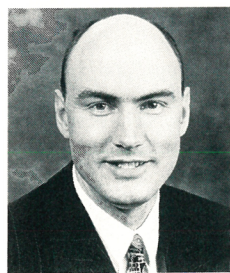


summer, with accommodations and travel paid for. Lectures should be aimed at a general physics audience. For more information, contact Judith Pollard, phone +61-8-8303-5316; fax +61-8-8303-4380; e-mail jpollard@physics.adelaide.edu.au. Send nominations with a 300–500-word supporting statement to Moira Welch, P.O. Box 283, Richmond, New South Wales, 2753 Australia; e-mail M.Welch@uws.edu.au. (Self-nominations are welcome, and should include names and contact information for two references.) They are due by 17 August.

This fall, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, will launch a new program in theoretical biology—the institute's first foray into biological research. It will be headed by mathematical biologist Martin Nowak, who plans to focus on the evolution and dynamics of infectious diseases, including modeling mathematically the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), with the aim of optimizing antiviral therapies. Another project will involve modeling the propagation of prions, the proteins believed to be responsible for spongiform diseases—such as mad cow disease, scrapie in sheep and Jakob–Creutzfeldt



MARTIN NOWAK

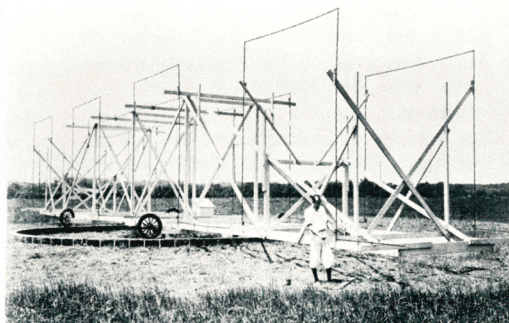
disease in humans. In the case of prions, which don't have genetic material, "infection may spread by healthy prions taking on the conformation of diseased ones through aggregation," says Nowak. "In some sense, it's like crystallization." A native of Austria, Nowak earned his undergraduate degree in biochemistry and his PhD in mathematics at Vienna University. He has been at the University of Oxford in England since 1989, and became a professor there last year. Start-up funds for the theoretical biology program were donated by IAS trustee Leon Levy.

Television may soon air more science news. That, at least, is what Eliene Augenbraun and Ira Flatow, host of National Public Radio's "Science Friday" program, aim to achieve with Science and Technology News Network (STN²), their new service to provide science news to commercial television and cable networks nationally. (Inside Science TV News, produced jointly by the American Institute of Physics and

Lucent Technologies Honors Karl Jansky

With this antenna, Karl Jansky discovered in 1932 that the Milky Way emits radio noise, now known to be galactic synchrotron radiation. On 8 June of this year, Lucent Technologies unveiled a stylized sculpture of the antenna at the site of his observations, in Holmdel, New Jersey.

LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES



Jansky, a physicist at Bell Laboratories (now the R&D arm of Lucent), is seen here with the 100-foot Bruce array antenna he used—it had two square-wave elements separated by a quarter wavelength, with one, the reflector, taller than the other, and it rotated on Model T Ford wheels. Jansky made his discovery by doggedly

pursuing the source of noise signals he picked up at 20.5 MHz, eventually attributing it to the stars, and pinpointing it to Sagittarius, in the direction of the Galactic center.

Pulsars, quasars, radio galaxies and cosmic microwave background radiation are among the discoveries that followed from Jansky's work. And, although Jansky is now considered a pioneer in radio astronomy (with the unit for radio flux density named for him), it wasn't until well after his early death in 1950 that the significance of his finding was recognized.

Bell Labs astrophysicist J. Anthony Tyson and Nobel Prize winner and former Bell Labs researcher Robert Wilson spearheaded the effort to build the memorial sculpture, including using aerial photos and old maps to pinpoint, to within about 20 feet, the original site. Relatives of Jansky's, as well as contemporary colleagues, attended the dedication ceremony.

TONI FEDER

the American Chemical Society, is a competing service.) According to a survey done last year by Augenbraun, Flatow and the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation, 65% of the 150 television news directors polled said they would "air more stories about science or the environment if [they] could obtain them from a trusted news source." Produced by the Stamford, Connecticut-based nonprofit Center for Science and the Media, STN² got its start with about \$500 000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, with additional support from the Materials Research Society and other sources. Its first news stories—on pharmaceutical residues in drinking water, infant death from household fungus and the chances of Earth–asteroid collisions—were aired by 60 television stations in May. Beginning this month, Augenbraun and Flatow plan to produce several 30- to 90-second spots per week, on such topics as the environment, health, space, physics, technology and science policy.

Despite several decades of attention, undergraduate education at US research universities still gets failing marks, a recent report funded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching concludes. Prepared by a blue-ribbon panel of aca-

demics and administrators, including Nobel laureate C. N. Yang and National Academy of Sciences president Bruce Alberts, the report finds that students typically graduate from research universities with "too little that will be of real value beyond a credential that will help them get their first jobs." The report lays out a ten-point plan for "making sure that undergraduates share in the wealth of the research universities," says commission chairwoman Shirley Strum Kenny, president of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. "Every school's solution will be different—as it should be," she says. "But there needs to be a sense of urgency about improving the education of our undergraduates." *Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities* can be downloaded from the World Wide Web at <http://www.sunysb.edu/boyerreport>; printed copies are available by calling 516-632-6265. ■

Web Watch

Web Watch will be back next month. Please continue to e-mail your suggestions for topics for sites to ptwww@aip.acp.org.

