

readers of *PHYSICS TODAY* as a hardy participant in a recent physics roundtable (March, page 30) and as the vice president of the Optical Society of America (November, page 84). Moore obtained his BS in physics from the University of Maine at Orono in 1969 and his master's and PhD in optics from the University of Rochester in 1971 and 1974, respectively. He is taking a year's sabbatical from Rochester, where he is a professor of optics and the former director of the Institute of Optics. Moore is president of Gradient Lens Corporation.

Recognizing the expanding importance of issues of science and technology, Moore decided that he wanted to learn more about the process of making science policy. He works on the staff of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV of West Virginia, and he, like Goodman, was heavily involved with the National Competitiveness Act passed recently by the Senate. (When told his activities sounded like fun, Moore replied, "It was great!") Moore notes that the training and backgrounds of the nontechnical people in Congress are "fundamentally different" from what one encounters in a typical physics department. These differences motivate a certain adjustment, which Moore summarized humbly: "One of the things you have to learn very quickly is to listen."

Winston Tao is sponsored by the American Geophysical Union. He received his AB in physics (1982), his SM in engineering sciences (1988) and his PhD in geophysics (1992) from Harvard, where he did computer modeling of the subduction of the lithosphere, focusing on interactions between the Earth's surface and deep interior. Tao comes to the program after a short stay at the geological and geophysical sciences department at Princeton. He works in the office of Congressman George Brown of California, who is well known as the chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Tao told *PHYSICS TODAY* that he applied for the fellowship partly because of frequent student questions about matters related to human interference in natural Earth processes, such as global warming. Now Tao deals with energy and other issues of the "nonliving" environment. He has already traveled to Yucca Mountain in Nevada to examine the proposed national nuclear waste repository and to Detroit to talk to people working on alternative fuels and electric vehicles. He has been enjoying interactions with engineers and specialists in areas outside his usual academic purview. He said, "That's been a blessing that I did not expect at all."

Unlike Tao, who works directly for an individual congressman, AIP-sponsored fellow Carmiña Londoño works for the House subcommittee on technology and competitiveness, a subcommittee of Brown's science committee. She told *PHYSICS TODAY* that working at the committee level is similar to being involved in a big science project, and she characterized one of her main tasks as "distilling information." Her first project deals with the research and development subsidies code for GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Londoño received her BS in physics from the University of Lowell (1980), her MA in optical sciences at the University of Arizona Optical Sciences Center (1982) and her PhD in electro-optics from Tufts University Electro-Optics Technology Center (1992). She is on leave from her position as an optical engineer at Polaroid Corporation in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Like most of the fellows, she has long been interested in combining politics and science. Londoño doesn't worry about the limited ability of any one individual to make big changes, but hopes that "if you can just make one positive contribution, then a whole bunch of positive contributions will make up a big one."

Philip (Bo) Hammer, the other APS-sponsored fellow, also works for a subcommittee of Brown's committee, the subcommittee on science. Hammer has a BS in physics (1987) from Humboldt State University, in Arcata, California, and a master's (1989) and doctorate (1991) from the University of Oregon. He comes to the program as the holder of an Office of Naval Research postdoctoral fellowship at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, in Silver Spring, Maryland. His academic research has concentrated on experimental nonlinear dynamics, but in his Congressional duties he's enjoyed learning some high-energy physics and some geophysics (in connection with the Northridge earthquake).

Hammer says that "people in general would be surprised by the amount of technical expertise in Congress and in particular on the science committees": Of the seven people on the subcommittee's staff, three have technical PhDs. In considering his political experience so far, this member of the Young Scientists Network (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, May 1993, page 57) says that "the most important message is that it's OK not to be a working research physicist or a college professor. A PhD in physics is really a useful degree, and you can do a lot with it."

—DENIS F. CIOFFI AND JEAN KUMAGAI

AAS ELECTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT

In the recently held election of the American Astronomical Society, Jonathan Grindlay of Harvard University was elected to a three-year term as vice president. When Grindlay's term begins in June, he will replace James E. Hesser of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, Canada. AAS has three vice presidents, who serve staggered terms; the other two vice presidents are Donald B. Campbell of Cornell University and France A. Cordova of Pennsylvania State University. (The current president of AAS is Sidney Wolff of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory; in June she will be succeeded by president-elect Frank H. Shu of the University of California, Berkeley.)

Grindlay is a professor of astronomy at Harvard, where he received a PhD in astronomy in 1971. His research involves studies of compact objects, accretion-powered x-ray and gamma-ray sources, and compact binaries in globular clusters. A leader in the development of hard x-ray and gamma-ray instrumentation, he is currently chairman of the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory users committee.

In his candidate's statement, Grindlay urged AAS to facilitate "stronger links between NASA and NSF" and to serve "the public's natural and continuing fascination with our field" by sponsoring more popular lectures and demonstrations at meetings.

In other ballot results, AAS members chose three new councillors: Alexei Filippenko of the University of California, Berkeley; Catharine Garmany of the University of Colorado; and Blair Savage of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

PHYSICS TODAY GETS A PUBLISHER

Charles Harris has been appointed publisher of *PHYSICS TODAY*. He has overall responsibility for advertising, circulation, editorial and business operations. Harris comes to *PHYSICS TODAY* after two years as director of publication of *American Scientist*, published by Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. For six years he was editor and publisher of *Pixel*, a magazine dedicated to scientific visualization. Before *Pixel*, Harris spent 11 years as an advertising manager at *Scientific American*. ■