

evolved through the ages.

In addition to modern-day astronomical instruments, the displays include 900-year-old astrolabes, devices used to describe the night sky at a given time, a full-scale replica of Tycho Brahe's equatorial armillary, and a replica of Edwin Hubble's 1920s



equipment from the Mount Wilson 100-inch observing chamber. As they leave the exhibition, visitors can explore a typical astronomer's office with near-real-time access to the activities

of national observatories. The new permanent exhibition opens this month. More information is available on the Web at <http://www.nasm.edu/galleries/gal111/univ.htm>.

DIAMOND ring leader. Gerhard Materlik has been tapped as the first head of DIAMOND, a third-generation synchrotron light source near Oxford, England, and the largest scientific facility to be built in the UK in more than three decades (see PHYSICS TODAY, January 2000, page 50). "It's a really exciting opportunity to do

something new," says Materlik, who will take up the post on 15 October, moving from the German Electron Synchrotron facility (DESY) in Hamburg, where he has been the associate director of HASYLAB and coordinator of the

lab's x-ray free-electron laser project.

A joint project of the UK and French governments and the Wellcome Trust, the world's richest biomedical foundation, DIAMOND will come with a price tag of £195 million (\$278 million) and a 3-GeV electron storage ring, providing soft and hard x rays from 5 eV to 200 keV. The synchrotron is scheduled to come on line in 2006.

NSF education post. On 1 August, Judith Ramaley became NSF's assistant director for education and human resources. The job comes with an annual budget of more than \$800 million, or about a fifth of NSF's total funding. It covers all NSF programs in math and science education, from

Michigan Students Win Solar Road Race

Students from the University of Michigan are the surprise winners of this year's American Solar Challenge, a biannual motor race in which groups build and race cars that rely solely on sunlight for fuel.

The cross-country race runs along old Route 66 from Chicago, Illinois, to Claremont, California. M-Pulse, the Michigan team's solar car, was nearly wrecked in a pre-race crash. But it crossed the finish line a full hour and 20 minutes ahead of the

previous champions, the University of Missouri-Rolla, and set a new record time and speed for the event. M-Pulse averaged 40 miles per hour over the 2247-mile course.

"It's hard to believe this fantastic finish, considering the position we were in just four weeks ago," says Nader Shwayhat, an engineering student who helped lead the team that built M-Pulse.

The team plans to take on international competitors at the World Solar Challenge in Australia this November.

PAUL GUINNESSY



SCHENCK & SCHENCK

kindergarten through the graduate level. Efforts range from system-wide school improvement programs and mentoring and education programs for underserved female and minority students to undergraduate research stipends and graduate fellowships.

A biologist who has been on the faculties of five universities and served as the president of two, Ramaley has an impressive track record on education issues. Most recently, as

president of the University of Vermont, she spearheaded an alliance with state colleges and education officials aimed at improving education from early childhood through advanced degrees, with a focus on distance learning and an eye to the state's workforce needs.

Ramaley succeeds Judith Sunley, who served in an interim capacity for two years and is now a senior adviser to NSF director Rita Colwell. ■

DESY



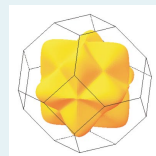
MATERLIK



Web Watch

<http://www.phy.tu-dresden.de/~fermisur/>

Using a method called linear combination of atomic orbitals, the University of Dresden's Claudia Lehmann has calculated the **Fermi Surfaces** of the metallic elements and collected them on a Web site. Thanks to a Java applet, the site lets you view the individual Fermi sheets of each element, as well as the Fermi velocity and orbital character of the electronic states.

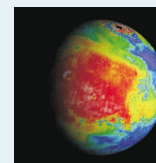


<http://www.engineergirl.org>

To encourage more girls to become engineers, the National Academy of Engineering has put together the **Engineer Girl!** Web site. Among the site's offerings are descriptions of notable engineering achievements and an online form that can be used to submit questions to professional engineers.

<http://tes.la.asu.edu>

In June, a giant dust storm began blowing over the surface of Mars. Within two weeks, the storm had blanketed the entire planet, raising the temperature of the Martian atmosphere by 30 K. You can see a movie of this event on the Web site of the **Thermal Emission Spectrometer (TES)**, one of the instruments on NASA's Mars Global Surveyor.



To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please e-mail us at ptwww@aip.org.

Compiled by CHARLES DAY