AGU MOVES INTO NEW BUILDING IN WASHINGTON

After moving to temporary quarters for a little less than two years, the American Geophysical Union returned in June to a new building at its old 2000 Florida Avenue address in Washington, DC. The project cost $9.6 million.

The new AGU headquarters is not a typical cubic office building. One corner has been described as resembling a ship's prow, and the solar system is represented in the sidewalk. A. F. Spilhaus Jr, AGU's executive director, is pleased to see the structure being noticed: "It's exciting to see people gawking at the prow and sitting on the wall by the inner planets plaza." Spilhaus says that one of AGU's objectives is "to become a center for the Earth and space sciences in Washington," and he thinks that this building, already recognized in *The Washington Post*'s "Cityscape" column as having "a certain atypical kick, excitement, drama," will help achieve that goal.

The building has five levels above ground and one partially below, with windows. There's an underground parking garage too. AGU occupies about 60% of the 60 000 square feet of usable space. A 5300-square-foot conference center is on the first floor. Part of the first floor, with its 14-foot ceilings, is planned for educational displays. The second floor will be completely leased. AGU's first tenant, the American Astronomical Society, rents about 3500 square feet.

GEOPHYSICAL SOCIETIES AGREE TO COOPERATE

The American Geophysical Union and 31 other geophysics societies from around the world have begun a collaboration aimed at making geophysics more of a global endeavor.

In May representatives from 27 national geophysical societies and 5 international organizations convened at the new AGU headquarters in Washington, DC, to discuss how best to address problems faced by geophysical scientists worldwide. (The news story above describes the new AGU building.)

According to Robin Brett, AGU's international secretary, by the end of the weekend-long meeting, the society representatives had drafted and passed three resolutions. The first urged educational institutions at all levels to "strengthen the quality of studies in the geophysical sciences, so as to ensure that an adequate supply of the best science students go into the geophysical disciplines."

Prompted by concern that increased emphasis on applied science and technology has lessened the funding of basic science, the second resolution recommended that governments "maintain the vigor of the basic sciences."

The third resolution asked that governments provide visas promptly for those scientists attending conferences or participating in exchange programs.

To make communicating easier, the societies agreed to establish an electronic-mail list server; those societies that do not have access to e-mail will receive information via regular mail. The societies also plan to produce a joint directory of their members. Other projects that were discussed included setting up a clearinghouse for sending equipment and publications to developing countries and establishing an olympiad in Earth and space sciences along the lines of the international competitions for secondary school students now held in physics and mathematics.

The societies plan to meet next at the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics General Assembly, to be held in Boulder, Colorado, in July 1995.

NEW AAPT SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

A retired college professor has established a scholarship for students who plan to become high school physics teachers. Barbara Lotze, who taught physics at Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, for 27 years, gave $10 000 to the American Association of Physics Teachers, which will administer the scholarship.

A native of Hungary, Lotze fled her country in 1956 and was living in a refugee camp when she won a Rockefeller scholarship to attend the Leopold-Franzens-Universität, in Innsbruck, Austria. There she earned a PhD in mathematics with a minor in theoretical physics. "And I also met my future husband," Lotze told PHYSICS TODAY.

The Lotzes moved to the US in 1961. When Barbara's husband, Dieter, became ill with leukemia in the early 1980s, "we received the most support and strength from our students." Before he died in 1987, they agreed to "do something for students."

The $2000 scholarship is to be awarded each year to either a college student or a high school senior who is preparing for a career in high school physics teaching; the scholarship may be given to the same individual for each of four years, according to Howard G. Voss of Arizona State University, who is heading the scholarship committee. The first scholarship recipient is Jennifer Ann Blaszak, an undergraduate at De Paul University, in Chicago.

IN BRIEF

Physics Education News, a twice-monthly electronic publication of the American Institute of Physics, summarizes information on government reports, national initiatives, outreach programs, grants, professional development opportunities and publications related to physics and science education. *PEN* is aimed at physics educators at all levels and is offered as a service to the science and education communities without charge. To subscribe, send to listserv@aip.org, leaving the subject line blank. Enter "add pen" in the body of the message.

The Society of Physics Students has elected six new councillors to three-year terms on the SPS Council. Eighteen students will serve one-year terms as associate councillors. Jean P. Krisch, an associate professor of physics at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, was elected in June to a two-year term as president of Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society. As president, Krisch also becomes a member of the executive committee of the SPS Council. She succeeds Reuben James of the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

Optcon, an annual conference dedicated to applied optics, has been canceled by its sponsors, the Optical Society of America, the Laser Institute of America, the Lasers and Electro-Optics Society of IEEE, and the International Society of Optical Engineering (SPIE). The 1994 meeting, which had been scheduled for November in Boston, will not take place. David Hennage and Jim Pearson, the executive directors of OSA and SPIE, respectively, attributed the cancellation to the meeting's lack of technical focus and market value, as well as "particularly difficult management issues." ■