

**NORMAN HOROWITZ
1915 — 2005**



Professor of Biology, Emeritus Norman Horowitz, a geneticist who made key contributions to the understanding of how genes code for proteins and how evolution works at the molecular level, and who designed an instrument for the two Viking missions to Mars to search for signs of life, died on June 1 at his home in Pasadena. He was 90.

A native of Pittsburgh, Horowitz earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh in 1936 and his doctorate at Caltech in 1939. After a postdoctoral appointment at Stanford with George Beadle, Horowitz returned to Caltech when Beadle moved to the Institute in 1946, and was on the faculty of the biology division for the remainder of his career. He was division chair from 1977 to 1980, and became professor emeritus in 1982.

A memorial service has been scheduled for September 12 at 2:00 p.m. in Dabney Lounge and Gardens, and will be covered in a subsequent issue of *E&S*. □

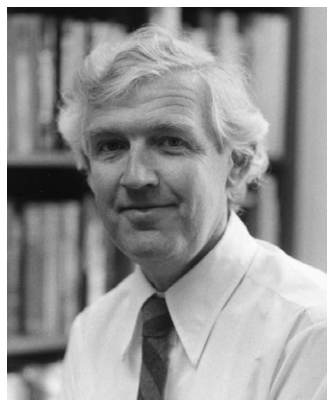
**RONALD F. SCOTT
1929 — 2005**

Ronald Fraser Scott, the Hayman Professor of Engineering, Emeritus, died August 16 at his home in Altadena after a long battle with cancer. He was 76.

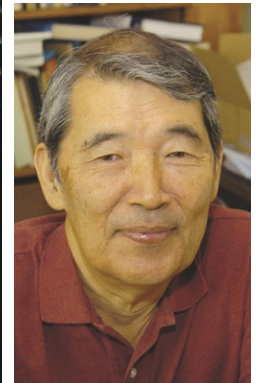
Scott was an international leader in the field of soil mechanics, particularly in relation to landslides and other soil failures. Born in London and raised in Scotland, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Glasgow and his master's and doctorate degrees from MIT. He joined the Caltech faculty in 1958 as an assistant professor, and rose through the ranks to become the Hayman Professor. He retired from active faculty duties in 1998.

Scott worked on various NASA missions, including the Surveyor unmanned and Apollo manned missions to the moon and the Viking spacecraft that landed on Mars in 1976. He designed the soil scoop that fed Norman Horowitz's instrument.

As a memorial service is being planned, *E&S* will carry a full obituary at a later date. □



KONISHI WINS NEUROSCIENCE PRIZE



Bing Professor of Behavioral Biology Masakazu "Mark" Konishi and his former postdoctoral researcher Eric Knudsen, now chair of the neurobiology department at Stanford University, have been awarded this year's Peter Gruber Foundation Neuroscience Prize for their work on the brain mechanisms of sound localization in barn owls. They will receive a gold medal and a \$200,000 unrestricted cash award at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in November.

Konishi has worked extensively on the auditory systems of barn owls and songbirds for two decades. In a remarkable collaboration, Konishi and Knudsen established that

owls—who can home in on mice on the ground in total darkness—have "space-specific" neurons that respond to sounds coming from particular directions and form a topographic map of auditory space in the midbrain. They also worked out how this auditory map is calibrated with the neighboring visual map.

The citation praises their research as a "paradigm for the precise organization of a sensory system and its ability to adapt to environmental experiences," and adds that their "mentorship and care of their disciples have made them models for scientists all over the world." □