AAS Names Prize Recipients for 1998

The American Astronomical Society has announced the recipients of its prizes for 1998. This year, AAS's highest honor, the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship, goes to **Charles Hard Townes**. "Dr. Townes pioneered the new field of the physics and chemistry of the dense interstellar medium, including the discovery of stable polyatomic molecules by their microwave emission," the award citation notes. "He led the development of high-spectral-resolution astronomical spectroscopy in the far infrared and introduced the use of Michelson interferometry in the mid-infrared to achieve very high angular resolution." Townes is a University Professor in the physics department at the University of California, Berkeley.

CHARLES H. TOWNES

The recipient of the Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics, awarded jointly by AAS and the American Institute of Physics, is **Roger D. Blandford**, the Richard Chace Tolman Professor of Astrophysics at Caltech. Blandford is being recognized for "his enduring contributions to theoretical astrophysics over an outstanding range, spanning relativistic jets, accretion disks, particle acceleration, active galactic nuclei and gravitational lenses."

Marc Kamionkowski is being given the Helen B. Warner Prize for "his contributions to progress on a wide range of theoretical topics, including nuclear reactions related to the solar neutrino puzzle, the detectability of alternative dark matter candidates, phase transitions and topological defects in cosmology, the polarization of fluctuations in the cosmic microwave background and microlensing." Kamionkowski is an assistant professor of physics at Columbia University.

The winner of the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize is **Andrea M. Ghez**, an assistant professor of physics and astronomy at UCLA. Ghez is being cited for "her work on the motions of stars near the putative black hole at the galactic center, for her studies of binary stars, and for her contributions to the development of high-resolution imaging, particularly speckle imaging."

Robert E. Williams, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, has garnered the Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize. He is being given the prize "in recognition of his leadership in the design and execution of the innovative Hubble Deep Field campaign."

The George Van Biesbroeck Prize, which recognizes extraordinary service to the astronomy community, goes to **Francis J. Lovas** of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The prize citation states that "during the past 25 years, Dr. Lovas has compiled and kept up to date lists of frequencies and identifications of interstellar lines, lists of known molecular lines of astrophysical interest and information on molecular structures and transitions. These have been used by radio and infrared astronomers as their primary and invaluable tools. These compilations were made without special funding or support. In awarding the Van Biesbroeck Prize to Dr. Lovas, we hope that these important catalogues for worldwide astronomy will be maintained and extended."

Helmut A. Abt of the Kitt Peak National Observatory received the Van Briesbroeck Prize last year, the first time the prize was given under AAS auspices (prior to that, a private foundation in Arizona had administered the prize). AAS cited Abt for "his dedicated and unselfish long-term service to the astronomical community, namely for his long and caring editorship of the *Astrophysical Journal*."

AAPT Presents Awards in New Orleans

At the winter 1998 meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the following individuals were recognized for their contributions to physics education.

EDWIN F. TAYLOR

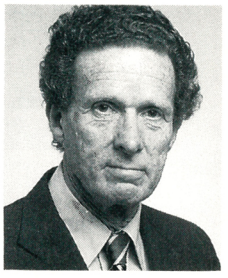
Edwin F. Taylor of the Center for Innovation in Learning at Carnegie Mellon University received the Oersted Medal, AAPT's highest honor. In accepting the medal, Taylor gave a lecture entitled "Einstein and Feynman: Attracting Students to Physics," in which he described an undergraduate course that he has developed on special and general relativity and quantum mechanics.

This year's Richtmyer Memorial Lecture Award went to **Douglas Osheroff**, the J. G. Jackson and C. J. Wood Professor of Physics at Stanford University. Osheroff's lecture, entitled "The Role of Luck in Physical Discovery: A Personal Perspective," described events leading up to the discovery of superfluidity in helium-3, for which he shared the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Six individuals each received the AAPT Distinguished Service Citation: **Ralph Baierlein** (Wesleyan University), **Paul D. Lane** (University of St. Thomas), **Harold Lefcourt** (Morris Knolls High School, Rockaway, New Jersey), **Mary Beth Monroe** (Southwest Texas Junior College), **Dwight E. Neuenschwander** (Southern Nazarene University) and **Joe H. Pifer** (Rutgers University).

AGU Bestows Medals at Boston Meeting

One of the highlights of the American Geophysical Union's spring meeting in Boston was the presentation of several medals and awards.



RICHARD M. GOODY

Richard M. Goody received the Gold Medal, AGU's top honor, for "his fundamental contributions to the fields of atmospheric radiation and planetary atmospheres and for unselfish cooperation in research." Goody is an emeritus professor at Harvard University.

Tuija I. Pulkkinen, group leader for space plasma physics at the Finnish Meteorological Institute in Helsinki, garnered the James B. Macelwane Medal, which recognizes outstanding young geophysicists. The medal citation stated that Pulkkinen's work "has greatly extended the theoretical models describing the magnetic fields surrounding the Earth, added critically needed time dependence to these models and compared the theoretical results to a wide array of observational data sets from throughout the Earth's plasma environs."

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