

AAS NAMES RECIPIENTS OF 1993 PRIZES

Each year the American Astronomical Society presents prizes in recognition of individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to astronomy. This year **P. James E. Peebles**, Albert Einstein Professor of Science at Princeton University, was awarded the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship. AAS cited him for being "a pioneer in understanding the origin of the light elements, the characteristics of the cosmic background radiation and the growth of cosmic structure due to gravity." He was also cited for "the discovery of dark matter in galaxy halos and stressing the importance of the statistical analysis of the spatial distribution of galaxies, along with the use of the correlation function as a measure of galaxy clustering."

John C. Mather, head of the infrared astrophysics branch at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, is the winner of the 1993 Daniel Heineman Prize in Astrophysics, awarded jointly by AAS and the American Institute of Physics. Under his leadership, AAS said, "the Cosmic Background Explorer team has made a precise measurement of the spectrum of the cosmic microwave background and the detection of minute temperature fluctuations in this radiation. The COBE mission has provided superb observational data, which have profound cosmological significance."

AAS selected **Arlin P. S. Crotts**, an assistant professor of astronomy at Columbia University, to receive the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize. "Discoverer of the interstellar light echoes around supernova 1987A, Crotts was also first to establish the nature of the even more interesting echoes within 2" of the supernova," the citation said.

The Helen P. Warner Prize goes to **John F. Hawley**, an assistant professor of astronomy at the University of Virginia. He was cited by AAS for contributions to computational astrophysics. "Hawley invented a powerful new approach to magnetohydro-

dynamic calculations," the citation said, and with this tool, Hawley and Steven Balbus "discovered the almost universal nature of a powerful MHD instability."

The AAS Annenberg Foundation Award, which recognizes leadership in astronomy education, is being given to **Dorrit Hoffleit**, a researcher on star catalogues and the history of astronomy, particularly that of Yale University. As director of the Maria Mitchell Observatory on Nantucket, Massachusetts, from 1957 to 1978, Hoffleit oversaw a summer youth program whose alumnae include 21 women astronomers—"roughly 3% of all women astronomers in AAS," the citation noted.

AGU BESTOWS MEDALS AT BALTIMORE MEETING

At a ceremony during the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union, six individuals were presented with awards in honor of their achievements in geophysics. The two winners of the James B. Macelwane Medal were **Michael Gurnis** and **David J. McComas**. Gurnis, an associate professor of geophysics at the University of Michigan, was cited for "addressing some important problems dealing with the relation between the large-scale dynamics of the Earth's interior and geochemical and geological observations." McComas, leader of the space and atmospheric sciences group at Los Alamos National Laboratory, was chosen for "redefining his field of study, which encompasses the composition of solar system plasmas, their source regions, and their interactions with the various planetary obstacles that exist in the heliosphere." His work involves "unique applications of existing spacecraft data and . . . the innovative design of startlingly new plasma instrumentation." The John Adam Fleming Medal was given to **Alexander J. Dessler** of Rice University. "Dessler has achieved distinction in four separate but related roles," the citation said: "researcher, editor,

educator and administrator." His research has included pioneering work on the magnetospheres of Earth and other planets. He is currently director of the space science lab at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center and chairman of the space physics and astronomy department at Rice.

Kurt Lambeck received the Charles A. Whitten Medal. Many of "our perceptions about the behavior of the Earth in its rotation, tidal dissipation, postglacial rebound, lithospheric evolution and other aspects have been strongly influenced by Kurt Lambeck," the citation said. Lambeck is director of the Australian National University's research school of Earth sciences in Canberra.

The Roger Revelle Medal went to **Syukuro Manabe**, who was cited for being "the initial developer of numerical modeling approaches to climate dynamics." Without Manabe's pioneering work on global warming, the citation said, "the current level of awareness simply would not have been possible." Manabe is a senior researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's geophysical fluid dynamics laboratory at Princeton University.

The Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Scientific Journalism went to **John McPhee**, a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. McPhee was chosen for his series "Annals of the Former World: Assembling California," which appeared in *The New Yorker* in September 1992. The series discusses plate tectonics and the evolution of the US's West Coast.

PHYSICISTS HONORED AT APS DIVISION MEETINGS

Several divisional meetings of the American Physical Society in May and June were highlighted by the presentation of APS prizes and awards.

At the May meeting of the APS division of atomic, molecular and optical physics in Reno, Nevada, the Herbert P. Broida Prize and the I. I.