

WE HEAR THAT

Franklin Institute Presents Awards

In a ceremony last month, the Franklin Institute continued its 175-year tradition of recognizing achievement in science and technology by honoring the 1999 winners of the Bower Awards and Benjamin Franklin Medals. Of the ten laureates, the following five were cited for their work in physics:

Ralph J. Cicerone, chancellor of the University of California, Irvine,



CICERONE

received the Bower Award and Prize for Scientific Achievement. He was recognized, in the words of the citation, "for his fundamental contributions to our understanding of greenhouse

gases and the depletion of the ozone layer." He was also praised for his leadership in advancing public policy to protect the global environment. The prize carries a \$250 000 cash award.

Benjamin Franklin Medals in Physics were awarded to **John C. Mather** and **Akira Tonomura**. Mather was recognized "for his scientific vision, proposal, and management of the Cosmic Background Explorer experiments and its far infra-red astronomical spectrometer. His work helped to confirm the black-body radiation spectrum remnant from the Big Bang." He is a Goddard fellow at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Tonomura, senior chief research scientist at Hitachi Ltd in Hatoyama, Japan, was honored "for developing practical applications for both the high-brightness field-emission electron beam and the high-resolution electron holography interface microscope." In particular, he was recognized for leading the team that first observed magnetic vortices and their motion in superconductors.

Richard W. Shorthill and the late **Victor Vali**, researchers in the mechanical engineering department at the University of Utah, were presented with the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Engineering for the first experimental demonstration of the fiber-optic gyroscope. Their invention, noted the award announcement, "brought airplane and ship navigation into the modern era."

ASA Presents Awards at Meeting in Berlin

At a joint meeting with the European Acoustics Association held in Berlin in March, the Acoustical Society of America recognized five individuals for their contributions both to acoustics and to ASA.

Henning E. von Gierke, a professor emeritus in the human effectiveness directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, was given the society's Gold Medal for "contributions to bioacoustics, psychoacoustics, vibrations, and for leadership in national and international acoustical standards."

Jens P. Blauert received the Helmholtz-Rayleigh Interdisciplinary Silver Medal. Blauert, head of the Institute of Communication Acoustics at the Ruhr University of Bochum in Germany, was cited for his "contributions to sound localization, concert hall acoustics, signal processing, and acoustics standards."

An honorary fellowship in ASA, given to an individual who has attained eminence in or has rendered outstanding service to acoustics, was bestowed on **Leonid M. Brekhovskikh** for his "pioneering contributions to wave propagation and scattering." Brekhovskikh is head of the department of ocean acoustics at the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology in Moscow.

Paul E. Barbone, an assistant professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering at Boston University, garnered the R. Bruce Lindsay Award for "developing novel theoretical and computational acoustics techniques." The Lindsay Award is given to an ASA member under the age of 35 who has made substantial contributions to the field.

A Distinguished Service Citation was given to **Elaine Moran**, a division manager at ASA, for her "sustained and

dedicated service to the Acoustical Society, its officers and members, over many years."

IN BRIEF

David McQueeney has been appointed director of IBM's Zurich Research Laboratory in Rüschlikon, Switzerland. He succeeds **Karl Kümerle**, who is retiring after more than 25 years of service at IBM.

At the 40th annual Experimental NMR Conference, held earlier this year in Orlando, Florida, the first annual Günther Laukin Prize was awarded to **Konstantin Pervushin**, **Roland Riek**, **Gerhard Wider**, and **Kurt Wüthrich**, of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biophysics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, for their transverse relaxation-optimized spectroscopy (TROSY) technique. According to the prize citation, their technique "has dramatically extended the range of molecular masses of the biomolecular structures which can be analyzed by multidimensional NMR spectroscopy."

Fusion Power Associates presented its 1999 Leadership Awards to **B. Grant Logan** of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and **Dale M. Meade** of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Logan's citation states, "Your innovative contributions to both magnetic and inertial fusion energy programs, as well as to fusion power and fusion applications in general, have provided researchers a rich array of options to explore." Meade's award states, "Your early leadership of the TFTR [Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor] program and continuing contributions to the field of energy-producing plasmas and fusion applications have challenged the community to move forward expeditiously toward practical fusion power."

OBITUARIES

Ronald Geballe

Ronald Geballe, a well-known atomic physicist, died suddenly of a heart attack on 28 October 1998 in Seattle. The compass of his life included internationally recognized scientific research and leadership, long and wise academic administration, teaching at all levels, and his love of principle, as exemplified by his struggle against state-imposed loyalty oaths.

Born on 7 February 1918 in Redding, California, Ron grew up in San

Francisco and received his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of California, Berkeley. He earned a BS in 1938, an MA in 1949, and a PhD in physics in 1943 under the supervision of Leonard Loeb.

Then, the US being involved in World War II, Ron went to work at the US Navy-sponsored Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington. In 1946, he joined the university's physics faculty. From 1957 on, he served as department chairman for 16 years, associate and acting dean of the