

year. The three institutions that started to offer doctoral degrees in 1984-85 are Hunter College of the City University of New York, Maharishi International University in Iowa and the University of Texas, Arlington.

AIP added astronomy departments to its surveys of physics departments in 1975-76, and the survey currently includes 66 such departments. Astronomy enrollments and degrees dropped quite sharply in the late 1970s, but in recent years there have been no strong trends detectable.

In last year's survey of enrollments and degrees, the proportion of foreign citizens among those enrolling as first-year students in US graduate physics programs dropped for the first time in a decade, reflecting a strong increase in enrollments by US citizens (PHYSICS TODAY, September 1984, page 74). This year, enrollments of US and foreign students in graduate physics programs held fairly steady. The proportion of foreign students was 39% in 1984-85, hardly changed from 38.2% the year before.

The figures on women and minorities in physics remain discouraging on the whole, but it appears that over 15% of the students who received bachelor's degrees in physics in 1983-84 were women, compared to just over 10% in 1976-77.

The latest edition of *Enrollments and Degrees* has two supplements, one a complete list of physics departments, with enrollments and degrees for each, the other a complete list of astronomy departments. The survey and supplements can be obtained from Susanne D. Ellis, Manpower Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Education

Kirwan takes over editorship of *Physics Teacher* from Swartz

On 1 July, Donald Kirwan (University of Rhode Island) took over the editorship of *The Physics Teacher* from Clifford Swartz (State University of New York, Stony Brook), who had been editor for 18 years. Kirwan has been a frequent contributor to the *American Journal of Physics* and *The Physics Teacher*, a member of many committees and boards, and a participant in teacher training seminars. Kirwan led NSF-sponsored summer institutes, and this summer he was director of AAPT's Physics Teacher Resource Agent Workshop in Flagstaff (see PHYSICS TODAY, June 1985, page 72).

Kirwan received his PhD in 1969 from the University of Missouri, where he specialized in theoretical nuclear

physics. He is interested in computational methods applicable to energy resources, as well as classroom physics teaching.

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Education

Optical Society takes new initiatives in education

The Optical Society of America has started to take a greater interest in precollege science education. Last spring OSA established an education committee under the chairmanship of Robert Massof, a specialist on physiological optics at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The committee's work helped stimulate the organization of a special program for science teachers, which is to take place when OSA holds its annual meeting in October at the Washington Hilton on Connecticut Avenue. The one-day program for outstanding teachers from Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC was arranged by OSA's National Capital Chapter under the leadership of Bruce W. Steiner of the National Bureau of Standards.

During the morning session on 16 October, there is to be a series of talks about optical phenomena in the sky, followed by a plenary session on early science education and a talk by Jack Wilson, executive officer of AAPT, on what OSA members might do to improve science education. After lunch there are to be seven workshops with exhibits on aspects of optics that could be taught in schools. At the end of the afternoon, teachers will have an opportunity to visit the Smithsonian's "Laser at 25" exhibit.

Smithsonian selects Goldberg for new space history chair

The National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution has established a Chair of Space History, with funding from the Martin Marietta Corporation. The new chair is to enable the Smithsonian to capture and preserve the recollections of people who played major roles in creating the US space program. Individuals will be brought to Washington, each for a one-year term, to work on their memoirs. That work can include background research at archives in the District of Columbia, oral interviews and writing.

Leo Goldberg has been selected to be the first occupant of the Martin Marietta Chair of Space History. Goldberg, who took up his appointment in April, hopes to prepare a memoir covering his career as a solar astronomer and his role in developing modern astronomical institutions. Born in 1913, Goldberg earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Harvard University, where he studied atomic processes and their implications for astrophysical research. In 1941 he moved to the McMath-Hulbert Observatory of the University of Michigan, becoming director of the observatory and chairman of the astronomy department in 1946.

Goldberg returned to Harvard in 1960 as Higgins Professor of Astronomy, and from 1966 to 1971, he was director of the Harvard College Observatory and chairman of the astronomy department. While at Harvard, he headed a group that designed and built instruments to observe the Sun in the Orbiting Solar Observatories and Skylab missions.

In 1971, Goldberg became director of the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, where he remained until his retirement in 1983.

Goldberg has served as president of the International Astronomical Union, president of the American Astronomical Society, chairman of NASA's Astronomy Missions Board, and chairman of the astronomy section of the National Academy of Sciences.

in brief

Last year the Chinese Physical Society in the People's Republic of China started a new journal, *Chinese Physics Letters*, which has appeared in English from the outset. Springer-Verlag has agreed to copublish the journal and distribute it outside the People's Republic. Two issues appeared last year, and this year it went monthly. Subscription information can be obtained from Springer-Verlag, which has offices in Berlin, Heidelberg, New York and Tokyo.

Washington University in St. Louis and Digital Equipment Corporation have signed an agreement to develop a computing network to support advanced picture communications and high-speed text transmission. The agreement enables Washington University to obtain computing and networking resources from Digital that are valued at \$15 million. The university will provide Digital with expertise and act as a demonstration site. □