

Lawrence Craig Evans, professor of mathematics at UCB

Matthew P. A. Fisher, professor of physics and a permanent member at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara

Donald Glaser, professor of physics and neurobiology at UCB

Paul Houston, professor of chemistry at Cornell University

Randall Hulet, Faye Sarofim Professor of Physics at Rice University

Thomas Katz, professor in the department of chemistry at Columbia University

Joseph Kirschvink, professor in the division of geological and planetary sciences at Caltech

Michael L. Klein, director of the Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter at the University of Pennsylvania

Donald Lamb Jr., Louis Block Professor in Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Enrico Fermi Institute and the University of Chicago

Julio Ottino, professor in the department of chemical engineering at Northwestern University

S. George Philander, professor of geosciences at Princeton

George Rieke, professor of astronomy and planetary sciences at the University of Arizona, Tucson

R. G. Hamish Robertson, professor of physics at the University of Washington, Seattle

Alexander Szalay, Alumni Centennial Professor in the department of physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland

Lynne Talley, professor of oceanography at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Kathleen Taylor, chair of the board of directors of the Centre of Automotive Materials and Manufacturing in Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Ellen Williams, director of the materials research science and engineering center, University of Maryland, College Park.

These foreign honorary members are physicists or work in physics-related fields:

J. Richard Bond, director of the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics in Toronto

Konrad Mauersberger, director of atmospheric physics at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg, Germany

William Unruh, professor of theoretical physics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

In Brief

Robert Dynes will become president of the University of California's nine-campus system in October. Dyne, chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, will succeed **Richard Atkinson**, who is retiring after eight years in the position.

In July, **Richard G. Kron** became the third director of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a collaboration of 13 institutions worldwide and more than 200 astronomers working to map, in detail, one-fourth of the entire sky. Kron, a professor in the University of Chicago's department of astronomy and astrophysics and a scientist at Fermilab, succeeds **John Peoples**, who retired on 30 June.

The Institute for Nuclear Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences bestowed the M. A. Markov Prize on **Thomas J. Bowles**, **Vladimir Gavrin**, and **Vadim Kuzmin** at a two-day symposium at the institute in

Moscow this past May. The award recognizes the trio for their "outstanding contributions to fundamental physics and the development of research on the solar neutrino problem." Bowles, whose work has been in neutrino physics and fundamental symmetries, is a fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Gavrin and Kuzmin are both with the institute: Gavrin heads the Gallium-Germanium Neutrino Telescope Laboratory at the Baksan Neutrino Observatory and Kuzmin is head of the laboratory for particle physics and cosmology in the theory division.

Last month, the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans awarded the 2003 Prince Albert I Medal in Physical Oceanography to **Klaus Wyrtki** during the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics General Assembly in Sapporo, Japan. Wyrtki, emeritus professor of oceanography at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, was cited for his "excellence in the physical sciences of the oceans."

Obituaries

Grote Reber

Grote Reber, radio astronomy pioneer and the first person to map the radio sky, died on 20 December 2002 in Ouse, Tasmania, Australia, of cancer, two days short of his 91st birthday. During his career, Reber was not dependent on any institution. Unable to secure support from US federal agencies, he relied on his own funds and modest support from the Research Corp in New York City. His discoveries led to the postwar development of radio astronomy, which transformed our view of the universe.

Reber was born on 22 December 1911 and grew up in Wheaton, Illinois. He graduated in 1933 with a BS in electrical engineering from the Armour Institute of Technology (later the Illinois Institute of Technology). During the Depression, Karl Jansky, physicist and radio engineer at Bell Laboratories, searched for the origin of a strange form of radio static at 20.6 MHz. Jansky's discovery that it emanated from the general direction of the constellation Sagittarius was virtually ignored by the astronomy community. Reber, a radio amateur, had heard of Jansky's "star noise" and decided to investigate. By using public transportation instead of buying a car, Reber was able to afford the parts for his radio telescope. He got books



Grote Reber

on optics from the public library and, in 1936, built a 9.6-meter parabolic dish in his backyard. Reasoning that higher frequencies give better angular resolution and assuming a thermal origin of the radio noise, Reber used his skills as a radio engineer to investigate the radio sky at a frequency 160 times higher than Jansky had used.

By 1937, the antenna was ready. That same year, Fred Whipple, with graduate student Jesse Greenstein,

MARTIN GEORGE, LAUNCESTON PLANETARIUM, TASMANIA