

WE HEAR THAT

AAPT Honors Four at Summer Meeting in College Park

At its summer meeting in College Park, Maryland, the American Association of Physics Teachers honored several individuals for their contributions to physics education and to the association. The Award for Excellence in Pre-College Physics Teaching, presented this year for the first time, went to **Paul Hickman**, a teacher at Belmont High School in Belmont, Massachusetts. The award citation noted Hickman's effectiveness as a teacher and mentor, as well as his "impressive record of service in the science education community at large," including his workshop on "Fractals in Science."

The recipient of this year's Klopsteg Memorial Lecture Award was **Margaret J. Geller**, a professor of astronomy at Harvard University and senior scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. In addition to noting her research on mapping the nearby universe, AAPT cited Geller's efforts in educating the public about science through her public lectures, radio interviews and television programs.

Priscilla W. Laws was chosen as the recipient of the Robert A. Millikan Medal for "her extraordinary work in physics education with the Workshop Physics Project," a microcomputer-based physics laboratory curriculum that she developed (see the article by Laws, *PHYSICS TODAY*, December 1991, page 24). Laws is a professor of physics at Dickinson College.

The Melba Newell Phillips Award, given for contributions to physics education through leadership in AAPT, went to **Reuben E. Alley Jr.**, a professor emeritus of electrical engineering at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. The award citation praised Alley's service as AAPT treasurer and president and as a member of the executive board: "He provided 14 years of dedicated service on the executive board, tending to the fiscal health and scholarly reflection of all that AAPT represents in promoting excellence in physics teaching and physics in our culture."

OSA Awards Highlight Optics Contributions

The Optical Society of America has recognized the following six individuals for their achievements in optics.

The winners of this year's Engineering Excellence Award are **Gary Blough** and **Teddi Laurin**. Blough, a senior optical engineer at Rochester Photonics Corp, is being honored for "his outstanding technical achievements in the design and fabrication of high-performance diffractive master elements and replicas operating in the visible spectral range for commercial products, industrial applications and government systems." Laurin, head of Laurin Publishing Co, which publishes *Photonics Spectra*, *Biophotonics International* and the *Photonics Directory*, is being recognized for "fostering broader recognition of optical engineers' achievements and creating a greater awareness of the technology's potential new applications."

The winner of the Esther Hoffman Beller Medal is **Donald C. O'Shea**, a professor of physics at the Georgia Institute of Technology. O'Shea was cited for "his contributions to optics education, including key leadership and ideas for the development of the OSA Optics Discovery Kit, the cornerstone for OSA education activities at the K-12 level."

Giuseppe Zerbi is the recipient of the Ellis R. Lippincott Award, which is cosponsored by OSA, the Coblenz Society and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. Zerbi, the chair of the materials science department at the Politechnic of Milan in Italy, was recognized as "a pioneer in the use of vibrational spectroscopy to develop a better understanding of the relationships between physical properties and structure so that new and better polymers can be tailor made by industry."

Stanley Whitcomb and **Robert Spero** are the winners of the Archie Mahan Prize for their July 1995 article in *Optics & Photonics News* on "The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)." Both recipients work at Caltech.

IN BRIEF

Sara A. Solla, a senior member of the technical staff at AT&T Research Labs (formerly part of AT&T Bell Labs), will become a professor at Northwestern University in January. She will hold a joint appointment in the department of physics and astronomy and the department of physiology at the university's medical school. She plans to develop a program of computational neurobiology within the recently established Institute for Neuroscience at the university.

Leonard J. Brillson, the former director of the materials research laboratory at the Xerox Corp in Stamford, Connecticut, has moved to the Center for Materials Research (CMR) at the Ohio State University to become the first CMR Scholar.

In June, **Arthur Hebard** became a professor of physics at the University of Florida. Previously he was a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories (first under AT&T, then Lucent Technologies) in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

The first recipients of the European Physical Society's newly created Quantum Electronics Prize are **Claude Cohen-Tannoudji** and **Sune Svanberg**. Cohen-Tannoudji, a professor of atomic and molecular physics at the College of France in Paris, was honored for "developing the dressed-atom approach in quantum optics and for fundamental contributions to the understanding of radiative forces with ground-breaking experiments in laser cooling and trapping of atoms." Svanberg is a professor of atomic physics at the Lund Institute of Technology in Sweden, and the director of the Lund Laser Center there. He was cited for "pioneering laser applications in the fields of combustion diagnostics, remote sensing and biomedicine."

In June, EPS also gave its Accelerator Prize, designed to recognize young scientists or engineers, to **Jeffrey S. Hangst** of the University of Aarhus in Denmark. Hangst received the biannual award for his "work with laser cooling of ion beams in the ASTRID storage ring."