

Cohen Is APS Vice President for 2003

On 1 January, **Marvin Cohen** will take office as vice president of the American Physical Society, succeeding **Helen Quinn**. He will become president-elect in 2004 and president in 2005. APS's president for 2003 is **Myriam Sarachik**.

Cohen graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in physics. He pursued his graduate studies at the



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University of Chicago, where he received an MS in physics in 1958 and a PhD in physics in 1964. After holding a postdoctoral position at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, Cohen returned to UC Berkeley in 1964 to become an assistant professor of physics.

He joined the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory science staff in 1965, and has been affiliated with UC Berkeley ever since. He currently is a University Professor there and a senior scientist in the lab's materials sciences division. Cohen's research interests include theoretical condensed matter physics, nanoscience, superconductivity, and semiconductors.

Cohen says he has been "thinking about physics every day for the last 50 years. I hope that, when working with the APS over the next four years, I can help promote the support of physics and help to increase its popularity. I believe physics is the 'central science.' I do advocate collaborative efforts with other disciplines, and I think physics can provide the rigor in these collaborations." As far as physics education goes, Cohen plans to work hard on "getting more women and underrepresented minorities involved in physics—especially at the pre-college level."

In other APS election results, also taking office on 1 January will be the new chair-elect of the APS nominating committee, **John Peoples** (Fermilab). The two new members of the APS general council are **Janet Conrad** (Columbia University) and **Laura Smoliar** (Lightwave Electronics in Mountain View, California).

IN BRIEF

At its inaugural American Conference on Neutron Scattering held in Knoxville, Tennessee, in June, the Neutron Scattering Society of America announced the establishment of the Clifford G. Shull Prize in Neutron Science, which carries a purse of \$5000. Shull, who died in March 2001 (see PHYSICS TODAY, October 2001, page 86), shared the 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics with Bertram Brockhouse. Beginning in 2004, the NSSA will award the prize every two years to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to neutron science.

During a ceremony last month in Leiden, the Netherlands, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences awarded the Lorentz Medal to **Frank Wilczek**, Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics at MIT and editor-in-chief of *Annals of Physics*. He was honored for his "pioneering work in particle physics, including his research on particles that can only move in a two-dimensional plane, as well as his involvement in the discovery of the phenomenon known as 'asymptotic freedom.'"

In August, Pennsylvania State University added three individuals to its physics faculty. **Bernd Brügmann**, formerly a research staff

member at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Potsdam, Germany, is now an associate professor of physics in the Center for Gravitational Physics and Geometry. **Doug Cowen** is an associate professor of physics and of astronomy and astrophysics. He previously was an assistant professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania. Also joining the department as an assistant professor of physics is **Benjamin J. Owen**, formerly a research associate in the Center for Gravitation and Cosmology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

At a ceremony last April in Washington, DC, the government of France awarded **Harold P. Smith Jr** the rank of Commander in the Legion of Honor. Smith, Distinguished Visiting Scholar and professor in the Richard & Rhoda Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, was recognized for his work while serving as the assistant to the secretary of defense (nuclear, chemical, and biological defense programs) in the Clinton administration from 1993 to 1998.

Kirsten Tollefson has joined the physics faculty of Michigan State University as an assistant professor of experimental high-energy physics. She previously was a research associate at the University of Rochester.

OBITUARIES

Sheldon Datz

Sheldon Datz, who helped introduce a new field of research, molecular-beam studies of chemical dynamics, died on 15 August 2001 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, of pneumonia brought on by progressive pulmonary fibrosis.

Sheldon was born in New York City on 21 July 1927. His brilliant career may have been foretold when, at the age of 16, as a student at the city's Stuyvesant High School, he was involved in research alongside Ellison Taylor at Columbia University's Synthetic Alloy Materials Laboratory. There, he and Taylor investigated the properties of "tube alloy," a code name for uranium. At the time, Sheldon was unaware that he was working with uranium. The study later became part of the Manhattan Project.

At age 17, Sheldon joined the US Navy and saw combat in the South Pacific. After World War II ended, while still in the navy, he witnessed

nuclear testing in the Bikini Atoll. He then began his studies in chemistry at Columbia, receiving his BS in 1950. Ten years later, he earned his PhD in chemistry from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. His thesis, entitled "Molecular Association in Alkali Halide Vapors," was prepared under the guidance of Richard D. Present.

In 1951, Sheldon joined the chemistry division of the Atomic Energy Commission's Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a research chemist, and again had an opportunity to work with Taylor, who joined ORNL that same year. Sheldon undertook the first of his more than 300 refereed publications in 1955, when he and Taylor wrote an article on chemical reaction mechanisms using molecular beams. The first demonstration of this technique was acknowledged by the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Dudley R. Herschbach, Yuan T. Lee, and John C. Polanyi. A year after this initial semi-