AAS 1981 awards to go to Giacconi, Press, Margon

GIACCONI

PRESS

MARGON

The American Astronomical Society has selected the 1981 winners of its awards, which will be presented at its January meeting next year in Boulder, Colorado.

Riccardo Giacconi is the winner of the Henry Russell Lectureship. Professor of astronomy at Harvard and Associate Director, High Energy Division, the Harvard/Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, he is cited as "a distinguished astrophysicist who has had a major impact on x-ray astronomy."

"Giacconi led the group which designed the UHURU satellite, used it to discover a few hundred new x-ray sources and studied many of these sources in detail. His work put the classification of x-ray sources on a sound footing and elucidated the properties of compact objects in binary orbits. He and his group designed the Einstein Observatory, launched in 1978, which gives unprecedented angular resolution for the x-ray sky. Their observations have already shed light on flare activity in normal stars, on galaxy-gas interaction in clusters and on the relation of quasars to the diffuse x-ray background."

Giacconi, who will receive $500, is also the winner of the Dannie Heineman Prize in Astrophysics awarded by AAS and AIP (see page 76).

William H. Press, professor of astronomy and physics at Harvard, will receive the society's Helen B. Warner Prize, awarded to a North American astronomer under 35 years old. Press will receive the $1000 prize "in recognition of his important theoretical contributions to relativistic astrophysics and cosmology. His work includes a fundamental investigation of the stability of the Kerr metric, a significant discussion of gravitational lensing by cosmological objects, seminal studies of the development of fluctuations in cosmologies, a careful analysis of the formation of close binaries by tidal capture, a novel investigation of the development of an acoustic instability in interstellar clouds, and a path-breaking analysis of the role of strong hydrodynamic phenomena in radiatively stable stellar interiors."

Press received an AB from Harvard in 1969 and from Caltech an MS in 1971 and a PhD in physics in 1972 He was assistant professor at Caltech (1972–73) and at Princeton (1974–76). Since 1976 he has been at Harvard.

The Society is awarding the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize, which includes $1000, to Bruce Margon, associate professor of astronomy at the University of Washington. The prize goes to a North American astronomer under 35 years old for outstanding achievement in observational research based on measurements of radiation.

Margon is recognized "for his unique contributions to our current understanding of cosmic x-ray sources. He has carried out energetic and innovative observational studies of the far ultraviolet radiation from nearby stars and the optical counterparts of x-ray emitting quasars, galaxies, and binary stellar systems. Of special importance has been Margon's discovery of the bizarre nature of [the star] SS433 and his vigorous leadership in the pursuit of a comprehensive observational picture of this project."

Margon was educated at Columbia University (AB, 1968) and the University of California at Berkeley (MA, 1971; PhD in astronomy, 1973). He worked at Berkeley as a research astronomer (1974–76) and as an assistant professor (1976–78). In 1978 he became associate professor of astronomy at the University of California at Los Angeles. His present position, at the University of Washington, began in 1980.

Acoustic Society presents 1981 Gold Medal to Olson

The Acoustical Society of America will award Harry F. Olson its 1981 Gold Medal "for his innovative and lasting contributions in acoustic transduction,