

HAXTON IS DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR THEORY INSTITUTE

Wick C. Haxton, a member of the physics faculty at the University of Washington, has been named first permanent director of the Department of Energy's newly established Institute for Nuclear Theory (PHYSICS TODAY, April 1990, page 45). Haxton succeeds acting director Ernest Henley, who continues at the institute as associate director.

The Institute for Nuclear Theory opened last year at the University of Washington after the theory subcommittee of the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee to the National Science Foundation and DOE recommended creation of such an institute and after a DOE-sponsored selection committee chose the University of Washington proposal over those from four other collaborations. The institute is supported primarily by DOE, the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust in Vancouver, Washington, and UW.

In addition to Haxton and Henley, the institute's staff currently includes a junior fellow and assistant professor, Tetsuo Hatsuda, and four postdoctoral research associates. Haxton expects that two senior fellows (professors) and a second junior fellow will join the institute in the next two years.

The institute currently sponsors several specialized programs each year that typically last several months and involve a dozen or so visitors. Programs are selected in consultation with a national advisory committee to the institute chaired by Steven Koonin of Caltech. This committee conducted the search for the institute's director and selected Haxton last year.

Haxton earned his bachelor of science degrees in physics and mathematics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1971. He obtained a master's degree (1973) and a PhD (1976) at Stanford. He was a research associate at the Institute for Nuclear Physics at the University of Mainz from 1975 to 1977; a research associate (1977-79), J. R. Oppenheimer fellow (1979-83) and staff member (1983-85) in the theory division at Los Alamos National Laboratory; and assistant professor of physics at Purdue from 1980 to 1982. Haxton joined UW as an associate professor in 1984 and became a full professor there in 1987. He is serving as chair-elect of the APS division of nuclear physics and as an APS councillor-at-large. He is also a member of the physics section

committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Haxton's principal research interests have been electroweak interactions, tests of conservation laws, nuclear and neutrino astrophysics and many-body techniques.

WHALEN NAMED CEO OF CONDUCTUS INC, SUCCEEDS CANNON

Barry H. Whalen, senior vice president of Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation in Austin, Texas, has been named president and CEO of Conductus Inc in Sunnyvale, California. The previous president of Conductus, Peter Cannon, left the company in January 1991, and John Rowell, who is now vice president and chief technical officer, had been serving as acting president in the interim.

Conductus was founded in 1987 as a privately held company to develop applications of high-temperature superconducting materials and to commercialize superconducting electronics, such as sensors and high-speed circuits. The company currently has a staff of 25, including 18 fulltime researchers. Hewlett-Packard owns a 15% share of Conductus.

Research and product development at Conductus is evenly divided among three areas: infrared and magnetic sensors; microwave components for use in satellites, radars and the like; and integrated circuits for use in computers and telecommunications. The company also does basic research on superconductor materials and device technology.

One of the company's first significant products is a liquid nitrogen cooled dc SQUID system for use in education, called Mr. Squid. Another product now being developed is a SQUID system containing a fully integrated SQUID chip, suitable for nondestructive testing, geophysical surveying and biomedical sensing.

Whalen, an electrical engineer with a BS, MS and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, worked for 20 years at TRW on a variety of military and space-related projects. He was manager of TRW's very-high-speed integrated circuits program.

Whalen joined MCC—a research consortium that manages and carries out projects for its 22 shareholder companies and 49 associate members—in 1984 as head of a program to develop advanced techniques for packaging chips. He became senior vice president of MCC in 1989. Most recently he was involved in

MCC's First Cities project, which he describes as a "national test bed for advanced multimedia telecommunication services."

OPTICAL SOCIETY ELECTS BYER VICE PRESIDENT

Robert L. Byer, dean of research and professor of applied physics at Stanford University, is the new vice president of the Optical Society of America. After serving a one-year term, he will become president-elect in 1993 and president in 1994. Byer took office on 1 January, succeeding Elsa M. Garmire of the University of Southern California, who is now president-elect. Joseph W. Goodman of Stanford is 1992 president.

Byer received a BA in physics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1964 and a PhD in applied physics at Stanford in 1969. As a member of Stanford's department of applied physics since 1969, Byer has initiated and conducted laser research on a broad front. His major projects have included the application of tunable laser sources to remote sensing, research in coherent anti-Stokes Raman spectroscopy, an isotope enrichment technique involving the use of stimulated Raman scattering in hydrogen gas with a CO₂ laser source and work on advanced slab-geometry solid-state laser sources and diode-pumped laser sources.

Byer was chair of Stanford's department of applied physics from 1981 to 1984 and associate dean of humanities and sciences from 1985 to 1987, when he became dean of research. He served as president of the IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society in

Robert L. Byer

