

# PEOPLE

## 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 the structure of glass and glassy materials has been awarded the 1985 Oliver E. Buckley Solid State Physics Prize of the American Physical Society.

The prize, generally regarded as the world's most prestigious award in this branch of physics, will be presented this spring to Robert O. Pohl, professor of physics and a member of Cornell's Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics. The prize includes a \$5,000 cash award.

Glass has long been a puzzle to solid state physicists. Most ordinary solids — such as copper, salt, quartz, or silicon — are built up out of atoms arranged in a remarkably regular geometrical array, like soldiers in formation. This geometric regularity has provided the key to understanding the important physical properties of such solid

substances. Glass and glassy substances, on the contrary, are disordered solids whose atoms are not arranged in any neat geometric pattern, more like people in a disorganized crowd.

Because their atoms lack this simple regular arrangement, the physical properties of glasses have proved notoriously difficult to explain. Until Pohl's 1971 discoveries, there was not even a body of data common to all glassy materials for which physicists could attempt to construct such explanations. Studying glasses at very low temperatures, a few degrees above the absolute zero of temperature, Pohl discovered that the manner in which they conducted heat and exchanged heat with their surroundings could be described by a few simple universal laws, regardless of what particular glassy material was being investigated.

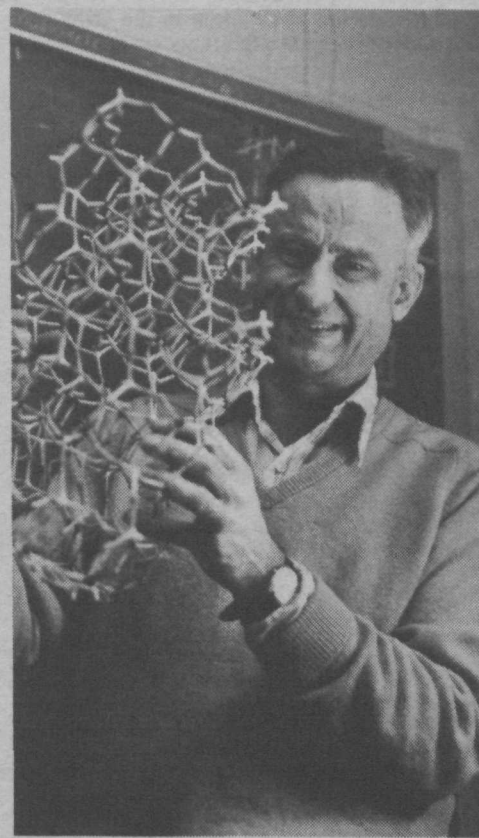
Pohl's discoveries of the universal low

temperature behavior of glasses stimulated a great outpouring of further studies, both theoretical and experimental, by Pohl 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's 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 and of Cornell's Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics 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.



Professor Robert O. Pohl with a model of the crystal lattice of the mineral feldspar, which has many of the properties of amorphous solids.

## Rickard Named as Acting Dean Of State Veterinary College

Charles Rickard, associate dean of the State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, has been appointed acting dean of the College. Former Dean Edward C. Melby Jr., who resigned Nov. 1, will join SmithKline Beckman Corp. in January as a vice-president of research and development.

Dean Rickard received his D.V.M. degree from Cornell (1943), followed by a master's degree (1946) and a Ph.D. (1957) from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. After two years in private veterinary practice, he joined the faculty of the State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1946 as an assistant, then associate professor of clinical pathology. Since 1950, he has been a professor of veterinary pathology; from 1965 until 1973, he was chairman of the pathology department.

Appointed associate dean in 1969, Dr. Rickard is also a professor of aquatic animal medicine and associate director of Aguavet — the program in aquatic veterinary medicine conducted each summer at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. Until his appointment as acting dean, he served for three years as acting chairman of the department of microbiology.

Rickard was instrumental in establishing

the Oncology Laboratory for cancer research at the college in 1962 and, from 1965 to 1976, he was principal investigator for research projects on feline and canine leukemia, supported by the National Cancer Institute. His areas of research include virus induction of leukemias and sarcomas, characterization of tumor-producing viruses, and chemical co-carcinogenesis.

In June 1981, Dr. Rickard accepted the responsibilities of campus coordinator in a consortium including Cornell, Harvard, Rice, and Texas A & M universities, for a program of advice and assistance to King Faisal University at Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia.

