

discovers," Howes and Pitts concluded in a paper summarizing their results. "Such an understanding would lead to more honest, clear coverage of science stories."

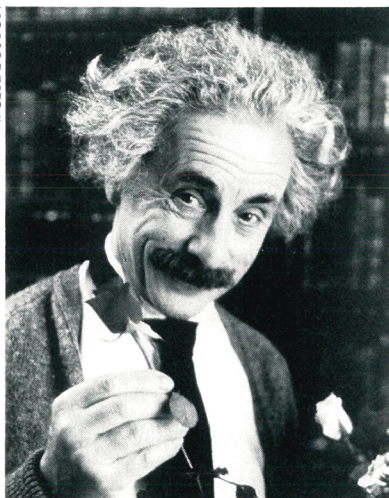
Two fellowships will be offered by APS each year, beginning in 1997. For applications and information, contact the APS Office of Public Affairs, National Press Building, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC 20045-2001; phone 202-662-8700.

JEAN KUMAGAI

## Nova Opens with Portrayal of Einstein

Aficionados of the classic British television comedy series *Fawlty Towers* may see a familiar gleam in the eye of the actor portraying Albert Einstein in "Einstein Revealed," the two-hour opening program of the 1996-97 *Nova* series on the Public Broadcasting System. Co-produced by the BBC and WGBH/Boston, "Einstein Revealed" inaugurates *Nova's* 23rd sea-

WGBH/BOSTON



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

son of science programs on public television. The program will air nationwide on Tuesday evening, 1 October.

The actor's portrayal of Einstein talking to an imagined visitor in 1932 is intercut with footage of the venues of Einstein's early and middle years, and with animated tutorials that attempt to explain special relativity.

Who's the actor? He's Andrew Sachs, a British actor for whom the German accent comes naturally. Like Einstein, Sachs was a refugee from Nazi Germany. But he is best known in his hilarious Spanish guise, as Manuel, the much-abused waiter from Barcelona working at the *Fawlty Towers* hotel in an English seaside resort.

BERTRAM SCHWARZSCHILD

## New Group Supports Hispanics in Physics

The National Society of Hispanic Physicists was founded in May to "foster and support the participation of Hispanics in careers in physics." The formation of the group took place during a two-day meeting held at the University of Texas at Austin.

Hispanics in the US are severely underrepresented in physics, says David J. Ernst, director of the Pan-American Association for Physics, which has been overseeing the society's formation. US Hispanics are about one-fourth as likely as whites to receive a bachelor's degree in the natural sciences. (See PHYSICS TODAY, July, page 39.)

Membership in the society is open to anyone with a degree in physics or a physics-related field. The society plans to work with similar groups, such as the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, to develop more effective recruiting and mentoring strategies. "Just having an organization like this will be very helpful for meeting people with similar backgrounds and interests," notes Ernst. On 31 July, members of the new society adopted a constitution, and the oversight committee is now preparing for the first election of officers.

For further information, contact David Ernst, Pan-American Association for Physics, Vanderbilt University, College of Arts and Science, 311 Kirkland Hall, Nashville, TN 37240; e-mail [ernst@compsci.cas.vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ernst@compsci.cas.vanderbilt.edu).

## Knauss Is AGU President-Elect

On 1 July, John A. Knauss took office as president-elect of the American Geophysical Union. He succeeded Sean C. Solomon of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who is now serving a two-year term as AGU president. Knauss, who will assume the presidency in 1998, is professor emeritus and dean emeritus of the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and a research associate with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. His major research interest has been the study of ocean currents, and he also writes textbooks and does research on the history of marine policy.

In other results of the AGU elections, Christopher G. A. Harrison of the University of Miami was reelected

general secretary and Robin Brett of the US Geological Survey was reelected international secretary.

## AIP Halts PINET and Launches Web Service

The American Institute of Physics has launched a subscriber-based physics information service on the World Wide Web. PINET Plus offers discussion forums and tables of contents from AIP journals, as well as the research databases, physics news and other information previously available only through AIP's Physics Information Network, PINET, which will cease operation at the end of this month. Beginning in 1997, AIP journals will also be accessible through PINET Plus.

Frank Perugini, AIP's manager of Internet publishing, said that the nine-year-old PINET had been facing increasing competition, as more employers and commercial services began offering e-mail and Internet access. "It became obvious that AIP should focus on being an information provider rather than a telecommunications provider," Perugini said.

A one-year subscription to PINET Plus is \$52 for members of AIP member societies and \$71 for nonmembers. PINET Plus does not offer e-mail, FTP, Telnet or other basic Internet services, so current PINET subscribers will need to set up a new account with an Internet provider. Further information is available at the PINET Plus Web site at <http://www.aip.org/pinet>, or by calling 800-874-6383.

## IN BRIEF

The job market for those receiving physics PhDs in 1994 was slightly better than in preceding years, according to the latest employment survey from the American Institute of Physics. PhD unemployment was down slightly from the previous year, from 6% to 5%, and the proportion of PhDs who were in temporary jobs (apart from postdocs) also dropped, from 12% to 9%. However, "employment in the field of physics continued to be difficult to secure," the survey report states. Single copies of 1995 *Initial Employment Follow-Up of 1994 Physics Degree Recipients* are available free of charge. Contact AIP, Education and Employment Statistics Division, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740-3843; phone 301-209-3070; e-mail [stats@aip.org](mailto:stats@aip.org). ■