

of Applied Mathematics.

After 28 years at Cornell, Sears joined the faculty of the department of aerospace and mechanical engineering at the University of Arizona in 1974. Four years later, he was named emeritus professor but remained an active faculty member and completed much of his important analytical and experimental work on adaptive-wall wind tunnels during these years.

Sears was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Mexico's Academia Nacional de Ingeniería. He was an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was editor of the *Journal of the Aeronautical Sciences* from 1955 to 1963. During his lifetime, he received many honors and awards, including the Guggenheim Medal and the Prandtl Ring of the German Aeronautical Society. In 1988, Caltech gave him its Distinguished Alumni Award. He was also named an outstanding alumnus of the University of Minnesota and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Arizona.

When Sears was a junior faculty member at Caltech, he was asked to direct the Civilian Pilot Training Program, a federal program that offered young people the possibility of earning a private pilot's

license and receiving preparation for possible military flying in the event that the United States entered the war. Bill not only administered the program but took the opportunity to get his own license. Although his work at Northrop offered him little opportunity to fly, his move to Ithaca provided the incentive. In more than 50 years as a private pilot, he logged 8,000 hours before retiring from flying in 1990. He owned several small airplanes over the years, the last one his beloved Piper Twin Comanche.

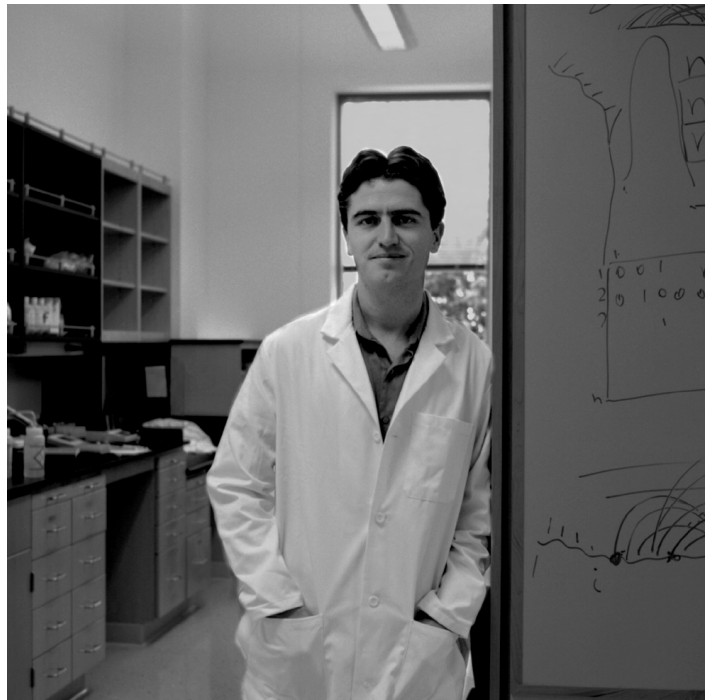
Sears was also an accomplished musician, first as a percussionist. He worked his way through college as a drummer in dance bands and, after moving to California, was tympanist with the Pasadena Symphony for a couple of seasons. Later, at Cornell, he became an expert recorder player with a university group interested in medieval music. He played with the Collegium Musicum at the University of Arizona for 20 years.

He is survived by his wife, Mabel, of Tucson; their daughter, Susan Sears, of Indianapolis; son, David Sears, of Bethesda, Maryland; and grandchildren Colin and Shelby Sears, of Portland, Oregon. He also leaves many friends, colleagues, and former students, whose lives he touched and enriched.

William Rees Sears cast a bright, stimulating, and cheerful light on countless people around the world, a light that will be sorely missed. □

*Frank E. Marble,  
Hayman Professor of Mechanical  
Engineering and Professor of Jet  
Propulsion, Emeritus*

## Faculty File



**Niles Pierce, assistant professor of applied and computational mathematics, was awarded the 2003 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching, which carries a cash award of \$3,500 and an equivalent raise in salary.**

**According to the citation: "He teaches without oversimplifying and without intimidating, making the material accessible to the diverse group of students. He possesses an uncanny ability to anticipate the frustrations and challenges of the students, and has been able to hold the students' attention, and attendance, throughout the quarter."**

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Paul Asimow, assistant professor of geology and geochemistry, has been selected to receive the F. W. Clarke Award, which "is given to a young scientist in recognition of a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry, published as a single paper or a series of papers on a single topic." The award will be presented during the plenary session of the 2003 Goldschmidt Conference in Kurashiki, Japan. In addition, the Alfred P. Sloan Founda-

tion has chosen Asimow for a Sloan Research Fellowship. "Coveted as an extraordinarily competitive award, the Sloan Research Fellowship carries with it a grant of \$40,000 to be used in a flexible and largely unrestricted manner so as to provide the most constructive possible support of the professor's research."

