

other technical advances have revolutionized crystallographic research. Unfortunately, "the use of modern equipment makes it appear as though structure solution is easy," he says. "Too many researchers who attempt to solve crystal structures are not properly schooled in the fundamentals of crystallography and x-ray diffraction." Remaining at the forefront of research will require "greater rigor in the training of crystallographers and diffraction scientists," says Clearfield.

In other results of the ACA election, Jane Griffin, associate research director of the Medical Foundation of Buffalo, New York, was reelected treasurer.

IN BRIEF

Sweden's parliament voted in December to cut research funding by 150 million Swedish crowns (about \$19 million). The cuts closely match the government's recommendations from earlier last year (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, July 1997, page 54), with membership fees for international research organizations and funding for large equipment the hardest hit. However, the distribution of the cuts remains unclear, and uncertainty about future funding is likely to drag out at least through this year, although the effects of the cuts won't be felt strongly until 2000, after backup monies have dried up. For now, some research budgets have been combined, about which the scientific community is unhappy because—according to Oerjan Skeppstedt, one of Sweden's delegates to CERN's council—it creates conflicts "between paying for equipment for university research groups, advanced computing and long-term financing of instrumentation for national and international research." One problem, he adds, is that "it complicates the situation very much for the planning of Swedish participation in detector construction for the [Large Hadron Collider at CERN]." Indeed, Swedish participation in CERN and other international research organizations is among the issues that a parliamentary commission is examining. The commission will submit recommendations for restructuring the country's research funding scheme in November.

The recently created Minority Physicist Archive is seeking information on African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanic Americans who have made significant contributions to physics. Cynthia Keppel, the Hampton University physicist who, with her students, is coordinating the effort, says the archive will eventually be available on the World Wide Web. At present,

though, they are gathering information on physicists of "historical significance," including winners of the American Physical Society's Edward Bouchet Award and fellows of APS (which provided initial funding for the project). To nominate someone for inclusion in the archive, fill out the on-line form at <http://phy.hamptonu.edu/physics/sps.html>, or write to the Society of Physics Students, Physics Department, Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23668; e-mail sps@gprc.hamptonu.edu.

The Optical Society of America, with support from New Focus Inc, has created two new annual prizes, one to recognize contributions to society and the other to honor student achievements. The OSA Leadership Award/New Focus Prize will go to an individual or group working in optics whose "actions or policy outside the technology arena have made a significant contribution to society" or to the field of optics. Prize recipients will receive a scroll, a commissioned artwork and a lifetime OSA membership. The OSA New Focus Student Award will be given

to OSA student members chosen from among those who submit papers or posters to the OSA annual meeting; the top three students will receive \$10 000, and five other finalists will receive \$2500. The first prizes will be presented at the 1998 OSA annual meeting, to be held in Baltimore in October. The deadline for nominations is 1 October for the leadership award and 10 April for the student award.

Chen Jia-er is the new president of the Association of Asian Pacific Physical Societies, or AAPPS, which represents 17 physics societies and institutions. An accelerator physicist, Chen is also president of both Peking University and the Chinese Physical Society. He began his three-year term with the AAPPS on 1 January, succeeding Japan's Michiji Konuma. ■

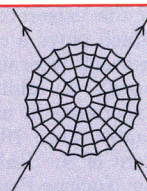


CHEN JIA-ER

Web Watch

► <http://physicsweb.org/>

PhysicsWeb was launched in December 1997 by the UK's Institute of Physics. At present it offers ten services, including weekly news; book reviews; job, conference and product listings; PEERS, the Physics Encyclopaedia of E-mail Records (a searchable directory of physicists' e-mail addresses); links to resources on the Web such as patents sites and software archives; and a WebWatch section (hmmm...). Access is unrestricted until April. After that, some features will be limited to members of IOP, subscribers to *Physics World* and individual subscribers to PhysicsWeb itself.



► <http://www.aip.org/>

American Institute of Physics. Lest old acquaintance be forgot, the recently redesigned AIP Web site also carries job and conference listings; physics news (including an archive of every Physics News Update back to issue number 1 in 1990); Science Report Radio (two-minute reports that may be listened to with RealAudio or viewed in text); bulletins and newsletters on science policy, physics education and the history of physics; education statistics; on-line publications; and much more. A lot of the site is freely available, but some areas require a subscription.

► <http://physics.umd.edu/rgroups/ripe/money/>

Physicists on the Money. This page displays 17 physicists on banknotes that range in face value from 1 pound for an Isaac Newton to 5 million dinars for a Nikolai Tesla. You have to wonder about the exchange rates.

► <http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>

Custom News is a new service from the National Science Foundation. After signing up, you can set a profile that will customize a Web page to display NSF news releases, bulletins and reports in the categories of interest to you. You can also have e-mail sent to you either automatically whenever a new item matches your profile or weekly in the form of a summary of new documents.

► All links mentioned in Web Watch are included on PHYSICS TODAY's home page, <http://www.aip.org/pt/>. If you have suggestions for other topics or sites to be covered in Web Watch, please e-mail them to ptwww@aip.acp.org.

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