

# Random Walk

## Four Professorships Awarded

**H**ISTORY PROFESSORS John Benton and Eleanor Searle and economics professor Charles Plott have been appointed to endowed chairs in the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, meanwhile, has named Peter Dervan to be its first Bren Professor of Chemistry.

Benton will become the Doris and Henry Dreyfuss Professor of History. Benton is an expert on medieval Europe's social and cultural history, with a special interest in France. Benton joined the faculty in 1965.

Plott has been named the Edward S. Harkness Professor of Economics and Political Science. Plott is a pioneer in the emerging field of experimental political economy, and will direct the just-established Laboratory of Experimental Economics and Political Science. Plott has been a faculty member since 1971.

Searle is the new Edie and Lew Wasserman Professor of History. Searle, a specialist in the social and economic history of medieval England and northern Europe, is the first woman to hold a named professorship at Caltech. She joined the faculty in 1979.

Dervan, professor of chemistry and a faculty member since 1973, has been named the first Bren Professor of Chemistry. Dervan's research centers on developing chemical methods to study the mechanisms by which various drugs and proteins bind to DNA, laying the groundwork for eventual synthesis of molecules designed to bind at specific sites on the DNA.

The Bren Foundation recently gave Caltech \$1.5 million with which to endow the chair. The foundation, based in Los Angeles, is headed by Donald Bren, a Caltech trustee since 1984. Bren is chairman of the Irvine Company of Newport Beach, California.

## Experimental Economics Laboratory Established

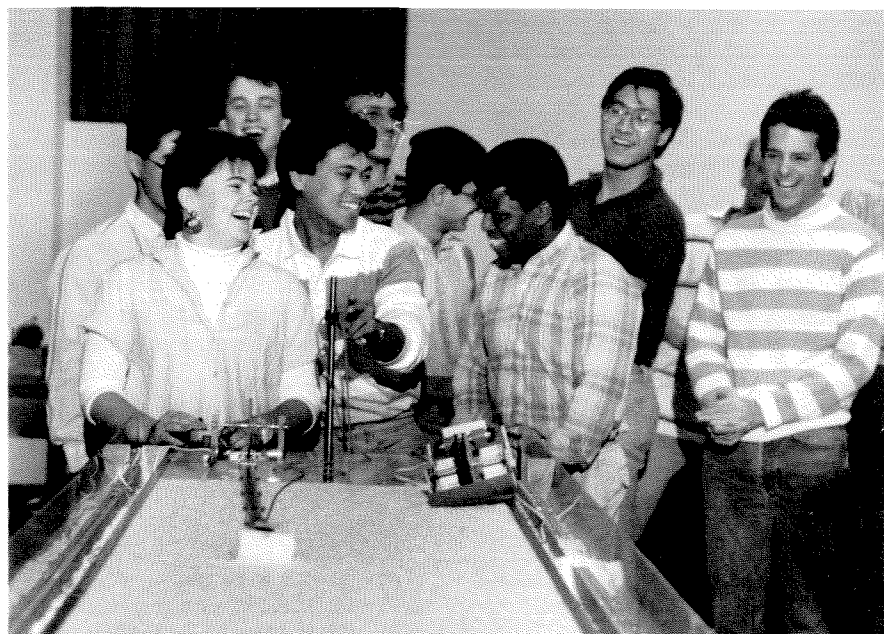
**A**LABORATORY OF Experimental Economics and Political Science is being established at Caltech. The laboratory will use people's behavior in various simulations to study the dynamics of decision-making and the marketplace. The method has been applied to environmental and common-property resource problems, finance (including futures markets and speculative bubbles), product quality and warranties, regulation, deregulation, and anti-trust litigation.

The lab will be directed by Charles Plott, the Edward S. Harkness Professor of Economics and Political Sci-

ence. Plott helped found the field of experimental economics, and, with his co-workers, developed many of the lab techniques now in use. Other Caltech researchers at the lab will include David Grether, John Ledyard, Richard McKelvey, Peter Ordeshoak, Tom Palfrey, Dave Porter, and Louis Wilde.

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin has donated \$500,000 to help establish the lab. Other major contributors include General Motors, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Pacific Telesis Group, the National Science Foundation, NASA/JPL, and Caltech.

## Tug O' War



*This fall's ME72a final featured a tug-of-war. Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Erik Antonsson gave each student an identical set of components and a challenge: build a device to crawl, slide or fly over a bed of plastic "sand." While the challenge varies yearly, student enthusiasm is a constant. From left: Leslie McCaffree, Saroj Manandhar (TA), Brian Patterson, Kenneth Lin, and John Wiltse.*

## Caltech on the Air

THE FIRST BROADCAST of "AirTalk: The Caltech Edition" took to the airwaves on January 20. The program is heard from 6 to 7 PM on KPCC, 89.3 FM, the National Public Radio affiliate of Pasadena City College. "AirTalk," a nightly talk show hosted by Larry Mantle, will be devoted to Caltech on the third Wednesday of every month. The show includes interviews with Caltechers and JPLers—faculty, staff, students, and alumni; as well as features such as Caltech Almanac—a look at the people and events that have shaped Caltech; Caltech Calendar—a listing of upcoming public events on campus; and Caltech in the News.

The first show's guests included Vice President for Institute Relations Ted Hurwitz on Caltech's outreach activities and on finance in higher education, Institute Archivist Judith Goodstein on Caltech's history, and ASCIT president Jeff Tekanic on student life. President Everhart, JPL director Lew Allen, and Pasadena City College president Jack Scott were also heard.

KPCC has received FCC approval to relocate its transmitting tower from the PCC campus to the top of Mount Wilson, and hopes to have the move completed this summer. The station's signal will then reach from Ventura to southern Orange County, making it one of the most powerful NPR stations in Southern California.