John Baldeschwieler, the Johnson Professor and Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus, and a former chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, has



been named corecipient of the Chemical Heritage Foundation's 2003 Othmer Gold Medal, to be presented on Heritage Day, June 12, in Philadelphia, at the Seventh Annual Othmer Gold Medal Luncheon. The medal honors "outstanding individuals who, like Donald Othmer (1904–1995), have made multifaceted contributions to our chemical and scientific heritage through outstanding activity in such areas as innovation, entrepreneurship, research, education, public understanding, legislation, or philanthropy."

Jack Beauchamp, BS '64, the Ferkel Professor of Chemistry, has been named the recipient of the American Chemical Society's 2003 Frank H. Field and Joe L.

Franklin Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mass Spectrometry. The honor, which recognizes Beauchamp's development of "innovative ways to analyze molecules, methods that can help track pollutants in the environment, identify compounds in space, and detect explosives," will be presented on March 25, at the society's national meeting in New Orleans.

Scott Fraser, the Rosen Professor of Biology, is receiving a Space Act Award from the Strategic Intellectual Assets Management Office, for his work on "Two-Photon Microscope Imaging Spectrometer for Multiple Fluorescent Probes." The award includes a check for \$3,200.

Harry Gray, the Beckman Professor of Chemistry and founding director of the Beckman Institute, has been selected to receive the National Academy of Science Award in Chemical Sciences. He is being recognized "for his demonstration of long-range electron tunneling in proteins, his inspirational teaching and mentoring of students, and his unselfish service as a statesman for chemistry."

Cathy Jurca, associate professor of literature and master of student houses, has had her book *White Diaspora: The Suburb and the Twentieth-Century American Novel* chosen by *Choice* magazine as one of its Outstanding Academic Titles of the past year. *Choice*, which reviews books, electronic products, and Internet sites for academic libraries, selects as the "best in scholarly titles" approximately 10 percent of some 6,600 works reviewed each year.

Wolfgang Knauss, BS '58, PhD '63, the von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics and Applied Mechanics, has been elected an honorary member of the Society for Experimen-

tal Mechanics, as "an individual of widely recognized eminence in the field of experimental mechanics."

Yanshun Liu, a postdoctoral scholar in biochemistry and molecular biophysics, has been selected to receive a Damon Runyon postdoctoral fellowship, one of 20 awarded after a review by the scientific advisory committee of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. The three-year fellowships are awarded to "outstanding young scientists conducting theoretical and experimental research that is relevant to the study of cancer."

Ares Rosakis, professor of aeronautics and mechanical engineering, has been selected to receive the 2003 M. M. Frocht Award, which is given annually by the Society for Experimental Mechanics Honors Committee to honor "outstanding achievement as an educator in the field of experimental mechanics." The award will be presented at the society's annual conference, which will take place this year June 2–4 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Kip Thorne, BS '66, the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics, has been awarded the Robinson Prize in Cosmology by the University of Newcastle, England. He has also received the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters from Claremont Graduate University. □



**Barclay Kamb (left), the Rawn Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Emeritus, and Hermann Engelhardt, senior research associate in geophysics, emeritus, have been honored by the American Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names with the renaming of two features near the gigantic Ross Ice Shelf. What was formerly called "ice stream C" will now be formally named the Kamb Ice Stream, and "ice ridge BC" will become the Engelhardt Ice Ridge. The two have collaborated for years, studying the relatively rapid movement of Antarctica's ice streams (see E&S, Spring 1990), boring holes to their base to determine temperature and pressure. Here they hold an ice plug from one of the boreholes.**