section was 10.6 out of a possible 20. Barnett, the winner of the Olympiad, scored 45.7 out of a possible 50.

Jonathan Higa of Iolini High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Dylan Thurston of Princeton High School in Princeton, New Jersey, earned the bronze medals for the American team, and Perry Cheng of Memorial High School in Houston, Texas, received an honorable mention. The other US competitors were Christopher Niell of Bromfield School in Harvard, Massachusetts, and Joshua Winn of Deerfield High School in Deerfield, Illinois.

Although the US team came away with fewer medals this year than in any of the previous years it has competed, this was the first time all five earned scores that placed them in the top half of the competitors, according to Larry Kirkpatrick of Montana State University, who has helped coach the US team for the past three years. —JEAN KUMAGAI

AVS SPONSORS WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

At its annual meeting next month in Toronto, Canada, the American Vacuum Society will sponsor a one-day program for local high school physics and chemistry teachers. At an estimated cost of $11 000, about 40 teachers from 25 Toronto area schools will be given a demonstration and tutorial on the principles of vacuum science, a guided tour of the meeting's equipment exhibits, and monetary grants toward the purchase of vacuum equipment for their schools.

"This is our first endeavor to get involved at the high school level," says James Solomon of the University of Dayton, who currently heads the AVS education committee. AVS is following in the footsteps of the Optical Society of America, the American Astronomical Society and The American Physical Society, which already have introduced programs to involve high school teachers at their annual meetings.

A big component of the program will be the demonstration of a set of vacuum science experiments, which have been prepared by Ken Nebesny of the University of Arizona and Art Nelson of the Solar Energy Research Institute in Colorado. In one experiment, an alarm clock is placed inside a vacuum (bell) jar and air is then removed via a vacuum pump; the alarm beeping becomes faint as the pressure decreases. Nebesny and Nelson are also putting together vacuum kits to be used by the teachers in their own classrooms. AVS plans to give grants to each of the participating schools to cover the cost of the kit, which includes a vacuum pump, vacuum jar, pressure gauge and experiment book.

In addition to the demonstration, the teachers will hear a lecture on the fundamentals of vacuum science by Richard Gilbert of the University of South Florida, and they will attend the meeting's plenary lecture by John C. Polanyi of the University of Toronto entitled "The Photochemistry of Absorbates." Polanyi shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1986 for his work on chemical reaction dynamics (see PHYSICS TODAY, March 1987, page 17). Following the plenary lecture, the teachers will be given a tour of the AVS equipment exhibit.

If all goes well, AVS plans to offer similar workshops at future annual meetings, says David W. Hoffman, the society's president. AVS also intends to open up the workshop to teachers throughout the United States and Canada. One possible arrangement would be for each of the society's 21 chapters to sponsor one or two teachers to attend the workshop.

AIP GIVES GRANTS FOR PRE-COLLEGE PHYSICS PROJECTS

Four projects designed to improve physics education at the pre-college level were recently awarded grants totaling $25 000 as part of the William F. and Edith R. Meggers Project Award sponsored by the American Institute of Physics. The winning projects were selected by a committee headed by Jorge Barojas, AIP's senior education fellow in 1989–90.

A $10 000 grant went to Jon Barber and Henry J. Ryan of Mounds View High School in Arden Hills, Minnesota, for the development of a videocassette explaining their use of student-run laboratories in high school physics. Paul Hickman of Phillips Academy in Andover, New Hampshire, and Jennifer Hickman of Belmont High School in Belmont, Massachusetts, received $6300 for a project that encourages parents and children to do physics projects at home. Neel Beard of Hampden–Sydney College in Virginia was awarded $5200 to organize a one-week summer class that will introduce high school students to physics before they begin their regular high school physics course. William J. Layton of Palisades High School and the University of California, Los Angeles, and Nuria Rodriguez of Santa Monica College received $3500 to help create a database listing the physics teachers and the numbers and types of physics courses in California high schools.

MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY ESTABLISHES TWO NEW PRIZES

The Materials Research Society has established two new annual awards to recognize excellence in materials research. The Outstanding Young Investigator Award will be given to individuals under the age of 35 whose "excellent interdisciplinary materials research indicates exceptional promise for future leadership in the field." The MRS Medal will recognize individuals responsible for some pioneering research achievement in any materials-related field. The new awards, which are being supported through the newly created MRS awards endowment fund, carry a cash prize of $1000 each. Winners will be invited to give a technical talk during the MRS meeting at which they receive the award.

IN BRIEF

The Optical Society of America has moved its headquarters to 2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036. The telephone and facsimile numbers are unchanged.

The German Physical Society (Deutsche Physikalische Gesellshaft) announced at its annual meeting, which took place in Munich in mid-March, that it soon will reunite with the Physical Society of East Germany. The enlarged DPG will have about 20 000 members, about 10% of whom will represent the membership of the East German physical society. According to Gerd Röpke, the president of the East German society, an overwhelming majority of its members already have voted to rejoin the DPG at the first opportunity.

The three 15-meter radiotelescopes built and operated by the Institute for Radioastronomy in the Millimeter Range, a French–German consortium, have come into operation on the Plateau de Bure in southern France. The telescopes, with a range of 0.8–3 mm, rest on a system of tracks and can be positioned in 28 configurations. They also can be linked to form an extended array with IRAM's 30-m radiotelescope on the Pico Valata in southern Spain, a facility managed by the Instituto Geográfico Nacional. ■