## Domesday Book Gift

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR was an orderly chap who liked to know what he owned and how much revenue it brought in. Once he had conquered England, therefore, it was only natural to take inventory of his new domain. The result is the *Domesday Book*—a field-by-field record of landowners, their wealth, and their holdings: peasants and villagers, pigs and chickens, plows and grindstones, and every building down to the last beehive. The data, compiled over

about seven months in 1086, give historians an invaluable picture of English life at the time. The book is considered to be England's single most important historical document.

A limited edition facsimile (250 copies), written in Latin on parchment and bound by hand between oak boards cut from medieval timbers, was issued two years ago in honor of the book's 900th anniversary. Richard Hayman ('36), a frequent and generous donor to the Institute, formally presented a copy to President Everhart in a ceremony on January 25. The book is on display in Millikan Library's Rare Book Room.

## Honors and Awards

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of Biology David Anderson has been chosen by the Chicago Community Trust to be a 1987 Searle Scholar. He will receive a \$180,000 grant over the next three years to support his research.

Don L. Anderson, professor of geophysics and director of the Seismology Laboratory, has been awarded the Geological Society of America's Arthur L. Day medal for 1987. Anderson studies the structure and evolution of the earth, moon, and terrestrial planets.

William Goddard, the Charles and Mary Ferkel Professor of Chemistry and Applied Physics, won the 1988 American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Computers in Chemistry in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to the field. The award is sponsored by Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), and includes a \$3,000 prize.

Chemistry professor Robert Grubbs has been selected for the ACS 1988 Award in Organometallic Chemistry. Dow Chemical Company sponsors the award, which carries a \$3,000 prize.

Leroy Hood, the Ethel Wilson Bowles and Robert Bowles Professor of Biology and chairman of the division, has been given the 1987-88 Dickson Prize by the University of Pittsburgh. The award is presented annually to the foremost investigator in medicine in

the United States, in this case for contributions to immunology and molecular biology.

Edward B. Lewis, the Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Biology, has received a 1987 Gairdner Foundation International Award for his research on genetic "master regulators"—genes that turn other genes on and off as an embryo develops, transforming a single undifferentiated cell into a complex organism of millions of specialized cells. The award includes a \$20,000 cash prize.

Hans W. Liepmann, the von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics, Emeritus, has been appointed an External Scientist Member of the Max Planck Institute for Fluid Dynamics Research in Göttingen, West Germany. This honor has been granted only once before in the Planck Institute's history.

Rudy Marcus, the Arthur Amos Noyes Professor of Chemistry, has been honored by several organizations. He was elected a Foreign Associate of the Royal Society in June, was named to the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science in July, received the 1988 Peter Debye Award in Physical Chemistry from the ACS in September, and went to Sweden in October to receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Gothenburg.

Professor of Biology Paul H. Patterson has received an Investigator-Initiated Research Grant from the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association (ADDA) to study how brain cells using the neurotransmitter acetylcholine develop.

Barry Simon, the IBM Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, has been elected vice president of the American Mathematical Society.

G. J. Wasserburg, the MacArthur Professor of Geology and Geophysics and chairman of the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, gave the 100th Anniversary Goldschmidt Memorial Lecture to the Norwegian Academy of Sciences in Oslo. His topic was "Isotope Connections between the Solar System and the Interstellar Medium."

American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowships have been awarded to chemistry research fellows Marc Greenberg, Calvin Iida, and John Termini.

# Random Walk (continued)

## Obituaries

**C**HARLES D. BABCOCK, professor of Aeronautics, died on July 1. Babcock earned a BS from Purdue University before coming west to Caltech, where he received his MS (1958) and PhD (1962). He stayed on as a research fellow in aeronautics, rising to become a full professor by 1974. Babcock's research into how structures fail has borne fruit in many branches of engineering. Babcock was 53.

Frederick J. Converse, professor of soil mechanics, emeritus, died October 9, six days before his 96th birthday. Converse received his BS from the University of Rochester, and taught there before coming to Caltech in 1921 as an instructor of civil engineering. He had become a professor of civil

engineering by 1947, retiring in 1962. Converse's pioneering research on the vibratory compaction of sands and cohesive soils made him an invaluable advisor to builders, architects, and engineers throughout southern California.

Edward W. Hughes, 83, senior research associate in chemistry, died on December 24. Hughes earned BChem and PhD degrees from Cornell University before joining the Caltech faculty in 1938. He devoted his research to X-ray crystallography, and served as president of the American Crystallographic Association.

Louis Winchester ("Winch") Jones, dean of admissions, emeritus, died on January 6. Jones was educated at

Princeton University. He came to Caltech in 1925 as an instructor in English. He had become an associate professor of English by 1941, when he was named registrar and director of admissions. He became dean of admissions and director of undergraduate scholarships in 1953, and retired in 1968. Jones was 87 years old.

George P. Mayhew, professor of English, emeritus, died on October 15 in Massachusetts, following a long illness. He was 68. An expert on Jonathan Swift, Mayhew was educated at Harvard, where he earned his AB, MA, and PhD. He joined Caltech as an assistant professor in 1954, and became a full professor in 1968. He had been on medical leave since 1974.

## A GIFT THAT PAYS DIVIDENDS

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- A complete bypass of income tax on appreciated assets;
- Saving estate taxes and avoiding expense and delay of probate;
- Possible income increase through sale and reinvestment of low income producing assets; and
- Free asset management.



The Institute has recently published a booklet providing information on these and other ways to benefit yourself and Caltech. It also has experts to work with you and your advisors to come up with the financial plan that is right for you. If you would like a copy of *A Tradition of Trust*, call or write:

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