

## American Astronomical Society Names New Executive Officer

**K**evin B. Marvel, a research astronomer who specializes in stellar radio astronomy, has been named executive officer of the American Astronomical Society. He succeeds **Robert Milkey**, who will retire in July after 11 years of service.

A search committee's recommendation to select Marvel as head of the society was approved unanimously by the council of the society at a conference-call meeting last December. He will

take office on 8 June during the AAS summer meeting in Calgary, Canada.

Marvel, 38, joined the AAS executive office in 1998 as the head of policy programs and subsequently undertook additional responsibility as deputy

executive officer and manager of AAS-printed publications. In a recent interview with PHYSICS TODAY, Marvel said his first priority as executive officer of the society will be to continue to seek, sustain, and increase federal funding for astronomical research. The AAS has a well-coordinated grass-roots coalition that springs into action whenever funding is threatened by legislation, Marvel said, and he will work to ensure that the coalition remains strong. Marvel said he also wants to make sure the AAS newsletter continues to inform and advise society members on such issues.

"Sometimes Congress needs to be reminded to support research in astronomy, and that's what the AAS is here to do," Marvel said.

Robert Kirshner, AAS president and search committee chair, lauded the committee's selection of Marvel as the society's new chief.

"Kevin has been a terrific addition to the AAS Washington office, energizing our public policy work," said Kirshner in a prepared statement. "He has the energy and drive to make sure the American Astronomical Soci-

ety succeeds in all parts of its mission. I'm sure he will be an excellent executive officer for the AAS."

Marvel said continuing to manage the AAS's five journals is another important aspect of his new post.

"We're trying to improve them to make it easier for members to submit, easier for readers to use," he said, "and we're actively trying to continue decreasing page charges."

With 5500 US members and 1000 from other countries, the AAS still needs to boost its membership, Marvel said, adding that he will work to build it. Under his direction the society just created a new class of membership that he says will be especially attractive to potential members from outside the US.

Prior to joining the AAS staff, Marvel graduated from the University of Arizona, obtained a PhD at New Mexico State University, and was a postdoctoral researcher under Anneila Sargent at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory of the California Institute of Technology.

Marvel praised the work of his predecessor and said he hopes to follow up on Milkey's accomplishments.

"Bob Milkey got the society finances in fantastic shape and developed new systems that generated big savings for our members," Marvel said. "I hope to keep all that in good running order. There's a good stable foundation."

## Shinn Is New AVS President-Elect

**N**eal D. Shinn, a manager at the US Department of Energy Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, is president-elect of AVS, the Science and Technology Society, for 2006. He succeeds **Christie Marrian** (see PHYSICS TODAY, March 2005, page 82), who is now the society's president. Shinn will become president in 2007.

In a prepared statement, Shinn said AVS sets itself apart from other scientific societies and must continue to do so by creating and nurturing professional communities for interdisciplinary science and emerging technologies.

"To remain a vibrant so-

ciety, [we] must stimulate and challenge attendees [in our symposia] . . . and also be a vehicle for AVS members to establish technical leadership with international impact," Shinn said in his statement. "AVS is well positioned to champion the opportunities for science and technology to solve global challenges in energy, water and health care."

The user program manager at the DOE center, a new national user facility jointly operated by Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories, Shinn earned his BS in chemistry and mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1978 and his PhD in chemical physics from MIT in 1983. He was a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at NIST, where his research involved the elucidation of molecular adsorbate structure and identification of reaction intermediates on metal surfaces using vibrational spectroscopies. He joined Sandia in 1985 as a senior member of the technical staff and led the lab's research and mission-related programs at the National Synchrotron Light Source.

Shinn is also an adjunct physics professor at Utah State University and serves on external advisory committees for the College of Engineering at Penn State, the biomedical engineering department at the Ohio State University, and the physics department of New Mexico State University. His research interests include using acoustic techniques to understand how molecular structure and ensemble ordering determine the viscoelastic mechanical properties of self-assembled molecular monolayers on solid surfaces.

In other AVS election news, **Joe Greene** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) remains the society's clerk/secretary and **John Coburn** (University of California, Berkeley) retains his position as treasurer. The new AVS directors are **Bridget R. Rogers** (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee), **Peter Sheldon** (National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado), and **Robert A. Langley** (retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Sandia). The society's newly elected trustees are **Susan B. Sinnott**



Marvel



Shinn

(University of Florida, Gainesville) and **Rudolf Ludeke** (IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York).

## Kraynik Elected SoR President

**A**ndy Kraynik has taken office for a two-year term as president of the Society of Rheology and plans to focus on maintaining the high quality of society membership benefits, including its journal and meetings.

Kraynik succeeded **Susan Muller** (see PHYSICS TODAY, December 2003, page 80) and took office last October after the society's annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada. In an interview last month with PHYSICS TODAY, he said he wants to sustain the high level of service to the society that Muller provided during



Kraynik

her term as president.

