

AVS CHOOSES NOONAN TO BE 1993 PRESIDENT-ELECT

John Noonan of Argonne National Laboratory has been chosen president-elect of the American Vacuum Society for 1993. He succeeds H. Frederick Dylla of the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, who is the 1993 president. Noonan will become AVS president in 1994.

Noonan earned a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois in 1974. He then joined the research staff of the solid state division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. His research there involved surface crystallography and thin film growth. In 1991 Noonan moved to Argonne National Laboratory, where he is leader of the vacuum systems group at the Advanced Photon Source—the 7-GeV, 100-mA synchrotron under construction at Argonne. At the APS he is helping design and fabricate the accelerator vacuum system and is studying the problems that photon-stimulated absorption has on accelerator vacuums.

As AVS president-elect, Noonan hopes to continue to build "an increased vitality" at the society's national symposiums. He also would like to promote AVS's new journal, *Surface Science Spectra* and regain the interest of individuals who were once members of AVS but have since left the organization, such as those involved in vacuum coating and silicon integrated circuit microprocessing.

In other ballot results, William D. Westwood of Bell-Northern Research in Ottawa was reelected clerk and N. Rey Whetten, recently retired from the General Electric Research and Development Center, was reelected treasurer. Newly elected to the AVS board of directors were Roger Stock-

John Noonan



bauer of Louisiana State University, Eric Stuve of the University of Washington and Christine Whitman of CVC Products in Rochester, New York. Two new trustees were also elected: Bruce Kendall of Pennsylvania State University and Jacqueline Krimm of Northeastern University.

EUROPE'S NEW ASTRONOMY SOCIETY GETS ON ITS FEET

The European Astronomical Society, which was founded during a meeting held in Davos in the Swiss Alps in fall 1990, held its first general meeting this summer at Liège, Belgium. According to Thierry J. L. Courvoisier of the Geneva Observatory, who is editor of the society's newsletter, the scientific level was "very good," and members of the society began to focus on some important political issues.

EAS is a society of individual astronomers and astrophysicists, not societies, and currently has about 1100 members. The various national astronomical societies will collect dues for EAS, however, so as to avoid extra banking fees. The immediate impetus for the founding of the society was the need to better coordinate European regional meetings of the International Astronomical Union.

An important strategic objective of the new society, Thierry told *PHYSICS TODAY*, is to help coordinate dealings with the European Community, with joint EC programs looming ever larger. Dealings with the US also are important, as he spelled out in a special report he wrote for the American Astronomical Society's newsletter earlier this year.

"The differences in the way projects are funded in the US and in Europe is causing several problems. In Europe we have several agencies and organizations funding projects at national or European levels. A point in common to several of them is that they fund projects on a project-by-project basis, rather than reexamining the budgets of the projects each year. . . . [T]he total resources available to a given project are not easily extensible. Thus delays which are caused by third parties . . . are very difficult to deal with. This type of problem is encountered in US-European collaborative work, and in particular in collaboration between NASA and the European Space Agency."

The main political focus at Liège was aid for astronomers in states of the former Soviet Union. Thierry said EAS is establishing an emergen-

cy fund similar to the ones set up by AAS and the American Physical Society (*PHYSICS TODAY*, May 1992, page 56). He said EAS also hopes to help "catalyze" funds from the EC for things like computer links with astronomical institutions in the FSU and Eastern Europe.

The first president of EAS is Lodewyk Woltjer, the former director general of the European Southern Observatory who now is at the Observatoire de Haute Provence.

VICE PRESIDENT OF OPTICAL SOCIETY FOR 1993 IS TINGYE LI

The Optical Society of America has elected Tingye Li of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey, to be its 1993 vice president. Li begins his one-year term on 1 January, and he will become president-elect in 1994 and president in 1995. He succeeds Robert L. Byer of Stanford University, who will be president-elect in 1993. The 1993 president is Elsa M. Garmire of the University of Southern California.

Li earned a PhD in electrical engineering from Northwestern University in 1958. He has spent his entire career with Bell Labs; at present he is head of the lightwave systems research department. His research has involved antennas, microwave propagation, lasers and optical communications. Currently he is working on high-speed techniques and systems for lightwave transmission and networking.

Also elected were three new OSA directors: Gary C. Bjorklund of the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose; Anthony M. Johnson of Bell Labs in Holmdel; and Peter W. E. Smith of the University of Toronto.

Tingye Li

