

we hear that

AAPT hands out awards

The American Association of Physics Teachers has honored four physics instructors for their accomplishments in working with students and the physics education community.

The Klopsteg Memorial Award went to **Neil deGrasse Tyson**, an astrophysicist and director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. "Dr. Tyson's outstanding accomplishments include communicating the excitement of science, especially cosmology and astrophysics, to scientists and non-scientists alike," the nominating committee wrote. "Not only is he a missionary for scientific literacy but he practices what he preaches with his books, articles, talks, and television appearances. His works are exemplars of communicating both clear scientific explanations and a passion for science." Tyson received his award together with a certificate and a \$7500 cash prize during the society's summer meeting, 31 July–1 August in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he presented his Klopsteg Memorial Lecture, entitled "Adventures in Science Illiteracy."

David R. Sokoloff, a physics professor at the University of Oregon in Eugene, received the Robert A. Millikan Award. "Professor Sokoloff has been a leader in the movement to redesign lecture demonstrations to make them effective learning experiences," the nominating committee wrote. "He is very active in promoting active learning and using computers to give students real-time feedback of physical phenomena." Sokoloff received the Millikan Medal, an award certificate, and a \$7500 cash prize at the summer meeting, where he gave the talk "Building a New, More Exciting Mousetrap Is Not Enough."

Taking home the Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching Award was **Steven L. Manly**, associate professor in the physics and astronomy department at the University of Rochester. "Professor

Manly has made group problem-solving sessions a regular part of the teaching of introductory physics at the University of Rochester to improve student problem-solving skills, introduced group projects to his introductory physics classes to engage students in the process of physics, and improved the preparation and support of teaching assistants in physics," the awards committee said. "He has been a driving force for sound systemic change in his department and his university." Manly received his award, a certificate, and a \$3000 cash prize during the AAPT meeting, where he presented the award lecture "Experiences in Collaborative Learning at the University of Rochester—It's All in the Shoes."

Jan Mader, a physics teacher at Great Falls High School in Great Falls, Montana, won the Excellence in Pre-College Physics Teaching Award. "Jan's work extends beyond her work with students, and she has been a longtime leading teacher of teachers. Her contributions are profound and are making a serious difference in the readiness of physics teachers in terms of skills, knowledge, and disposition," said AAPT executive director Toufic Hakim. Mader received her award, a certificate, and a \$3000 cash prize at the society's meeting and presented her lecture "Those Who Can Teach."

Kyoto Prize laureates announced

Honoring those who have contributed greatly to the progress of science, the advancement of civilization, and the enrichment and elevation of the human spirit, the Inamori Foundation has announced laureates for the 2007 Kyoto Prize, presented annually in advanced technology, basic sciences, and a third category unrelated to physics.

The foundation, based in Kyoto, Japan, will hold an awards ceremony in November, where each laureate will receive a diploma, a Kyoto Prize medal of 20 karat gold, and a cash purse of ¥50 million (\$405 000).

Receiving the prize in the advanced technology category, in the field of materials science and engineering, is **Hiroo Inokuchi**, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo and at the Institute for Molecular Science at the National Institutes of Natural Sciences in Okazaki, Japan. Inokuchi was honored for his "pioneering and fundamental contributions to organic molecular electronics," the award citation said. According to the foundation, Inokuchi initiated impor-

tant research on "electrical conduction between molecules with benzene rings and established the scientific foundation for studying the electrical conductivity of organic materials. Further, he systematically elucidated an electronic structure of a wide variety of organic materials by photoelectron spectroscopy. Through a series of such studies, he established the academic base essential for studying the electronic properties."

In the basic sciences category, presented this year in the field of Earth and planetary sciences, astronomy, and astrophysics, **Hiroo Kanamori**, professor emeritus at Caltech, will receive the prize for "elucidation of physical processes of earthquakes and [their] application to hazard mitigation." The foundation wrote that Kanamori made "epoch-making progress on the study of great earthquakes through the establishment of analytical methods to understand quantitatively . . . the rupture process of a great earthquake making full use of seismograms."

Goldreich wins Shaw Prize

Peter Goldreich, a professor in the school of natural sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and the Lee A. DuBridge Professor of Astrophysics and Planetary Physics Emeritus at Caltech, has been named winner of the 2007 Shaw Prize for astronomy by the Shaw Prize Foundation in Hong Kong. The announcement was made in June at foundation headquarters.

Goldreich, who was cited by the foundation for his "lifetime achievements in theoretical astrophysics and planetary sciences," will receive his prize and a cash purse of \$1 million during the award ceremony in September. He is one of four winners of the prize, which is awarded each year in the fields of astronomy, life sciences and medicine, and the mathematical sciences and which honors significant achievements in academic or scientific research or application. The other prizewinners are not involved in physics-related work.

Franklin Institute honors scientists, educators

Uncommon insight and out-of-the-box thinking have been acknowledged and celebrated by the Franklin Institute, which annually honors trailblazers in the fields of science, business, and tech-