

laboratory at East Fishkill, New York, from 1981 to 1983, when he rejoined the research division in charge of logic and memory.

Branscomb received a BA from Duke University in 1945, an MS from Harvard University in 1947 and a PhD in physics from Harvard in 1949. He was a physics instructor at Harvard and a junior fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows from 1949 to 1951, when he joined the National Bureau of Standards as a physicist. He was chief of the atomic-physics section at the bureau from 1954 to 1959, division chief from 1959 to 1962, cofounder and then chairman of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics and chief of the laboratory in the astrophysics division of NBS from 1962 to 1969, and director of the bureau from 1969 to 1972, when he joined IBM.

Branscomb was a Rockefeller public-service fellow at University College, University of London, in 1957-58. He is past-president of The American Physical Society and Sigma Xi, the scientific-research society, and he has served on numerous national and international committees including the President's science advisory committee (1965-68), the State Department's advisory committee on science and international affairs (1972-74) and the National Science Board, which he headed from 1980 to 1984.

Branscomb leaves IBM to become a professor and director of the science, technology and public-policy program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Foreign citizens account for growing share of physics PhDs

Foreign citizens increased sharply as a proportion of the students earning doctoral degrees in physics in the 1984-85 academic year, according to AIP's latest Graduate Student Survey. The proportion of foreign students earning physics PhDs increased to 31% from 25% the year before. Foreign citizens accounted for 36% of the graduate students in physics who responded to the survey and for 39% of responding first-year physics students.

About three-quarters of the foreign students earning physics doctorates stayed in the United States to work, about the same proportion as the year before. About three-quarters of this group took postdocs rather than potentially permanent jobs, partly because their visas usually prevent foreign students from taking permanent jobs. Postdocs continue to make up a growing share of the initial jobs taken by physicists: About half the physicists who earned PhDs in 1984-85 took

postdocs, compared with 38% in 1980-81.

The job market remained bright for graduating physicists. Of the responding doctoral physicists, 95% reported getting job offers by the time they received their degrees, and the percentage of those earning master's degrees who had offers by the time of their graduation climbed above 90% for the first time since the early 1970s.

Industry attracted 57% of the physics masters who entered the work force and half the physicists with doctorates who took potentially permanent jobs; a quarter of these PhDs found jobs with universities or colleges. In the last ten years the proportion of new physicists who start work in industry has doubled while the fraction taking university positions has decreased by half.

The 1984-85 Graduate Student Survey is available free from Susanne D. Ellis, Manpower Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017.

AIP revives visiting-scientist program for colleges

AIP has inaugurated a visiting-scientist program in physics that will enable distinguished leaders in physics research and postgraduate physics education to pay visits of one or two days to four-year colleges. The new project is similar to an AIP program that had been funded by the National Science Foundation in the 1960s and early 1970s. This time, the visiting-scientist program will be funded by AIP and participating colleges.

According to William J. Condell, manager of AIP's office in Washington, letters were sent in early September to more than 500 colleges inquiring whether they would like to host a visiting scientist. Around 180 letters requesting volunteer scientists were sent out to universities, government organizations and businesses.

Colleges responding to AIP's query can request a scientist from a particular kind of institution or research area. Upon matching a volunteer with a college and obtaining the college's concurrence, AIP will pay for the visitor's long-distance travel expenses and provide the visitor with an honorarium, while the college will be expected to take care of local transportation, room and board, and so on. The college will be charged a \$300 fee to cover part of AIP's program expenses.

A visiting scientist's activities can include formal lectures for college students, round-table discussions or meal-time conversations with students or faculty, or lectures geared to local high-school students or the general public. Participating colleges will be encour-

aged to involve the surrounding community as much as possible. Planning packets containing suggestions for visit arrangements and publicity will be provided by AIP.

Further information about the Visiting Scientist Program in Physics can be obtained from William J. Condell, Manager, AIP Office, 2000 Florida Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009.

AIP starts Pi-MAIL, an electronic message service

The American Institute of Physics has made available a new electronic mail service called Pi-MAIL. Like its electronic sibling, the physics information network Pi-NET, Pi-MAIL can be accessed via Telenet Communications from any standard computer with a modem. AIP made Pi-NET available last spring on a trial basis (PHYSICS TODAY, April, page 56), and it has been a great success.

Pi-MAIL, like Telemail, is a service for delivering messages, while Pi-NET is a collection of information systems that a user can call up and read but not feed into. Pi-MAIL is meant to serve the entire physics and astronomy community as an electronic communications medium. There is no registration fee or periodic membership charge. The user pays only for connect time and certain selected services ("user charges"). Registered mail with return receipts, optional hard-copy delivery, worldwide telex capability, public and private bulletin boards and special-interest user groups are among the services that Pi-MAIL is designed to provide.

Information on how to access Pi-MAIL and a schedule of connect-time charges can be found in the ad on page 35. Costs of using Pi-MAIL can be charged to the user's credit card or an organizational account, using a standing purchase order. For further information, call the Pi-MAIL administrator at AIP: (516) 349-7800.

in brief

The Austrian and Norwegian governments have announced that they will become full members of the European Space Agency on 1 January 1987, having been associate members previously.

A brochure providing high-school students with information on careers in optical engineering has been developed and made available by the Optical Society of America and the Junior Engineering Technical Society. Multiple copies can be obtained free of charge from Society Communications, OSA, 1816 Jefferson Place NW, Washington DC 20036. □