

cal engineering and physics and director of the Center for Laser Studies at USC. Her research has included work on integrated optics, high-power waveguides and, more recently, optical bistability and nonlinear optics in semiconductors and semiconductor lasers. She founded Laser Images Inc, the company that originated the Laserium light shows, and she has had a one-person show of her laser art in Hollywood.

Three new board members also took office this month: Janet S. Fender of the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, Dennis G. Hall of the University of Rochester and Mary A. Johnson of the Johns Hopkins University.

AVS CHOOSES MURDAY TO BE PRESIDENT-ELECT

James S. Murday of the Naval Research Laboratory is the 1991 president-elect of the American Vacuum Society. Murday, who was elected last fall and took office this month, succeeds Lawrence L. Kazmerski of the Solar Energy Research Institute, who is now president. Murday will become president in 1992.

Murday received a PhD in solid state physics from Cornell University in 1970. In 1969 he joined the Naval Research Lab, where he currently directs the chemistry division and does research in interface analysis, surface modification technology, surface reaction kinetics and nanometer-scale science.

Murday served as an AVS trustee from 1981 to 1984 and as a director from 1986 to 1988.

In other balloting results, William D. Westwood, manager of materials

James S. Murday



research and gallium arsenide devices at Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa, Ontario, was reelected clerk; N. Rey Whetten, a staff physicist in the Large Area Electronic Systems Laboratory of the General Electric Research and Development Center, was reelected treasurer; David E. Aspnes, manager of the optical physics district at Bell Communications Research, Gerald J. Lapeyre, a professor of physics at Montana State University, and Steve Rossnagel, a research staff member at IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, were elected to the AVS board of directors. Patricia M. George, manager of the materials science department at Aerojet Electronic Systems, and Eric Kay, a researcher at the IBM Almaden Research Center, were elected trustees.

OSA SEPARATES ANNUAL MEETING FROM OPTCON

Beginning in 1992, the Optical Society of America no longer will hold its annual meetings in conjunction with Optcon, a national technical conference dedicated to applied optics. The decision followed the recommendation of the Optcon long-range-planning committee that the conference rapidly evolve into a trade show, as was the original idea when Optcon was conceived. OSA will continue to be a sponsor of Optcon and will hold smaller technical sessions at future Optcon shows.

OSA was one of five founding sponsors of Optcon, which was established in 1988. The other sponsors were the Laser and Electro-Optics Manufacturers Association, the Laser Institute of America, the Lasers and Electro-Optics Society of IEEE, and the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE). To help boost attendance at Optcon, the sponsors agreed to hold technical meetings concurrently with the exhibition at least through 1995. After assessing the first Optcon, however, the long-range-planning committee felt that while the technical meetings were quite successful, it would be desirable to attract more practicing engineers and other users of optics products.

According to William Silfvast, OSA's representative on the Optcon long-range-planning committee and the chair of the Optcon steering committee, the other sponsors have not yet decided whether they will follow OSA's lead. Silfvast, who recently left AT&T Bell Labs-Holmdel for the Center for Research on Optical

Lasers at the University of Central Florida, says it remains to be seen how soon Optcon will be able to attract enough attendees without the lure of large technical meetings.

Under the new arrangement, OSA's 1991 annual meeting will still be held concurrently with Optcon, in San Jose. Then, in 1992, OSA will resume its practice of rotating the annual meeting among cities throughout the US. "Holding our annual meeting separately will allow OSA to meet in smaller cities... and will enable more members to participate," says Richard Abrams, OSA's 1990 president.

The current plan is for OSA to hold its 1992 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and for the 1992 Optcon show to be in Boston.

KNAPP HEADS NUCLEAR PHYSICS AT LOS ALAMOS

Edward Knapp has been named director of the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility, program director for nuclear physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory and leader of the laboratory's medium-energy physics division, which operates LAMPF.

Knapp has been closely associated with Los Alamos since 1958, when he joined its staff after earning a doctorate in physics at the University of California, Berkeley. In recent years, however, he has been known primarily as a policy maker and science leader. Knapp served from 1982 to 1984 as director of the National Science Foundation and from 1985 to 1989 as president of Universities Research Association, the consortium that acts as board of directors for Fermilab and the Superconducting Super Collider.

During the 1960s Knapp was a leader of the group that conceptualized, designed and built LAMPF, which was dedicated in 1972 as the Clinton P. Anderson Meson Physics Facility. He also was the founder and first head of the Los Alamos accelerator technology division.

IN BRIEF

The National Center for Science Education sponsors a project aimed at improving pre-college science textbooks by providing or facilitating pre- and post-publication reviews. For further information, contact Eugenie C. Scott, executive director, NCSE, Box 9477, Berkeley CA 94709. ■