

On 1 January **Augustus Oemler Jr** became director of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution in Pasadena, California. In this capacity Oemler, who had been an astronomy professor at Yale University, holds the Crawford H. Greenwalt Chair for the Director of the Observatories. Oemler succeeds **Leonard Searle**, who will remain at the observatories as a staff member and director emeritus.

The 1995 Dannie Heineman Prize has gone to **Donald Eigler** of the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose, California, for "his landmark investigations of the quantum mechanical behavior of atomic-scale devices." The prize is awarded biennially by the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Göttingen, Germany.

Carlo Rovelli, a professor in the physics and astronomy department at the University of Pittsburgh, has won the Xanthopoulos Award for "his wide ranging contributions to classical and

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quantum gravity, in particular for his stimulating papers on the issue of physical observables in diffeomorphism invariant theories and his pioneering ideas in the development of the loop representation in quantum general relativity." The award is given every three years by the International Society of General Relativity to a physicist under 40 who has made a significant contribution to gravitational theory.

At the LASERS '95 conference held last month in Charleston, South Carolina, the Einstein Medal for Laser Science was awarded to **Theodor W. Hänsch** and **Carl E. Wieman**. Hänsch, who is director of the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics in Garching, Germany, and a professor of physics at the University of Munich, was honored for "pioneering contributions to laser cooling and high precision laser spectroscopy." Wieman, a fellow of the Joint

Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics and a professor of physics at the University of Colorado at

Boulder, was recognized for "making the technology of laser cooling generally accessible, and for its applications to fundamental problems in physics."

Albert Cho and **Akira Hasegawa** have been awarded the C&C Prize, funded by the NEC Corp to recognize work on computers and communications technologies. Cho, director of the semiconductor research laboratory at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, was cited for "seminal contributions to molecular beam epitaxy, a technology which is revolutionizing high-performance optoelectronics and electronics for computers and communications." Hasegawa, a professor of communication engineering at Osaka University, in Japan, was recognized for the discovery of solitons in optical fibers and the pioneering contributions made in applications for ultra-high-speed optical fiber communications.

OBITUARIES

Shechao Charles Feng

Shechao Charles Feng, a professor in the physics department of the University of California, Los Angeles, died on 16 September in Paris.

Shechao was born on 1 October 1960 in Beijing, China. He graduated from Peking University with a BS in physics in 1981. He received one of the highest scores in the first CUSPEA (China-US Physics Examination and Applications program, organized by Nobel laureate T. D. Lee) and entered Harvard University as a graduate student in the physics department. There, he studied theoretical condensed matter physics with Bertrand Halperin and received his PhD in 1986. During his graduate-school summers, he worked at the Schlumberger-Doll Research Laboratories, where he began his pioneering work on elasticity percolation in disordered media. During 1985-86 Shechao worked on universal conduction fluctuations and on other aspects of mesoscopic physics at MIT, where he was a postdoctoral fellow with Patrick A. Lee. He made extremely important contributions on the effect of single impurity motion and $1/f$ noise. He returned to Schlumberger in 1986 as a member of the professional staff.

In the summer of 1987 Shechao became an assistant professor in the physics department at UCLA, where



SHECHAO CHARLES FENG

he expanded the scope of his research into optical fluctuations in random media. He also made significant contributions in several other areas, including the theory of the quantum Hall effect and magnetic flux motion in superconductors. Most recently, he was engaged in theoretical and experimental research of a near-infrared medical imaging scanner, a cheap, portable device he proposed for the detection of hematoma and tumors. Just last July Shechao became one of the youngest full professors in the history of the University of California.

In his leisure time, Shechao enjoyed playing violin, sailing and swimming. He

was an extremely energetic person and a truly talented scientist. His death at such a young age, at the prime of his life and career, is an indescribable loss, and Shechao will be painfully missed.

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Jacob Shaham

Jacob Shaham, a professor of physics at Columbia University known for his landmark contributions to the study of neutron stars, died on 20 April 1995, after a brief illness.

Born Jacob Bronstein in Tel Aviv in 1942, Jacob received a BSc in 1963 and an MSc in 1965 from Hebrew University, Jerusalem. In 1968 his family took the surname "Shaham," the Hebrew equivalent of Bronstein. After serving in the Israeli Army from 1965 to 1968, Jacob returned to Hebrew University and was awarded a PhD in physics in 1971.