

WE HEAR THAT

Parisi Honored with 1999 Dirac Medal

Every year on 8 August, the birthday of Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics awards its Dirac Medal in recognition of outstanding contributions to theoretical physics and mathematics. This year's recipient is **Giorgio Parisi**, a professor of physics at the University of Rome I ("La Sapienza"). The medal carries a cash prize of \$5000.

According to the medal citation, Parisi "is distinguished for his original and deep contributions to many areas of physics." He was praised for his work on scaling violations in deep inelastic processes, quark confinement, supersymmetry in statistical classical systems, multifractals in turbulence, and growth models for random aggregation. In particular, the citation noted "his groundbreaking analysis of the replica method that has permitted an important breakthrough in our understanding of glassy systems and has proved to be instrumental in the whole subject of Disordered Systems."

AGU Recognizes Contributions to Geosciences

During its most recent meeting, held in Boston in June, the American Geophysical Union presented medals and awards to the following individuals.

The William Bowie Medal, AGU's highest honor, given for outstanding contributions to fundamental geophysics and for unselfish cooperation in research, went to **J. Freeman Gilbert**. The award citation noted that the moment tensor description of the seismic source that Gilbert developed revolutionized the way earthquakes are analyzed and that the data set of free oscillation frequencies that Gilbert and Adam Dziewonski identified led to many important findings, including the evidence that Earth's inner core is solid. AGU noted Gilbert's collaboration with George Backus on a set of papers in an area that was to become known as geophysical inverse theory. According to the citation, "Freeman and George are the fathers of this field and the research they did at this time changed the course of the geophysical

sciences, broadly defined, forever." Gilbert is a professor of geophysics at the La Jolla branch of the University of California's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics.

Ikuo Kushiro, who is a professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, and is retired from both the University of Tokyo and Okayama University, received the Harry H. Hess Medal. AGU honored Kushiro because, among other things, he and his colleagues have provided "fundamental experimental data on phase equilibria, element partitioning, and equation-of-state of molten silicate applicable to most major rock-forming processes in the Earth."

John M. Wallace, professor of atmospheric science and former director of the Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Ocean at the University of Washington, garnered the Roger Revelle Medal. The award citation stated that, for more than three decades, Wallace has been "a prominent figure in diagnostic research on various atmospheric circulation systems and on the role of large-scale air-sea interaction in climate variability." The citation also commended Wallace for "devising the optimal diagnostic technique for the problem at hand, uncovering simple yet elegant relationships from the best available observations, and communicating his insights eloquently to empiricists, modelers, and theoreticians alike."

The recipient of the Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism was **David Sington**, the first broadcaster to win this award. As writer and producer of the eight-part British Broadcasting Company/Learning Channel coproduction entitled *Earth Story*, Sington "succeeded in capturing on film what modern research in the Earth sciences is like, how the people involved think and work, and why the issues are exciting." The London-based Sington runs his own production company, DOX Productions, Ltd.

The Edward A. Flinn III Award went to **John W. Townsend Jr.** The citation noted that he "excelled at visionary institutional leadership, innovating new institutions to meet new national challenges and opportunities," and it also cited "his dedicated professional management that always enabled researchers and engineers to accomplish objectives that helped maintain US leadership in science and technology." Townsend, now

retired, is the former director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

George M. Hornberger, the Ernest H. Ern Professor in the department of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia, received the Excellence in Geophysical Education Award. Hornberger has contributed to geophysical education "not only through his teaching, mentoring and service within the University of Virginia, but through careful editorial guidance of key geophysical journals as well as leadership in developing Chapman and Gordon conferences in the geosciences."

IN BRIEF

In a ceremony next month in Kyoto, Japan, the Inamori Foundation will present its 15th annual Kyoto Prizes, which are given in the categories of advanced technology, basic sciences, and creative arts and moral sciences. The laureate in the advanced technology category will be **W. David Kingery**, a professor of materials science at the University of Arizona. He is being cited for his "fundamental contribution to the establishment of ceramic technology as materials science and technology." **Walter H. Munk**, a research professor of geophysics emeritus at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, is to be honored in the basic sciences category for his "fundamental contributions to understanding various ocean waves and tides, and mechanism of the ocean circulations." Each laureate will receive a medal and 50 million yen (about \$400 000).

At the International Conference on the Structure of Surfaces, held in July in Vancouver, Canada, **Kunio Takayanagi** received the Surface Structure Prize for his quantitative determination of the atomic geometry of Si(111)-(7 × 7). He is a professor of physics and materials science at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Gerard 't Hooft, a professor of theoretical physics at Utrecht University (the Netherlands), received the High Energy Physics Prize of the European Physical Society at its high-energy physics meeting in Tampere, Finland, in July. He was recognized for "his pioneering contribution to the renormalization of nonabelian gauge theories, including the nonperturbative aspects of those theories."