

HONORS AND AWARDS

Felix Boehm, Valentine Professor of Physics, Emeritus, and **Robert Christy**, Institute Professor of Theoretical Physics, Emeritus, have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the Section on Physics.

The **Caltech astronomical observatories**, and the scientists, researchers, and students associated with them, have been selected by the Space Foundation to be the group recipient of the John L. “Jack” Swigert, Jr., Award for Space Exploration. Named after the late Apollo 13 astronaut, who died of bone cancer in 1982 shortly after being elected to Congress by Colorado’s newly created Sixth District, the award recognizes “the trail-blazing body of astronomy research and discoveries made by the Caltech astronomy community, and the successful management of one of the world’s most impressive portfolios of observatories,” which includes the Palomar Observatory, the W. M. Keck Observatory, and the Owens Valley Radio Observatory, among others. JPL received the award last year.

Ron Drever, professor of physics, emeritus, has been chosen a recipient of the American Physical Society’s 2007 Einstein Prize, which is supported by the Topical Group on Gravitation. Drever and his corecipient, Rainer Weiss of MIT, are

being recognized “for fundamental contributions to the development of gravitational wave detectors based on optical interferometry, leading to the successful operation of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory”; they will share a \$10,000 prize.

James Eisenstein, Roshek Professor of Physics and Applied Physics, has been named a corecipient of the American Physical Society’s 2007 Oliver E. Buckley Prize in Condensed Matter Physics “for fundamental experimental and theoretical research on correlated many-electron states in low dimensional systems.” He will share the \$10,000 prize with Steven Girvin of Yale and Allan MacDonald of the University of Texas, Austin.

Richard Ellis, Steele Family Professor of Astronomy, has been named the inaugural John Bahcall Distinguished Professor at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, and will give the Bahcall Lecture at the Space Telescope Science Institute and a public lecture at the Goddard Space Flight Center in early December. Ellis was selected on the basis of his research accomplishments and his “activities and vision in building for the future,” as well as his “ability to communicate both the substance and the excitement of frontier astrophysics.”

HALL ACTING V.P. FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

John Hall, professor of civil engineering and dean of students, is wearing yet another hat as acting vice president for student affairs. In the memo announcing his appointment, President Jean-Lou Chameau said, “As acting vice president, John will initiate discussions with students, faculty, and staff to gain insight into our students’ experience at Caltech (academic and nonacademic), the selection and recruitment of students, and the overall function of the Student Affairs organization. John will be working closely with [Provost Paul] Jennings and myself as this process moves forward. In the coming weeks, we will also appoint ad hoc working groups to examine key issues in detail. The information gathered through the work of these committees and the broader campus discussions will bring the best of Caltech forward and serve as an effective guide to the selection of the new leader for our student-related activities.” □

Michael Elowitz, assistant professor of biology and applied physics and Bren Scholar, has been awarded a Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering, whose intent “is to provide support for unusually creative researchers early in their careers.” Elowitz will receive \$625,000, payable over five consecutive years.

Marc Kamionkowski has been named the Robinson Professor of Theoretical Physics and Astrophysics. His research interests include how the large-scale distribution of mass in the universe originated, galaxy formation, the formation of the first stars, and the problems of dark matter and dark energy.

Frederick Raab, a member of the professional staff in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Laboratory, has been

elected a fellow of the American Physical Society on the recommendation of the Topical Group on Gravitation.

Guruswami Ravichandran, Goode Professor of Aeronautics and Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded the honorary degree *docteur honoris causa* by Paul Verlaine University, Metz, France, “in recognition of his pioneering contributions to the mechanical behavior of materials under extreme conditions and for promoting international collaboration with researchers” at that university.

Barry Simon, IBM Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, has been chosen to be the 2007 Wolfgang Wasow Memorial Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin–Madison; the lecture will be given next fall. □