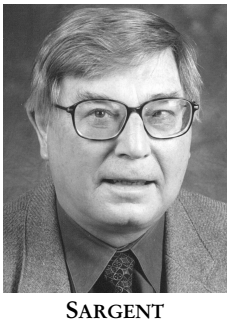
AAS Acknowledges Achievements in Astronomy

The American Astronomical Society recently announced the winners of several of its awards for 2001. These awards recognize contributions to astronomy and astrophysics.

The Henry Norris Russell Lectureship, the society's highest honor, will be presented to **Wallace L. W. Sargent**, Ira S. Bowen Professor of Astronomy at Caltech. AAS praises Sargent for being an "intellectual leader and educator" throughout his career and recognizes his contributions to astronomical spectroscopy, including his work in stellar spectroscopy of A-type stars that "led to the discovery of the helium-3 isotope in star 3 Centauri A." He involved many of his students in his work in extragalactic spectroscopy, "which produced the first evidence for a black hole in galaxy M87 and culminated with his studies of quasar absorption lines." His demonstration that the Lyman-alpha forest absorption arises from intergalactic primordial gas clouds "provided a fundamental new probe of primeval gas in the early universe."



SARGENT

The society is presenting a new award this year. The inaugural AAS Education Prize, given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the education of the public, of students, and the next generation of professional astronomers, will go to **Frank D. Drake** for his "inspiration and leadership in many areas of education and public outreach in astronomy." Drake's "wide-ranging popularizations, his tireless help for journalists, and his championship of education and public information through the SETI Institute have helped scientists, educators, and the world at large to think rationally about life in the cosmos." The citation also noted that his course work for and mentorship of students, and his development of the science of SETI (the search for extraterrestrial intelligence) through Project Ozma, the Drake Equation, and Project Phoenix, have "brought the excitement of the cosmic quest to several generations." Drake is a professor emeritus of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and distinguished scientist and chairman of the board of trustees of the SETI Institute.

Bruce Elmgreen, a research staff member at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, will receive the Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics, given jointly by AAS and the American Institute of Physics. Elmgreen is being recognized for contributions that "span a remarkable range from theoretical studies of key processes in the interstellar medium to the physics of galaxy-wide starbursts, to investigations of dynamical features, including spiral arms and bars in galaxies."

The Newton Lacy Pierce Prize will be given this year to **Kenneth Sembach**, a research scientist at Johns Hopkins University. Sembach is being acknowledged for work "that has been important in increasing our understanding of the structure and elemental abundances of the gaseous component of the Galaxy, especially of the galactic halo, as well as in discovering new facets of the high-velocity cloud phenomenon in the galactic periphery."

Uros Seljak will receive the Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy for his "contributions to the theoretical understanding of the cosmic microwave background anisotropies and to the development of numerical and analytical tools that have been widely adopted for the comparison of observational data and cosmological models in that area." Seljak is an assistant professor of physics at Princeton University.

Michael J. Kurtz, an astronomer and computer scientist at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will be awarded the George Van Biesbroeck Prize. AAS acknowledges Kurtz's contributions as "the visionary designer of the Astrophysics Data System, which clearly has revolutionized for over a decade the speed and thoroughness in which astronomers now can search and access the vast and still growing technical literature."

The Bruno Rossi Prize, given by AAS's high-energy astrophysics division, will be shared by **Andrew Fabian** and **Yasuo Tanaka** for "their discovery, with the ASCA satellite [Advanced Satellite for Cosmology and Astrophysics], of broad iron K lines in active galactic nuclei, which demonstrate the effects of the strong gravitational field characteristic of black holes." Fabian is a Royal Society Research Professor with the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, UK. Tanaka is a professor emeritus of astronomy and astrophysics at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science in Sagamihara, Japan.

EGS Honors Geophysicists

At its 26th general assembly in Nice, France, last March, the European Geophysical Society bestowed fellowship on one scientist and presented awards and medals to 10 others.

Roger-Maurice Bonnet was named a fellow of the EGS for "his authoritative and wide-ranging support of the space sciences, putting Europe at the forefront of Solar System exploration," according to the society's citation. He is director of research at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and a professor of physical sciences and of astrophysics and geophysics at Liège University in Belgium.

Atsuhiro Nishida, scientific supervisor with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, based in Tokyo, received the Hannes Alfvén Medal for "his outstanding contributions to the study of plasma processes in the Earth's magnetosphere and as an international space science coordinator."

EGS presented the Badge Award to three winners. **Leon Knopoff**, a professor of physics and geophysics at UCLA, was recognized for "his outstanding services as editor and supporter of [EGS's] journal *Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics*." EGS also acknowledged **Peter L. Read**, a reader in physics at the University of Oxford, for "his generous services as chairperson of the interdisciplinary working group of nonlinear processes in geophysics." **Susanna Zerbini** was honored for "her exceptional services as president of the geodesy section and her eminent contribution in promoting geodesy within the society." She is an associate professor of geodesy at the University of Bologna in Italy.

