

cal Astronomy Observatories, in 1985 and became director the following year.

Williams does research mainly on novae and strongly supports the practice of having institute staff be active researchers. In recent years he has interested himself mainly in mass-transfer binaries, using optical and ultraviolet data.

APS LECTURESHIP PROMOTES MINORITIES IN PHYSICS

The American Physical Society, in an effort to promote greater participation of minorities in physics, has established the Visiting Minority Lectureship. The lectureship will recognize a distinguished minority physicist who has made significant contributions to physics research and will help publicize that individual's work to the physics community, especially among minority students.

Despite concern in recent years about the predominance of white males in US physics, the participation of women and certain ethnic minorities remains low. According to figures gathered by the American Institute of Physics's education and employment statistics division, in 1992 Hispanic Americans accounted for about 1% of physics PhDs, while African Americans and Native Americans accounted for less than 1%.

The Visiting Minority Lectureship is modeled after APS's Lilienfeld Prize, which recognizes both research achievements and communication skills. According to Anthony Johnson of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey, who is the chair of the APS committee on minorities, the annual lectureship consists of a \$3000 prize plus support for travel to the March or April APS meetings, where the recipient will receive the award and give an invited talk on his or her research. The lecturer will also visit at least three academic institutions where minority students would be likely to benefit. The lecturer will deliver technical talks, visit classrooms and meet informally with faculty and students. "The visits to academic institutions," Johnson says, "can have a much greater impact on prospective minority students than simply presenting a prize or award or lecture at a meeting."

Funding for the program came from the Research Corporation of Tucson, Arizona, a private foundation that promotes academic research in the physical sciences as well as ef-

forts to boost enrollments and interest in science.

The nomination deadline for this year's lectureship is 6 December. The selection committee chair is Eugen Merzbacher of the University of North Carolina.

Information on the Visiting Minority Lectureship is available from the APS Physics Profession Programs Department, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

FEWER PHYSICS BACHELORS IN 1992, SURVEY FINDS

For the first time in seven years the number of physics bachelor's degree recipients fell below the 5000 mark, according to a recent survey conducted by the American Institute of Physics. The 4965 bachelor's degrees awarded in 1992 were down from 5150 a year earlier and a high of 5250 in 1987.

In the survey report, prepared by Susanne D. Ellis and Patrick J. Mulvey of the AIP education and employment statistics division, the decline was attributed in part to a belief among undergraduates that "a non-physics degree will make them more marketable" in a tighter economy.

In contrast to the drop in undergraduate degrees, the survey noted significant increases in graduate degrees: From 1991 to 1992 master's degrees increased by 12%, to 1918, and PhDs by 6%, to 1346.

There were fewer physics grad students in 1992 than the previous year, according to the survey, which covers undergraduate and graduate enrollments for 1992-93 and degrees awarded in 1991-92. A 6% drop was recorded in first-year graduate enrollment and a 1% drop occurred in total graduate enrollment; the latter, although small, is the first such decline since 1979.

During the past several years Americans belonging to racial minorities have slowly but steadily increased their presence among physics undergraduates. Since 1989, when they accounted for 8.4% of the bachelor's degrees, the proportion of ethnic minorities has inched upwards each year, to 10.2% in 1992. The representation of US women earning physics bachelors, however, has remained steady at about 15%. And although a record number of women—149—earned physics PhDs in 1992, over half were foreign citizens.

Copies of the 1992 enrollments and degrees survey report, which also

includes data on astronomy, are available from the AIP Education and Employment Statistics Division, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

AIP JOURNAL OFFERS ELECTRONIC PREPRINTS

The *Journal of Chemical Physics*, published by the American Institute of Physics, is now offering an online service for obtaining articles and letters that the journal has accepted for publication. Called JCP Express, the new service will enable electronic preprints to be retrieved through the Internet, from the time of acceptance up to the time of journal publication. In many cases, the electronic text will be available up to four months before the journal article, which will be identical to the electronic version except for copyediting changes.

Only accepted articles and letters may be submitted to JCP Express. According to John C. Light, a chemistry professor at the University of Chicago and the editor of the *Journal of Chemical Physics*, the preprint service will initially be free. Authors who wish to have their preprints placed in JCP Express must submit electronic versions of their accepted manuscripts, including Postscript figures and tables if possible. RevTex is the preferred electronic format.

Information on submitting or obtaining preprints through JCP Express is available via electronic mail by sending a message to: express@jcp.uchicago.edu; type "help" as the subject of the message.

IN BRIEF

The staffs of the American Vacuum Society and the standards secretariat of the Acoustical Society of America have moved into new offices at 120 Wall Street, 32nd Floor, New York NY 10005.

Ulrich Goesele is taking a two-year leave of absence from Duke University as a professor of materials science to serve as codirector of the newly formed Max Planck Institute for Microstructure Physics in Halle, Germany, the first new MPI established in the states of former East Germany.

The name of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory has been changed to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. ■