

WE HEAR THAT

Three to Receive London Prize in Helsinki

The Fritz London Prize in Low Temperature Physics is awarded every three years at the International Conference on Low Temperature Physics. At the 22nd such conference, to be held this August in Helsinki, the prize will be presented to **Douglas F. Brewer**,

Wolfgang Ketterle, and **Matti Krusius**.

Brewer, a professor emeritus in the School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science at the UK's University of Sussex, is being cited "for his seminal experimental discoveries in adsorbed helium films, including the reduced transition temperature and T^2 specific heat; and for his finding of the linear temperature dependence of the specific heat of ^3He ; the surface-enhanced nuclear susceptibility of liquid ^3He and his verification of the minimum in the ^3He melting curve."

Ketterle is being recognized "for his development of techniques needed to study Bose-Einstein condensation in dilute alkali gases, including the clover-leaf Ioffe-Pritchard trap, rf evaporation, optical trapping and non-destructive interrogation using phase contrast and dark-field imaging; and for his pioneering investigations of these systems, including experiments on sound propagation, the time development of Bose condensation, phenomena in a spinor condensate and quantum interference between two previously disconnected condensates, the last being a crucial step towards the realization of an atom laser."

Ketterle is the John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics at MIT.

Krusius, who is a professor of physics at the Helsinki University of Tech-

nology, is being honored "for his imaginative and pioneering use of rotation combined with nuclear magnetic resonance to study various properties of superfluid ^3He , including textures of the order parameter, the structure, pinning and collective behavior of several different types of vortex, the critical velocity under rotation, the effects of motion of the A-B interface and the systematics of nucleation of vorticity by neutron irradiation."

IN BRIEF

David Weitz, currently a professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania, will join Harvard University in July as a Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics and as a professor of physics. There he will participate in the university's planned Center for Imaging and Mesoscale Structures.

Sydney G. Davison, a professor of Applied mathematics at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, has been awarded the E. Mach Honorary Medal for Merit in the Physical Sciences by the Czech Academy of Sciences. The academy also expressed its appreciation for Davison's long-term cooperation with Czech scientists.

This spring, **Stephen C. McGuire** was appointed professor and chair of the physics department at Southern University and A & M College. He was previously an associate professor of engineering at Cornell University.

In May, **Danny C. Rich** received the Nickerson Service Award from the

Inter-Society Color Council. Rich joined Sun Chemical Corp last year to set up its new Color Research Laboratory in Carlstadt, New Jersey.

Robert M. White, a University Professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, has been appointed director of the university's Data Storage Systems Center. He replaces **Mark Kryder**, who joined Seagate Technology Inc in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as senior vice president and director of research.

The Federation of Materials Societies has elected **James F. Key** president and **Lyle H. Schwartz** vice president for 1999–2000. Key is manager of the metals and ceramics department at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Now retired, Schwartz was formerly director of the Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

In a ceremony in May in Washington, the National Science Board presented **Maxine Frank Singer** with the 1999 Vannevar Bush Award for lifetime contributions to science and engineering. Singer, who is president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, was recognized for her achievements in molecular biology, for her activism and creativity in developing programs in math and science education in Washington, DC, and for her willingness to speak out on science matters facing society.

OBITUARIES

Nicholas Kurti

Nicholas Kurti, an eminent low-temperature physicist, research leader, and gastronome, died in Oxford, England, on 24 November 1998.

Nicholas was born on 14 May 1908 in Budapest, where he attended high school. His further education, however, had an uncertain future because of Hungary's growing anti-Jewish policies, which, in 1926, included restricting the number of Jewish students at the University of Budapest. Fortunately, the Kurti family included a rich uncle, who helped to pay for Nicholas's university education outside Hungary. (Nicholas's father died when he was three years old.)

Nicholas rejected such favored aca-

demic options as law, medicine, and chemical engineering, and decided to seek training as a concert pianist. But, though an accomplished musician, he was not accepted by the Budapest Academy of Music. Instead, he chose physics—hardly regarded as much of a career opportunity in the 1920s.

After studying physics, chemistry, and mathematics for three years at the University of Paris, Nicholas undertook graduate work in physics at the University of Berlin under Franz Simon (later Francis Simon). During those years, 1929–31, the University of Berlin was the center of the development of quantum physics. Inspired by Walter Nernst, Erwin Schrödinger, Max von Laue, Max Planck, Albert Einstein, and Gustav Hertz, Nicholas turned his interests toward the low-



BREWER



KETTERLE



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