Random Walk

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa addressed the Caltech community on May 22. His speech, given on the Olive Walk, drew a capacity crowd, some of whom found the view best on nearby rooftops.

Honors and Awards

Three faculty members have been elected to the American Philosophical Society, the nation’s oldest learned society. They are Don Anderson, McMillan Professor of Geophysics; Edward Lewis, Morgan Professor of Biology, Emeritus, who was also co-recipient of Brandeis University’s 1990 Rosenstiel Award, bestowed annually to outstanding life scientists; and Rudolph Marcus, Noyes Professor of Chemistry.

Michael Aschbacher, professor of mathematics, John Bercaaw, Shell Distinguished Professor and Professor of Chemistry, and Barclay Kamb, Raw Professor of Geology and Geophysics, have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors that can be accorded an American scientist or engineer.

Jay Bailey, Chevron Professor of Chemical Engineering, is the 1990 recipient of the Marvin J. Johnson Award, presented annually by the Biochemical Technology Division of the American Chemical Society.

Seymour Benzer, Boswell Professor of Neuroscience, has been given the 1990 W. H. Helmerich III Award for Outstanding Achievement in Retina Research.

Four faculty members have been named Presidential Young Investigators for 1990 by the National Science Foundation. They are Assistant Professor of Biology William Dunphy, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering David Goodwin, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering Julia Kornfield, and Assistant Professor of Physics Jonas Zmuidzinas.

Caltech President Thomas E. Everhart, Koepfl Professor of the Humanities Daniel Kevles, and Trustees Stephen Bechtel, Jr., and Gordon Moore have been elected Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the oldest honor societies in North America. Everhart has also been appointed chairman of the newly created Secretary of Energy Advisory Board.

Leroy Hood, Bowles Professor of Biology, has been honored by the American College of Physicians for his “outstanding work in science as related to medicine.”

Assistant Professor of Biology and Computation and Neural Systems Gilles Laurent has been chosen a Searle Scholar for 1990, and with collaborators in England, Germany, and Japan, has been awarded one of the 29 “Human Frontiers of Science Program” grants given worldwide by NATO this year.

Institute Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus, John Roberts is a co-recipient of The Welch Foundation’s 1990 Welch Award in Chemistry.

P. P. Vaidyanathan, associate professor of electrical engineering, was given the S. K. Mitra Memorial Award by the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineers.

Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Yaser Abu-Mostafa and Assistant Professor of Applied Physics Kerry Vahala have been chosen recipients of the newly created Richard P. Feynman–Hughes Fellowship.

Kai Zinn, assistant professor of biology, has been selected a 1990 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Under(graduate) Achiever—and Proud of It

Mike Chou was one of 20 college and university juniors nationwide selected by Time magazine for its 1990 Achievement Awards. Chou, who is pursuing an option in physics, won $3,000, a free trip to New York City, and a profile in an upcoming issue. He was cited for his 1989 SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) project on particle emissions during solar flares, sponsored by Senior Research Associate Richard Mewaldt.
Edward Stone Named JPL Director

Edward C. Stone, Jr., a man long identified with the most spectacular of JPL’s successes, will become director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in December, succeeding Lew Allen. Since 1972 Stone has been project scientist of the Voyager mission to the outer planets, coordinating analysis of the scientific data and communicating to the inhabitants of one of the inner planets (and in a special way to the readers of E&S) what the spacecraft saw.

Stone isn’t planning to abandon Voyager, but his involvement will continue at a reduced level. He will also continue as chairman of the board of directors of the California Association for Research in Astronomy (CARA), which oversees all facets of the development of the W. M. Keck Observatory and Telescope in Hawaii. The 10-meter telescope is scheduled for first light in the fall. Stone will remain a vice president of Caltech.

"This is an exciting time for JPL," said Stone, "with all the missions on their way, the missions under development, and the plans for new ones. JPL continues to have a primary role in NASA’s space science program. I’m looking forward to providing scientific leadership."

Stone received his AA degree from Burlington (Iowa) Junior College and his SM and PhD (1964) in physics from the University of Chicago. He began his Caltech career as a research fellow in that same year and became assistant professor in 1967, associate professor in 1971, and professor of physics in 1976. From 1983 to 1988 he served as chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, and has been vice president for astronomical facilities since 1988. In addition to his position as project scientist for Voyager, Stone has been a principal investigator on nine NASA spacecraft and a co-investigator on five others. His primary field of interest has been the isotopic and elemental composition of galactic cosmic rays, which arrive from the interstellar medium, a region that Voyager may finally intercept in about 10 years.

As someone who has had one foot in each camp for a couple of decades, Stone is well placed to appreciate collaboration between campus and JPL. "The Caltech connection is one of the unique aspects of JPL as a NASA center," said Stone. "The opportunity to undertake joint efforts has grown under Lew Allen, and I would like to enhance it further."