

Prix de l'Académie des Sciences pour O. Le Fèvre

Olivier Le Fèvre a reçu le 29 novembre 1993 le prix Forthunoy de l'Académie des Sciences. Olivier a accompli l'essentiel de son travail scientifique au TCFH, de 1985 à 1987 comme coopérant, puis de 1987 à maintenant comme astronome résident. Depuis Waimea il a tissé de nombreuses collaborations internationales. Nous le félicitons d'avoir obtenu cette distinction et nous nous réjouissons que le résultat de ses travaux en cosmologie soit ainsi honoré.

A cette occasion le TCFH tient à lui témoigner sa gratitude pour la contribution essentielle qu'il a apporté au succès scientifique et technique de l'instrument MOS/SIS dont il assure la responsabilité scientifique. Nous le remercions également pour l'efficacité et l'énergie dont il a fait preuve pour mettre cet instrument à la disposition des nombreux utilisateurs qui s'en disputent maintenant l'accès. Prix à payer au succès: on ne compte plus le nombre des "set up" et des introductions d'observations qu'il a dû assurer et le nombre d'interventions au cours même des missions par lesquelles il a consolidé la productivité de ce spectrographe.

C'est en partie grâce à cette expérience acquise au service de tous les utilisateurs du TCFH qu'il a pu obtenir des données de première qualité et établir ainsi une base observationnelle solide pour tous les travaux scientifiques qu'il a publiés et qui lui doivent d'être reconnus aujourd'hui parmi les meilleurs.

P. Couturier

Staff Changes

Many departures have put CFHT in an uncomfortable position! A full staff situation is a low probability event and one should not be surprised if the last one lasted a mere 6 months. CFHT's administration is conducting an aggressive campaign to have these positions filled again as soon as possible. By the time the bulletin comes out, we might have some new staff members already!

S. Smith almost deserves the title of CFHT veteran. He made his first appearance at CFHT in 1985, as a summer student. He was hired at CFHT as a full staff member in 1987 and has been involved in many important software projects like the CAMAC handler, the RETICON control program and the transfer of Pegasus on the X11 window manager. He has been the CCD software expert from the beginning, until the more recent Generation III CCD controllers venture, where he developed the CCD driver. Steve left the Big Island for Oahu where he is studying in electronics engineering at the University of Hawaii. Good luck to him!

J. Horne joined CFHT in 1989 coming from Kwajalein. John started working in the so-called "Telescope Control Group" at the time, where his servo systems experience helped him to do some tuning and remove some glitches from the TCS. Later he got involved in the IR chopper and FTS. More recently, John designed and built most of the electronics for the Coudé f/4 spectrograph. He leaves CFHT to return to Kwajalein, a large missile tracking radar Station. We wish him the best.

C. Clark has been at CFHT since 1987. It is an understatement to say that Chris worked with dedication. I can remember only a few times coming to CFHT headquarters on week-ends, and not seeing Chris in his office! Besides the constant support of our detectors at the summit, Chris had recently started and conducted an aggressive program of development of the GENIII controllers that we have inherited. This is a legacy that CFHT gratefully acknowledges. He will be missed in Waimea for his enthusiasm and friendliness. He has taken a position at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he will be involved in the development of the CCD detectors for the space missions. We wish him and Jessica all the best luck.

D. Cowley has been at CFHT since May 1986 and occupied the position of mechanical engineer since that date. Dave's most noticeable input was at the design level leading to the commissioning of new systems and instruments. The latest realizations of his group under his supervision have been the f/35 and f/8 focussing mechanisms, the detector environment of the Coudé f/4 spectrograph and the primary mirror autocollimation. Maybe less conspicuous but nonetheless very important, was the task of maintaining and carrying routine work of the summit building and equipment. His professionalism was of great help there, and certainly avoided some major failures. He has taken the position of Chief Mechanical Engineer at Lick Observatory.

L. Evans left CFHT at the end of October after a one year stay at CFHT. During her stay, she developed the Graphical X-window Editor, that allows almost real-time design of the Pegasus forms. She moved to Colorado and we wish her good luck in her new endeavors.

F. Hammer leaves CFHT after an 18 month stay. He pursued an active research program while in Waimea, collaborating with O. LeFèvre and the Canadian members of the Canada-France Redshift Survey. He took advantage of his stay to carry out regular observations mainly with MOS and his regular contributions to the past Bulletins reflect the success of his runs. We wish him a smooth return to the Observatoire Paris-Meudon where he was visiting from.

E. English resigned from his position as a member of the summit crew. He has a long history as a Mauna Kea worker, having managed the Hale Pohaku base camp in its first days. He was hired by CFHT in January 1978 and shared his time between duties at Hale Pohaku and helping out on the construction site of CFHT. He saw the telescope arriving on the Mauna Kea and participated in the installation of all the heavy and very sophisticated equipment composing our observatory. More recently, he was involved in the normal tasks of our daycrew, namely the summit general maintenance, and changes of instruments and telescope configurations.

C. Vanderriest, our only recent staff arrival, joined CFHT at the beginning of November as Resident Astronomer. He visited CFHT regularly in the past, usually bringing his own instrument: SILFID. He has been involved for quite a while with 2-D spectroscopy, first developing SILFID and data reduction package. His knowledge will also be useful for the acceptance and commissioning of the OASIS instrument, an integral field spectrograph for the AO Bonnette, including an ARGUS mode. Christian is replacing O. LeFèvre who will spend some more time at CFHT as a visiting astronomer.