hadronic masses and decay rates, which provided essential clues into the development of the quark model, and for demonstrating that *CP* violation permits partial decay rate asymmetries." He is a professor emeritus of physics at the University of Rochester.

The recipient of the Robert R. Wilson Prize for Achievement in the Physics of Particle Accelerators is **Keith R. Symon**, emeritus professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is being acknowledged "for fundamental contributions to accelerator science, including the FFAG concept and the invention of the RF phase manipulation technique that was essential to the success of the ISR and all subsequent hadron colliders."

For his thesis "Large R-Charged Sectors of the AdS/CFT Correspondence," written at Princeton University under the supervision of Curtis Callan and Steven Gubser, **Jonathan Heckman** has garnered the LeRoy Apker Award for undergraduate research done at a PhD-granting institution. Heckman is currently a PhD student at Harvard University.

Lawrence M. Krauss is getting the Joseph A. Burton Forum Award "for major contributions in defending science in the schools through his efforts in combating the opponents of teaching evolution, and for continuing to enhance the public understanding of contemporary physics." He is the Ambrose Swasey Professor of Physics, professor of astronomy, chair of the physics department, and director of the center for education and research in cosmology and astrophysics at Case Western Reserve University.

Martin J. Klein, Eugene Higgins Professor Emeritus of Physics and History of Science at Yale University, will receive the inaugural Abraham Pais Award for History of Physics "for his pioneering studies in the history of 19th- and 20th-century physics, which embody the highest standards of scholarship and literary expression and have profoundly influenced generations of historians of physics."

The Francis M. Pipkin Award is going to **Ronald L. Walsworth** "for broad investigation in precision measurements involving masers; in particular, for using hydrogen and noble-gas masers in achieving record sensitivities to violations of Lorentz and *CPT* symmetry in neutrons and protons, and for innovative applications of masers to imaging." He is a senior lecturer in the Harvard University physics department and a physicist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

The APS study group on boost-phase intercept systems for national missile defense, cochaired by Daniel Kleppner (MIT) and Frederick K. Lamb (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), is the recipient of the Leo Szilard Lectureship Award, "in recognition of the work of the Study Group in producing a report that adds physics insight to the public debate."

Andriy Kurylov has garnered the Dissertation in Nuclear Physics Award "for his theoretical work on electroweak radiative corrections to precision low-energy processes, including calculations of neutrino–deuterium scattering needed to interpret solar neutrino data and other calculations to constrain limits for physics beyond the standard model." He received his PhD from the University of Connecticut under the supervision of Michael Ramsey-Musolf and is now working for McKinsey & Co in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In Brief

The European Commission handed out its Descartes prizes for 2004 at a ceremony in Prague, Czech Republic, last December. A joint EU–US project team received one of two awards in the research category and shared half of the €1 million (about $1.3 million) prize. The IST-QuComm (Information Systems Technology-Quantum Communications) team, which is developing a global communication system using photons, was cited for "demonstrating a number of intriguing applications of quantum physics: from teleportation to the secure transmission of encrypted information over fibre optic cable links and through free space." The team includes **Thierry Debuisschert** (Thales Group, France), **Artur Ekert** (University of Cambridge), **Nicolas Gisin** (University of Geneva), **Richard Hughes** (Los Alamos National Laboratory), **Anders Karlsson** (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), **John Rarity** (University of Bristol), **Harald Weinfurter** (University of Munich), and **Anton Zeilinger** (University of Vienna).

After 29 years at Sandia National Laboratories, most recently as director of the Pulsed Power Science Center, **Jeff Quintenz** is now president of Lockheed Martin Nevada Technologies Inc and deputy general manager of stockpile and stewardship programs and operations for Bechtel Nevada.

Stephen Hawking received the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal from the Smithsonian Institution at a ceremony in Washington, DC, on 14 February. The award, which honors the Institution's original beneficiary, is given to people who have made distinguished contributions to the advancement of areas of interest to the Smithsonian. Hawking was chosen for his "groundbreaking research in theoretical physics and his influence on young scientists in Great Britain, the United States, and around the world," according the citation. Hawking holds the Lucasian Chair of Natural Philosophy at Cambridge University.

Robert Kirby-Harris became chief executive of the Institute of Physics this month. He replaces **Julia King**, who is now the principal of the faculty of engineering at Imperial College London.

On 1 June, **John P. Holdren** will take over the directorship of the Woods Hole Research Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. At that time, the Center's founder and its director for the past 20 years, **George M. Woodwell**, will become director emeritus. President-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Holdren has been a visiting scholar and a trustee at Woods Hole for 10 years, and is a professor in the Kennedy School of Government and the department of Earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University, where he will continue part-time.

Acta Materialia Inc in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has announced that **Alton D. Romig Jr** will receive the J. Herbert Hollomon Award for 2005. The award recognizes contributions to the interactions between materials technology and societal concerns. Romig is vice president of nonproliferation and assessments at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. **George Smith** has been awarded the 2005 Acta Materialia Inc Gold Medal, which is given in honor of leadership in materials research. Smith is head of the department of materials at Oxford University and non-executive chairman of Polaron, a UK technology group.

Ralph Cicerone will become president of the National Academy of Sciences on 1 July. An atmospheric chemist and chemistry professor, he is currently the chancellor of the University of California, Irvine. Cicerone succeeds **Bruce Alberts**, who will have served two terms as NAS president.