EGS gave the Vilhelm Bjerknes Medal to **Fedor Mesinger**, praising him "as a leading expert in the field of numerical modeling of the atmosphere" and acknowledging "his contributions to numerical weather prediction." Mesinger is a scientific visitor with the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction's environmental modeling center in Camp Springs, Maryland, and an adjunct staff member of the physics of weather and climate group at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.

The John Dalton Medal went to **Keith John Beven**, a professor of hydrology and fluid dynamics at Lancaster University in the UK, for "his outstanding contributions to the understanding of hydrological processes and hydrological modeling."

Dan Rosbjerg was honored with the Henry Darcy Medal for "his outstanding contributions to the analysis of extreme hydrological processes and their engineering implications." He is director of the groundwater research center at the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby.

The Milutin Milankovic Medal went to **John E. Kutzbach** for "his pioneering and outstanding contributions toward the understanding of the response of the climate system to astronomical forcing using three-dimensional ocean–atmosphere models." Kutzbach is director of the center for climatic research within the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He also is a professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the university.

Jürgen Willebrand received the Fridtjof Nansen Medal for "his pioneering work in the understanding of the dynamics of the circulation of the oceans." Willebrand is director of the Institute for Marine Research and a professor of oceanography at the University of Kiel in Germany.

The Lewis Fry Richardson Medal was awarded to **Julian C. R. Hunt** in recognition of "his fundamental contributions to the understanding of turbulent and stratified flows and dispersion modeling and their applications in environmental fluid dynamics." He is a professor of climate modeling at University College London.

Alder, Kawasaki Named This Year's Boltzmann Medalists

The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics has announced that **Berni Alder** and **Kyozi Kawasaki** will each be awarded the Boltzmann Medal, which honors outstanding achievement in statistical physics. The winners will receive their medals in July at IUPAP's International Conference on Statistical Physics in Cancun, Mexico.

Alder was acknowledged for "inventing the technique of molecular dynamics simulation and showing that with such 'computer experiments' important discoveries in the field of statistical mechanics can be made, in particular the melting/crystallization transition of hard spheres and the long-time decay of autocorrelation functions in fluids," according to the citation. Alder is a professor emeritus of applied science at the University of California, Davis, and a consultant with the Institute for Scientific Computing Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Kawasaki was recognized for his "contribution to our understanding of dynamic phenomena in condensed matter systems, in particular the mode-coupling theory of fluids near criticality, and nonlinear problems, such as critical phenomena in sheared fluids and phase separation kinetics." Having retired in March from Chubu University in Japan as a professor of natural sciences and mathematics, Kawasaki currently is spending a year with Los Alamos National Laboratory as a Ulam Scholar.

In Brief

David De Young will begin a three-year term in August as president of the Aspen Center for Physics in Colorado. De Young, a senior scientific staff member at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, will succeed **Eric D'Hoker**, who has been the center's president since 1998. Following his term as president, D'Hoker plans to remain actively involved in affairs of the center. He also will be associated with UCLA's new Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics and will return to full-time research on string theory.

Ying Wu, a staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, will be joining Duke University next month as an assistant professor of physics.

Congressmen **Rodney P. Frelinghuysen** (R-NJ) and **Rush Holt** (D-NJ) each received the Science Coalition's Champion of Science Award in an April ceremony at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in recognition of their support for federal funding of university-based science research. The Washington, DC-based Science Coalition, which represents more than 400 member organizations, works to expand and strengthen the federal government's investment in university-based scientific, medical, engineering, and agricultural research.

In March, **B. Grant Logan** was named director of the Heavy-Ion Fusion Virtual National Laboratory (VNL), a collaborative venture of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Logan, who previously was deputy director of VNL, succeeds **Roger O. Bangerter**, who retired and will continue to work on heavy-ion inertial fusion.

Jill Dahlburg joined General Atomics in San Diego, California, in February as director of the division of inertial fusion technology and as co-director, with **Vincent Chan**, of the center for fusion theory. She previously was head of the distributed sensor technology office in the Naval Research Laboratory's tactical electronic warfare division.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, has hired **Annick Pouquet** as the first full-time director of the center's geophysical turbulence program. She previously was director of research at the Observatory of the Côte d'Azur in Nice, France, and director of the observatory's Cassini Laboratory.

Sharon Glotzer, who was co-founder and director of the Center for Theoretical and Computational Materials Science at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland, joined the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in January to establish a laboratory for soft-materials simulation and to create, with other computational materials faculty, a new multidisciplinary center for materials simulation.

In February, the Eastern New York Intellectual Property Law Association in Albany honored **James J. Wynne**, **Rangaswamy Srinivasan**,