

the physics community

AAS elects Frank Kerr as a vice-president

Frank J. Kerr, professor of astronomy at the University of Maryland, has been elected to a two-year term as vice-president of the American Astronomical Society. He will take office 17 June and serve with George Wallerstein (University of Washington), who has been a vice president for one year and will serve for another. New councillors chosen in the same election are Stephen E. Strom (Kitt Peak National Observatory), Richard McCray (University of Colorado and the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics) and Daniel Weedman (Pennsylvania State University, on leave from Vanderbilt University). In addition, Arlo Landolt of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge was voted in as society secretary.

Kerr, a radio astronomer, also serves as acting provost of the division of mathematics and physical science and engineering at Maryland. He received a BSc (1938), an MSc (1940) and a DSc in astronomy (1962) from the University of Melbourne. Harvard University granted Kerr an MA in 1951. From 1940 to 1968 he held various positions in the Division of Radiophysics of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia. Kerr joined the Maryland faculty in 1968.

Johnson is president of noise-control institute

John C. Johnson, professor of engineering research and director of the Applied Research Laboratory at Pennsylvania State University, became president of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering of the USA in January. The INCE/USA is a professional society established in 1971 "to advance the technology of noise control with particular emphasis on engineering solutions to noise problems." In addition to sponsoring an International Conference on Noise Control Engineering during even-numbered years, INCE/USA lends support to conferences sponsored by the International Institute for Noise Control Engineering, of which INCE/USA and the Acoustical Society of America are members.

Taylor wins new Heineman Prize for astrophysics

Joseph H. Taylor Jr, professor of astronomy at the University of Massachusetts, will receive the first Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics. The new joint American Institute of Physics-American



TAYLOR

Astronomical Society annual award will be presented to Taylor at the June meeting of the AAS in College Park, Maryland. The \$5000 prize recognizes Taylor's contributions to astrophysics, especially his discoveries of new pulsars, his studies of pulsar radiation and their distribution among the galaxies, and his utilization of pulsar data "to elucidate some of the most fundamental of physical laws." (PHYSICS TODAY, May 1979, page 19)

Taylor received a BA in 1963 from Haverford College. Five years afterwards, he earned a doctorate in astronomy from Harvard University. Taylor remained at Harvard as a lecturer and research associate for a year and then joined the University of Massachusetts.

Funding for this award has been provided by the Heineman Foundation for Research, Educational, Charitable and Scientific Purposes on a similar basis to that for the long-standing AIP-American Physical Society Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics. Dannie N. Heineman was an American engineer and philanthropist who spent most of his career in Belgium as head of SOFINA, an engineering management and holding company that played an important role in the development and management of public utilities in Europe, the Near East and in Central and South America.

7% more foreign grad students this year

The percentage of foreign graduate students enrolled in US physics departments has grown from 25% to 32% over the last academic year; the 7% increase came to light in a survey conducted in October by the AIP Manpower Statistics Division.

The development appears directly re-

lated to problems physics graduate schools have had in filling their ranks recently. With the number of first-year graduate physics positions remaining constant at approximately 2100, the 130 additional foreign students who were accepted may have covered the now annual shortfall in enrollment. Department chairmen appear to have overcome fears about the quality of foreign students, who in many cases are handicapped by language problems or less rigorous academic preparation. It should be noted that though foreign students take longer on the average to finish their studies, their overall attrition rate is lower than that of Americans.

The survey report is available from Susanne D. Ellis, AIP Manpower Statistics Division, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

AIP and AAAS to assist handicapped scientists

In an effort to find ways to assist physically handicapped persons with their science and engineering careers, the American Institute of Physics in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is requesting disabled engineers and scientists to identify themselves so that they may be consulted for help. If you are a handicapped engineer or scientist, send your name, address and telephone number to Beverly Citrynell, Supervisor, Manpower Placement Service, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. The forwarded information will be shared with the AAAS Project on the Handicapped in Science. The project will not use the names of respondents without permission.

in brief

A report titled *Climbing the Academic Ladder: Doctoral Women Scientists in Academe* is available for \$8.00 from Office of Publications, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

A major program on the history of solid-state physics—from its emergence in the 1930's to its spread into industry in the 1950's—is now being organized. Fund-raising activities, led by Frederick Seitz, John Bardeen and the Friends of the AIP Center for the History of Physics, are underway. For more information contact the AIP Center for the History of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. □