the physics department.

The IOP awarded the Paul Dirac Medal and Prize to **Ian Percival** for "his distinguished contributions to the interpretation of quantum theory, to quantum and classical dynamical chaos, and to atomic and molecular theory." Percival is a research professor of physics at the University of London's Queen Mary and Westfield College.

Frances Ross of IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, garnered the Charles Vernon Boys Medal and Prize. She was honored for "ground-breaking contributions to real-time visualisation of materials growth and processing using novel electron microscopy techniques leading to a deeper understanding of oxidation, etching and thin film growth."

The IOP presented the Kelvin Medal and Prize to **John Anthony Scott** for "championing the cause of physics in Ireland through an exceptional gift for teaching, demonstrating, organising and enthusing." He was also praised for "enabling invaluable mutual trust and friendship to be established between those who love physics both in Ireland and in Britain." Scott is a senior lecturer in the department of physics and the director of public affairs at University College Dublin.

The winner of the Duddell Medal and Prize was **Rex Watton** of the UK's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. Watton was recognized for "over 30 years of seminal contributions to the understanding and application of thermal imaging principles, to the maturing of the appropriate technology and to its eventual commercial exploitation."

The IOP's new honorary fellows are **Michael Berry**, the Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Bristol; **Stephen Hawking**, the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge; **Peter Higgs**, a professor emeritus of physics at the University of Edinburgh; British-born **Anthony Leggett**, who holds the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Chair of Physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and **Roger Penrose**, the Rouse-Ball Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford.

IN BRIEF

At a ceremony this month in Bonn, Germany, the Deutsche Forshungsgemeinschaft will present the Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize for the Promotion of Science and Understanding between Germany and Japan to two scientists, one German and the other Japanese. The recipients will be **Hans-Joachim Queisser**, a founding director of the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics in Stuttgart and a director of the National Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Research in Tsukuba, Japan, and **Yasuo Tanaka**, director of the liaison office in Bonn of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

John Larese and **Laurence Passell** of Brookhaven National Laboratory have won the Department of Energy's 1998 Materials Science Award. The cash award of $50 000 recognizes "their pioneering work on neutron scattering studies of films adsorbed on graphite and magnesium oxide surfaces."

Jerry M. Woodall, past president of the American Vacuum Society, joined the Yale University faculty in January as the C. Baldwin Sawyer Professor of Electrical Engineering. He was previously the Charles William Harrison Distinguished Professor of Microelectronics at Purdue University.

The Association of American Publishers awarded its prize for the best professional and scholarly book of 1998 in physics and astronomy to *New Perspectives on the Earth's Magnetotail*, published by the American Geophysical Union and edited by **Atsuhiro Nishida** of the Institute of Space and Astronomical Science in Sagamihara, Japan; **Daniel N. Backer** of the University of Colorado at Boulder; and **Stanley W. H. Cowley** of the University of Leicester in England. The association also awarded its 1998 honorable mention for the best single issue of a journal to the American Institute of Physics's *Chaos*, volume 8, number 1, edited by **David K. Campbell** with guest editor **Arthur T. Winfree**. The issue focused on fibrillation in normal ventricular myocardium.

The new chairman of the Coalition for Plasma Science is **Gerald L. Rogoff**, an independent consultant and president of Plasma Associates. The coalition, which the APS division of plasma physics recently joined, works to increase nonscientists' awareness and understanding of plasma science.

John Rumble Jr, chief of the standard reference data program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, has been elected president of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA).

OBITUARIES

Alexey Andreevich Anselm

Alexey Andreevich Anselm, one of the leading Russian physicists, died of cancer on 23 August 1998 in Boston. He was director general of the St. Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute from 1992 to 1994, after having headed its theory division for 14 years.

Born on 1 July 1934 in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Alyosha received his PhD in physics in 1961 from Leningrad State University.

His first appearance in physics was dramatic. In 1959, Landau and others were trying to prove that zero charge was the only possible regime in field theory, even in four-fermion interactions (in which the sign of the coupling can be arbitrary). By considering a fermion model with several flavors in two dimensions, Alyosha proved, first of all, that Landau was wrong (Landau had used an improper cutoff procedure), and, what was more important, discovered that the model was asymptotically free—that is, the effective interaction logarithmically tended to zero at small distances. Published in 1959, Alyosha's paper was the first treatment of this highly important and general phenomenon. (The Anselm model was rediscovered in 1974 and is now called the Gross–Neveu model.) At first, Landau reacted angrily, but quickly realized his error. Subsequently, he and his circle were respectful toward, and even slightly apprehensive about, Alyosha.

Next in Alyosha's research career was a period (1961–70) of work on Regge poles. He became one of the leading figures of the Leningrad school of high-energy physics, which was headed by Vladimir Gribov. Together, they undertook state-of-the-art explorations of the properties of Regge poles, especially those close to experiment. Enormously prolific, their group discovered many subtle and beautiful features of Regge poles.

It must be said that, despite its excellence, the members of the Leningrad school were somewhat intolerant about field theory. Alyosha was a notable exception—much to my benefit and, perhaps, that of others. Apart from providing much-needed moral support, he helped me to publish papers on renormalization group analyses of deep inelastic scattering, which, in the late 1960s, were considered pathological. This kind of personal assistance reflected some of his best qualities—namely, his benevolence, common sense and an intellectual ability that was never obscured by prejudices. He also had wonderful intuition,