

American Vacuum Society. He entered a guilty plea last February after he was informed by US authorities that it would facilitate his release to East Germany. The State Department indicated that Zehe was central to the exchange—described by officials as the “biggest spy swap since World War II”—because East Germany considered him a victim of circumstances. “As an academic, he had been recruited by his government to review the technical importance of the papers, but he had no part in making the arrangements,” said his lawyer, Harvey A. Silverglate of Boston. “Zehe was caught up in a situation his government had created. He was personally devastated by the episode. Zehe is a tragic figure.” —IG

Education

Job market remains strong for graduating physics majors

Few changes showed up in AIP's 1983–84 Survey of Physics and Astronomy Bachelor's Degree Recipients. The total number of recipients rose modestly for the fifth consecutive year to 4878, which is 6% higher than in 1974–75. Just over half of the 1983–84 degree recipients planned to continue with graduate study in physics or some other field, while 40% planned to work in civilian or military jobs. Of the students planning to work, nearly 90% had at least one offer by the time of graduation. Median monthly salary offers were highest at Federally funded research centers (\$2200), with industrial and service jobs just slightly behind, and lowest for high-school teaching (\$1200).

Because of concerns about secondary physics instruction, the latest survey asked what type of high-school physics coursework the bachelor's recipients had, if any. Of the more than 2000 degree recipients who answered, 25% had taken PSSC, 12% Project Physics, 46% some other physics course, and 17% none. The number of degree recipients without high school physics appears to be about twice as high now as it was ten years ago.

Copies of the 1983–84 Survey of Physics and Astronomy Bachelor's Degree Recipients can be obtained free from Susanne D. Ellis, Manpower Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Medal established in memory of P. A. M. Dirac

The International Centre for Theoretical Physics has established a Dirac Gold Medal to honor the memory of

P. A. M. Dirac (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, January, page 111). The medal will be awarded annually to recognize the highest achievement in theoretical physics and will be announced each year on 8 August, Dirac's birthday. The selection committee for 1986 consists of Stig Lundquist, Goteborg University; Robert Marshak, Virginia Polytechnic; Abdus Salam, International Centre for Theoretical Physics; Julian Schwinger, University of California, Los Angeles; Léon Van Hove, CERN, Geneva; and Steven Weinberg, University of Texas, Austin.

Education

Society of Physics Students elects Askew president

Raymond F. Askew (Leach Nuclear Science Center, Auburn University, Alabama) was elected president of the Society of Physics Students Council for a two-year term. He has served as at-large member of the executive committee, twice as councilor for zone 6 and as chapter adviser at Auburn University. Donald F. Kirwan (University of Rhode Island) was appointed to a three-year term as at-large member of the executive committee. Kirwan is the new editor of *The Physics Teacher*. In addition, T. Michael Davis (North Georgia College) was elected as the new councilor for zone 6. Gary P. Agin (Michigan Technological University), Robert W. Green (Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa) and Philip T. McCormick were reelected as councilors for zones 8, 9 and 12, respectively.

in brief

A new quarterly, the *Journal of Molecular Electronics*, was launched this winter by John Wiley & Sons Ltd. Wiley is soliciting papers on the preparation, characterization and properties of molecular materials, as well as their actual and potential applications. For a sample copy of the new quarterly, which will be sold for £65 per year, contact John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Journals Department, Baffins Lane, Chichester, Sussex PO19 1UD, UK.

A report on materials research programs funded by the Energy Department, as of 30 September 1984, is available from DOE. The report, “Materials Sciences Programs, Fiscal Year 1984” (DOE/ER-0143/2), can be obtained from the Division of Materials Sciences, ER-13, Mail Stop

G-226, GTN, US Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20545 or from the National Technical Information Service, US Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161.

A Materials Referral System and Hotline has been established at the Materials Preparation Center, Ames Laboratory, Ames Iowa, by the DOE Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Division of Materials Sciences. Most services are intended to support DOE programs, but they are also available to the general research community. The computerized data base is operational, and services are provided at no charge. For further information, contact the manager of the hotline, Tom Wessels, at (515) 865-8900 or FTS (Federal Telephone System) 865-8900.

A nontechnical information packet with information about how to find and observe Halley's comet during 1985 and 1986 is available from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. The packet includes a 36-page pamphlet with charts and schedules. It can be obtained for \$4 from ASP, Comet Packet Department, 1290 24th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122.

Susan Marie Tholen, a junior majoring in physics and mathematics at the University of Kansas, has been selected as the first recipient of the Society of Physics Students Scholarship (*PHYSICS TODAY*, December 1984, page 65). Tholen is president of the local SPS chapter, a flourishing unit, and plans to work toward a PhD in physics. She works as a research assistant in a space plasma physics group and recently presented a paper at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

A new Institute of Materials Science has been created at the University of Antwerp as a joint venture involving 14 laboratories and research groups. The participants plan to share experimental equipment of increasing complexity and cost. For further information, contact J. Devreese, University of Antwerp, Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 Wilrijk-Antwerpen, Belgium.

Pergamon Press has introduced a new *International Journal of Plasticity*. The intention is to provide a vehicle for articles that have been scattered in journals of mathematics, mechanics, engineering and materials science. The journal is to appear quarterly, and the editor-in-chief is Akhtar S. Khan, School of Aerospace, Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering, University of Oklahoma. Subscription information can be obtained from Pergamon Press, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523. □