

Joseph Finck is selected 1985-86 Congressional Fellow

Joseph E. Finck is the 1985-86 APS Congressional Scientist Fellow. Finck will spend one year on the staff of a member of Congress or of a Congressional committee, starting in mid-September. He plans to work out arrangements for a Congressional affiliation during the first two weeks of September, when he will join fellows selected by other science and engineering societies for an orientation organized by AAAS. At that time, the fellows will meet Senators, Representatives and committee staff members, visit government agencies and receive detailed information about opportunities in Congressional offices.

Finck was chosen Congressional Fellow at the Society's March meeting in Baltimore, where a committee headed by APS Vice-President Val Fitch interviewed the three finalists they had selected from a group of 16 semifinalists. A nuclear physicist, Finck has been granted a year's leave of absence from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, where he is an assistant professor.

Finck will bring to his work in Washington a strong background in research and teaching as well as

active interests in public policy. His dissertation at Michigan State University, where he received his PhD in 1982, was "A study of Pb^{206} by inelastic scattering of 35-MeV protons." His research is currently supported by NSF. In 1978, as a teaching assistant at Michigan State, he won the "All University Excellence in Teaching Award."

Among his teaching responsibilities at Central Michigan University has been a course in kinesiological physics, which Finck defines as the "mechanics of human activity." The textbook he wrote for this course has been used and favorably reviewed by other faculty members teaching the course.

According to Finck, his major task as an APS Congressional Fel-

low will be "to study a scientifically related problem of public interest and then clearly explain this problem to individuals who do not have scientific training." Finck feels that his teaching experience will be an asset in articulating and clarifying technical legislative issues. Finck is particularly interested in energy, science education, medical research and the Strategic Defense Initiative—all areas in which he believes the public should be better educated.

Application information for those wishing to become candidates for the 1986-87 APS Congressional Scientist Fellow Program will be found in the APS *Bulletin*, starting with the fall issue. The final selection will be made in the spring of 1986.

APS seeks nominations for faculty award

The Selection Committee for the new APS Award for Research in an Undergraduate Institution invites nominations from the physics community (see PHYSICS TODAY, March, page 137). Committee members have indicated that the following supporting information would be helpful:

- ▶ Letter of recommendation from the department chairperson
- ▶ *Curriculum vitae* with list of publications, indicating which authors are undergraduate students
- ▶ List of possible references.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is 15 September 1985.

Funded by the Research Corporation, the Award for Research in an Undergraduate Institution is unique among APS prizes and awards in that it will go to a faculty member for research done in collaboration with students at an undergraduate institution. In a recent survey of physics departments, which was sponsored by APS and

done in cooperation with the American Association of Physics Teachers, it was found that the single most effective way to get high-caliber undergraduate students into physics and to keep them there is involvement in research (see PHYSICS TODAY, July, page 70).

The members of the selection committee appointed by the APS president are Judy Franz, chairperson (Indiana University); Marx Brook (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology); Stuart Crampton (Williams College); E. Leonard Jossem (Ohio State); and William H. Kelly (Iowa State). Names of proposed candidates for the Award for Research in an Undergraduate Institution should be sent to Franz:

up to 1 September, Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405;

after 1 September, c/o Department of Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

FINCK

