

Alexander is selected 1986-87 Congressional Fellow

Jane A. Alexander, a condensed-matter physicist, is the 1986-87 APS Congressional Scientist Fellow. Alexander will spend one year on the staff of a member of Congress or of a Congressional committee, starting in mid-September. She plans to work out arrangements for a Congressional affiliation during the first two weeks of September, when she will join fellows selected by other science and engineering societies for an orientation program organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At that time the fellows will meet members of Congress and committee staff, visit government agencies and receive detailed information about opportunities for science fellows in Congressional offices.

Alexander was chosen to be the Congressional Fellow at the Society's Spring Meeting in Washington, DC, where a committee headed by APS Vice-President George Vineyard interviewed the six finalists it had selected from a group of 16 semifinalists.

Alexander graduated from Stanford University in June 1980 with a BS in physics. While at Stanford she spent each summer in a different field of physics research, working in nuclear, high-energy and solid-state physics. She will complete work for her doctorate at MIT this summer. The research for her dissertation, "Fermi liquid effects in Pauli-limited superconductors," was done at the Francis Bitter National Magnet Laboratory at MIT with her adviser, Terry P. Orlando. The Fermi liquid theory predicts that the electronic spin densities of states in superconductors will be Zeeman-split by an applied magnetic field and an additional molecular field generated by many-body interactions. Through a specialized tunneling technique, Alexander found that the temperature and field dependences of the molecular field agree well with the theory.

Her honors include the AT&T Bell Laboratories Graduate Research Program for Women Grant, which she has had since 1980, and the Rebecca Carington Award for scholarship, teaching

and service in the department of physics at Stanford in 1980.

Alexander says: "As a scientist, I want our nation to invest its resources wisely in the best science and technology. For Congress to best choose where to focus our manpower and finances, it is important to identify which areas are most promising for future development. . . . As a citizen, I want science and technology to benefit my nation. . . . I am also concerned that the private industry of the United States should maintain its role as a world leader. We must use our technical ability to find ways of production which are environmentally sound and economically feasible."

Joseph E. Finck, the 1985-86 APS Congressional Scientist Fellow, has spent the year working in the office of Senator Bill Bradley, a Democrat from New Jersey. Finck was responsible for evaluating scientific and technological aspects of legislation that came before two committees: Energy and Natural Resources, of which Bradley is a member, and Commerce, Science and Transportation. Finck's job was to prepare



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the senator for hearings, draft testimony and prepare the senator to vote. Finck says that his expertise as a nuclear physicist was especially useful in working on the Low Level Radioactive Waste Transition Bill, which Bradley cosponsored and which passed the Senate on 20 December 1985.

APS sends Sakharov birthday message

Sidney D. Drell of Stanford University, the President of APS, has made public the text of a birthday message he sent to Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov. Sakharov has been confined to internal exile in the Soviet city of Gorky since January 1980. The birthday message conveys the elected APS Council's greetings and support for Sakharov on the occasion of his 65th birthday on 21 May. The text of the letter is reproduced here:

Academician Andrei Sakharov
Gagarin Street 214, Apt. 3
Chsherbinka, Gorky, USSR

Dear Academician Sakharov:

I am writing to convey warm greetings from the elected Council of the American Physical Society on the occasion of your 65th birthday. We hope that the day will come soon when you will once again be able to be in direct contact with your many scientific col-

leagues at home and abroad.

Believing as we do in the unity of the worldwide community of scientists and in the vital importance to scientific progress of free discussion of new ideas and results, we are continuing our efforts toward achieving that goal.

Warmest greetings,

Sidney D. Drell
President, APS □