

Average PhD Now Takes One Year Longer to Finish

It's official: The average time that a US physics graduate student takes to complete a PhD rose from 5.3 years in 1970 to 6.5 years in 1994, according to the latest survey of graduate students conducted by the American Institute of Physics.

And with that added year of study under their belts, how well have the new PhD physicists—1481 of them in 1994—fared in the job market? Among respondents who had already officially graduated, and so presumably had had some opportunity to begin their job search, 9% of US citizens and 13% of foreigners said they had received no offers at the time of the survey. (According to Elizabeth Dodge, one of the survey report's authors, the methodology was changed in 1994, and so the unemployment data are not directly comparable to the findings of past surveys.) Among those PhDs who found work in the US, 66% accepted postdocs, 12% accepted some other type of temporary position and the remainder took permanent jobs. Respondents whose research involved computer simulation—as opposed to physics experimentation or theory—were far more likely to accept permanent jobs and far less likely to have no job commitment by the end of the academic year.

The physics graduate student population of the US stood at 14 200 in 1994, with foreign citizens accounting for 45% of them and women for 15%. First-year enrollments were down again, to 2900; by comparison, the first-year class in 1992 was 3300. Condensed matter physics continued to attract the largest share of students, drawing 26% of advanced graduate students in 1994. The second largest area of concentration was particles and fields, with 13%, while nuclear physics and atomic and molecular physics had 8% and 7%, respectively.

Among US citizens, the survey found, sources of financial support differed by sex. For example, 25% of US women were attending graduate school on fellowships, compared to only 14% of US men. Conversely, 42% of US men had research assistantships, compared to 36% of US women.

Singles copies of the *1994 Graduate Student Report*, which also contains information on astronomy graduate

students, are free. Contact the American Institute of Physics, Education and Employment Statistics Division, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, Maryland 20740-3843; phone 301-209-3067; e-mail stats@aip.org.

Delaney Is Named *Paleoceanography* Editor

Margaret ("Peggy") Delaney, an associate professor of marine sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz, is the new Editor of *Paleoceanography*, a bimonthly journal of the American Geophysical Union. Delaney succeeds Kenneth G. Miller of Rutgers University.

Delaney received a BS in chemistry from Yale University in 1977 and a PhD through the joint program in oceanography run by MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1983. Delaney's research involves the trace metal biogeochemistry of marine carbonates and geochemical mass balances in the oceans.

As Editor, Delaney says she will continue to publish articles that cover a broad timescale of the sedimentary record. She is also encouraging articles that provide a greater integration of geochemistry and modeling with paleoceanography, and expects to expand coverage of emerging topics such as continent-ocean links and the role of past warm climates.

IN BRIEF

The American Physical Society has compiled a list of 115 physicists who have volunteered to speak on industrial and applied physics topics at schools, universities and other public forums. About half of the speakers work in industry, a quarter in academia and a quarter in government laboratories and elsewhere. The Industrial and Applied Physics Speakers List, which is grouped by state, field and type of employer, is available free of charge from Arlene Modeste, APS, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, Maryland 20740-3844; e-mail modeste@aps.org. The list is also posted on the APS home page on the World Wide Web at <http://aps.org/FIAP>. Individuals interested in being included in the list should fill out the form at the Web site.

Elsevier Science has launched *New Astronomy*, a refereed journal that will be available through the Internet's World Wide Web as well as in printed form. The journal, which will include full-length articles and letters covering all fields of astronomy and astrophysics, has a decentralized editorial board: Articles will be submitted directly to one of twenty receiving editors, each of whom has responsibility for a given field and will decide whether to accept or reject a given article. On-line articles will contain hyperlinks to major astronomy data centers, such as the Strasbourg Astronomical Data Center (CDS) and NASA's Astrophysics Data System (ADS) and Extragalactic Database (NED). The first issue is scheduled to go on-line in the first half of 1996 at <http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/newast>.

Did you know that from its founding in 1899 until 1914, the American Astronomical Society was known as the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America? In their article "How Did the AAS Get Its Name?", Brant L. Sponberg and David H. DeVorkin of the National Air and Space Museum describe the various arguments posed by the likes of George Ellery Hale, Simon Newcomb and Edward Pickering in choosing the society's name: "The 15-year lag over the name reflected a division between astronomers and astrophysicists that had existed for decades. Thus asking how the AAS got its name reveals much about the nature of the debate and of how astrophysics was regarded in its early years." Fans of astronomy—and astrophysics—history will find the article and discussions of other past events on the AAS's World Wide Web site at <http://www.aas.org/~had/toc.html>.

The *Rheology Bulletin*, the newsletter of the Society of Rheology, is being expanded to include "how to" articles on the practical aspects of rheology, a question-and-answer column where short technical questions will be addressed and educational articles describing efforts to introduce rheology into the classroom. A section of book reviews will also be added. Those interested in contributing should contact the editor of the *Bulletin*, Rakesh Gupta, through the Chemical Engineering Department, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6102, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506; fax 304-293-4139, e-mail gupta@cemr.wvu.edu. ■