Muawia Barazangi, a senior research associate here and a specialist in seismology, has been appointed an adjunct professor and member of the graduate faculty in the Department of Geological Sciences. His research focuses on the seismotectonics of convergent plate boundaries — the earthquakes, and other effects of collisions between large, drifting portions of the Earth's plates. Except for the period from 1979 to 1980 when he was at King Abulaziz University in Saudi Arabia, he has been at Cornell since 1972.

## Rehmus Will Retire Next June As Dean of ILR School Here

Charles M. Rehmus, dean of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell, has announced his intention to retire as dean next June.

He will return to service as a neutral arbitrator in labor-management relations in Washington, DC, and California.

Provost Robert Barker said, "Rehmus' stature, as a professional mediator and a leading scholar on collective bargaining, has been a great asset to Cornell. His extensive service to education and government has benefited the ILR School in many ways. He has successfully expanded the undergraduate curriculum, improved programs in professional education, and developed and implemented plans that will help to assure the long-term strength of the ILR program at Cornell.

"Rehmus' accomplishments are many, and we wish him well as he resumes his activities as a professional mediator and arbitrator."

Rehmus came to Cornell in 1980 from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, where he was co-director of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations and a professor of political science. In addition, he served as chairman of the Michigan State Employment Relations Commission and was cited by the Michigan State Legislature as "a much sought after labor arbitrator and a highly respected neutral with an enviable record of success...."

His experience in both academic and government sectors is extensive. Rehmus was chairman of four presidential emergency boards in transportation disputes, and has consulted with various federal and state agencies on manpower and public employment labor relations problems.

Rehmus currently serves on the Governing Board of the National Academy of Arbitrators, the Industrial Relations Research Association, and the International Labour Office.

## Nation Directs Electrical Engineering

John A. Nation, professor of electrical engineering and a specialist in high-energy electron and ion beams and plasma physics, has been named director of Cornell's School of Electrical Engineering.

A member of the Cornell faculty since 1965, Nation succeeds Joseph M. Ballantyne, who became the university's vice president for research and advanced studies in July.

The School of Engineering, a unit of the Cornell College of Engineering, has one of the largest fields of research at the Univer-

sity with more than \$7 million in research expenditures in fiscal year 1984 and 42 faculty members. The school has the second largest professional master's degree list in the University, and is the largest undergraduate degree granting unit in the University.

Cornell's School of Electrical Engineering will observe its centennial in 1985. Cornell and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have the oldest electrical engineering programs in the country.

## Watson Resigns Arts College Position

Lawrence Watson, assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, is leaving Ithaca next month to accept a position at Harvard University. He will join the Harvard faculty and staff in late January, serving as an assistant dean and director of degree programs at the Graduate School of Design.

Watson, who also serves as a member of the Ithaca City School District Board of Education and the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission, is a popular soul and gospel vocalist, too.

At Cornell since 1977, he has been responsible for the academic counseling and advising to undergraduate students. He also handled pre-law advising for the College of Arts and Sciences, in addition to admissions, financial aid, orientation, and placement duties. He was co-director of the

college's Minority Educational Affairs and Higher Educational Opportunity Program.

Watson said he leaves the Ithaca and Cornell communities with regret, but added that the position at Harvard offers him a more challenging professional opportunity.

Arts and Sciences Dean Alain Seznec said, "Larry established a program to bring minority alumni to campus to discuss their careers with students. This very successful program is most helpful to our students. Larry will be missed, but we appreciate that he is moving up at this point in his career."

A 1974 graduate of the State University of New York College at Oswego, Watson earned the master's degree from Cornell (1977). Before coming to Cornell, he taught in the Ithaca City School District and was an instructor of Africana studies at the Auburn (New York) Correctional Facility.

## Mermin English Department Chair

Dorothy M. Mermin, an authority on Victorian poetry, particularly the works of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, has been promoted to professor in the College of Arts and Sciences. She also has been named chair of the department of English, effective through June 1989.

A member of the department of English since 1964, Mermin is the author of "The

Audience in the Poem: Five Victorian Poets" (Rutgers University Press, 1983). Her other scholarly writings include articles and reviews about Matthew Arnold, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, and Christina Rossetti.

She teaches undergraduate courses in Victorian literature and poetry by women and graduate courses in Victorian poetry and prose.