gets for academic research.

In a report last December, Nicholson's office indicated that of the five most industrialized nations, Britain was at the bottom of the league in nondefense R&D funded by the government. What's more, British industry contributes a smaller proportion of research money than industry does in the other nations—42% in 1983, compared with 49% in the US, 58% in West Germany and 64% in Japan.

'Brain drain.' Nicholson is known to have welcomed Britain's participation in the research program for the Strategic Defense Initiative as the best way of attracting US funds for his country's scientists and engineers. The decision to sign on to SDI came after the Advisory Board for the British Research Councils sounded the tocsin once more that basic science in Britain is in danger of collapse, with increasing numbers of scientists emigrating overseas for better pay, newer equipment and greater flexibility in setting their research agendas. In its report, based on a survey of 40 research organizations, the Advisory Board warned of an imminent "brain drain" similar to the emigration of scientific and technical talent to the US and Canada that reached crisis proportions in the 1950s and 1960s.

A metallurgist, Nicholson taught the subject at Cambridge and Manchester universities before becoming the first director of Inco Europe Ltd's research laboratory at Birmingham in 1972. In 1979 he also took on cochairmanship of Inco's partly owned biotechnology company, Biogen NV. He is a fellow of the Royal Society and a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Engineering. —IRWIN GOODWIN

AAPT elects Resnick vice-president

Robert Resnick of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has been elected vice-president of the American Association of Physics Teachers for 1986. He succeeds Donald F. Holcomb of Cornell, who is 1986 president-elect. Robert Beck Clark of Texas A&M University is this year's AAPT president.

Resnick received his BA in 1943 and his PhD in 1949 from Johns Hopkins University. He worked with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics from 1944 to 1946 and taught at the University of Pittsburgh from 1949 to 1956. He has been at Rensselaer since 1956, where he is professor of physics and Edward P. Hamilton Distinguished Professor of Science Education. He has been chairman of RPI's interdisciplinary science curriculum since 1973. He was principal investigator in the recent APS–AAPT survey of physics-department chairmen (see page 65). Resnick is a fellow of APS and AAAS, and he was honored with AAPT's Oersted Medal in 1974. He is the author or coauthor of seven textbooks, including, with David Halliday, *Physics*, which has been translated into 41 languages.

RESNICK

As an officer of AAPT, Resnick hopes to find support for more educational research on the teaching of physics at the college level, find ways of making modern physics more accessible to introductory physics students, initiate cooperative programs with other professional societies and "strive to increase significantly the number of women and members of minorities in physics."

Karen L. Johnston of North Carolina State University has been elected a member of the AAPT executive board. She received a BA in 1971 and an MS in 1974 from Sam Houston State University. She received a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1979. Johnston taught at Conroe High School in Conroe, Texas, in 1971–72, at Brazosport Community College in 1974–77, and at Memphis State University in 1979–82.

AIP history center wins award from archivists' society

The AIP Center for History of Physics has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award of the Society of American Archivists. Joan Warnow, associate director of the AIP physics-history division, accepted the award on behalf of AIP at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists last fall in Austin, Texas. John A. Wheeler, an early leader in efforts to document modern physics, was her escort at the ceremony.

The AIP Center for History of Physics is the 13th institution to be honored with the archivists' award since 1964. All the other Distinguished Service Awards have gone to state or city archives except for one, which went to a public university. The Center for History of Physics is the first archives connected with a group of professional societies representing an intellectual discipline to be honored with the award, and it is the first archives to be honored that is not mainly a repository for documents.

AIP's physics-history program was started in the early 1960s with three main projects: to assemble and manage the Niels Bohr Library at AIP headquarters, to collect oral histories on tape and to advise other institutions and individual physicists on saving documents. The history center recently completed a large project that involved providing advice to DOE-funded laboratories on how to preserve their historical records.

The Society of American Archivists, in its citation honoring the Center for History of Physics, said that the center "has shown that it is possible to document fields that previously seemed beyond our ken because of their mystery and complexity, the volume of records or the excess of minutiae.... [The center's work] has had widespread influence in the archival profession, showing itself applicable to other disciplines and records. The center serves as the repository for records of AIP and its member societies, but perhaps more importantly educates, encourages and assists many and varied repositories across the nation in preserving the history of science."

The directors of the Center for History of Physics have been W. James King (1961–64), Charles Weiner (1964–74) and Spencer Weart (since 1974). Warnow has been with the center since 1965 and is responsible for most of its archival work.

Hecker succeeds Kerr as head of Los Alamos Laboratory

Siegfried S. Hecker took over in January as head of Los Alamos National Laboratory, replacing Donald M. Kerr Jr, who resigned last October after serving six years as director. Hecker previously was chairman of the Los Alamos Center for Materials Science, and before that he headed the laboratory's materials-science and technology

division.

Hecker received his BS in 1965, his MS in 1967 and his PhD in metallurgy in 1968 from Case Western Reserve University. He was at Los Alamos from 1968 to 1970, when he moved to the General Motors Corporation Research Laboratories to work as senior research metallurgist. He returned to Los Alamos to join the chemistry and materials-science division in 1973, and he has been at the lab ever since.

Hecker received the Department of Energy's E. O. Lawrence Award for his work in materials science (PHYSICS TODAY, December, page 89).

