

time, but AIP will provide him with full-time staff support.

Computers in Physics will have two parts, one consisting of archival articles, the other of news stories and features such as reviews and columns. The major topics covered in the magazine will be the use of computers in computational and experimental physics and astronomy, and computers in physics and astronomy education.

AIP staff at the institute's Woodbury, Long Island, facility will be responsible for copy-editing the archival articles, and a staff in New York will be responsible for news reporting and integration of editorial material and production. The New York staff will share offices with *PHYSICS TODAY* and the AIP statistics, advertising and marketing divisions at 140 East 45th Street, two blocks from AIP headquarters, and graphics will be handled by the *PHYSICS TODAY* art department.

Robert Marks, AIP director of publishing, will act as publisher of *Computers in Physics*, and Edward Greeley, AIP manager of advertising and exhibits, will be responsible for its advertising sections.

The magazine-journal will appear bimonthly and will be available to AIP society members for \$20 per year. The price for individuals who are not members of AIP societies will be \$30 per year, and the library rate will be \$250.

The American Physical Society has agreed to offer its members a special introductory subscription to the first three 1988 issues as a check-off item on their 1987-88 member dues bills. Other member societies will be offered the option of including a similar offer on their 1988 member dues bills.

A pilot issue is planned for early this fall. Editorial material or suggestions should be addressed to Robert R. Borchers, PO Box 808 L 66, Livermore CA 94550.

AAPT elects Wheeler to be its new president in 1988

Gerald Wheeler of Montana State University is the new vice president of the American Association of Physics Teachers. He succeeds Robert Resnick of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who is 1987 president-elect. Donald F. Holcomb of Cornell is this year's AAPT president.

Wheeler received his BA from Boston University in 1963 and his MA and PhD from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1968 and 1972. He taught at Temple University from 1972 to 1981, when he joined the



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faculty at Montana State.

Wheeler is among the handful of scientists who have worked on a large variety of television science programs. He is a consultant or adviser to AIP's radio and television projects, to PBS television's "Voyage of the Mimi" project and to "3-2-1 Contact," the popular show produced by Children's Television Workshop. While at Temple Wheeler was the creator and host of "Sidewalk science," which aired on the CBS television affiliate in Philadelphia. Segments of "Skywatch," an astronomy program he created, still appear on Montana television.

Wheeler has served as chair of AAPT's committee on science education for the public, AIP's committee on public information and education, and the College Board's committee on the physics achievement exam. He also has worked as a high school physics teacher and has trained Peace Corps physics teachers for foreign assignments.

Joining Wheeler as newly inaugurated members of AAPT's executive board are James Nelson, a teacher at Harriton High School in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, and Ronald E. Smith, a physics professor at Northeast Louisiana State University in Monroe, Louisiana.

Coburn elected 1988 president in Vacuum Society balloting

The American Vacuum Society has elected John W. Coburn to be 1987 president-elect. He will become president in 1988, succeeding Paul H. Holloway, a professor of materials science and engineering in the Surface and Thin Film Laboratory at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Coburn is manager of the plasma-

and laser-surface interactions group at the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose, California. Coburn received a bachelor of science degree in 1956 and master of science degree in 1958 from the University of British Columbia. He earned a PhD in electrical engineering in 1967 at the University of Minnesota. He was a physics fellow at Simon Fraser University in 1967-68, and he has been a member of the IBM research staff since 1968. His research interests include the physics and chemistry of plasma processing environments, ion-solid interactions and thin film and surface science.

In other AVS election results, William D. Westwood, manager for materials research and gallium arsenide devices at Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa, was reelected clerk; N. Rey Whetten, staff physicist in the VLSI Technology Laboratory of the General Electric Research and Development Center in Schenectady, New York, was reelected treasurer.

Three new directors were elected to serve two-year terms: Carolyn Rubin Aita, an associate professor and joint teacher-researcher in the materials science department and Laboratory for Surface Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; James M. E. Harper, a research staff member in exploratory silicon materials and processes at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York; and James S. Murday, head of the surface chemistry branch at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington.

New trustees are John A. Thornton, professor of materials science and research professor in the Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Harold F. Winters, a member of the research staff at the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose. □

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