

ing individuals with prizes or medals for 2003.

Martin C. Gutzwiller received the society's most important award for theoretical physics, the Max Planck Medal, for his contributions to the quantum theory of condensed matter. Gutzwiller is an IBM research staff member emeritus and an adjunct professor of physics at Yale University.

The society's top award for experimental physics, the Stern–Gerlach Medal, went to **Reinhard Genzel**, director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, near Munich, and a physics professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He was recognized for his contributions to infrared astronomy and adaptive optics.

Brian Foster was honored with the Max Born Prize, given jointly by the society and the UK's Institute of Physics for outstanding contributions to physics. Foster, who was recognized for his contributions to experimental particle physics, is a professor of experimental physics at the University of Bristol in the UK.

The Gentner–Kastler Prize, presented jointly by the German Physical Society and the French Physical Society, went to **Hartmut Löwen**, professor of physics in the Heinrich Heine University's Institute of Theoretical Physics, in Düsseldorf. He was cited for his research on colloidal phenomena in particular and his contributions to soft matter physics in general.

Christoph H. Keitel was the recipient of the Gustav–Hertz Prize, which is given to an outstanding young physicist. The society acknowledged his contributions to the theory of interaction between light and matter. Keitel is a research group leader and lecturer in the University of Freiburg's Institute of Physics.

Christian Peth, a scientist in the optics characterization group at the Laser Laboratory in Göttingen, was awarded the Georg Simon Ohm Prize for his development of a laser-driven gaseous target used for the production of soft x-rays.

Klaas Bergmann, professor of physics at the Kaiserslautern University of Technology, received the Robert Wichard Pohl Prize for his contributions to experimental molecular physics, especially for the development of the so-called STIRAP method.

The Walter Schottky Prize, which honors contributions by young researchers in the field of condensed matter physics, was presented to **Jürgen Smet**. A senior scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State

Physics in Stuttgart, he was cited for his experimental research on quantum Hall systems involving the quasi-particle characteristics of composite fermions.

Fritz Haake, professor of theoretical physics at the University of Duisburg–Essen, won the Marian Smoluchowski–Emil Warburg Physics Prize for his contributions to the theory of quantum optics and quantum chaos. The prize, presented jointly by the German Physical Society and the Polish Physical Society, is given for outstanding contributions to pure or applied physics.

Uta Fritze–von Alvensleben, assistant professor at the University of Göttingen, received the Hertha Spöner Prize, the society's award for young outstanding female physicists. She was cited for her research on the formation and evolution of galaxies, in particular the development of computer models.

Kirshner Elected President of AAS

Members of the American Astronomical Society recently elected **Robert Kirshner** as their president for 2003. Kirshner, who takes office at the society's annual meeting next month, will serve as president-elect in 2003 and as president in 2004–05, and succeeds **Catherine Pilachowski** (see PHYSICS TODAY, May 2001, page 77).

Kirshner received his AB in astronomy in 1970 from Harvard University and his PhD in astronomy from Caltech in 1975. After completing a postdoc at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in



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Tucson, Arizona, he became a member of the astronomy faculty at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1977. In 1986, Kirshner joined Harvard's astronomy department and served as chair from 1990 to 1997. Beginning in 1998, he was the associate director for optical and infrared astronomy at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA), a position he held for five years. The same year he joined the CfA, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Currently, Kirshner is the Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard. His

research interests include supernovae and observational cosmology, especially the recent discovery of dark energy using supernovae. Kirshner has written several books directed toward the nonphysicist on astronomical topics and is a frequent public lecturer on the subject.

"The AAS has been important to me, as to every astronomer in North America," Kirshner says. "I hope I can do something useful for an organization that has helped me so much."

In other AAS election results, **Chris Impey** (University of Arizona) will serve a three-year term as a society vice-president and **Geraldine Peters** (University of Southern California) will begin a three-year term as one of the AAS representatives on the US national committee of the International Astronomical Union. The new education officer will be **George D. Nelson** (Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington). Also, **Todd Boroson** (National Optical Astronomy Observatory), **Carol Christian** (Space Telescope Science Institute), and **Alycia Weinberger** (Carnegie Institution of Washington) will serve three-year terms as AAS councilors.

Jurnak Is Elected ACA Vice President

Frances Jurnak took office on 1 January as vice president of the American Crystallographic Association for 2003. A professor of physiology and biophysics at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), she succeeds **Raymond E. Davis**, who is now ACA's president (see PHYSICS TODAY, March 2002, page 84).

Jurnak received her BS in chemistry in 1968 from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and her PhD in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1973. From 1974

to 1977, she was a postdoctoral fellow at MIT in the field of molecular biology. Immediately following that position, she did postdoctoral work in biochemistry at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, in Her-



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shey, Pennsylvania, until 1979. That same year, Jurnak established her own laboratory in the biochemistry department at the University of