

Slaughter resigns as NSF director

John B. Slaughter, director of the National Science Foundation, will resign to assume an administrative position at the University of Maryland. John S. Toll, President of the University, announced that Slaughter will become both Vice Chancellor of the College Park campus of the University and a professor of electrical engineering, effective on or about 15 January 1983.

Slaughter will succeed Robert L. Gluckstern, who returned to his position as professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy this summer.

After graduating from the Kansas State University and the University of California, Los Angeles, Slaughter ob-

tained his PhD from the University of California, San Diego, in 1971. From 1960 to 1975 he served as head of the Information Systems Technology Department at the Naval Electronics Laboratory Center. In 1975 he joined the staff at the University of Washington as a professor of electrical engineering and director of the Applied Physics Laboratory. In 1977 Slaughter was appointed assistant director for astronomical, atmospheric, earth and ocean sciences at NSF. From 1979 to 1980 he served as academic vice president and provost of Washington State University, before returning to NSF as director in 1980.

and a certificate, at the annual meeting of the AIP Corporate Associates at Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 14-16 October.

Chretien fund for observational astronomy

The American Astronomical Society has established a fund to support international observational astronomy. Named for Henri Chretien, originator of the Ritchey-Chretien telescope design, the fund will dispense \$20 000 a year to support one or more individuals or groups around the world. Funds come from an anonymous donor. Arthur Hoag, Lowell Observatory, is the chairman of the selection committee. Inquiries, which should be submitted by 1 April for September grants, should be sent to the AAS Executive Office, 1816 Jefferson Pl. N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Laser history project begins

An ambitious project to explore and document the history of lasers was started in August; it is directed by Joan Bromberg, a historian of science and technology. The American Physical Society, the Laser Institute of America, the Optical Society of America, and the Quantum Electronics and Applications Society of the IEEE will support the project initially with contributions of \$10 000 each. Western Electric has also offered support. An advisory committee will have representatives of the contributing societies and archivists and historians from the AIP Center for the History of Physics and the IEEE Center for the History of Electrical Engineering. Arthur H. Guenther, of the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, will head this committee.

The first step of the project will be a survey to identify the most prominent individuals, laboratories and firms in the history of the laser. People and institutions so identified will be asked what material has been collected so far and who should be interviewed. After a series of exploratory interviews, formal interviews will be conducted, edited and catalogued. Also, items will be selected for photocopying as part of an overall plan for the deposition of documents and other materials.

Depending on how much money is raised through grants and contributions, three additional projects are anticipated: Video tapes may be made of seminal researchers, whenever possible in the labs and with the equipment they used in their work; a traveling exhibit will be assembled to inform the public about the technology on the 25th anniversary of the first operating la-

sers, which will occur in 1985; a historical monograph of 100-150 pages will be produced, with selections from the interviews and photographs from the assembled archives.

Pagels wins AIP-US Steel science-writing award

Heinz R. Pagels, associate professor of physics at Rockefeller University, is the 1982 winner of the American Institute of Physics-United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award to a scientist for his book *The Cosmic Code: Quantum Physics as the Language of Nature*.

Pagels, educated at Princeton University (AB 1960) and Stanford University (PhD in physics 1965) has worked since 1966 at Rockefeller University as a particle theorist. He is scheduled to receive the award, which involves a prize of \$1500, a Moebius strip trophy

the physics community

Acoustical Society sponsors Congressional Science Fellow

The Acoustical Society of America is renewing its sponsorship of a Congressional Science fellowship for the year beginning 1 September 1983. The fellowship, first awarded for 1977-1978, had not been granted for the years from 1979-1980 to 1982-1983.

The fellow chosen will be one of 25 selected by various scientific and engineering societies and will work as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or of a Congressional committee. The position, fulltime, entails a stipend of \$24 000.

Applicants, members of ASA with PhD or DSc degrees, must apply by 31 January. Information may be obtained from Betty Goodfriend, ASA, 335 East 45th Street, NY 10017.

McDonnell-Douglas funds Missouri fusion facility

The University of Missouri, Columbia, will employ a \$1-million gift from the McDonnell-Douglas Foundation to establish a fusion engineering education and research facility. The University, which must find matching funds for the gift, is using the initial investment to transport equipment, plan the construction of a building to house the facility and recondition two 1.5-ton, 5-tesla superconducting magnets recently purchased from NASA surplus. Researchers will use the facility to study ring stabilization of plasma, radiation shielding, and the effects of radiation on materials and on human health. □



PAGELS