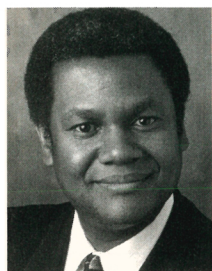


Johnson Is OSA Vice President for 2000

Members of the Optical Society of America have elected Anthony M. Johnson to be their new vice president. Johnson takes office on 1 January, succeeding Richard Powell of the University of Arizona, and he will assume the presidency of OSA in 2002.



JOHNSON

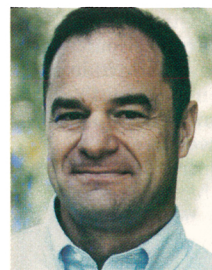
After earning a PhD in physics from City College of the City University of New York in 1981, Johnson joined AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey, where he eventually became a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff in the photonics circuits research department. In 1995, he moved to the New Jersey Institute of Technology as a Distinguished Professor

and chair of the physics department; he also was appointed editor in chief of *Optics Letters* that same year. Johnson's current research interests include ultrafast photophysics and nonlinear optical properties of bulk, nanoclustered, and quantum well semiconductor structures; ultrashort pulse propagation in fibers; and high-speed lightwave systems.

OSA has also elected three new directors at large: Peter Clark (Polaroid Corp), David A. B. Miller (Stanford University), and Margaret Murnane (JILA, University of Colorado at Boulder).

Fuller Becomes President of SoR

Gerald Fuller is the new president of the Society of Rheology. Fuller, who began his two-year term last month, following SoR's annual meeting, succeeded Ronald Larson of the University of Michigan.



FULLER

Fuller earned a PhD in chemical engineering from Caltech in 1980 and then spent a year as a postdoc at the Centre de Recherche sur les Macromolécules at the University of Strasbourg in France. Now a professor and chair of the chemical engineering department at Stanford University, he does

research on the flow properties and dynamics of complex liquids, in order to model and design flow processes for such things as polymers, slurries, coatings, and liquids flowing through porous media. Fuller's group at Stanford has developed several techniques for characterizing complex liquids, including real-time small-angle light scattering, scattering dichroism, and flow microscopy.

SoR's new vice president is William B. Russel, a professor of

Women in Science, in Words and Pictures

I have to say, I felt a little self-conscious paging through a comic book while waiting at the bar of an upscale Manhattan restaurant. My taste in books usually runs toward the kind without pictures. But *Dignifying Science*, due out this month from G.T. Labs, quickly won me over.

For one thing, this is not your typical comic book. Its 144 pages are filled with engaging and informative sketches of the working lives of real women scientists. Some are obvious choices—Marie Curie, Lise Meitner—others less so, most notably the film star Hedy Lamarr, whose offscreen credits included a 1942 US patent for

BREAKING THE ICE:

Raymond Gosling meets his new lab mate, Rosalind Franklin, upon her arrival at the University of London's King's College in 1951. As recounted in *Dignifying Science*,

Franklin's wartime research on coal was nearly as noteworthy as her later x-ray diffraction studies of DNA. (Illustration by Stephanie Gladden; used with permission of G.T. Labs.)



sending encoded messages, a precursor of the frequency hopping technique now used for cellular phone traffic. Though Lamarr's contributions to science were limited, author Jim Ottaviani writes, "She's sadly typical in that at almost every turn, others actively discouraged her from pursuing her [intellectual] talents."

Ten illustrators, all of them women, were enlisted by Ottaviani to bring his text to life. Veteran cartoonist Ramona Fradon (of "Brenda Starr" fame) drew the front cover; Mary Fleener's cubist rendering of mathematician Emmy Noether graces the back. True to the comic-book genre, the women in *Dignifying Science* are shown in action: wrestling with data, debating with colleagues, overcoming adversity (scientific, social, and otherwise). Particularly effective is the chapter on Rosalind Franklin, the brilliant but prickly crystallographer, who is described *Rashomon*-style by James Watson, Francis Crick, and others who worked with her. Endnotes elaborate on the vignettes and point readers to further reading.

Writing comic books is a spare-time activity for Ottaviani. By day, he's a librarian at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he earned an MS in nuclear engineering. An earlier effort, *Two-Fisted Science*, also featured true-life stories about scientists; it garnered high praise from no less than the Nobel Prize Committee on Physics, which called it "very high quality" and, perhaps more to the point, bought more than 50 copies.

Ottaviani believes comic books can be educational as well as entertaining. Through his books, he hopes to hook readers "who wouldn't otherwise give science more than a passing thought."

Ordering information is available on the G.T. Labs Web site, <http://www.gt-labs.com>; e-mail info@gt-labs.com.

JEAN KUMAGAI

chemical engineering at Princeton University. Others taking office last month were Jeffrey Giacomini (University of Wisconsin—Madison), who is now secretary of SoR; Morton Denn (City College of the City University of New York), who was reelected editor of SoR; and Susan Muller (University of California, Berkeley) and Lisa Mondy (Sandia National Laboratories), who are now members at large on the society's executive committee.