

AWARDS

Personal connection. Theoretical physicist Samuel Edwards of the University of Cambridge last week won a prize awarded



in the name of one of his former teachers. Edwards (top left), who studied quantum mechanics under

Nobelist Paul Dirac as a Cambridge undergraduate 60 years ago, received the Dirac Medal from the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, for his work

on polymers, spin glasses, and granular materials.

Dirac was a mediocre instructor whose lectures consisted of reading aloud from his book *The Principles of Quantum Mechanics*, recalls Edwards, 78. "And sometimes he missed pages," he says.

The other physicist to receive this year's medal—awarded on



Capital's call. Keeping his lab at State University was a prerequisite before agreeing last week to become biology directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington, Virginia. "I'm grateful to the foundation, which I joined as an institution," says the 58-year-old physicist, who has spent 30 years at the University of Arizona, interrupted by a 1-year sabbatical as a program manager. "But I had to make sure that I could still interact with students," he decided to take the job. "His solution was to commute as a rotator," commuting as much as 100 miles to shepherd his flock of a dozen grad students, and postdocs.

A longtime NSF grantee for his research on morphological variation within species, Lee has also been a model organism, and recently begun to explore the implications of ecological ethics. He hopes to expand his work to other federal agencies and agencies. But he's not planning to leave the Desert and my research. I certainly

8 August, Dirac's birthday—was Patrick Lee (bottom left) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, honored for his work on the localization and interactions of electric charges in metals. "I'm pleased to see our field—condensed matter physics—get recognized," says Lee, 58, about an award typically given to research in particle theory and other esoteric fields.

JOBS