

\$25,000 Vetlesen Prize Established; Ewing First Recipient

The G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation has announced the establishment at Columbia University of the \$25,000 Vetlesen Prize for "outstanding achievement in the sciences resulting in a clearer understanding of the earth, its history or its relation to the universe."

Maurice Ewing, geophysicist, oceanographer, and director of Columbia University's Lamont Geological Observatory, has been selected as the first recipient. The presentation will be made to Ewing on 24 March, at a dinner in Columbia's Memorial Library. The principal speaker will be Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation.

The next day Ewing will deliver the first Vetlesen Prize Lecture after a luncheon at the Men's Faculty Club at Columbia. A discussion conference will follow the lecture.

Invitations to the award ceremonies and conference have been sent to a number of the world's leading oceanographers. Their participation is expected to make the conference one of the significant meetings of the year in the field.

Any person in any country may be nominated for the Vetlesen Prize, which will be made every 2 years provided a worthy candidate is presented. In addition to the cash prize, the award includes a gold medal designed by sculptor Sidney Waugh and support of publication of the recipient's papers.

Ewing's Work

Ewing has been a teacher of both physics and geology. His work in the earth sciences, particularly oceanography, has drawn international attention. Among his contributions are his pioneering investigations in ocean-bottom seismic reflection and refraction, ocean-bottom photography, precision sounding, bottom-sediment coring, gravity measurements, and the erosion and sedimentation properties of turbidity currents.

His work also led to the development of the bathythermograph for measuring ocean temperatures at various depths, and the SOFAR system of position-finding by means of underwater sound transmission.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration recently assigned to Ewing and a group of fellow scientists the task of devising a seismograph to be landed on the moon for a study of

moonquakes. He and Frank Press, one of his former graduate students who is now head of the Seismological Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, share responsibility for devising the moon seismograph.

Origin of the Vetlesen Foundation

The Vetlesen Foundation was established in 1955 shortly before the death of its founder, shipbuilder Georg Unger Vetlesen, who was born in Norway and became a United States citizen during World War II. He served as president and chairman of the United States company representing the Norwegian American Line. He also was one of the founders of the American Scandinavian Airlines System organization. Vetlesen, who was educated in England, first came to the United States in 1916 and went into shipbuilding at that time.

Foundation To Support Summer Conferences for College Teachers

The National Science Foundation has announced the award of grants totaling approximately \$275,000 to colleges and universities in support of 16 Summer Conferences for College Teachers of Science and Mathematics. These conferences are designed to strengthen teachers' mastery of new developments in science and mathematics and to increase their effectiveness in the classroom. The more than 500 participants will receive stipends of up to \$15 a day plus travel allowances. They will pay neither tuition nor fees.

The program of Summer Conferences for College Teachers is patterned after the Summer Institutes for High School and College Teachers program, which will sponsor nearly 400 Summer Institutes this year. Whereas Summer Institutes vary from 4 to 12 weeks in duration, Summer Conferences last 4 weeks or less and give college staff members who must teach during summer terms an opportunity to familiarize themselves with recent advances in specific fields. The subject matter covered is usually more specialized than that of the Summer Institutes. Participants will be chosen by the Conferences, *not* by the National Science Foundation. A list of the institutions taking part in the program, with the names of the conference directors, may be obtained from the National Science Foundation, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.

Cancer Society Sponsors Special Lectures at Colleges and Universities

The American Cancer Society has announced its sponsorship, on an experimental basis and without cost to universities and colleges, of a series of lectures on research. The purpose of the series is to interest students in undertaking careers in the medical, biological, or related physical sciences and to improve public understanding of the methods of research and of needs and opportunities in these fields.

The following investigators have agreed to collaborate with the society in this experiment: Bernard D. Davis, professor of bacteriology and immunology, Harvard University (subject, microbes and the unity of biology); Harry Eagle, chief, Laboratory of Cell Biology, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (subject, the metabolism of normal and malignant cells in culture); Alfred Gellhorn, professor of medicine, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons (subject, progress and potentialities of human cancer prevention); and Arnold D. Welch, Eugene Higgins professor of pharmacology and chairman of department, Yale University (subject, metabolic approaches to cancer chemotherapy).

Each of these speakers has agreed to accept no more than five invitations to visit university or college campuses within the 12 months or so after 1 September. Each speaker will be prepared to address a meeting of students, faculty, and interested laymen on the subject indicated, and, where requested to do so, to consider (i) participating in seminars with students and faculty and (ii) counseling students who may be interested in undertaking careers in the medical, biological, or related physical sciences.

Invitations for any of these speakers are to be addressed to the American Cancer Society, 521 W. 57th St., New York 19, N.Y. Each invitation should include the name of the speaker or speakers desired; a description of the nature and size of the expected audience; the suggested date, time, and place of the address; and a statement of the arrangements which would be made for seminars and other meetings with members of the faculty and student body. Invitations for requested speakers should be received no later than 1 September 1960.