

## Shih-Tung Tsai FREE

Liu Chen; Chuan Sheng Liu; James W. Van Dam



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gies, in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

In July, **Chang C. Tsuei**, a scientist at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, was elected to Academia Sinica, the national science academy of Taiwan.

**Gary W. Rubloff** is the new director of the Institute for Systems Research at the University of Maryland at College Park. He has moved to Maryland from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, where he was associate director of the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center for Advanced Electronic Materials Processing, and professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Among the ten individuals chosen to receive the first Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring were **Di-ola Bagayoko** of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and **Janet S. Herman** of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. President Clinton announced the awards in September.

**Kenneth G. Purchase**, a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has received the New Focus Research Award, given to doctoral candidates by New Focus Inc. The award will support his work on a distributed Bragg pulse shaper for ultrafast packet generation.

ing international collaborations. In 1979, he participated in the Autumn College on Plasma Physics at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. He was again at the ICTP as a visiting member in the early 1990s. For purposes of collaborative research, he journeyed to the US a number of times for extended visits to the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, the Institute for Fusion Studies at the University of Texas, the University of Maryland and the University of California, Irvine. He also spent extended periods of time at universities in Hong Kong and at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Last year, he participated in the creation of the Asia-Pacific Center for Theoretical Physics, and this year was a member of the executive committee for the 1996 Asia-Pacific Plasma Theory Conference.

In 1995, he was elected an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Shih-tung Tsai devoted his whole life to physics, to his family and to his motherland. He was an excellent plasma theorist with an international reputation, and will be fondly missed by many colleagues in several countries. In addition, he was noted for being kind and patient with his students and associates, a diligent learner and a tireless instructor. We have lost not only a true friend and an outstanding physicist, but also a genuinely sincere human being.

LIU CHEN

University of California, Irvine

CHUAN SHENG LIU

University of Maryland at College Park

JAMES W. VAN DAM

University of Texas at Austin

## OBITUARIES

### Shih-tung Tsai

Shih-tung Tsai, a longtime professor of plasma physics at the Institute of Physics in Beijing, died in Beijing from liver cancer on 20 June 1996.

Tsai was born in Shanghai on 1 May 1938. As a youth, he moved with his parents to Taiwan, where he graduated from Tunghai University in Taichung with a BSc in physics in 1960. He then studied at Dartmouth College, where he received a master's degree in physics in 1965. Finally, he went to Princeton University, where he studied under Thomas H. Stix at the plasma physics laboratory and was awarded a PhD in astrophysical sciences in 1969.

After completing his doctoral work, he served as assistant research physicist and lecturer for two years at the University of California, San Diego, where he worked on large-amplitude wave properties. He then spent two years as a fellow and a visiting research assistant professor at the University of Maryland at College Park, where he worked on nonlinear thermodynamic bounds.

Motivated by his deep love for China and his strong desire to help advance science in that country, he took a permanent position in 1973 as a research scientist at the Institute of Physics—a unit of the Chinese Academy of Sciences—in Beijing. There, he worked for the remaining 24 years of his scientific career, being promoted to the rank of professor in the 1980s. He served as the leader of the plasma theory group and also as the head of the plasma physics division. Concurrently, he held professorships at four other Chinese universities.

His research was in the areas of plasma physics, nuclear fusion and space plasmas. Especially well known



SHIH-TUNG TSAI

were his papers on the effects of energetic particles on tokamak stability; drift instabilities in general magnetically confined high-beta plasmas; and micro-instabilities and radiation in space plasmas.

He was very active in promoting the field of plasma physics and controlled nuclear fusion in China. In 1985, he founded the Association for Plasma Studies in China and served as its director. In that same year he established the China Summer School for Plasma Physics. He was also a member of the standing committee for the China Association of Nuclear Fusion and Plasma Physics, as well as a specially invited delegate of the China Association for Science and Technology. In 1987, he was appointed as a special member of the China Center of Advanced Science and Technology, headed by T. D. Lee and G. C. Zhou.

Tsai was also very active in promot-

### Michel M. Ter-Pogossian

Michel M. Ter-Pogossian, an internationally known pioneer in the use of cyclotron-produced radionuclides in biomedical research and an emeritus professor of radiology at Washington University's Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, died suddenly on 19 June 1996, while on a visit to Paris. He was 71 and the cause of death was a heart attack.

Ter-Pogossian was born in Berlin, Germany, but lived in France for most of his early years. He earned a BA degree in science from the University of Paris in 1943 and studied with Madame Jolie Curie at the Institute of Radium. Ter-Pogossian moved to St. Louis and became a graduate student at Washington University in the fall of 1946 and, while studying for a master's degree, worked in the physics department as a research assistant. He re-