RADZIHOVSKY RECEIVES APKER AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT

Leo R. Radzihovsky is the 1988 winner of The American Physical Society's LeRoy Apker Award, which honors the outstanding work of an undergraduate student in physics. The 1988 award recognizes Radzihovsky's achievements as an undergraduate student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, particularly his senior thesis, entitled "Stability in a Quantum Theory of Electron Transport."

Radzihovsky emigrated to the United States from the Soviet Union eight years ago. At RPI he received an award for obtaining the highest average grades of any graduating senior. Upon graduation he had accumulated sufficient credits to be awarded both a bachelor's and a master's degree in physics. Radzihovsky is currently in the graduate physics program at Harvard.

Radzihovsky obtained guidance for his research from his adviser, Stephen Nettel, who is working on a quantum mechanical theory of electron transport in nondegenerate semiconductors in collaboration with Hans Beck (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland). Radzihovsky demonstrated the stability and uniqueness of a Markovian solution to an integro-differential equation of motion that describes the interaction of a single electron with the lattice modes of vibration. In recommending Radzihovsky for the award, Nettel said that he did not "give Leo too many instructions because I did not have too many to give." Radzihovsky "came to one of our appointments with the hardest steps . . . practically done."

After reading Radzihovsky's thesis and listening to his presentation, the Apker Award committee, chaired by APS past-president Robert R. Wilson, agreed with Nettel that the thesis work had required both physical insight and mathematical ability, and that Radzihovsky's comprehension of the problem and his abililty to explain it were truly impressive.

James Krumhansl, APS president in 1989, will present the award at the March meeting in St. Louis, and Radzihovsky will give an invited talk at the meeting. The Apker Award committee decided this year that the award should be presented at the APS meeting (general or divisional) that is most appropriate to the winner's research topic.

Leo R. Radzihovsky

The task of the Apker Award committee usually is difficult and it was particularly so this year. The other finalists, their undergraduate institutions and their thesis topics were Ann Marie Bouchard (Middlebury College), "The Vibrational Properties of Amorphous Silicon: A Computer Simulation;" Randall D. Kamien (Caltech) "Universal Properties of Hamiltonian Ensembles;" and Ethan Foxman (MIT), "A Thermodynamic and Structural Study of Xenon Adsorbed on Lamellar Iron II Chloride." Not surprisingly, all the finalists have gone on to graduate physics programs or plan to do so. Bouchard is at Iowa State University, Kamien is at Harvard, and Foxman will pursue a year of research in Japan before entering graduate school. ■

Aruri Case

The APS Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists is monitoring the cases of several Palestinian physicists who are being held in administrative detention (that is, without formal charges) by Israeli authorities. Of particular concern is Taysir Aruri, a professor of physics and mathematics at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. Aruri has been served notice of deportation, which he has appealed through a military prosecutor. Columnist Anthony Lewis drew attention to Aruri's case in *The New York Times* (18 September 1988), and Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience. At the recommendation of CIFS, APS President Val Fitch has written letters to Israeli authorities, including Defense Minister Itzhak Rabin, who ordered Aruri's deportation. Fitch requested information on the evidence against the Palestinian physicists and expressed concern over the apparent situation, which is unchanged as of this writing.