



**Roger Blandford** (left) and Steven Kahn will head up Stanford's Kavli Insitute.

PHYSICS TODAY, June 2001, page 30).

This fall, theoretical astrophysicist Roger Blandford will move from Caltech to take the helm of the Kavli Institute. Steven Kahn, an experimental astrophysicist, will move to Stanford from Columbia University to be the institute's deputy director and an assistant director of research at SLAC. Getting the institute going "will be a big challenge," says Blandford. "Kahn and I are really excited by this opportunity." The pair will fill seven additional new jobs over the next few years, with an eye to balancing experimental and theoretical physics. "One goal is to be a bridge between SLAC and campus," says Blandford. Initial activities, he adds, will start even before the Kavli Institute's new building opens in 2005. **TF**

**Official SESAME.** With eight members on board, SESAME is now an official project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) is the planned 2–2.5 GeV reincarnation of BESSY I, a decommissioned synchrotron donated by Germany (see PHYSICS TODAY, August 2002, page 27). In addition to SESAME's host, Jordan, the founding members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority, and Turkey.



**The groundbreaking** ceremony for SESAME was presided over by UNESCO Director General Koïchiro Matsuura (left) and Jordan's King Abdullah II Ben Al-Hussein. (Courtesy of the Royal Court in Jordan.)

At the groundbreaking in Allaan, Jordan, on 6 January, UNESCO Director General Koïchiro Matsuura said, "For a change, science in countries in the region will be on a par with western science, enabling their scientists to become partners and not merely customers of science institutions in the industrialized world." Attracting more young people to become scientists and creating an environment conducive to open discussion, he said, "are unifying factors and a means of building up a culture of peace through science."

In other SESAME news, a panel appointed by the European Commission has recommended supporting the project—after certain conditions have been met. The panel wants the SESAME design to be reviewed, the initial beam lines and the scientists setting them up to be selected, and the total cost to be recalculated. SESAME's partners plan to submit a proposal to the EC later this year for funds toward upgrading the existing synchrotron. **TF**

**LANL oversight board.** University of California President Richard Atkinson has appointed physicists Sidney Drell, an emeritus professor at SLAC, and Robert Dynes, the UC San Diego chancellor, to an oversight board to "help guide Los Alamos National Laboratory Interim Director George 'Pete' Nanos." Nanos took over the top job at LANL in January after the lab became immersed in fraud and theft allegations and director John Browne

resigned (see PHYSICS TODAY, February 2003, page 22).

Drell was the first chairman of the President's Council on the National Laboratories in 1991 and was on the panel that reviewed LANL's handling of the Wen Ho Lee case. Dynes also has extensive experience with the National Labs, having served for two decades as a consultant and adviser to the labs.

LANL is being investigated by the FBI, two congressional committees, and the US Department of Energy for allegations of widespread abuse of procurement card purchases and employee theft of lab property. DOE officials are also reviewing UC's oversight of LANL and the school's management of Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories.

Drell said he considers science and engineering programs at LANL, including the stockpile stewardship program, to be part of the review. "I have concerns that the science and weapons programs live up to the expectations of the nation and that is why I agreed to be on the panel," he said. "I'm not on the panel to fix fiscal issues." Drell said he wouldn't discuss his specific concerns until he had reviewed the lab's programs. He did say he had "great confidence" both in Nanos as the interim director and in Bruce Darling, UC's senior vice president and interim vice president for laboratory management. The three other members of the oversight board are UC regents with financial expertise. **JLD ■**

## WEB WATCH

<http://noodle.pds.k12.nj.us/june>

June Oshiro, a graduate student in Rutgers University's molecular bioscience program, has designed a knitting pattern for a **Double Helix Seaman's Scarf**. DNA's major and minor grooves, the hydrogen bonds between its constituent nucleotides, and the degree and rate of its twist are all depicted in the pattern.



<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/physics/gg>

George Green, mathematician, physicist, and miller, died in obscurity in 1841. His work, including the famous functions that now bear his name, could well have met the same fate. The story of how Green's work became widely known is among the many offerings on the **George Green Society** Web site.

<http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs>

NSF's **Division of Science Resources Statistics** carries out the foundation's legislative mandate to collect and analyze statistics on the state of science and engineering in the US. The division's reports and studies, including the annual *Science and Engineering Indicators*, are available on its Web site.



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