

MARCHUK SURVIVES SOVIET ACADEMY ELECTION

Guri Marchuk, the somewhat controversial president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, survived the election held on 27 April and will serve a second five-year term. Previous elections involving the academy provoked a grass-roots rebellion among Soviet scientists, and it was rumored first that Roald Sagdeev and then that Yuri Ossipyan were trying to oust Marchuk, who sometimes is described as being part of the "old guard" that is out of step with *glasnost* and *perestroika* (see **PHYSICS TODAY**, January 1989, page 61, and May 1989, page 65). Sagdeev never formally ran, and he denied harboring the ambition of unseating Marchuk. Ossipyan withdrew from this year's race and since has been appointed to Mikhail Gorbachev's presidential council (see **PHYSICS TODAY**, March, page 50, and May, page 67).

The Soviet Academy of Sciences, unlike most institutions with similar names in the West, manages a gigantic research complex in addition to being an honor society. As a research organization it most nearly resembles France's Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique. The academy employs 220 000 researchers at institutes and laboratories, some of which amount to the equivalent of major universities or major industrial labs.

All incumbent vice presidents have retained their positions: Ossipyan, for example, remains in charge of the physical and mathematical sciences; Evgeny Velikhov, of information science and energy; Nikolai Laverov, the chairman of the Soviet Committee for Science and Technology, of Earth sciences; and Anatoly Logunov, rector of Moscow State University, of research and training centers and publishing.

The Leningrad Research Center, which comprises 30 research organizations, has been given the status of a regional organization of the academy and has been put under the charge of a newly appointed vice president, Zhores I. Alferov of the Ioffe Institute.

ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY PICKS UNGAR TO BE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Eric E. Ungar, chief consulting engineer at BBN Systems and Technologies Corporation, a subsidiary of Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc., in Cam-



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bridge, Massachusetts, is the new president-elect of the Acoustical Society of America. Robert E. Apfel, a professor of mechanical engineering at Yale University, is the new vice president-elect. Ungar and Apfel began their one-year terms in May. Next year they will succeed the current president and vice president, Alan Powell of the University of Houston and Katherine S. Harris of the City University of New York's graduate center.

Ungar received a BS from Washington University in 1951, an MS from the University of New Mexico in 1954 and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from New York University in 1957. In 1959 he joined Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc., where he has held several technical and technical management positions. He assumed his current title in 1984. Ungar has done research in mechanical vibrations and structural dynamics. Recently he has been studying vibration-sensitive structures and equipment, such as microelectronics manufacturing facilities and devices, and structures that must withstand severe vibrations, such as devices carried on military aircraft.

Apfel earned a PhD in applied physics from Harvard University in 1970. Since 1971 he has been on the Yale faculty, and he is currently the Becton Professor of Engineering and Applied Science. His research is in ultrasonics and radiation detection, and he is the head of Apfel Enterprises Inc., which manufactures radiation detectors for applications in power plant safety, medicine and nuclear weapons verification.

ASA also elected two new members to its executive council: Patricia K. Kuhl of the University of Washington and Allan D. Pierce of Pennsylvania State University.

BISHOP RECEIVES 1990 AIP SCIENCE WRITING AWARD

Jerry E. Bishop, a deputy news editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, is the 1990 winner of the American Institute of Physics award for science writing by a journalist. Bishop was chosen for his series of articles on cold fusion that appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* from March to December 1989.

Bishop received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Texas in 1952. He joined *The Wall Street Journal* as a copyreader in 1955 and has held his current position there since 1987. He has covered the US space program and Antarctic exploration, among other things.

Last year Timothy Ferris, a professor of journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, received the science writing award for his book *Coming of Age in the Milky Way* (Morrow, New York, 1988).

Ferris has been a reporter and feature writer for UPI and the *New York Post*, an editor at *Rolling Stone* magazine and a commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." He wrote and narrated "The Creation of the Universe," a television documentary broadcast on PBS, and he created "Galaxies," an internationally syndicated planetarium program. Ferris received his bachelor's degree in English from Northwestern University in 1966.

Bishop and Ferris are past recipients of the AIP science writing award. In 1978 Ferris won for his book *The Red Limit* (Morrow, New York, 1977), and in 1972 Bishop won for a *Wall Street Journal* article entitled "Celestial Clue."

IN BRIEF

The Federal Republic of Germany has established an Agency for Space Transport Affairs (the Deutsche Agentur für Raumfahrtangelegenheiten), a publicly funded private company with an initial budget of about \$1 billion. Canada set up its Canadian Space Agency on 1 March last year, Italy its Agenzie Spaziale Italiana in 1988, and Britain its British National Space Center in November 1985.

Stephen G. Brush, a professor in the department of history and in the Institute for Physical Science and Technology at the University of Maryland, College Park, has been elected president of the History of Science Society for 1990-91. ■