

Hall becomes director of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy

This spring Donald N. B. Hall assumed the directorship of the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy. Hall succeeds John T. Jefferies, director of the Institute from its inception in 1967 until his departure last August.

Hall earned a BSc in physics from the University of Sydney (Australia) in 1966 and a PhD in astronomy from Harvard in 1970. He comes to Hawaii from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, where he has been deputy director. Before that Hall had been at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, Arizona. While at Kitt Peak, he held a wide range of administrative posts and headed a number of major projects, among them setting up of the National New Technology Telescope program. Hall's current research interests include the earliest stages of star formation, the processes taking place at the very center of the Galaxy, and the possibility of planets orbiting stars other than the Sun.

The Institute for Astronomy, which has headquarters on the Manoa campus of the University of Hawaii, operates observatories on Mauna Kea and Haleakala. Planetary, stellar, extragalactic and infrared studies are carried out on Mauna Kea with the University's 88-inch optical telescope and the NASA-funded, University-operated 120-inch Infrared Telescope Facility.

Second grant to Caltech for 'Mechanical Universe'

The Annenberg School of Communications (through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting) is awarding \$2.85 million to Caltech to conclude a one-year college-level television course, "The Mechanical Universe." An earlier \$1-million grant enabled Caltech to develop 26 half-hour programs in mechanics (PHYSICS TODAY, December 1982, page 56). The new grant will fund 34 programs covering electricity and magnetism, relativity, waves and optics, thermal physics and modern physics. Project director is Richard Glenick, who is on leave from the University of Dallas.

Westinghouse funds new optics center at Carnegie-Mellon

A Center of Excellence in Optical Data Processing at Carnegie-Mellon University started operations in February. Westinghouse Electric Corporation provided \$1 million to establish the center.

The center, headed by David Casasent, George Westinghouse Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at CMU, conducts research on the use of optical principles in computing.

According to Daniel R. Muss, of the Westinghouse Research and Development Center, his company's goal in establishing the center is to foster cooperative arrangements between Westinghouse and CMU (both located in Pittsburgh) on optical computing.

The center, with its own VAX computer, radiofrequency equipment, lasers, acousto-optic cells and image processing computers, will not duplicate facilities available at Westinghouse, according to Casasent. He adds that while optics research centers exist at several other universities, the CMU center is the only one focusing on optical data processing.

Institute of Physics to publish journal on quantum gravity

Classical and Quantum Gravity is a new journal published by the Institute of Physics (London); the first issue is dated January 1984. Edited by M. A. H. MacCallum of Queen Mary College, London, the bimonthly is publishing research papers and letters on gravity, geometry of field theories, cosmology and supergravity. The IOP *Journal of Physics A: Mathematics and General* previously carried papers on these topics. North American subscriptions are available for \$115 per year (\$93 on microfiche) through the North American distributor, AIP Marketing Services, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

AAPT to move to University of Maryland this summer

The American Association of Physics Teachers is moving its executive offices to the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Maryland at College Park. Jack Wilson, executive officer of the Association, will accept a part-time joint appointment to the department and to the Science Teaching Center of the University's College of Education. The move will take place this summer.

Wilson explained that the Maryland campus is attractive to AAPT because the Department of Physics and Astronomy is a large one, active in physics research and involved in support for physics teaching. The proximity of the University to Washington, D.C., is a great advantage because it will facilitate AAPT's interaction with other science associations and participation

in the many meetings and programs that take place there.

The Association's Executive Board decided on 2 February to accept the offer from Edward F. Redish, chairman of the Maryland Department of Physics and Astronomy. The move will end a twelve-year residence of AAPT at the State University of New York campus at Stony Brook.

Richard Waring reelected Sigma Pi Sigma president

Richard C. Waring, associate professor at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, has been reelected for a second two-year term as president of Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society within the Society of Physics Students.

In the same election, the following faculty members were elected to the SPS National Council: Peggy A. Dixon (Montgomery College), who previously served on the Council, Russell L. Palma (Sam Houston State University), Marie E. Machacek (Northeastern University) and Reuben J. James (SUNY College, Oneonta).

Science writer Tierney wins AIP-US Steel Foundation prize

John Tierney, a staff writer for *Science* 84, is the 1984 journalist winner of the AIP-US Steel Foundation Science Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. His winning article, "Perpetual Commotion," appeared in the May issue of *Science* 83 magazine.

Tierney received a check for \$1500 and a mounted Moebius strip at a luncheon held during the APS Spring Meeting in April.

Tierney, at the magazine since 1980, previously worked at *The Washington Star*, *The Record* (in Bergen County, New Jersey) and the *Pittsburgh Press*. His article describes attempts from the 17th century to the present to build self-sustaining devices; he also explains the physics of their impossibility.

in brief

Spain rejoined CERN at the end of 1983, becoming the 13th member. The conditions of its membership were set out in June 1982, when the CERN council unanimously agreed to the readmission. Spain had been a member nation of CERN from 1961 to 1968, when it resigned, unable to afford its share of the CERN budget (PHYSICS TODAY, May 1982, page 23).