

National Science Board Honors Public Service

A former NSF director and the first American woman to walk in space are among this year's winners of awards presented by the National Science Board, the governing board of NSF, in May at a dinner hosted by the State Department.

Richard C. Atkinson, who directed NSF from 1977 to 1980, received the NSB's top honor, the 2003 Vannevar Bush Award, for his "contributions to our understanding of human cognition and his vigorous advocacy of the scientific enterprise in the public interest." According to the board, his research on the nature of memory "led to better understanding of brain structures that relate to psychological phenomena and the effects drugs have on the memory." In the 1960s, he created one of the first computer-controlled systems for classroom instruction, work that led to the commercialization of computer-assisted instructional systems. During his tenure as NSF's director, Atkinson negotiated the first-



Atkinson

Sullivan

COSI COLUMBUS

ever memorandum of understanding between the US and the People's Republic of China. That effort helped "[open] the doors for major exchanges of scientists and scholars between the two nations," declared the NSB. Atkinson was named president of the University of California system in 1995. He will retire from that post on 1 October.

A former NASA astronaut, a radio show, and a nonprofit educational organization garnered the NSB's Public Service Awards. **Kathryn D. Sullivan**, the first American woman to walk in space, was honored with the individual award for her "accomplishments as an explorer of Earth and

space, a science educator, and a role model for girls and young women." Sullivan is president and CEO of COSI Columbus, a science center in Columbus, Ohio, whose focus is to make science fun through hands-on discovery.

The group award went to the **Council for the Advancement of Science Writing** and the radio series *Earth & Sky*. The NSB acknowledged CASW, a nonprofit educational organization, for its "achievement in bringing together scientists and science writers for the purpose of improving the quality of science news reaching the public." The council, located in Hedgesville, West Virginia, funds programs to help journalists and science writers present accurate and informative news stories about developments in science, medicine, and technology.

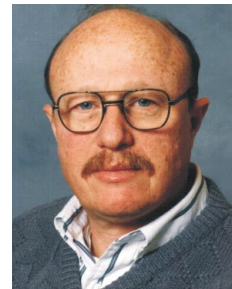
Earth & Sky, a 90-second radio series produced by the nonprofit organization Earth & Sky Inc based in Austin, Texas, was recognized for its "achievement in broadcasting explanations of research and everyday science to a worldwide audience." The program is broadcast by nearly 680 radio stations in the US and heard internationally on other radio networks.

ASA President-Elect Is Kuperman

Members of the Acoustical Society of America recently elected **William Kuperman** as their president-elect. Kuperman, who took office in May, will become president in 2004, succeeding **Ilene Busch-Vishniac**, ASA's current president (see PHYSICS TODAY, October 2002, page 67).

Kuperman received a BS in physics at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in New York City in 1965 and an MS in physics at the University of Chicago in 1966. A year later, he joined the Naval Research Laboratory as a research physicist, spending the next nine years there. During that time he earned his PhD in physics at the University of Maryland, College Park. Kuperman then moved to NATO's SACLANT Undersea Research Centre in La Spezia, Italy, where he headed the acoustic modeling group between 1976 and 1981. He subsequently returned to the US, where he resumed working at NRL. In

1984, NRL named Kuperman senior scientist of its acoustics division. He joined the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1993 and currently directs its marine physical laboratory.



Kuperman

"Right now, acoustics is in the midst of a broad, interdisciplinary renaissance concerned with a multitude of research areas in physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, psychology, and many engineering sciences," says Kuperman. "My main goals involve capitalizing on our members' accomplishments in order to provide more opportunities for interchange of ideas within the society as well as increased outreach to the broader community. Both on a national and international level, we must find a way to be even more inclusive and provide opportunities for potential members."

To pursue these goals, he adds, "We must maintain a financially sound operation, which suggests that we perform a serious cost-benefit study and truly evaluate and inform the membership of some of our lesser known, long running, but expensive activities." And in response to the growing number of smaller, specialized meetings, Kuperman says he would like to "address possibilities of making our meetings more intimate while at the same time maintaining their size and scope. I will support our editor in the goal of processing papers more efficiently and in dealing with the general challenges of electronic publishing."

In other ASA election results, **Mark F. Hamilton** (University of Texas at Austin) took office as the society's vice president-elect. **Mardi C. Hastings** (Office of Naval Research in Arlington, Virginia) and **George Frisk** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Massachusetts) were each elected to a three-year term on the ASA executive council.

NAS Names New Inductees

The National Academy of Sciences announced this past April the