Pohl Wins Buckley Solid State Physics Prize

A Cornell physicist whose discoveries more than a decade ago have proved to be crucial in unlocking the secrets of glass and glassy materials has been awarded the 1985 Oliver E. Buckley Solid State Physics Prize of the American Physical Society.

Professor Robert O. Pohl, professor of physics and a member of Cornell's Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics, has been honored with the Buckley Prize.

Pohl's discoveries of the universal low temperature behavior of glasses stimulated a great outpouring of further studies, both theoretical and experimental, by physicists and other scientists throughout the world. This work, growing out of Pohl's 1971 experiments at Cornell, has led to a new level of understanding of such disordered solids.

Pohl is the second Cornell discovery to be honored with the Buckley Prize. In 1981, the prestigious award went to physics professors David M. Lee and Robert C. Richardson and their former graduate student, Douglas D. Osheroff, for their discovery of superfluidity in the rare form of liquid helium known as helium-3. This discovery was also made in 1971 in the Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics.

In addition to his basic research, Pohl has been interested in nuclear waste disposal problems. He was a member of a scientific advisory committee which reported on the issue at the request of President Carter.

Pohl has been a member of the Cornell faculty since 1958. Born in Germany, he received his Ph.D. (1957) from the University of Erlangen, West Germany. He spent the 1980-81 academic year at the Juelich Nuclear Research Center in West Germany under an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany.