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Honorary Degrees

Whitman College at Walla Walla, Washington, in recognition of the productive teaching career of one of its former professors of physics, the late Benjamin H. Brown, has awarded honorary degrees to six of Professor Brown's former students, all of whom are outstanding physicists. They are: Walker Bleakney, professor of physics at Princeton University; Walter H. Brattain, physicist at Bell Telephone Laboratories; Robert B. Brode, professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley; Wallace R. Brode, associate director of the National Bureau of Standards and editor of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*; Vladimir Rojansky, professor of physics at Union College; and E. J. Workman, president and director of research and development at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. The awards were made at commencement exercises held on May 29th. Professor Brown was born in Wisconsin in 1866 and died in Spokane, Washington, in 1950. He was primarily professor of physics, although when he came to Whitman College in 1895 he taught all sciences except mathematics. (The biological sciences program was taken over in 1899 by Dr. Howard S. Brode, the father of Robert and Wallace Brode, who is now emeritus professor of biology.) Professor Brown retired in 1930.

In 1939 he received the Oersted Medal for notable contributions to the teaching of physics from the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Princeton University, at its 208th commencement exercises held on June 15th, presented the honorary degree of doctor of laws to Gaylord P. Harnwell, professor of physics and president of the University of Pennsylvania.

The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Waterman delivered the commencement address at exercises held on June 12th.

Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., has awarded honorary doctor of science degrees to John Bardeen and Walter H. Brattain in recognition of their work in solid-state physics leading to the invention of the transistor. They were honored at Union College's 160th annual commencement exercises on June 12th.

The University of Lille, France, has awarded the degree "docteur honoris causa" to Walter Gordy, professor of physics at Duke University, for his work in microwave spectroscopy carried on at Duke during the past nine years.

Uppsala University of Sweden has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of philosophy on Beno Gutenberg, professor of geophysics and director of the seismological laboratory of the California Institute of Technology.

Milton L. Braun, professor of physics and mathematics at Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina, since 1930, died on February 13th at the age of sixty-two. Dr. Braun was a graduate of Wake Forest College and received his PhD from the University of North Carolina. He began his varied career in secondary school teaching, was for nine years a professor of the sciences in Baptist colleges in China, became an ordained Baptist minister, and finally spent a full quarter-century as a stimulating teacher at Catawba. He served as chairman of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society in 1947-48. He also was a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the Society of Rheology.

Harold J. Kersten, professor of biophysics and a fellow of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Cincinnati, died on March 2nd at the age of fifty-six. Dr. Kersten received his master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1926, and his PhD in physics from Cincinnati in 1938. He began his teaching career at Cincinnati in 1926 as a mathematics instructor, becoming assistant professor in 1931, associate professor of biophysics in 1940, and full professor in 1943. For the past seven years he had been a trustee of University of Cincinnati Research Foundation. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society.

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