

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



1985. He cofounded two companies, Quanta Ray Inc and Lightwave Electronics Corporation.

In other OSA election results, three new members were picked for the board: William F. Krupke, deputy associate director for lasers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Richard E. Slusher, head of the optical physics research department at AT&T Bell Labs, Murray Hill; and Colin E. Webb, chairman of Oxford Lasers Ltd.

APS ESTABLISHES AWARD FOR WORK OVERSEAS

The International Physics Group of the American Physical Society has established a new award to recognize physicists who have made significant contributions to the development of physics in a third world country. Named in memory of John Wheatley, an American physicist who in 1962 helped establish a low-temperature research facility in Bariloche, Argentina, the award will be presented in alternating years beginning in 1992. It consists of \$2000 and a certificate.

"Scientific progress in third world countries often depends on the work of physicists who break the normal flow of their careers to go and assist in the advance of the physics community in that region," says Alwyn Eades of the University of Illinois, who was involved in establishing the award. The award will be given only for work done outside one's native country.

BOOK ON SIMULATION WINS AIP WRITING AWARD

Gloria Skurzynski is the winner of the 1992 award for children's science writing in physics and astronomy, which is made annually by the American Institute of Physics. The award consists of \$3000 and an inscribed Windsor chair.

Skurzynski, who will be presented with the award during The American Physical Society's spring meeting in Washington, DC, is honored for *Almost the Real Thing*. Published by Bradbury Press, an affiliate of Macmillan Inc, the book introduces young readers to the world of simulations and shows how they are an important tool for scientists, engineers and others involved in high technology.

Skurzynski, who is the fifth writer to win the AIP children's science

writing award, is the author of 21 fiction and nonfiction books for children and young adults. She lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

SEARCH FOR NEW MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS EDITOR

A search committee has been established for an editor of the *Journal of Mathematical Physics*, which is published by the American Institute of Physics. The current editor, Lawrence C. Biedenharn of Duke University, is due to retire this May.

The chair of the search committee is Martin Gutzwiller of the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York. The other members are Jennifer Chayes (University of California, Los Angeles), Bryce DeWitt (University of Texas, Austin), Elliott Lieb (Princeton University), Richard Prange (University of Maryland, College Park) and Leonard Susskind (Stanford University).

The search for a new *JMP* editor was preceded by a formal review of the journal by a committee that reported last year. The chair of the review committee was Cecile DeWitt-Morette (University of Texas, Austin).

IN BRIEF

Britain's Institute of Physics has launched a new journal, *Smart Materials and Structures*. It has three editors: Richard O. Claus of Virginia Tech, Gareth J. Knowles of Grumman Aerospace and Vigay K. Varadan of Penn State. The first issue appears in March, and the subscription price is \$220.

Pure and Applied Optics (Part A), a journal of the newly founded European Optical Society, will start to appear in 1992. It is published and marketed by Britain's IOP; a one-year subscription is \$220. The chief editor is M. Bertolotti of the Università degli Studi di Roma.

Israel has been granted observer status at CERN, a possible step toward full membership.

Germany's Volkswagen Foundation has made grants for several science projects in Eastern Europe, including 6.6 million marks for science libraries in five countries. The foundation also has approved grants totaling 34 million marks for universities and insti-

tutes in the newly incorporated East German states.

Albrecht Wagner has succeeded Paul Söding as research director of DESY in Hamburg. Söding resumes active research.

On 1 January 1992 Wolfgang Frühwald, a scholar of the German language, succeeded Hubert Markl as president of the German Research Society (the DFG), Germany's counterpart to the NSF.

The American Physical Society has expanded its LeRoy Apker Award, given each year to an undergraduate physics major for outstanding achievement. Beginning this year two types of award will be presented, one to a student at an undergraduate institution with a PhD program in physics and the other to a student at an undergraduate institution with no physics PhD program. The decision to expand the award stemmed from concern that students at smaller colleges may not have as many research opportunities as those at major universities.

Sekazi K. Mtingwa, professor and chairman of the physics department at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, is president-elect of the National Society of Black Physicists. He succeeds Kennedy Reed of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and will serve as president from spring 1992 to spring 1994. The society, founded fifteen years ago, has about 50 active members.

The University of Rochester has laid the cornerstone for a new Center for Optoelectronics and Imaging, which is jointly funded by the university, New York State and the W. M. Keck Foundation. A major project at the center will be the Rochester Imaging Consortium, in which scientists from Kodak, Xerox, the University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology will work on digital imaging.

Canada has concluded agreements with the European Space Agency providing for Canadian participation in the Hermes space shuttle program, the second phase of ESA's Earth-sensing program, the polar platform project for space station Freedom and two telecommunications projects. Independently, ESA has concluded an agreement with Japan providing for the exchange of data from European and Japanese Earth-sensing satellites and an agreement with Italy concerning joint financing of a Hermes test facility. ■