

“Jeff was my teacher and my thesis adviser,” said Daniel Diermeier, who studied with him at Rochester. Diermeier explained that the German term for thesis adviser is *Doktorvater*. “There’s truth in this concept,” he said, “which, as a father and a teacher now myself, I appreciate more. Teaching is about creating someone who is then creative in turn. We grow into our research.”

Diermeier, who is now the IBM Professor of Regulation and Competitive Practice at Northwestern University, also appreciated the American informality he met at Rochester. “All my previous teachers had the same first name: *Professor Doktor*. And now here was ‘Jeff’ in his sneakers.” Two qualities made him unique, said Diermeier: “the deep joy” that radiated from him and his deep commitment to research.

Banks was diagnosed with leukemia in 1995 and underwent a bone-marrow transplant in the summer of that year. In 1997, he returned to Caltech as professor of political science. He became executive officer for the social sciences in 1999, a post in which his dry wit and calm, easygoing nature, as well as his knowledge of voting theory, helped smooth many meetings.

Professor of Economics Matt Jackson came to Caltech at the same time that Banks returned. “He wanted everyone to enjoy life,” Jackson said. “He could always see the humor in a situation.” In his professional life, he taught others to “sweat the details; details matter.” And even when his health deteriorated, “he came in, taught his courses, met with graduate students, and kept doing the day-to-day things, no matter how difficult. He made a big difference in the small things

as well as the big ones.”

On behalf of Banks’s family (which includes sons Bryan, 15, and Daniel, 13), his wife, Shannon, thanked all those who had come that day “not just to mourn his passing but to celebrate his life.” She thanked the anonymous bone-marrow donor “who allowed the extra time” and also all those in the audience who had signed onto the bone-marrow registry because of her husband’s illness. “He fought long and hard to stay with us.” She also presented to Ledyard and to Larry Rothenberg, director of the Wallis Institute at the University of Rochester, framed copies of Banks’s Presidential Young Investigator Award and a photo of him receiving the National Academy of Sciences award.

In closing, Ledyard stated that the new seminar room in Baxter Hall would be named in Banks’s memory and also announced the creation of the Jeff Banks Memorial Seminar Fund. Contributions to the fund may be sent to Susan Davis, Caltech 228-77, Pasadena, CA 91125. Checks should be made out to the California Institute of Technology. □

## HONORS AND AWARDS



**Professor of Biology Pamela Bjorkman is one of 72 American scientists elected this year to membership in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). She's the first woman out of a total of 67 living Caltech faculty members elected to that honor. Bjorkman, who is also executive officer for biology and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, has been a member of the Caltech faculty since 1988. Her research focuses on molecules involved in cell-surface recognition, particularly molecules of the immune system.**

John Abelson, the Beadle Professor of Biology, has been elected to the American Philosophical Society.

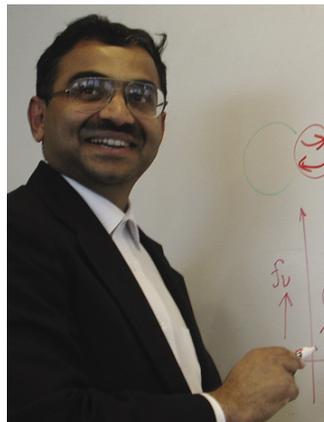
Paul Bellan, professor of applied physics, has received one of two 2001 SPD Popular Writing Awards, given each year to a professional scientist and to a science writer or journalist by the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society.

Roger Blandford, the Tolman Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics, was named the Tetelman Fellow at Yale for 2001; he delivered the Tetelman lecture in mid-February. In June, he traveled to Munich to give the Siemens Lecture.

Mory Gharib, professor of aeronautics and faculty member in bioengineering, was invited by the American Association for Thoracic Surgery to give the Honored Speaker address to the 81st AATS conference on May 8 in San Diego. He discussed the challenges and rewards of applying bioengineering principles to space exploration.

William Goddard, the Charles and Mary Ferkel Professor of Chemistry and Applied Physics, has been selected by the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society to receive the Richard C.

**Shri Kulkarni, the MacArthur Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science (left), and Ahmed Zewail, the Pauling Professor of Chemical Physics, have been elected to the Royal Society, established in England in 1660, the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.**



Tolman Medal. The medal was formally awarded at the Athenaeum on April 19.

Alan Hajek, associate professor of philosophy, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. He will develop a new course

entitled Probability, the Philosophy of Religion, and the Philosophy of Science.

Linda Hsieh-Wilson, assistant professor of chemistry, has been selected to receive a 2001 Beckman Young Investigators award. The award program “helps

provide research support to the most promising young faculty members in the early stages of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences.” This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the program, which is funded by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, an independent, nonprofit foundation established in 1977.

Philip Hoffman, professor of history and social science, has been named a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. His project for the fellowship period will be “The Role of Crises in Economic and Financial Development,” on which he will collaborate with UCLA professor of economics Jean-Laurent Rosenthal. Together with Gilles Postel-Vinay, Hoffman and Rosenthal coauthored *Priceless Markets: The Political Economy of Credit in Paris, 1660–1870* (University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Wolfgang Knauss has been named the Theodore von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics and Applied Mechanics, effective April 1. This title replaces that of professor of aeronautics and applied mechanics.

Shri Kulkarni, the MacArthur Professor of Astron-

omy and Planetary Science, has been invited to give this year's Sackler Lecture at Princeton University's department of physics.

