AAS COUNCIL ADOPTS POSTDOC DEADLINE STANDARD

The council of the American Astronomical Society has adopted a resolution that recommends a standard earliest acceptance date for postdoctoral positions. The resolution is in response to the trend of the past several years for institutions to set postdoctoral appointment deadlines earlier and earlier each year, "creating awkward timing that forces students to decide on one institution while other institutions have not completed the application process," said AAS president Donald Osterbrock.

In a letter to astronomy department chairs and observatory directors, Osterbrock detailed the council's recommendation that February 15 of any given year be the earliest deadline set for acceptance of postdoc appointments.

AAS PUBLISHES ELECTRONIC-MAIL DIRECTORY

The American Astronomical Society has published an electronic-mail directory as a supplement to its 1989 membership directory. The e-mail directory has received a good response from AAS members, said AAS Executive Officer Peter Boyce. "We have been getting at least a letter a week [about the directory]."

In addition to the e-mail codes of individuals listed, the directory contains a user's guide to e-mail. The guide includes a general description of how to use e-mail, details on each of the networks available, instructions on how to send mail across networks, and international communications access codes.

OSA RELEASES GUIDE TO OPTICS EDUCATION

The Optical Society of America has compiled a "Guide to Optics Courses and Programs in North American Colleges and Universities." Contained in the guide's two editions—associate and undergraduate level, and master's and doctoral level—are the results of a survey of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and physics departments, including nearly 500 associate and undergraduate programs and 200 graduate programs.

In addition to providing contact names and addresses, the guide gives information on the number of optics courses offered, what courses are available, the number of graduate and postdoctoral students in optics, the number of faculty teaching or doing research in optics, and the number of MS and PhD degrees awarded in 1987.

For a copy of the guide contact Evelyn Roberts, OSA Technical Activities Manager, 1816 Jefferson Place NW, Washington DC 20036, (202) 223-8130.

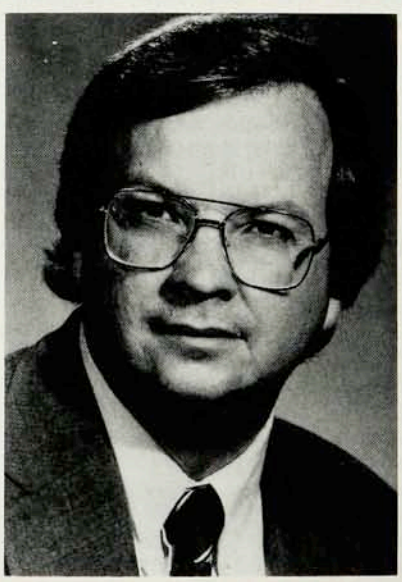
SHANK IS NEW HEAD OF LAWRENCE BERKELEY LAB

Charles V. Shank of AT&T Bell Labs, Holmdel, New Jersey, will become the new head of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory on 1 September. He succeeds David A. Shirley, a Berkeley-educated chemist, who has been director of the lab since 1980. Shank will be the first person with an engineering background to head the lab.

Shank earned his bachelor's (1965), master's (1966) and doctoral degrees (1969) in electrical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the technical staff at AT&T in 1969, and he became head of the company's physics and electronics department in 1976. In 1983 he was named director of the AT&T Electronics Research Laboratory at Holmdel.

Shank's research specialties are in quantum electronics and ultrafast spectroscopy. He was selected from a pool of 62 candidates after a nationwide search.

Charles V. Shank



AUSTIN IS NEW DIRECTOR OF MSU CYCLOTRON LAB

Sam M. Austin of Michigan State University has been named director of MSU's National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory. Since 1985, Austin has been codirector of the laboratory with Henry G. Blosser (see PHYSICS TODAY, November 1988, page 96). Upon announcing his retirement last year, Blosser recommended returning the lab to a single directorship.

Austin, an experimental nuclear physicist, earned his bachelor's (1955), master's (1957) and doctoral degrees (1960) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was an assistant professor at Stanford University from 1961 to 1965, when he joined MSU as an associate professor of physics and a researcher in the cyclotron laboratory. He was associate director of the cyclotron lab from 1976 to 1979, was chairman of MSU's department of physics and astronomy from 1980 to 1983 and was research director of the cyclotron lab from 1983 to 1985. Austin has been editor of *Physical Review C* since January 1988.

IN BRIEF

Britain's Education Minister, Keith Baker, has announced that science funding will be boosted by more than 10% in real terms in 1989–90. Nine new interdisciplinary research centers are to be created, building on the eight already established. The Natural Environment Research Council is to receive a whopping increase of 28%—apparently as a direct result of acute concern Prime Minister Thatcher has expressed recently about the global environment.

British astronomers have recommended that three new telescope projects be undertaken, in cooperation with international partners if possible: a $55 million 8-meter optical and infrared telescope, a $26 million array of gravitational radiation detectors, and a $14 million radar facility for the study of the upper atmosphere around the polar cap. The three projects are proposed by the Science and Engineering Research Council's Astronomy and Planetary Science Board. ■