Hoffmann New Dean of Grad Studies

Michael Hoffmann, the Irvine Professor of Environmental Science at the California Institute of Technology, has been appointed dean of graduate studies. Hoffmann replaces D. Roderick Kiewiet, who returned to full-time professorial duties earlier this year.

Hoffmann has been on the Caltech faculty since 1980. An expert in environmental chemistry, he is a member of the editorial boards of the American Chemical Society’s scientific journals Environmental Science and Technology and the Journal of Physical Chemistry. He is also on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany.

Hoffmann was awarded the von Humboldt Prize in 1991 for his research and teaching in environmental chemistry. In 2001, Hoffmann was presented with the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology for “his fundamental and lasting contributions to the science of aquatic chemistry, to the development of aquatic remediation processes, and to understanding heterogeneous and multiphase processes in the atmospheric environment.” This year Hoffmann was honored as the Dodge Distinguished Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Yale.

Before coming to Caltech, he was a member of the Academy of Management and the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

He is survived by his wife, Marie. —JP

Honors and Awards

Erik Antonsson, professor of mechanical engineering, has been appointed JPL’s chief technologist, where he will be responsible for keeping abreast of cutting-edge technologies and identifying those in which JPL should invest for future missions.

Peter Dervan, the Bren Professor of Chemistry, has been selected by the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology to receive the 2002 Harvey Prize in Science and Technology, for his “pioneering studies” in gene regulation by small molecules and “for combining the art of organic synthesis, physical chemistry, and biology to create novel synthetic molecules.” Dervan was also recently elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Wolfgang Knauss (BS ’58, MS ’59, PhD ’63), the von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics and Applied Mechanics, and Anatol Roshko (MS ’47, PhD ’52), the von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics, Emeritus, were honored in June with special symposia devoted to their work at the 14th U.S. National Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics.

Matthew Porteus, a postdoc in President David Baltimore’s lab, has received a five-year, $500,000 Career Award in the Biomedical Sciences from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Porteus studies gene targeting, in which a gene is introduced into a cell to replace a damaged copy—a promising approach to curing diseases that are caused by mutations of single genes.

Alexander Varshavsky, the Smits Professor of Cell Biology, will share (with Avram Hershko of the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology) the E. B. Wilson Medal, the highest award of the American Society for Cell Biology. The award recognizes “significant and far-reaching contributions to cell biology over the course of a career,” in this case work on the ubiquitin system of regulated protein degradation.

Simon Wilkie, assistant professor of economics, has been named chief economist for the Federal Communications Commission, where, on sabbatical leave from Caltech, he will provide independent, nonpartisan advice on interstate and international communications issues. —RT

Student Investment Club.

He was a director of the Harvard Business School Association of Southern California and the Financial Executives Institute of Los Angeles and was a former trustee of the University of San Diego. He was a member of the Academy of Management and the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

He is survived by his wife, Marie. —JP

—RT

DAVID W. MORRIS RAE
1932—2002

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MATTHEW PORTEUS
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Caltech Names Two New Vice Presidents

Caltech has named Margo Marshak the new vice president for student affairs. She is Caltech’s first female vice president, and the first full-time vice president for student affairs—all previous vice presidents for student affairs were also Caltech faculty members.

Marshak, who will take her new post October 21, is currently the vice president and dean of students at the University of Chicago. She is also an attorney, and brings extensive experience in student affairs to the position.

Marshak served as vice president for student affairs for 10 years at New York University before moving to the University of Chicago. She developed and implemented the large-scale comprehensive capital campaign that exceeded its aggressive goal by 37 percent.

At Caltech, she will be the senior Institute executive responsible for envisioning, leading, advocating for, and managing student welfare and interests. Among the responsibilities she will assume are leadership of the administration and budgeting for the 16 offices that make up the student affairs organization. This includes oversight of the supporting technological infrastructure, implementation of strategic planning and assessment, and working with undergraduate and graduate students to ensure that they flourish during their educational experience at Caltech.

“I am obviously thrilled to have the opportunity to come to such a great institution,” Marshak said. “I am enormously impressed with the quality of the students, faculty, and administration. The Caltech students I met during the interview process were extremely bright and interesting, and I look forward to getting to know them and working with them on issues that are of interest to them. I’m grateful to the Caltech family for welcoming my husband and me so warmly.” —JP

Gary Dicovitsky has been named the new vice president for development and alumni relations. Dicovitsky, who is currently the vice president for development and secretary to the board of trustees at Pomona College, will take the position in early October. Since joining Pomona in 1995, his many accomplishments as vice president have included leadership of a highly successful five-year comprehensive capital campaign that exceeded its aggressive goal by 37 percent.

Dicovitsky served as director of planned giving at Princeton University for four years before joining Pomona. He also held senior positions at the University of Virginia and Dartmouth College. In addition, he also served as associate athletic director and head coach of the men’s varsity basketball team at Loyola College in Baltimore.

A native of Elizabeth, New Jersey, Dicovitsky holds a bachelor’s degree in economic geography, with a minor in urban studies, from Dartmouth College, and a master of education degree from Loyola College. He was formerly a certified financial planner. Active in the alumni volunteer leadership at Dartmouth, he has served as president of the Alumni Council and of the class of 1972, as well as a member of the Alumni Council’s nominating and alumni trustee search committee and the ad hoc committee to study the Dartmouth College Alumni Council’s structure and operation. Other volunteer work has included serving on the boards of directors of the International Foundation and the Princeton Area Planned Giving Council, as well as volunteering his services to the Claremont-area youth basketball program. He is a member of the National Committee on Planned Giving and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Dicovitsky will be the senior Institute executive responsible for providing leadership for fund-raising and alumni activities. “With an ambitious campaign coming up, we are delighted that we have been able to find someone with Gary’s qualifications, extensive experience, and history of accomplishment,” said President David Baltimore. —JP