# WE HEAR THAT

## Bush Honors Winners of Early Career Awards

At the White House in July, President Bush honored the 60 recipients of the 2001 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. He delivered an address at the ceremony, marking the first time a US president has attended the presentation. The PECASE awards are the nation's highest honor for young researchers at the outset of their professional careers.

Among the winners, the following 26 are involved in physics or physics-related work: **Douglas E. Adams** of Purdue University, **Ian M. Anderson** of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, **Philip J. Bart** of Louisiana State University, **James J. Bock** of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, **Steven Brown** of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Aeronomy Laboratory and the University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, and **Vince Cianciolo** of ORNL.

Also honored were **Stephane Coutu** of Pennsylvania State University, **James H. Crawford** of NASA's Langley Research Center, **Steven A. Cummer** of Duke University, **Ronald P. Fedkiw** of Stanford University, **Kenneth A. Gall** of the University of Colorado at Boulder, **Charles F. Gammie** of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and **C. Allan Guymon** of the University of Iowa.

Also recognized were **Eric K. Lin** of NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland, **Thomas M. Hamill** of NOAA's Climate Diagnostics Center and the University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, **Mark C. Herrmann** of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and **Scott R. Manalis** of MIT.

The award also acknowledged **William "Ruddy" Mell** of the University of Utah, **Mark A. Moline** of California Polytechnic State University, **Veena Misra** of North Carolina State University, **Jeffrey D. Niemann** of Penn State, **Christine Ortiz** of MIT, **Paul M. Ricker** of the University of Chicago, **Peter Traykovski** of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, **Erik Winfree** of Caltech, and **Z. John Zhang** of Georgia Tech.

## Krauss Honored by AIP

In May, the American Institute of Physics presented its 2001 Andrew Gemant Award to **Lawrence Krauss** at a meeting of the American Physical Society's division of particles and fields, held in Williamsburg, Virginia.

KRAUSS

AIP recognized Krauss for his "excellence in the interpretation of physics to the public through numerous newspaper and magazine articles, books, lectures, and television productions." He was especially commended for his "communication of sound scientific literacy through timely opinion pieces and books" and for his "efforts to address incorrect popular interpretations of science disseminated in the mass media." Krauss is the Ambrose Swasey Professor of Physics, professor of astronomy, and chairman of the physics department at Case Western Reserve University.

## Astronomical Society Is Bestowing Honors

This month, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific will present its awards for 2002 during its annual meeting at the University of California, Berkeley.

The ASP's highest honor, the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal, will go to **Bohdan Paczynski,** Lyman Spitzer Jr Professor of Astrophysics at Princeton University. The society is recognizing his "revolutionary work in many fields of astronomy" and notes that he has made "major contributions to our understanding of interacting binary stars."

**Volker Bromm** will receive the Robert J. Trumpler Award, which is presented to a recent PhD recipient whose doctoral research is considered unusually important to astronomy. Bromm earned his doctorate in 2000 from Yale University under the guidance of Richard Larson and Paolo Coppi. His dissertation was entitled "Star Formation in the Early Universe." He is a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

The ASP will present its Dorothea Klumpke-Roberts Award, which recognizes an individual's outstanding contributions to the public's understanding and appreciation of astronomy, to two space artists. **Don Davis** of Palm Springs, California, is being acknowledged for his artwork and animations for planetarium shows, movies, and television programs such as the television series *Cosmos*. **Jon Lomberg** of Honaunau, Hawaii, has "gained fame as Carl Sagan's longtime collaborator," according to the ASP. He was the chief artist for *Cosmos* and designed astronomical animation for the film *Contact*. He also was the design director for NASA's Voyager interstellar record.

**Dean Ketelsen,** senior research specialist at the Steward Observatory's Mirror Laboratory in Tucson, Arizona, will receive the Las Cumbres Amateur Outreach Award, which the ASP first presented last year. The award honors outreach to the public and to children by an amateur astronomer. Since 1991, Ketelsen has organized an annual "Grand Canyon Star Party" at which volunteer amateur astronomers help visitors gain an appreciation of the night sky.

The Maria and Eric Muhlmann Award will go to **François Roddier,** who retired in December 2000 from his position as an astronomer at the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy. The award honors scientists who have obtained important research results based on their development of groundbreaking instruments and techniques. According to the ASP, "since the 1980s, Roddier has played a key role in the development of adaptive optics . . . [and has] pioneered the theory of adaptive optics, particularly the understanding of atmospheric turbulence."

The ASP will present its Thomas J. Brennan Award to **Philip M. Sadler,** Francis W. Wright Lecturer and director of the science education department at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, for exceptional achievement related to the teaching of pre-college astronomy. According to the ASP, he has headed many institutes and curriculum projects to improve the teaching of science. He also invented the Starlab

Portable Planetarium, which brings the night sky to an estimated 12 million children annually.

## In Brief

**Ralph Eichler** took over the directorship of the Swiss-based Paul Scherrer Institute in July, succeeding **Meinrad K. Eberle,** who retired after 10 years in that position. Eichler previously was the deputy director and head of the particles and matter division of the institute. He will remain a part-time professor of particle physics at ETH Zürich.

Next month, **Peter Main** will become the director of physics education for the UK's Institute of Physics, succeeding **Peter Cooper,** who will be leaving to join the London Mathematical Society. Main heads the school of physics and astronomy at the University of Nottingham in the UK.

Since 1992, the Alvin Van Valkenburg Award has been presented at the meetings of the Gordon Research Conference on Research at High Pressure, held biannually in Meriden, New Hampshire. The award is given in recognition of a promising young scientist in this field. This year's award, given in June, went to **Yongjae Lee,** a postdoctoral fellow in the physics department at Brookhaven National Laboratory, for his work on pressure-induced swelling of zeolites, using the diamond anvil cell of which Van Valkenburg was a coinventor.

**Mark A. Kasevich** will join the faculty of Stanford University this month as a professor of physics. He previously was a professor of physics at Yale University.

In a ceremony in Vienna next month, the general assembly of the Austrian Research Institute for Chemistry and Technology will bestow its 2002 Herman F. Mark Medal on **Koichi Hatada, Frank E. Karasz,** and **Franz Sommer** for their work on polymers. Hatada retired in 1998 after serving as Osaka University's vice president. Karasz is the Silvio O. Conte Distinguished Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Sommer recently retired as the managing director of technology and head of R&D at Semperit Technical Products in Wimpassing, Austria.

## Obituaries

### André Blanc-Lapierre

André Blanc-Lapierre, one of the most distinguished members of the French scientific community, died from a stroke on 14 December 2001 in Châtenay-Malabry, France.

Blanc-Lapierre was born on 7 July 1915 in Lavaur, France. After graduating from the Ecole Normale Supérieure, he joined the physics laboratory of that institution in 1940 to prepare a thesis under Georges Bruhat's supervision. His doctoral dissertation, completed in 1944, was devoted to the study of the shot noise and its influence on the measurement and amplification of very small photocurrents.

In the 1940s, the origin of the shot noise and its theoretical description were not at all understood. Blanc-Lapierre was the first to realize that proceeding beyond a qualitative description of random phenomena required the tools provided by probability theory. Although the theoretical foundations of probability theory were known, the concept of stochastic processes—fundamental for describing physical phenomena—was not. Blanc-Lapierre analyzed this concept

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ANDRÉ BLANC-LAPIERRE

in another thesis defended in mathematics in 1945. It is exceptional in France for anyone to have doctorates in two different fields. The work done for those two doctorates was the starting point of a series of papers devoted to stochastic processes applied to var-