

# WE HEAR THAT

## AGU Bestows Honors in Washington

During the American Geophysical Union's spring meeting in Washington, DC, in May, a number of individuals were recognized for their contributions to the field of geophysics.

The Robert E. Horton Medal went to **Jean-Yves Parlange**, professor of biological and environmental engineering at Cornell University, for his "fundamental contributions to the understanding of water movement in the environment."

**Ivan I. Mueller** received the Waldo E. Smith Medal for his "role in organizing international collaboration to establish the foremost global geodetic instrumentation networks in place today." Mueller is a professor and chairman emeritus in the department of civil and environmental engineering and geodetic science at Ohio State University.

The James B. Macelwane Medal was presented to **Gabriel G. Katul**, professor of hydrology at the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences and the department of civil and environmental engineering at Duke University. According to the citation, his discoveries on the interactions between land and atmosphere "rank as some of the most profound and important in the field over the past ten years."

The Excellence in Geophysical Education Award went to **Edmond Mathez**, **James Webster**, **Rosamond Kinzler**, and **Heather Sloan** for their work in "establishing the state-of-the-art Earth science exhibition, Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York." Mathez and Webster are curators at the museum; Kinzler is acting director of the museum's National Center for Science Literacy, Education, and Technology; and Sloan is an assistant professor of science education at Lehman College of the City University of New York.

The recipient of the David Perlman Award for Excellence in Science Journalism-News was **Richard Monastersky**, senior writer at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, for his article entitled "A Plucky Spacecraft Explores a Distant Asteroid," which appeared in the 2 March 2001 issue.

**Diane Tennant**, staff writer at *The Virginian-Pilot*, received the Wal-

ter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism-Features for her seven-part article entitled "A Cosmic Tale," which appeared in the 24-30 June 2001 issues of the newspaper.

## Bloch Honored by the NSB

The National Science Board presented **Erich Bloch** with its 2002 Vannevar Bush Award, the NSB's highest award for scientific achievement and statesmanship, at a ceremony in May in Washington, DC.

Director of NSF from 1984 to 1990, Bloch was recognized for his "notable contributions to electrical engineering and his long-term commitment to the public good as a statesman for science and engineering."

He is a founding principal of the Washington Advisory Group, a for-profit firm that offers strategic counsel and management consulting to universities, companies, government, and not-for-profit organizations worldwide. He also is a distinguished fellow with the Council on Competitiveness, a not-for-profit organization whose goal is to improve the US's competitiveness in the global marketplace, and a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).



BLOCH

## IN BRIEF

**Katharina Krischer** joined the Technical University of Munich, Germany, in April as a professor of technical physics. She was head of the spatiotemporal electrode dynamics group at the Berlin-based Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science.

Last month, **Robert W. Conn** became a managing director of Enterprise Partners Venture Capital in La Jolla, California. He previously was with the University of California, San Diego, where he had served as the dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering since 1994.

In London this past May, the Royal Academy of Engineering presented its awards for 2002. Of the winners, two are engaged in physics-related work. **Richard Friend** received a Silver Medal, which is given to engineers younger than age 50 for their outstanding contributions to British engineering. The academy noted that Friend, Cavendish Professor of Physics at the University of Cambridge and cofounder and chief scientist of Cambridge Display Technology, "discovered how to make polymers that emit intense light under an electric current, opening the way to high-quality color displays in computers and mobile devices." **John Pflowcs Williams** received the academy's Whittle Medal for his "lifelong dedication to understanding the properties of sound, which has enabled huge innovation in international transport." He is the master of Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge.

**Thomas Walther** joined the Technical University of Darmstadt earlier this year as a professor of experimental physics. He was an assistant professor in the physics department at Texas A&M University.

In April, at a ceremony in Rome, the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL (Italian National Academy of Sciences) presented its Matteucci Medal to **Theodor Hänsch**, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics in Garching, Germany, and a professor of experimental physics at the University of Munich. According to the academy, Hänsch is "one of the most original experimental physicists in recent years." In particular, adds the citation, he has pursued precision measurements in laser spectroscopy and in fundamental physics, with respect to hydrogen, antihydrogen, fundamental constants, and symmetry laws. Previous winners of the medal have included Hermann von Helmholtz, Albert Einstein, and Werner Heisenberg.

**Barbara Drossel** recently joined the Institute of Solid State Physics at the Technical University of Darmstadt in Germany as a professor of theoretical physics. She previously was a visiting scientist in Israel at the University of Tel Aviv's physics department.

In May, at a ceremony in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer