

Hopfield Is New APS Vice President

John Hopfield became vice president of the American Physical Society for 2005, succeeding **John Bahcall** (see PHYSICS TODAY, December 2003, page 80). Hopfield took office on 1 January and will automatically become president-elect in 2006 and president in 2007. **Marvin L. Cohen** serves as the society's president for 2005 (see PHYSICS TODAY, November 2002, page 88).

Hopfield's parents met as graduate students in physics at the University of California, Berkeley; he carried on the family study of physics by earning a PhD from Cornell University in 1958. In his thesis, he formulated a field-theoretic description of the interaction of light with excitons in solids. After completing his studies at Cornell, he joined the theoretical group at Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs for two years, then began his teaching career at Berkeley in 1961.

In 1964 Hopfield became a professor of physics at Princeton University, where he continued his research on the interaction of light with solids. He shared APS's Oliver E. Buckley Prize with D. G. Thomas in 1969. He left Princeton in 1980 to become a professor of chemistry and biology at Caltech after his research



Hopfield

interests turned toward the interface between physics and biology. He won APS's Biological Physics Prize in 1985. Hopfield returned to Princeton in 1996, where he is the Howard Prior Professor of Molecular Biology and chair of the department of molecular biology.

"The institutions essential for physics to prosper do not function well unless serious scientists are enthusiastic about taking leadership roles," Hopfield said after his election. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to put something back into an institution so important to the healthy state of American physics, and an institution that behind the scenes has helped me to have a fulfilling professional life."

In other APS election news, **Thomas Rosenbaum** was selected

chair-elect of the APS nominating committee for 2005. He is a professor of physics and vice president for research at the University of Chicago. Two general councillors were chosen by the society's members to serve three-year terms beginning in 2005: **Ann Orel** is a professor in the department of applied science at the University of California, Davis; **Richard Slusher** is director of the quantum information and optics research department at Bell Labs.

Leff Is AAPT's Vice President

At the conclusion of the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting held last month in Albuquerque, New Mexico, **Harvey S. Leff** took office as vice president for 2005, succeeding **Kenneth Heller**; **Richard Peterson** is the society's current president (see PHYSICS TODAY, February 2004, page 73; February 2003, page 72). Leff will serve as president-elect in 2006, president in 2007, and past president in 2008.

Professor emeritus of physics at Caltech, Leff has been a member of the physics department there since 1983, and was department chair from 1983 until 1995. He began his physics career in 1963 as a postdoctoral research associate and professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. From 1971 to 1979, he chaired Chicago State University's department of physical sciences, and during that time he spent a year as a visiting professor at Harvey Mudd College of Science and Engineering in Claremont, California. He also was a scientist and energy policy analyst at Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, from 1979 to 1983.

Leff received all of his degrees in physics: his BS from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago in 1959; his MS from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in 1960; and his PhD from the University of Iowa in Iowa City in 1963. He is interested in the foundations of thermal physics and has been involved for many years in promoting secondary-school and college science education.

In his candidate's commentary for the AAPT election, Leff said, "AAPT enriches my life in many ways. Its journals . . . are primary reading sources and great vehicles for pub-

lishing." He added, "I love national and section meetings, which stimulate my mental juices. At national meetings, plenary sessions cover exciting physics, workshops provide innovative teaching ideas, and exhibitors display current equipment and textbooks. These and other significant strengths of AAPT are unique and precious."

Also taking office at the end of AAPT's winter meeting were **Mary Beth Monroe**, who was elected to her third two-year term as secretary, and **John L. Roeder**, who began a three-year term as member-at-large high-school representative. Monroe is a math and physics instructor at Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, Texas. Roeder teaches physics at the Calhoun School in New York City.



Leff

OSA Elects Eberly Vice President

Joseph Eberly became vice president of the Optical Society of America in January. He will be president-elect in 2006 and president in 2007. His OSA activities include stints on the board of directors and the board of editors. He succeeds **Eric Van Stryland**; **Susan Houde-Walter** is president for 2005 (see PHYSICS TODAY, January 2004, page 65; December 2002, page 75).

Eberly is the Andrew Carnegie Professor of Physics and a professor of optics at the University of Rochester. He is director of the Rochester Theory Center for Optical Science and Engineering, and his research interests are in theoretical quantum optics and atomic, molecular, and optical science. He received his BS in physics in 1957 from Pennsylvania State University and his PhD in physics from Stanford University in 1962.



Eberly

In his personal statement before the election, Eberly said, "The guiding themes of OSA are discovery and development in science and technology, and we're proud of the high standards we set for our journals and meetings." He continued, "I strongly support OSA's initiatives that assist educators motivated to share with their students the thrill of exploration in optics. The same motivation engages all OSA members who share their knowledge beyond the classroom." Eberly concluded his remarks by saying, "Good past stewardship of impressive resources in funds, personnel and reputation now superbly position OSA for long-term growth in membership and allow us to contemplate with confidence future initiatives in service to the membership in education, meetings, publishing and public policy."

Also inducted in January were the society's new directors at large, who replace three outgoing members on the board. **Christopher Dainty** is Science Foundation of Ireland Professor of Experimental Physics at the National University of Ireland, Galway. **Peter Delfyett** is University Trustee Chair Professor of Optics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Physics at the Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers, Florida Photonics Center for Excellence, at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. **Donna Strickland** is an associate professor in the department of physics at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

In Brief

On 1 January, **Norman Chonacky** replaced **Francis Sullivan** as the editor of *Computing in Science & Engineering* magazine, a copublication of the American Institute of Physics and the IEEE Computer Society. Chonacky was recently appointed to a research fellowship at the Center for United Nations Studies in the department of political science at Yale University. Sullivan now directs the IDA Center for Computing Sciences in Bowie, Maryland.

The Materials Research Society bestowed three MRS Medals last December during its fall meeting in Boston. **Jacob Israelachvili**, professor in three departments—chemical engineering, materials science, and biomolecular science and engineering—at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was cited for his "work on adhesion and friction, which has

revolutionized the understanding of molecular mechanisms responsible for these technologically vital phenomena." **Toh-Ming Lu**, the Ray Palmer Baker Distinguished Professor of Physics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and **Sunil K. Sinha**, LANSCE Professor of Physics at the University of California, San Diego, were honored together for "seminal contributions to understanding mechanisms of thin-film surface and interface morphology evolution and establishing the foundations of diffraction and scattering methods for its quantitative analysis."

Thom H. Dunning Jr became the third director of the NSF-funded National Center for Supercomputing Applications, located on the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois. Prior to joining NCSA in January, Dunning was director of the Joint Institute for Computational Sciences, a joint endeavor of the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering for 2004 was presented to **John P. Smol** on 6 December by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The annual presentation ceremony for NSERC's highest honor, named for the late Canadian Nobel laureate, was held at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. Smol will receive Can\$1 million (about \$780 000) from NSERC over the next five years to fund his research on the reconstruction of past environments. He is a professor in the biology department, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change, and codirector of the Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory, all at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

James B. Garvin, most recently chief scientist for NASA's Mars and lunar exploration programs, was appointed chief scientist of the entire agency last October. He succeeds veteran astronaut **John M. Grunsfeld**, who has returned to NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas, to train for a long-duration flight aboard the *International Space Station*.

Richard Price has joined the physics department in the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Texas at Brownsville after 33 years as a physics professor at the University of Utah.

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