

WE HEAR THAT

AGU Bestows Honors in Boston

During its spring meeting held at the end of May, the American Geophysical Union recognized the following individuals for their contributions to geophysics.

The 2001 John Adam Fleming Medal went to **Martin Uman** for his "outstanding contributions to the study of lightning and the understanding of the relationship between the current and electromagnetic fields of lightning," according to the medal citation. Uman is chairman of the electrical and computer engineering department at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Donald R. Nielsen, professor emeritus of land, air, and water resources at the University of California, Davis, received the 2001 Robert E. Horton Medal for his "extraordinary contributions to the hydrologic aspects of soil science, especially related to transport in soils and spatial variability in subsurface hydrology."

AGU has renamed its Award for Sustained Achievement in Science Journalism to the Robert C. Cowen Award for Sustained Achievement in Science Journalism; the first one went to **Robert C. Cowen** himself for "significant, consistent, and lasting contributions of high quality in science journalism in the coverage of the Earth and space sciences." Cowen, now retired, was a science writer for the *Christian Science Monitor* for more than 50 years.

Dorothy Stout received the Excellence in Geophysical Education Award for 2001 for, among other things, being "an outstanding and inspirational educator" and "a catalyst for change and a leader in the geoscience education community." Stout is a professor emeritus of geoscience at Cypress College in Cypress, California.

AGU also recently announced two other science journalism awards. The David Perlman Award for Excellence in Science Writing-News went to **Glennnda Chui**, a science reporter at the *San Jose Mercury-News* for her story "Acid Mountain," which appeared in the 28 March 2000 issue of the newspaper.

Richard Stone, the European news editor for *Science*, received the Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence

in Science Writing-Features for his freelance article "Vostok: Looking for Life Beneath an Antarctic Glacier," which appeared in the July 2000 issue of *Smithsonian*.

National Science Board, NSF Give Awards

In May, the National Science Board and the National Science Foundation presented several awards at a State Department-hosted dinner. **Lewis M. Branscomb** and **Harold E. Varmus** were honored with the NSB's Vannevar Bush Award. Branscomb was recognized for "his distinguished public service in the development of US science and technology policy; a scientist, teacher, scholar, business leader, and author who has influenced policies of recent [presidential] administrations, [he] has been an inspiration to students and colleagues, and a valuable asset to the nation," according to the citation. A professor emeritus in public policy and corporate management at Harvard University, Branscomb is also a physicist who pioneered the study of atomic and molecular negative ions and their roles in the atmospheres of Earth and the stars. In addition, he is a former chairman of the NSB and a former president of the American Physical Society.

Varmus was recognized with the Vannevar Bush Award "for his research in mechanisms and origin of cancer, his introduction of new intramural and extramural research programs, new leadership and expansion of the National Institutes of Health, and his continuing leadership in science." Currently president and CEO of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, Varmus, as a professor of microbiology, shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1989 with J. Michael Bishop, then his colleague at the University of California, San Francisco.

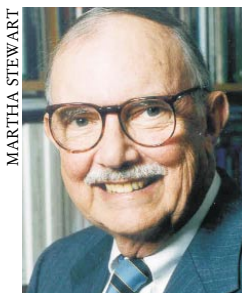
NSF presented its Alan T. Waterman Award to **Vahid Tarokh**, an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT. He was cited for "the invention of space-time coding techniques that produce dramatic gains in the spectral efficiency of wireless digital communication systems." The Waterman Award is the foundation's highest honor for young scientists and engineers.

Author **Dava Sobel** of East Hampton, New York, received the NSB's 2001 individual Public Service Award for "her enhancement of the public's understanding of the role of science in our lives and for fostering awareness of science and technology among broad segments of the general public." Sobel's latest work, *Galileo's Daughter* (Penguin, 2000), chronicles Galileo's life through letters from his daughter.

The NSB awarded the 2001 Public Service Award for organizations to the Wildlife Conservation Society's **Bronx Zoo, Education Division**, in the Bronx, New York. The organization was acknowledged for "fostering awareness of science among broad segments of the population and influencing and encouraging the next generation of life science professionals."

RAS Names Winners

The Royal Astronomical Society recently announced the winners of its awards for 2001. The society's highest award, the Gold Medal, was



BRANSCOMB



VARMUS



TAROKH



SOBEL

DONNA COVENEY, MIT

JERRY BAUER

MARTHA STEWART