



JACQUELYN DOE BONNER

1917-2008

Jackie Bonner, former editor of *Engineering & Science*, died in Pasadena on November 21 at the age of 91. A longtime member of the Caltech community, Jackie was born in Clifton, Arizona, and grew up in Arizona, Idaho, and California. She attended Idaho State University, and later was a student at UC Berkeley.

In 1939 Jackie married Wesley Hershey, and the couple moved to Pasadena in 1946, when he was hired to serve as executive secretary of the Caltech Y. As Mrs. Hershey, she hosted hundreds of Caltech Y events and social gatherings.

Jackie began paid employment at Caltech in 1962 as an editorial assistant in the Industrial Relations Center and joined the Publications staff in 1965. She became associate editor of *E&S* in 1968 and managing editor three years later. When legendary *E&S* editor Ed Hutchings retired in 1979 (he had been hired as the magazine's first professional editor in 1948), Jackie was the natural successor, and for the next five years produced a publication that continued Ed's style of clear, straightforward

writing, careful editing, and tenacity in nagging faculty to explain their work in simple English—a legacy that she, in turn, bequeathed to those who succeeded her. Her close attention to editing, in particular, influenced many of her colleagues. She left her own creative mark in the section of *E&S* called Random Walk—her title—which she started in 1981, and which, though it has migrated from the back to the front of the magazine, still exists.

In 1973 Jackie had married her second husband, Lyman Bonner (PhD '35), a rocket propellant expert and Caltech administrator, and in 1984 she and Lyman decided to take less demanding, half-time positions at the Institute. She continued working as a senior editor on the Publications staff until she retired in 1988.

Jackie was an avid reader throughout her life and a long-standing member of the Neighborhood Church and the League of Women Voters. She was predeceased by both of her husbands and is survived by her daughters, Kay Hershey Loughman, Margaret Hershey Lester, and Susan Hershey; stepchildren Allen and Philip Bonner and Lynn Bonner Bernstein; and eight grandchildren and stepgrandchildren. 

KITAEV WINS “GENIUS” AWARD

Alexei Kitaev, professor of theoretical physics and computer science, has been named a MacArthur Fellow. Often referred to as the “genius” awards, the five-year, \$500,000 grants are awarded annually to 25 creative, original individuals.

Kitaev has made important theoretical contributions to a wide array of topics within condensed-matter physics, including quasicrystals and quantum chaos. More recently, he has devoted considerable attention to the uses of quantum physics in computation. Though his work focuses mainly on the conceptual level, he also participates in “hands-on” efforts to develop working quantum computers.

Kitaev says he was “very surprised” when he learned of the honor. “I didn’t know what the award was at first,” admits Kitaev, who was born and educated in Russia. “But then I looked up the names of people who have previously received a MacArthur award, and saw that they are very good scientists. I am excited and honored to be in the same group with them.”

“We are thrilled that Alexei has received this well-deserved honor,” says Andrew Lange, the Goldberger Professor of Physics and chair of the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy. “He is a stunningly original thinker who has made profound theoretical contributions to both quantum computing and condensed-matter physics.” —LO 