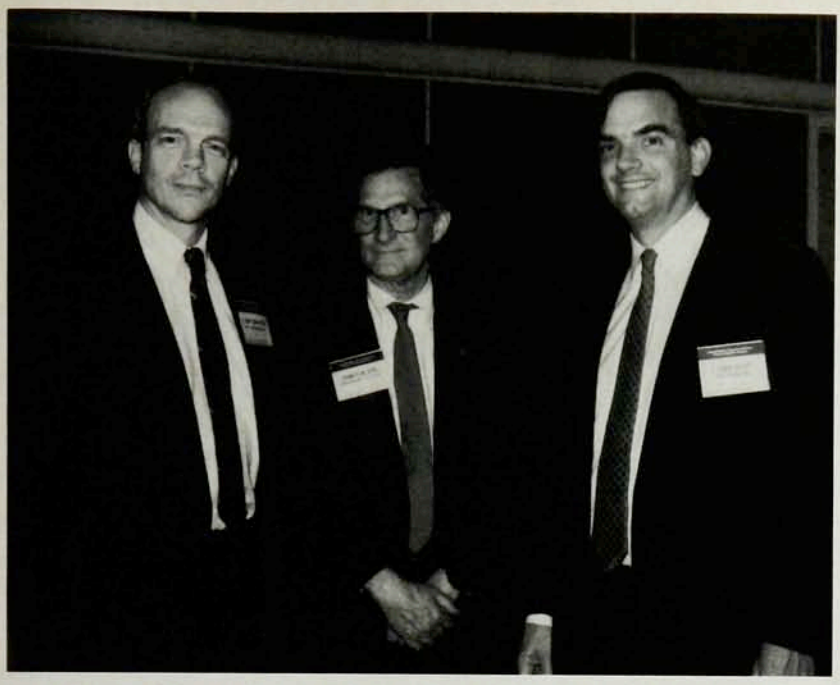

DRESCIA/AIP

C. Daniel Gelatt Jr (right) and E. Scott Kirkpatrick (left), winners of AIP industry research award, are congratulated by AIP Executive Director Kenneth Ford at the corporate associates meeting.

Gelatt and Kirkpatrick devised their technique for solving complicated optimization problems by regarding the optimum as analogous to the ground state in a disordered system (see PHYSICS TODAY, May 1982, page 17). The technique is powerful and has many practical applications to variants of the traveling salesman problem.

Gelatt received his BA and MS in physics from the University of Wisonsin, Madison, in 1969, and his PhD in physics from Harvard in 1974. He taught at Harvard from 1975 to 1980, when he joined the staff at the Watson Research Center. He became vice president for sales at Northern Micrographics in 1982 and president a year later.

Kirkpatrick received his BA from Princeton in 1963 and his PhD in physics from Harvard in 1969. He was a research associate at the University of Chicago from 1969 to 1971, when he joined the staff at IBM Research as a member of the physical sciences department. In 1982 he moved to the computer science department.

# AIP SURVEY FINDS SHARP INCREASE IN 1985–86 PHYSICS POSTDOCS

The number of physics PhDs accepting postdoctoral positions increased dramatically in the 1985–86 academic year and the number of individuals earning terminal master's degrees in physics also increased quite sharply. These are the major findings of AIP's 1987 graduate student survey, which has just been released. The market for physics PhDs remains healthy, the survey found, but jobs may be slightly tighter for holders of terminal master's degrees.

The number of individuals earning physics doctorates was 1051 in 1986, up 8% from 1985; the number of foreign-born physics PhDs, 34% of the total, was up 12%. Only 1% of 1986 PhD recipients had not received a job offer or a post-doctoral grant by the time the survey was done, and 49% had received multiple offers.

The number of responding PhDs who accepted postdocs in 1986 increased 29% from 1985's figure. The proportion of US PhD recipients taking postdocs in 1986 grew to 49% from 42% the year before; the proportion of foreign-born PhDs who took postdocs went to 68% from 56%.

Susanne Ellis, author of the graduate survey, believes that the trend toward postdocs may reflect the ample demand for physicists. "A person who feels that finding a permanent position is not difficult," she says, "is more likely to accept temporary employment as a postdoc to pursue research interests developed in the dissertation."

The total number of students earning terminal master's degrees climbed 12% in 1985–86. The proportion who had a single job offer at the time the survey was done was nearly 75%, up more than 20 percentage points from the year before, but the proportion with two or more job offers dropped by a similar margin.

Women were slightly better represented at all degree levels in 1986 than in 1985, most of all at the master's level. At the same time, three times as many responding master's recipients went to work for the military in 1986 as in 1985.

Astrophysicists were even more marketable in 1986 than other physicists. All obtained at least one job offer, and 69% received multiple offers.

For a copy of the 1987 *Graduate Student Survey* write to Susanne D. Ellis, Education and Employment Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 355 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017.

# LYMAN AND GATES ARE PROMOTED TO HIGH POSITIONS AT JPL

Two high-level personnel changes took place at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory this summer: Peter T. Lyman, assistant laboratory director for telecommunications and data acquisition, became deputy director, succeeding Robert J. Parks; and Clarence R. Gates, assistant laboratory director for the technical divisions, became associate director, succeeding Fred H. Felberg.

In 24 years at JPL, Lyman has worked as a spacecraft development specialist and served as director of spacecraft operations for several NASA deep-space missions. He received his BA, a master's in naval architecture and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Gates, who has been with JPL for 27 years, led the team that designed the lab's first three-axis-stabilized spacecraft, laying the foundation for the Ranger and Mariner missions. He has managed several JPL divisions. Gates went to college at the University of Oklahoma and has a PhD from Caltech. ■