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his empirical approach to similar problems, which allow the prediction of a number of properties, especially of a thermodynamic nature, that are in surprising agreement with experiment.

Yash Pal selected for Marconi Fellowship

Yash Pal, director of the Space Applications Centre of the Indian Space Research Organization, will be awarded the 6th Marconi International Fellowship in October. Pal will be honored for his work on the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment in India, a project carried out in conjunction with NASA using the ATS-6 satellite. The object of SITE was to bring educational television to rural Indian villagers. Pal helped design the hardware for the project as well as the television programming broadcast to the villagers.

Pal earned his doctoral degree from MIT in 1958. In addition to his position at the Space Applications Centre, he is professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

The Marconi Fellowship was established in 1974 on the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's birth. It includes a \$25 000 grant to enable the recipient to undertake or complete "a project that will benefit mankind."

Vaucouleurs receives Herschel Medal

Gerard de Vaucouleurs, professor of astronomy at the University of Texas at Austin, has been awarded the Herschel Medal by the Royal Astronomical Society of London. The medal is named for Sir William Herschel, an

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18th-century English astronomer who discovered the planet Uranus, among other achievements.

The Society cited de Vaucouleurs for his contributions to extragalactic astronomy, in particular for his demonstration of the existence of the supergalaxy. De Vaucouleurs earned a BSc (1936), a Lic es sci (1939), and a D Univ (1949) from the University of Paris. In 1957, the Australian National University awarded him a DSc degree. De Vaucouleurs has held positions with the Institute for Astrophysics, National Center for Scientific Research, France, the Yale-Columbia Southern Station, Australia, the Lowell Observatory and the Harvard College Observatory. He became a member of the Austin faculty in 1960.

W. G. Mayer is Humboldt Award winner

Walter G. Mayer, professor of physics at Georgetown University has been named recipient of a Humboldt Senior US Scientist Award in recognition of his accomplishments in research and teaching. The DM 60 000 award, which is sponsored by the West German Government and supervised by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, enables Mayer to spend a year in the Federal Republic of Germany to do research of his choice. He has elected to study various topics in ultrasonics and physical acoustics at the University of Saarland.

Mayer received a bachelor's degree from Hope College, Holland, Michigan (1953) and a doctoral degree in physics from Michigan State University (1958). He worked at the Siemens Research Laboratory in Erlangen, Federal Republic of Germany and Michigan State before he joined the Georgetown faculty in 1965. Mayer's research has concentrated on the measurements of ultrasonic wave characteristics by optical methods, the application of ultrasonics to the solid and liquid state, surface and interfacial waves and nonlinear acoustics.

John B. Pendry named E. W. Muller Lecturer

The E. W. Muller Lectureship for 1980 has been awarded to John B. Pendry, head of the theory group at Daresbury Laboratory, Science Research Council, Warrington, UK. Established by the Laboratory for Surface Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 1978, the Lectureship is named for the late E. W. Muller, a surface physicist who invented the field electron and ion microscopes and the atom probe. It is awarded annually to a scientist who

performs "outstanding achievements in surface studies."

Pendry received his PhD from Cambridge University in 1965. He is an authority on the theory of low-energy electron diffraction. Pendry will teach a course on the quantum mechanics of solid surfaces during the 1980 summer session at Wisconsin.

Physicists elected to AAA&S membership

Among the 79 scholars, scientists, public figures and artists who were elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in May are the following physicists and scientists working in physics-related fields:

Allan M. Cormack, professor of physics, Tufts University; Jerome I. Friedman, professor of physics, MIT; Ivan R. King, professor of astronomy, University of California, Berkeley; Joaquin M. Luttinger, professor of physics, Columbia University; Alfred O. C. Nier, Regents' Professor of Physics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; David Pines, professor of physics and electrical engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana; David A. Shirley, director, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and professor of chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, and John H. Sinfelt, senior science advisor and head of the heterogeneous catalysis research group, Exxon Research and Engineering Co, Linden, N.J.

The Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction was presented to **Douglas R. Hofstadter**, assistant professor at Indiana University. He was honored for his book, *Godel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid*.

Francis E. Low, Karl Taylor Compton Professor of Physics at MIT, has been appointed Provost of the Institute.

Leonard J. Nugent has been selected to serve as the vice-president of engineering at Diablo Industries, San Jose, California.

Eric S. Beckford has taken the newly-created position of deputy director for science and technology at Argonne National Laboratory. He was previously director of the division of nuclear power development in the Department of Energy.

The 1979 Washington Academy of Sciences Award in Physical Sciences has been presented to **E. Joseph Friebele**, research physicist at the Optical Sciences division of the Naval Research Laboratory.