

WE HEAR THAT

Ketchen and Chaisson Honored by AIP

At the annual meeting of the American Institute of Physics's Corporate Associates in Dearborn, Michigan, in October, two individuals were recognized for their contributions to physics. The Prize for Industrial Applications of Physics was given to **Mark Ketchen**, director of physical sciences at the IBM Corp's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York. The citation accompanying the prize praised Ketchen for "the design and development of integrated superconducting quantum interference devices that are the basis for the emerging commercial applications of magnetic sensing, such as biomagnetism, non-destructive testing and materials characterization."

Eric J. Chaisson received the AIP Science Writing Award to a Scientist for his book *The Hubble Wars* (HarperCollins, 1994). The book recounts the scientific and political struggles surrounding the Hubble telescope. Chaisson, who was a senior scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute from 1987 to 1992, is now at Tufts University, where he serves as director of the H. Dudley Wright Center for Innovative Science Education and also is a research professor of physics and astronomy and of education.

ASA Presents Awards at Fall Meeting

At its fall meeting in Saint Louis the Acoustical Society of America announced the winners of several of its awards. The Silver Medal in Engineering Acoustics was presented to **James E. West** for "developing and optimizing polymer electret transducers." West is a fellow of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

The Pioneers of Underwater Acoustics Medal went to **William A. Kuperman**, director of the marine physical laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He was chosen for "the development and application of models for ocean acoustic propagation and scattering."

The von Békésy Medal was given to **Peter Dallos**, the Hugh Knowles Professor of Audiology and John

Evans Professor of Neuroscience at Northwestern University. ASA cited Dallos for his "contributions to the understanding of cochlear processes."

A. Harold Marshall received the Wallace Clement Sabine Award for his "contributions to the field of architectural acoustics, particularly for the understanding and design of concert halls." Marshall is a professor of architecture at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Several individuals were recognized by ASA for their writing on acoustics. The Science Writing Award for a Professional in Acoustics was shared by **Lawrence A. Crum**, a research professor of bioengineering and electrical engineering at the University of Washington, and **Christopher E. Ruckman** of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Crum was recognized for his article "Sonoluminescence," published in *PHYSICS TODAY* in September 1994. Ruckman was chosen for his Internet FAQ on active noise control. **Sandra Blakeslee** won the ASA Science Writing Award for a Journalist for her article "New Clue to Cause of Dyslexia Seen in Mishearing of Fast Sounds," which appeared in the *New York Times* on 16 August 1994.

IN BRIEF

The new director of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will be **James Hartle**. Hartle, a physics professor at UCSB, succeeds **James Langer**, who has returned to full-time teaching and research at the university.

At the International Conference on Phenomena in Ionized Gases, held last summer, the Penning Award was given to **James E. Lawler**, chair of

the physics department at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Lawler was cited in recognition of "his distinguished work in the fields of plasma physics and the behavior of ionized gases." The Penning Award is supported by Philips Lighting.

The physics department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has added two assistant professors to its faculty: **Frank Tsui**, who had been a research fellow at the University of Michigan, and **Arthur Christopher Thompson**, formerly a research associate at the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics at the University of Toronto.

Michael Hart has been appointed chairman of the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He replaces **Denis McWhan**, who has been promoted to associate director for basic energy sciences at the lab. Hart took early retirement from Manchester University in England in 1993 and had been a consultant and research collaborator at Brookhaven until his appointment.

The National Science Teachers Association has selected **Gerald F. Wheeler**, a professor of physics at Montana State University and director of the university's science/math resource center, to serve as the association's new executive director. He succeeds retiring director Bill Aldridge.

One of the 1995 Science for Art Prizes has gone to **Steven Chu**, the Theodore and Frances Geballe Professor of Physics at Stanford University. Chu won for images generated during his studies of the relaxation of individual polymer strands after they are stretched by optical tweezers.

OBITUARIES

Aaron N. Bloch

Aaron N. Bloch died suddenly at his home in Amherst, New York, on 8 April 1995 at the age of 53.

After earning a BS in chemistry at Yale University, Bloch completed his PhD in chemical physics under the tutelage of Stuart Rice at the University of Chicago. His thesis, a study of the optical reflectivity of the surface

of liquid mercury, reported the first clear evidence that the local surface properties of a liquid metal differ from those of the bulk. An amalgam of precise experimentation and penetrating theoretical analysis leading to a significant discovery, the thesis foreshadowed a distinguished and productive career in science.

Following a postdoctoral year at MIT, Bloch moved in 1969 to Johns