Society. Established by the AIF and ANS in 1972, the award recognizes outstanding service in developing and guiding the uses of atomic energy in constructive channels. Tape was cited for "a reputation as a tireless worker for the policies and programs that would provide the benefits of atomic energy to all peoples of the world."

Tape is the fourth recipient of the award, named for the pioneer nuclear scientist, policymaker and diplomat.

Tape received his masters and PhD in physics in 1936 and 1940, respectively, from the University of Michigan. He was a staff member at the MIT radiation laboratory from 1942 to 1946, and on the faculty of the University of Illinois from 1946 to 1950. In 1950, he became associated with Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he served as deputy director from 1951 to 1962. In 1962 he was named vice president, and later that year, president of Associated Universities, a group of Northeastern universities that operates Brookhaven National Laboratory for the Department of Energy and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory for the National Science Foundation.

In 1963 Tape was nominated by President Kennedy to fill an unexpired term as a member of the US Atomic Energy Commission. He was reappointed in 1966 by President Johnson. In 1969 he resigned from the AEC to return to the presidency of Associated Universities. Less than three years later, President Nixon appointed him as US ambassador to the IAEA, a post he held until 1977, while continuing as president of AUI.

TAPE



New York Academy honors two physicists

Among the awards presented at the 161st annual meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences last December were the A. Cressy Morrison Award to Peter Rentzepis and the NYAS Award in Physical and Mathematical Sciences to Michael E. Fisher.

Rentzepis, head of the physical and inorganic research department at Bell Labs, won the Morrison Award, which consists of a certificate of citation and $1500, for his contributions in the field of picosecond spectroscopy.

Educated at Dennison, Syracuse and Cambridge Universities, Rentzepis became a member of the technical staff of the General Electric Research Laborato-