

Laurence E. Peterson named winner of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Space Science Award for 1978

January 12, 1978

Laurence E. Peterson, professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, has been named winner of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Space Science Award for 1978.

The AIAA said its 16th annual award was being presented to Peterson "for his outstanding contributions to the study of solar and cosmic X-rays and gamma rays with orbiting solar observatories and for his continuing highly successful efforts to improve X-ray observations from spacecraft."

The award, which consists of a medal and a certificate of citation, will be presented to Peterson during the AIAA 16th Aerospace Sciences Meeting, January 17, at the Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville, Ala.

Peterson, who began his career at UC San Diego in 1962 as an assistant research physicist, currently has one of four experiments aboard the High Energy Astronomy Observatory (HEAO-A) launched into Earth orbit last August 12.

His HEAO-A experiment has been called the "best instrument ever built for characterizing strong X-ray and gamma ray sources in the sky."

Peterson and his colleagues are currently trying to unravel the mysteries of a neutron star, Hercules X-1, which sends regularly pulsating X-rays into space on a nine-days-on, 27-days-off schedule.

Editors: Prof. Peterson will be out of town until January 19. Following that date, he can be available to discuss his work and demonstrate the computer which is gathering data from HEAO-A. Please contact PAUL LOWENBERG in the Public Information Office for arrangements.)

(January 12, 1978)