Andrew Lange has been named the Marvin L. Goldberger Professor of Physics, effective July 1. This title replaces that of professor of physics.

Eliot Meyerowitz, professor of biology and chair of the biology division, has been named a Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal winner for 2001 from Yale University.

Paul Messina, director of the Center for Advanced Computer Research, received the Distinguished Associate award from the U. S. Department of Energy for his achievements in computational science and for his contributions to the DOE's Stockpile Stewardship program, designed to ensure the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons arsenal.

John Preskill, professor of theoretical physics, has been invited to be the 2002 Lorentz Chair at the University of Leiden. Described as “the most prestigious visiting professorship in the Netherlands,” the chair since its founding in 1955 has been held by 10 Nobel Prize winners.

Richard Roberts, assistant



**Of 50 awards presented by the American Chemical Society at its April meeting, more than 10 percent went to Caltech faculty members. From left: the Nakanishi Prize to Jack Roberts, Institute Professor of Chemistry; the ACS Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology to Michael Hoffmann, the Irvine Professor of Environmental Science; the Herbert D. Brown Award for Creative Research in Synthetic Methods to Bob Grubbs, the Atkins Professor of Chemistry; the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry to David Tirrell, the McCollum-Corcoran Professor and professor of chemistry and chemical engineering; the George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education to Harry Gray, the Beckman Professor of Chemistry; and the ACS Award for Creative Innovation to John Baldeschwieler, the Johnson Professor of Chemistry and professor of chemistry, emeritus.**



**Alexander Varshavsky, the Smits Professor of Cell Biology, has been named the co-recipient of the 2001 Wolf Foundation Prize in Medicine. He shares the \$100,000 prize with Avram Hershko of the Technion, awarded for their discovery of the “ubiquitin system of intracellular protein degradation and the crucial functions of this system in cellular regulation.” The Wolf Prize was established in 1978 to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind. Varshavsky was also recently elected to the American Philosophical Society.**

professor of chemistry, has received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers “for his innovative combinatorial method of selecting and designing protein motifs that specifically recognize biologically important RNA structures.” The award recognizes outstanding young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers, providing up to five years of grant support. He has also been selected as an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow.

George Rossman, professor of mineralogy, has been selected to receive the Mineralogical Society of America’s Dana Medal, which recognizes “continued outstanding scientific contributions through original work in the mineralogical sciences.”

David Rutledge has been named the Kiyo and Eiko Tomiyasu Professor of Electrical Engineering. Effective April 1, this title replaces that of professor of electrical engineering.

Anneila Sargent, professor of astronomy and director of the Owens Valley Radio Observatory and of the Interferometry Science Center, has been elected a

foreign associate of the Royal Astronomical Society “in recognition of her inspiring leadership and outstanding service to the promotion of astronomy.”

Wallace Sargent, Bowen Professor of Astronomy, has been selected as the fourth Icko Iben, Jr., Distinguished Astronomy Lecturer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he will deliver a public lecture, give a joint colloquium to the astronomy and physics departments, and interact with faculty, staff, and students. The lectureship brings world-renowned astronomers and astrophysicists to the university.

Edward Stone, the Morrisroe Professor of Physics, and director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory from 1990 until May 2001, has received NASA’s Distinguished Service Medal.

Keith Taylor, a member of the professional staff in astronomy, has received the Astronomical Society of the Pacific’s 2001 Maria and Eric Muhlmann Award, for his “unique contributions to astronomical instrumentation at various observatories.” □

Recipients of this year’s ASCIT Teaching Awards are Oscar Bruno, professor of applied mathematics; George Cheron, lecturer in Russian; Kjerstin Easton, grad student in electrical engineering; Glenn George, lecturer in computer science and electrical engineering; Loren Hoffman, undergraduate; Dirk Hundertmark, Todd Instructor in Mathematics; Edward McCaffery, visiting professor of law; Thomas Neenan, lecturer in music; and Charles Peck, professor of physics.

The Graduate Student Council’s Teaching Awards went to Hans Hornung, the Johnson Professor of Aeronautics; Julia Kornfield, associate professor of chemical engineering; and Brian Stolz, assistant professor of chemistry. Recipients of the GSC Mentoring Awards are Agustin Colussi, senior research fellow in environmental engineering science, and Brian Stolz.

## FACULTY BOARD CHAIR ELECTED

For the first time, the faculty board chair will be occupied by a woman, Marianne Bronner-Fraser, the Billings Ruddock Professor of Biology. Melany Hunt, professor of mechanical engineering, was voted vice chair, and Ned Munger, professor of geography, emeritus, secretary, relieving Ward Whaling, professor of physics, emeritus, after a 16-year tour of duty.

Bronner-Fraser studies the development of neural crest cells in vertebrate embryos. These cells emerge from the neural tube shortly after neurulation and migrate to various parts of the body to establish diverse cell types such as neurons, glia, and pigment cells. Investigating what dictates the pattern of cell migration and what determines the type of cell they become could elucidate the causes of birth defects and cancers associated with neural crest cells, and suggest ways to prevent them.

There was another first in this year’s election: the voting was conducted on line. As befits one of the partners in the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, an electronic ballot was used, set up by project member Michael Alvarez, associate professor of political science, and Marianne Epalle, communications specialist in Engineering and Applied Science. □