

Holcomb, Wieman and Others Honored by AAPT in Reno

One of the highlights of the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting in Reno, Nevada, in January was the presentation of several awards in recognition of notable contributions to physics education.

Donald F. Holcomb, a professor of physics at Cornell University, received AAPT's most prestigious award, the Oersted Medal. The citation noted that Holcomb "has been a mainstay of the Cornell physics undergraduate teaching program and a strong supporter for its high quality throughout his career." Also praised were his efforts to promote science for nonmajors and his leadership of the Introductory University Physics Program, "which predates, and contributes to, much of the productive ferment in that important area of physics teaching."

This year's Richtmyer Lecturer was **Carl E. Wieman**, a professor of physics at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a fellow of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics. "He has devoted much energy and his considerable talent to undergraduate teaching at his home institution," the citation stated, "and has published on undergraduate laboratory apparatus," including a recent letter in the *American Journal of Physics* on neutral atom trapping.

In addition, AAPT presented its Distinguished Service Citation to each of four individuals: **Gordon Aubrecht II** of Ohio State University; **Mary Fehrs** of Pacific University; **Thomas Rossing** of Northern Illinois University; **Robert Sears Jr** of Austin Peay State University; and, posthumously, **Philip Johnson** of the University of Minnesota.

AIP Presents Science Writing Award to Cole

A reporter with the *Los Angeles Times*, K. C. Cole, has garnered the American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award to a Journalist. She was chosen for several articles that appeared in the *Times* in 1995: "Rethinking Cosmic Questions" (6 and 7 March), "Finding the Truth" (29 June and 6 July) and "Mind over Matter" (13 July). The award was presented to Cole during a ceremony in April at the American Center for Physics in College Park, Maryland.

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