we hear that

NAS chooses new members and foreign associates

The National Academy of Sciences elected 60 new members on 28 April.

Physicists among them are Bruce M. Alberts, professor and vice chairman, department of biochemistry and biophysics, University of California, San Francisco; George B. Benedek, professor of physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; William B. Bridges, professor, department of electrical and applied physics, California Institute of Technology; Edward A. Frieman, associate director, plasma physics laboratory, Princeton University; Robert Gomer, director, The James Franck Institute, University of Chicago; Stephen E. Harris, professor of electrical engineering and applied physics, Edward L. Ginzton Laboratory, Stanford University; Theodore D. Holstein, professor of physics, University of California, Los Angeles; Donald M. Hunten, professor of planetary sciences, University of Arizona; Robert T. Jones, senior staff scientist, NASA Ames Research Center; Boyce D. McDaniel, director, laboratory of nuclear studies, Cornell University; Dimitri Mihalas, senior scientist, High Altitude Observatory, Boulder, Colorado; Martin L. Perl, professor, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center; James R. Rice, professor of theoretical and applied mechanics, Brown University; Vera C. Rubin, staff member, department of terrestrial magnetism, Carnegie Institution; Joseph H. Taylor Jr, professor, department of physics and astronomy, University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Among 12 new foreign associates are the following physicists: Vitalii L. Ginzburg, head, department of theoretical physics, Lebedev Institute, Moscow, USSR; Mark Grigor'evich Krein, professor of mathematical physics and mechanics (retired), Odessa Institute of Civil Engineering, Odessa, USSR; Cesar Milstein, head, protein chemistry subdivision, Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK (Argentina); Peter John Wyllie, professor and chairman, department of geophysical sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago (UK).

Giacconi, Kron, Thomsen, Alcock win ASP prizes

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific has selected the 1981 winners of its awards.

Riccardo Giacconi is the recipient of the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Medal for his outstanding contributions to the field of x-ray astronomy. "Since the early 1960s Giacconi and his collaborators have been at the forefront of the study of x rays from space and in the design of new instruments and satellites for their detection."

Giacconi received his PhD degree in physics in 1954 from the University of Milan. He was assistant professor there 1954–56, research associate at Indiana University 1956–58 and at Princeton University 1958–59, Executive Vice-President at American Science and Engineering 1959–73. Since 1973 he has been professor of astronomy at Harvard and Associate Director of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the Harvard/Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Richard Kron, assistant professor of astronomy and astrophysics of the University of Chicago, is the winner of the Robert J. Trumpler Prize given each year for an outstanding PhD thesis in astronomy. Kron's dissertation, done at the University of California at Berkeley, developed an automated system for measuring the numbers, brightness and colors of faint galaxies and applied it to 20 000 galaxies.

He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona in 1972 and his PhD in 1978.

Dietrick Thomsen has won the Dorothea Klumpke-Roberts Award, which is presented each year for outstanding contributions to the public understanding of astronomy. Thomsen, currently the Physical Science Editor of *Science News* magazine, previously worked at PHYSICS TODAY and on the McGraw-Hill *Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*.

George E. Alcock is the winner of the Amateur Achievement Award. Alcock, a retired schoolteacher in Cambridgeshire, England, has discovered four comets and four novae. Having memorized the positions of about 30 000 stars and 500 nebulae, he can quickly spot transient phenomena such as comets. His early observations of meteors helped confirm the view that meteors are part of the solar system.

Moench wins Schottky Visiting Professorship

Winfried Moench, professor of physics at the University of Duisburg, FRG, has been selected to be the first recipient of the Walter Schottky Visiting Professorship in Materials Science at Stanford University.

The Volkswagen Foundation, a nonprofit science foundation situated in Hannover, established the chair. Named after one of Germany's distinguished solid-state scientists, it will be awarded to honor German materials scientists. Recipients will spend from six to twelve months at Stanford pursuing research of their choosing.

Moench received his PhD in physics from the University of Goettingen. After spending three years at the AEG industrial lab, he joined the Technical University in Aachen. In 1975 he became professor of physics at the University of Duisburg, where he directs the solid-state physics laboratory. His work has been on semiconductor surface analysis.

Royal Society elects new fellows, foreign members

This spring the (British) Royal Society elected new fellows. Physicists among them are John Adair Barker, research staff of International Business Machines, California; Peter Bradshaw, professor of experimental aerodynamics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London; Ian Butterworth, professor of high-en-