"When a new president comes in, we always joke, 'Don't mess it up,'" he said with a laugh. "Susan Muller was just absolutely superb in every way. . . . Our society is incredibly high functioning. Our dues are \$40 a year and that includes PHYSICS TODAY and the *Journal of Rheology*."

According to Kraynik, society membership, domestic and international, totals about 1600 and boosting the number of student members is among his principal aims. Incentives for students include lowered annual membership dues and student travel grants, which pay for four nights of lodging for every society meeting.

Organizing the SoR's International Congress on Rheology from 3 August to 8 August 2008 in Monterey, California, is also a major task for him while he is in office, Kraynik said. The meeting takes place every four years, and the 2008 session is the first one to be held in the US in at least 30 years, he added.

A principal member of Sandia National Laboratories' technical staff in the multiphase transport processes division in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Kraynik received his PhD in chemical engineering from Princeton University in 1973. He joined Sandia in 1976, working in a variety of materials science and engineering science divisions. Kraynik joined the SoR in 1973,

and in addition to rheology, his areas of interest include the microrheology of gas-liquid foams and liquid-liquid emulsions, the micromechanics of cellular solids, and non-Newtonian fluid mechanics, viscometry, and polymer processing.

The society's new vice president is **Robert K. Prud'homme** (Princeton University). **A. Jeffrey Giacomin** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) retained his position as secretary and **Montgomery T. Shaw** (University of Connecticut, Storrs) was reelected treasurer. **John F. Brady** (Caltech, Pasadena) was elected editor of the society's *Journal of Rheology*. The new member-at-large on the society's executive committee is **Daniel J. Klingenberg** (University of Wisconsin-Madison); **Timothy Lodge** (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis) and **Lynn Walker** (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) were reelected.

## AAS Hands Out Eight Awards; Seven Win Division Prizes

**S**ix professors, a researcher, and a staff astronomer are receiving awards from the American Astronomical Society.

AAS and the American Institute of Physics are jointly awarding the 2006 Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics to **Marc Davis**, a professor of astronomy and physics at the University of California, Berkeley, "for his pioneering work on the large-scale structure in the Universe." The committee choosing the prizewinner recognizes Davis for "his innovative and influential contributions to observations, simulations and instrumentation, and his outstanding mentoring of students, as examples of outstanding work in the field of astrophysics."

**J. Roger Angel**, director of the Steward Observatory Mirror Laboratory, director of the Center for Astronomical Adaptive Optics, Regents Professor of Astronomy, and Regents Professor of Optical Sciences, all at the University of Arizona, Tucson, is the recipient of the Joseph Weber Award for Astronomical Instrumentation for 2006. He was selected "for his superlative work spanning two decades on the development of a new generation of large telescopes, his establishment of the Steward Observatory Mirror Lab and a host of extraordinary conceptual ideas that have been turned into practical engi-

neering solutions for astronomy," according to the award citation.

The 2006 Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize goes to **John E. Carlstrom**, professor in the departments of physics and of astronomy and astrophysics and a professor at the Enrico Fermi Institute, all at the University of Chicago, and director of the university's Center for Astrophysical Research in Antarctica. He is cited "for his innovative work on the use of interferometry to study the early Universe through cosmic-microwave background radiation fluctuations and polarimetry and the Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect. He has produced results that strongly constrain cosmological models of the amount and nature of dark matter and energy and the influence of cosmic inflation."

**Bryan M. Gaensler**, head of the gallium sulfide research group in the high-energy astrophysics division of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and a professor in the astronomy department at Harvard University, is the winner of the Newton Lacy Pierce Prize in Astronomy for 2006. He was selected "for his work on the interactions between neutron stars and their surroundings, which led to our appreciation of the wide diversity of magnetized neutron stars."

The Annie Jump Cannon Award in Astronomy for 2006 is being handed out to **Lisa J. Kewley**, a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu, "for her powerful work on theoretical modeling and analysis of galaxy spectra. She developed and maintains the online MAPPINGS code to model galaxy spectra, and she devised new techniques for simultaneously deriving star formation history, metallicity and reddening. She leads the way in measuring the star formation and chemical enrichment history of the Universe."

**Bohdan Paczynski**, Lyman Spitzer Jr Professor of Astrophysics at the Princeton University Observatory, has won the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship for 2006 "for his highly original contributions to a wide variety of fields including advanced stellar evolution, the nature of gamma-ray bursts, accretion in binary systems, gravitational lensing, and cosmology. His research has been distinguished by its creativity and breadth, as well as the stimulus it has provided to highly productive observational investigations."

The 2006 Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy goes to **Re'em Sari**, associate professor of astrophysics and planetary science at Caltech, "for his diverse contributions to the theoretic-