ences at Harvard.

The Marshall N. Rosenbluth Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award, formerly known as the Oustanding Doctoral Thesis in Plasma Physics Award, went to **Mayya Tokman** for the "development of exponential propagation methods for 3-D MHD simulations and for their application to the solar corona, giving new understanding of observed features of coronal mass ejections." She is a visiting assistant professor in the mathematics department at the University of California, Berkeley. Her advisers were Paul Bellan and Daniel Meiron at Caltech.

Brian DeMarco, a postdoctoral research fellow at NIST in Boulder, Colorado, received the Atomic, Molecular or Optical Physics Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award. The citation for his award was unavailable at press time.

Netherlands Science Prize Bestowed

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) presented its NWO/Spinoza Award for 2002 in August to four Dutch research scientists. This annual award is the most prestigious one given in the Netherlands for scientific achievement.

One of the winners, **Ad Lagendijk**, is a professor of physics in the MESA+ Institute at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. A member of the complex photonic systems research group at the institute, Lagendijk conducts work "at the interface between optics and solid-state physics," according to the NWO. His research involves study of how light beams travel through materials, especially those (such as paint) that make the propagation of light waves very difficult. In 1990, while he was a professor of physics at the University of Amsterdam, he and his group discovered the "Amsterdam effect," in which paint particles reflect light back and forth so often that they temporarily capture and delay the light.

Lagendijk received both a small statue of 17th-century philosopher Benedictus de Spinoza and a cash prize of €1.5 million (about $1.5 million), which he can spend on the research of his choice.

OSA Elects New Vice President

The Optical Society of America has elected **Susan Houde-Walter**, professor of optics at the University of

Rochester in New York, as vice president of OSA for 2003. Beginning her term on 2 January, she succeeds **Peter Knight** and will become president-elect in 2004 and president in 2005. **Michael Morris** will take the helm as OSA president in 2003.

Houde-Walter received her undergraduate degree in liberal arts from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, in 1976 and then her MS and PhD in optics from the University of Rochester in 1983 and 1987, respectively. She joined the faculty of the Institute of Optics at Rochester in 1987 as an assistant professor. In 1989, she cofounded LaserMax, a manufacturer of diode-laser–based products for law enforcement and industry. Houde-Walter served as president of the company from 2000 to 2002. She has since returned to teaching, but still plays an active role at LaserMax. Her research interests include novel optical materials, optical and x-ray spectroscopy, and optoelectronic design.

HOUDE-WALTER

"OSA exists to promote discoveries in optical physics and advances in optical technology," says Houde-Walter. "There are plenty of these, as evidenced by recent Nobel prizes for work in optics . . . and contemporary experience. . . . Our organization is healthy, both financially and intellectually, and our members are willing to experiment with new ways to advance the field." She adds, "We are increasingly an international organization, which brings challenges as well as opportunities. We are up for the challenge, and, all said, it is a very good time to be part of the OSA."

In other OSA election results, also taking office on 2 January will be three new directors at large: **Ursula J. Gibson** (Dartmouth College), **James R. Leger** (University of Minnesota), and **Alexander A. "Sandy" Sawchuk** (University of Southern California).

IN BRIEF

After 20 years in Bell Labs research in Murray Hill, New Jersey, most recently as a distinguished member of the technical staff, **R. Bruce van Dover** joined Cornell University in October as a professor of materials science and engineering.

In October, the National Academy of Engineering presented its 2002 NAE Founders Award to **Stuart W. Churchill** at the academy's annual meeting in Washington, DC, for his "outstanding leadership in research, education, and professional service, and for continuing contributions in combustion, heat transfer, and fluid dynamics for over half a century." He is the Carl V. S. Patterson Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. The award included a $2500 cash prize and a gold medal.

At its annual conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in October, the Academia Europaea, located in London, awarded its 2002 ERASMUS Medal to **Harold W. Kroto**, cowinner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. A research professor at the UK's University of Sussex at Brighton and president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Kroto was honored for his "significant contributions to European scholarship, both through his discoveries of 'Buckminsterfullerene' [buckyballs] and through his major efforts in the fields of scientific literacy, education, and public awareness of the value of science."

The South African Institute of Physics gave its highest award, the De Beers Gold Medal, this year to **Walter Dieter Heiss** at its 47th annual conference in Potchefstroom, South Africa, in September. Heiss, professor of physics at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, was recognized for his "contributions to quantum theory and the potential of his latest work to greatly influence ideas and thinking which are fundamental to our understanding of chirality and how left–right symmetry might be broken."

The London-based World Technology Network has announced the individual and corporate winners of its World Technology Awards for 2002. Of the individual winners, four work in physics-related fields. **Angela Belcher**, associate professor of materials science and engineering and of biological engineering at MIT, was named the winner in the materials category. **Roger-Maurice Bonnet** collected an award in the space category. He is the deputy director general for science at the French Space Agency (CNES) and former director of the science program at the European Space Agency. The winner in the energy category is **Ashok Gadgil**, senior staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. In the information technology-hardware category, the winner is **Shuji Nakamura**, professor of materials and director of the Center for Solid State Lighting and Displays at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The awards honor both individuals and companies that contribute significantly to the advancement of promising technologies for the benefit of business and society.

Fusion Power Associates presented its Special Awards for Education and Outreach last June. The two award winners were **Paul Rivenberg** and **Paul Thomas**, both of whom work at MIT's Plasma Science and Fusion Center. Rivenberg is the communications and educational outreach coordinator. Thomas, a technical supervisor, is also known by his colleagues and the public as "Mr. Magnet"—for bringing hands-on electromagnetism demonstrations to elementary and middle schools in New England.

OBITUARIES

Franco Rasetti

Franco Rasetti, the last survivor of Enrico Fermi's "the boys of Via Panisperna," died of natural causes on 5 December 2001 in Waremme, Belgium, where he lived from 1977 until a few months after his 100th birthday.

Rasetti was born on 10 August 1901 in Pozzuolo Umbro, a small village not far from Perugia in central Italy. As a young boy, he developed a particular inclination toward the natural sciences, thanks to a family background in which scientific interests were widely represented and cultivated. Rasetti's uncle, Gino Galeotti, a distinguished professor of pathology in Turin, was instrumental in devel-