

and its success and impact are to be reviewed by the APS council by 1 January 1993. A slate of nominees

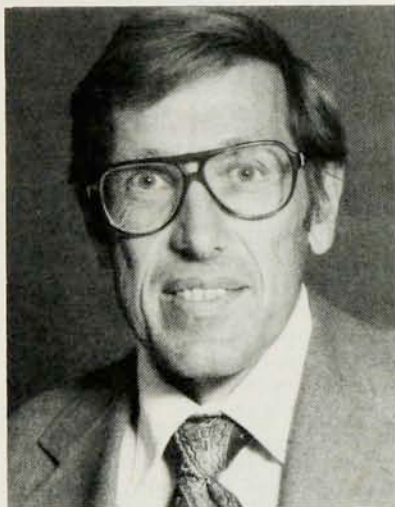
for the committee is to be discussed on 19 March during a meeting of the APS executive committee in St. Louis.

ROSSING ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF PHYSICS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Thomas D. Rossing, a professor of physics at Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, is the new vice president of the American Association of Physics Teachers. Rossing succeeds Judy R. Franz of West Virginia University, who is now president-elect. Gerald Wheeler of Montana State University is AAPT president this year.

Rossing received his bachelor's degree from Luther College in 1950 and did his graduate work in physics at Iowa State University, earning an MS in 1952 and a PhD in 1954. He was a physicist at the Univac division of Sperry Rand in St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1954 to 1957. He then moved to St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he was a professor of physics until 1971. Rossing also served as department chairman from 1963 to 1969. He has been at Northern Illinois University since 1971, and served as department chairman from 1971 to 1973.

Rossing's research work has covered topics in magnetism, including magnetic memories for computers and spin waves in magnetic alloys. He also has worked on the surface physics of fusion reactor materials and on ultrasonic dispersion in gases.



Thomas D. Rossing

His current research is on environmental noise control, musical acoustics, hearing and the perception of sound.

Dewey I. Dykstra Jr., associate professor of physics at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, has been elected to the AAPT executive board for a three-year term as the two-year college representative.

been a gradual shift toward experimental research since 1984; the 1987 report shows 71% of doctoral physicists with experimental dissertation research, while the remaining 29% pursued theoretical work.

Of the theorists, 71% reported holding postdoctoral fellowships, another 28% were employed in potentially permanent positions and 1% were looking for jobs. None of the experimenters were unemployed, though 62% were in postdoctoral positions, leaving 38% in potentially permanent positions.

The report says that "it is the foreign graduates who benefitted more from the increasing demand for doctoral physicists." Foreign experimenters comprised a quarter of the total number of experimenters surveyed. Of the foreign experimenters, 29% had secured potentially permanent positions—an 8% increase over the previous year.

The median monthly salaries of physics degree-holders varied with the level of degree and the type of employer. Doctorate recipients' median monthly salary was \$3500, with those employed by colleges earning \$2000, and federally funded research centers paying the highest median salary of \$3900. Physics masters earned a median of \$2400 per month, with the manufacturing industry paying the most (\$2830). Bachelors' median monthly salaries ranged from a low of \$1410 (for high school teachers) to a high of \$2240 (for the manufacturing industry), with a median of \$1900 overall.

Of the bachelors, more men were unemployed (9%) than women (7%). More women, however, were likely to be high school teachers: 11% took these relatively low-paying jobs, as opposed to 5% of the men surveyed.

Because this was a follow-up survey, the Statistics Division of AIP already had basic information on the respondents, so there was room for more qualitative questions, said Ellis. One of these measured the degree of satisfaction new physicists experienced in their jobs. "In answer to whether they are interested in changing jobs within the next two years," said the report, "two-thirds of them replied 'no'...and for those employed in industry, the proportion not interested in a job change was even higher."

The 1987 employment survey is available free of charge from Susanne Ellis, Education and Employment Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

—PAT JANOWSKI

EMPLOYMENT NEWS IN AIP SURVEY BODES WELL FOR PHYSICS PhDs

The demand for doctoral physicists exceeds the supply, according to the 1987 AIP Employment Survey report. "People have been saying for the past two to three years that [the employment situation] is good for physicists," says Susanne Ellis, author of the report. "This survey shows that it is true."

The survey, conducted in December 1987, included those who indicated an interest in employment on two student surveys during the previous summer. This follow-up survey shows what progress each individual had made in the intervening six months. The respondents included a diverse group of physics and astronomy graduates at all levels.

Every new physicist and astronomer holding a PhD and looking for

employment in the summer had found a position by the time the follow-up survey was conducted. A majority of master's degree recipients also were able to secure employment. Those holding bachelor's degrees in physics, by far the largest group in the survey (810 individuals), fared about the same as in the previous year's survey: Approximately half of those who were still seeking in the summer had found jobs by December.

According to the report, "an established employment pattern throughout the 1980s has been one where physicists whose dissertations were based on experimental work were more likely to be offered potentially permanent positions; theoreticians, on the other hand were more likely candidates for 'postdocs.'" There has