waii's Institute for Astronomy after what he says were "years of infighting" (see box below) to join Montana State University's physics department, which has a growing solar physics program but no observatory. He hopes "to use Big Bear to determine the topological evolution of magnetic fields that leads to coronal mass ejections, and to thereby improve prediction of space weather."

NJIT is founding a Center for Solar Research to facilitate running BBSO and the OVRO solar array remotely, and as a base for the interdisciplinary solar physics program it is building up. A 6-inch telescope (a loan from Zirin) has been mounted on the roof of the NJIT physics building in Newark so that detectors and filters, for example, can be tested and debugged there before being installed at BBSO. And Gary is considering installing a small radio antenna on-site, for testing new instrumentation and also as an educational tool for NJIT students. "Some in the solar physics community are bemoaning the fact that Caltech is unloading its solar observatories, but they will still be active and university run," says Goode. "We look at this as a unique opportunity to create an interdisciplinary scientific and instrumentation program at an observatory with superb weather and seeing."

Toni Feder

UK Research Council Supports Part-Time PhD Work

In the United Kingdom, graduate students in the physical sciences can now receive financial aid to pursue their doctorates part-time. These part-time "studentships," which cover tuition and living expenses, have been introduced by the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to encourage men and women to return to their graduate studies after taking a career break to raise a family, says the EPSRC's Geoff Heaford.

Though the EPSRC, whose purview includes atomic, optical, condensed-matter and nuclear physics, has not widely publicized the new studentships, they in fact represent a noteworthy change in the country's graduate training system. Unlike the US approach, where students receive funding from various sources and for varying lengths of time, the typical physics doctoral student in the UK is supported full-time for only three years and is expected to complete all required research during that period. Under the new part-time studentships, which have the same total value as the full-time awards, stipends are spread out over five years instead of three. Just how many part-time awards will be made will depend on the demand. To qualify, the student must first be nominated by the head of his or her department.

At present, it is not common for physics students in the UK to return to school after raising a family, notes Michael Springford, head of the physics department at the University of Bristol. "It is hard to imagine a student pursuing an experimental PhD program part-time," he says. "For theory, however, I believe [the part-time studentship] could be a good option for a woman with a baby or small children."

Clivia Sotomayor Torres, a condensed-matter physicist who recently moved from the University of Glasgow to the University of Wuppertal in Germany, agrees that experimental research would be difficult, given the number of hours one must spend in the lab. She herself didn't have a child until after her career was under way; even then, she felt obligated to return to the lab after just six weeks off.

A part-time studentship would cover only a portion of one's living expenses, Sotomayor points out, and so it would need to be supplemented with a loan or some other form of outside support. But she does not rule out combining family and graduate studies, provided that "you have no financial pressures and can afford child care, have a warm and comfortable home, with your own study room and a modem." Beyond that, she adds, "You also need an understanding thesis director."

Jean Kumagai

APS E-print Server Is Now On-line

This month the American Physical Society launches the APS E-print Server. The server, which uses the World Wide Web, operates in two modes. One provides an electronic means for the submission and editorial handling of manuscripts for APS journals; the other is for distributing electronic preprints—which may also be simultaneously submitted to APS journals. E-print's two modes are based on the same software, but whereas papers submitted to the journals can be accessed only by the authors, editors and referees, the preprint archive is accessible to all. Partly inspired by the Los Alamos National Laboratory e-Print archive, the APS E-print Server is intended primarily to rapidly disseminate research results.

A key feature of the APS E-print Server is that it can handle most commonly used text and graphics formats. "Electronic handling of manuscripts should speed up time to publication, and save money," says Arthur P. Smith, the key designer and implementer of the APS E-print Server. (Creation of such a server was recommended by APS's network publishing task force about a year ago.)

Submissions in all areas of physics are accepted. Readers can search for preprints by keywords or by APS PACS–number categories. Eventually, says Smith, links will be added to connect related submissions to each other and to published papers, and a forum for reader response to preprints may also be introduced. A number of other options, such as restricting access to preprints in some topics to smaller groups, are under discussion. The APS E-print Server may be accessed on the Web at http://aps.org/eprint.

In Brief

Erick Weinberg, a professor of physics at Columbia University, has assumed the editorship of *Physical Review D*, a journal of the American Physical Society. On 1 June he succeeded Lowell Brown of the University of Washington, whose term expired at the end of 1995.

On 1 January 1997, Colin G. Orton will become editor of *Medical Physics*, published by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Orton is a professor of radiation oncology and radiology at the Karmanos Cancer Institute of Wayne State University. John S. Laughlin of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City is the journal's current editor.

The American Physical Society has established the Joseph F. Keithley Award in honor of the founder of Keithley Instruments, a manufacturer of measurement, test and control instrumentation. In creating the award, APS noted Keithley's "outstanding contributions and numerous accomplishments in precision instrument development and advancement in measurement techniques." The award will be given annually beginning in 1998 to recognize physicists who have developed new measurement techniques or equipment. The award was endowed by members of the APS instrument and measurement science topical group and by Keithley Instruments. ■