SURVEY REVEALS RECESSION'S IMPACT ON CLASS OF 1991

To nobody's great surprise, a number of recession-related findings turned up in the latest survey of physics bachelor's degree recipients in the US, conducted by the American Institute of Physics. Among the changes noted in the class of 1991 were an increase in the proportion reporting no job offers following graduation and a rise in the proportion opting for graduate study.

The survey, conducted annually by Susanne Ellis and Patrick Mulvey of the AIP Education and Employment Statistics Division, polled about 5000 students who received physics bachelor's degrees in 1990–91. The response rate was 53%. Compared to the previous several years, the size and composition of the class of 1991 showed little change: 17% were female, 94% were US citizens and 10% were US citizens belonging to minority groups.

Graduate school is often perceived as a means of riding out a recession. Accordingly, the survey found a four-point rise in those who said they would pursue graduate study. In 1991, 57% said they would do graduate work, with 37% choosing physics or astronomy and the rest opting for some other area.

Two-fifths of the class of 1991 chose to look for employment following graduation. Of that group, 22% said they had not yet received a job offer when the survey was conducted in the summer of 1991, a five-point rise from the previous year. Two-thirds said they had received one job offer, about the same as last year. But only 11% had gotten two or more offers, compared to 15% in 1990.

Among the respondents who did find work, the median monthly salary was $2085, the same as in 1990. The largest source of jobs continues to be industry, but industrial openings have declined significantly in recent years. For example, 21% accepted offers from manufacturing companies in 1991, compared to 35% in 1985. The military (including Department of Defense labs and the armed forces) continued to be the second largest employer.

There were 200 astronomy bachelor's degrees awarded in 1991, a rise of 14% over the previous year and about the same as in 1989. A little over half said they would pursue graduate study, while 45% said they would enter the job market.

The report on the 1990–91 survey of bachelor's degree recipients is available free of charge from the Education and Employment Statistics Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017. —JEAN KUMAGAI

US PUTS IN BEST PERFORMANCE EVER IN PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

While the world's greatest athletes were gearing up for the Olympic Games in Barcelona, some of the world's top high school students gathered in Helsinki, Finland, to compete in an olympics of a different kind—the XXIII International Physics Olympiad. The event, held from 5 to 13 July, drew 177 students from 37 countries. In its best performance to date, the US team won five awards—two gold medals, one silver medal and two honorable mentions.

The Chinese once again placed first, repeating last year's previously unheard of performance by claiming five gold medals. The top score of 44 out of a possible 50 was earned by Han Chen of China. Almost as impressive was the Russian team, which garnered three gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

For the Americans, it was the first time that every member of the team won an award. One gold medal went to Eric Miller of San Rafael, California, who placed fifth overall with a score of 41. This was Miller's second time as a team member; last year in Cuba he received an honorable mention. The other American gold went to Szymon Rusinkiewicz of Houston, Texas, while the silver medal was won by Michael Schulz of Baldwin, New York. Carwil James of East Cleveland, Ohio, and Dean Jens of Ankeny, Iowa, were awarded honorable mentions.

The US team leaders, who coached the students prior to the event and accompanied the team to Finland, were Larry Kirkpatrick of Montana State University and Avi Hauser of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey. The US team was organized by the American Association of Physics Teachers, under the direction of Bernard V. Khoury, AAPT's executive officer.

1993 Physics Olympiad

Preparations continue for the XXIV International Physics Olympiad, which will be held at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, next summer. Arthur Eisenkraft, a teacher at Fox Lane High School in Bedford, New York, who was a team leader in previous olympiads, is serving as executive director of the 1993 event. To cover the cost of hosting the olympiad, which is estimated at about $1 million, the American Institute of Physics has begun a major fund-raising campaign. AIP also raised funds for this year's team, and nine of AIP's member societies as well as AT&T and IBM helped sponsor the event.

For at least four of the US team members, their Olympiad careers have ended, and they are now attending college: Miller is at Harvard, Rusinkiewicz is at Cornell, Schulz is at MIT and James, who skipped his last year of high school, is at Northwestern. Jens is now a senior at Ankeny High School.

—JEAN KUMAGAI

NEWTON IS EDITOR OF *MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS*

Roger G. Newton of Indiana University, Bloomington, is the new editor of the *Journal of Mathematical Physics*, a publication of the American Institute of Physics. He succeeds Lawrence C. Biedenharn of Duke University.

Newton was educated at Harvard University, where he earned an AB in 1949, an AM in 1950 and a PhD in physics in 1953. After receiving his doctorate Newton spent two years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He joined the physics faculty at Indiana University in 1955, and he is currently Distinguished Professor of Physics there.

Newton, a theoretical physicist, has done work on quantum electrodynamics, quantum mechanics and scattering theory, with special emphasis on various aspects of the inverse scattering problem.

IN BRIEF

Elsevier has started a new journal, *Astroparticle Physics*, under the North–Holland imprint. The editors are V. S. Berezinsky of the Gran Sasso Laboratory in Italy and the Institute for Nuclear Research in Moscow; T. K. Gaisser of Bartol Research Institute at the University of Delaware, Newark; and A. A. Watson of the department of physics at the University of Leeds in England. The subscription price is 318 guilder or, in North America, $191.57. ■