Latest AIP employment survey finds strong job market

The latest employment survey released by AIP's Manpower Statistics Division describes a job market that remains very strong and on the whole is continuing to improve. The survey found that among those who earned degrees in physics in 1984, around 85% of those with PhDs (excluding postdocs) had found jobs in less than six months, and over 90% of those with bachelor's or master's degrees had found jobs within the same period. In fact, around 60% of the recipients of bachelor's and master's degrees found jobs within two months of graduation.

The employment survey was done in winter 1984–85 and it covered individuals who earned physics degrees in the academic year that ended on 30 June 1984. By the time the survey was completed, 98% of those who had earned PhDs the previous academic year were working either as postdocs or in potentially permanent positions—"only three of the responding new doctoral physicists were not yet employed and still seeking positions," the survey reports.

The 1984 employment survey is available free of charge from Susanne D. Ellis, Manpower Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017 (request AIP publication no. R-282.8).

Widnall of MIT is new president-elect of AAAS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, in an association-wide election last fall, chose Sheila E. Widnall of MIT to become president-elect of AAAS starting 31 May 1986, following the association's annual meeting, which is to take place in Philadelphia. Widnall, a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at MIT, is only the fourth engineer and fifth woman to be elected president of AAAS in 137 years.

Widnall received her bachelor's and master's degrees from MIT in 1961 and her doctorate from MIT in 1964, whereupon she became a member of the faculty. She became a full professor at MIT in 1974. Her research has been primarily in fluid dynamics.

Widnall served as Director of University Research, US Department of Transportation, in 1974–75. She has been a member of numerous advisory committees, including the Panel on Public Affairs of The American Physical Society. She is a member of the executive committee of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics and an associate editor of *Physics of Fluids* and the *ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics*.

Widnall succeeds president-elect Lawrence Bogorad of Harvard University, who becomes AAAS president on 31 May 1986.

Paul-Henri Rebut is director of Joint European Torus

French physicist Paul-Henri Rebut has been appointed director of the Joint European Torus; he replaces H. O. Wüster, who died last June. Roy Bickerton, a British physicist, has been named deputy director of JET.

Rebut studied at l'École polytechnique, Paris, and l'École des poudres. He then joined the fusion division of the French atomic-energy commission and participated in the design, construction and operation of plasma-physics experiments throughout the 1960s. Rebut has worked on the theory of the stability and propagation of waves in plasma. He contributed to the development and use of the TFR tokamak at Fontenay-aux-Roses from 1970 to 1973, when he became head of the JET design team.

Bickerton read physics at the University of Oxford from 1948 to 1954, when he joined the staff of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell. In 1962 he joined Culham Laboratory, and in 1965 he became head of a division at Culham responsible for a number of fusion experiments, including the divertor and injection tokamak experiment. When JET was established, Bickerton was named associate director and head of the scientific department.

Five SPS chapters win 1986 Allied Awards

The Society of Physics Students has named five chapters to receive its 1986 Allied Awards, which are sponsored by the Allied Corporation. These were formerly known as the Bendix Awards and were funded by the Bendix Corporation.

The SPS chapter at Old Dominion University (Norfolk, Virginia) will receive $1600 for its project "Study of the Sun using a phase-sensitive radio interferometer"; Desmond C. Cook is the adviser. The chapter at Oklahoma State University (Stillwater) will receive $1400 for "Luminescence spectroscopy of terrestrial and meteoritic feldspar"; S. W. S. McKeever, adviser. The chapter at Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) will receive $1250 for "Telescope automation"; Richard Kellogg, adviser. The University of Pittsburgh chapter will receive $450 for the "University of Pittsburgh radio telescope project"; Julia A. Thompson, adviser. The group at the Illinois Institute of Technology will receive $300 for its "Investigation of the superconducting transition of the PbO_x alloy system"; John Zasadzinski, adviser. Five SPS chapters received honorable mentions for their proposals: those at Depauw University (Greencastle, Indiana), Jacksonville University (Jacksonville, Florida), the University of Missouri (Kansas City), Thiel College (Greenville, Pennsylvania) and the University of Wisconsin (Platteville).

The society also named seven chapters to receive Marsh W. White Awards: Columbia University, Alan L. Blaer, adviser, for publishing the booklet *Physicists at Columbia*; Jacksonville University, J. Steve Browder, adviser, for the "introduction to the Duval County community of the new Jacksonville University Observatory"; Oklahoma State University, for the "demonstration of several principles of physics to high-school classes"; the University of Pittsburgh for its "high-school interaction program and public lectures on physics"; Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, Texas), Russell L. Palma, adviser, for "construction of electromechanical devices for demonstration in the physics department"; Texas Southern University (Houston), Etta F. Walker, adviser, for "physics career awareness focus"; and Thomas More College (Crestview Hills, Kentucky), Jack Wells, adviser, for its "traveling demonstration shows and expanding open house." Honorable mention was given to the SPS chapters at Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, Texas), the State University of New York at Cortland and Thiel College.

in brief

The Institutional Council of Utah State University has recommended the establishment at the university in Logan of a new International Institute of Theoretical Physics. The state has budgeted $50 000 to support the institute in each of the next three years. Arnold Rosenblum, who previously was at Temple University, has been named director of the institute. □