

We Hear That

Balibar, Davis, and Packard to Share London Prize

Sébastien Balibar, J. C. Séamus Davis, and Richard E. Packard will receive the Fritz London Prize in Low Temperature Physics this August at the 24th International Conference on Low Temperature Physics in Orlando, Florida.



Balibar

Balibar is being recognized for "his work on the surfaces of helium crystals, especially their roughening transitions, their quantum dynamics, and their instability under stress, for his study of cavitation in liquid helium at negative pressure using high

amplitude acoustic waves and for his early experiments on quantum evaporation of superfluid ^4He ," according to the citation. He is a director of research at CNRS and the École Normale Supérieure in Paris.



Davis

Davis, a professor of physics at Cornell University, is being honored for "his studies of superfluid ^3He weak link arrays revealing a rich variety of phenomena including quantum interference," and for his "invention and development of spec-

troscopic imaging STM [scanning tunneling microscope] techniques and their application in studies of individual impurity/dopant atom effects, vortex-core electronic structure, quasiparticle interference effects, and alternative ordered states in the cuprate superconductors."

A professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, Packard is being recognized for "his studies in superfluid helium of important macroscopic quantum effects on the single quantum level"—in particular for his detection of single quantized vortex lines, photography of quantized vortices, and proof of quantization of circulation in ^3He —and for "his development of weak link arrays



Packard

in both ^3He and ^4He and the discoveries of a rich variety of related phenomena including quantum interference."

The prize is presented every three years. It is accompanied this year by a cash award of \$24 000, which

will be divided evenly among the three winners.

AIP Bestows Gemant Award on von Baeyer

The American Institute of Physics has named **Hans Christian von Baeyer** as the winner of the 2005 Andrew Gemant Award. Presented annually to recognize the accomplishments of a person who has made significant contributions to the cultural, artistic, or humanistic dimension of physics, the award is accompanied by \$5000 for the winner. An additional \$3000 is given to the institution of the winner's choice to further the communication of physics to the public.

Chancellor Professor of Physics at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, von Baeyer was honored for "his authorship of many highly acclaimed articles and books and his delivery of countless lectures that illustrate his dedication and ability to communicate physics to wide audiences," according to the citation. Calling him "an accomplished

theoretical physicist," the institute adds that "his writings reflect such depth, passion and clarity that even the most scientifically naive can't help but care about science."

Von Baeyer has designated the College of William and Mary as the recipient of the institutional proceeds.

In Brief

Two former presidents of the American Physical Society are among the five recipients of this year's Heinz Award. The \$250 000 award is bestowed annually in five categories by the Heinz Family Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in honor of the late US Senator John Heinz. **Sidney D. Drell**, professor emeritus of theoretical physics at SLAC, senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, and a founding and active member of JASON, received the public policy award for "championing a doctrine that reduced the threat of nuclear war while ensuring US security." **Mildred S. Dresselhaus**, former director of the Office of Science at the US Department of Energy, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, chair of the governing board of the American Institute of Physics, and an MIT professor in the physics and the electrical engineering and computer science departments, received the award in technology, the economy, and employment for her "investigations into superconductivity, the electronic properties of carbon, [her work on] the new physics at the nanometer scale, [and her] abiding commitment to support the advancement of women in the sciences."

Obituaries

Thomas Michael Donahue

The world lost a luminary of space and planetary science and a pioneer of space exploration with the death of Thomas Michael Donahue, on 16 October 2004, from complications following heart surgery.

Tom's work began after World War II when he first used sounding rockets to study Earth's upper atmosphere; he continued that work for almost 60 years. His influence on space exploration through his scientific achievements and the policy positions he held continues today. Tom was an

experimenter or scientist on numerous NASA missions, including Voyager, Pioneer Venus, and Galileo, and the current Cassini mission. He was one of the first scientists to argue that a substantial Martian ocean had existed, and he was involved in early studies documenting destruction of Earth's ozone layer.

Tom was born on 23 May 1921 in Healdton, Oklahoma, but grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. He brought the passion of an eternal learner to every aspect of his life, from learning

For PHYSICS TODAY to consider an obituary for publication, we must be notified within five months of the scientist's death.