

## CORNELIUS J. PINGS

Cornelius John Pings (BS '57, MS '52, PhD '55), a former vice provost, dean of graduate studies, and professor of chemical engineering and chemical physics at Caltech, died last December 6 of cancer. He was 75.

After earning his doctorate in chemical engineering, Pings served on the Stanford University faculty, then joined the Caltech faculty in 1959. His research was in applied chemical thermodynamics, statistical mechanics, and liquid-state physics. He served as vice provost and dean of graduate studies from 1971 to 1981, then went to the University of Southern California as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. In 1993, he became president of the Association of American Universities, where he served until 1998.

Pings was chairman of the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy, president of the Western College Association, and chairman of the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency.

In 1989, Caltech honored Pings with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was also a member of the Caltech Associates President's Circle. He is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Marjorie; his son, John; and his daughters, Anne and Mary. □—RT



**Chris Brennen, above right, who was recently named the Richard L. and Dorothy M. Hayman Professor of Mechanical Engineering, has also won this year's Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Students praised his perpetual enthusiasm and lucid teaching style, which included riding his bike into the swimming pool to demonstrate fluid mechanics.**



**Cornelius Pings was on our cover in January 1962. Pings, on the left, and research fellow Brian Smith are determining the optical properties of liquid argon.**

## NEW NAS AND AAAS MEMBERS

Newly elected to the National Academy of Sciences are **Richard Andersen**, the Boswell Professor of Neuroscience; **James Eisenstein**, the Roshek Professor of Physics; and **Wallace Sargent**, the Bowen Professor of Astronomy, as well as **Roger Blandford**, a former Caltech faculty member and visiting associate in physics.

New fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences include **Andrew Lange**, the Goldberger Professor of Physics; **Barry Simon**, the IBM Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics; **David Tirrell**, chair of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and McCollum-Corcoran Professor and professor of chemistry and chemical engineering; and **William Bridges**, the Braun Professor of Engineering, Emeritus.

**David Goodstein**, Caltech's vice provost, professor of physics and applied physics, and Gilloon Distinguished Teaching and Service Professor, has had his book *Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004) chosen by the *New York Times Book Review* as one of its 100 Notable Books of the Year for 2004. In the book, Goodstein sees difficult choices facing human society worldwide as global oil production peaks in the near future.

**Mark Konishi**, Bing Professor of Behavioral Biology, and Fernando Nottebohm of Rockefeller University have jointly received the American Philosophical Society's 2004 Karl Spencer Lashley Award for their work illuminating the physiological basis of the vocal-learning abilities of certain birds. Konishi was recognized for his experiments demonstrating that birds "depend heavily on their ability to monitor their own voice, both to produce previously memorized songs and to maintain them once developed."

**Chris Martin**, professor of physics, has received his second NASA Public Service Medal, in recognition of "exceptional scientific achievement in ultraviolet astrophysics and contributions to the success of the Galaxy Evolution Explorer." Martin is principal investigator for JPL's Galaxy Evolution Explorer, or GALEX.

**John Preskill**, MacArthur Professor of Theoretical Physics, has been chosen as the 2005 Lawrence C. Biedenharn Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin.