

On Campus

Rice University

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Four Provost's Lectures set

Provost William E. Gordon has scheduled four "new" Provost's Lectures by professors in engineering, the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences this semester aimed at "promoting the Rice faculty as a community of scholars."

David W. Brady, Herbert S. Autrey professor of political science, will open the series on a timely note at 4:00 P.M., Monday, January 17, in 301 Sewall Hall. His subject is "When Do Elections Matter?" Following the lecture, wine and cheese will be served in the Sewall Hall foyer, with music provided by the Shepherd School of Music.

Other Provost's Lectures (all at 4:00 P.M. in 301 Sewall Hall) are:

Monday, February 14--Martin J. Wiener, Mary Gibbs Jones professor of history, "Economic Growth and Cultural History: The British Example."

Monday, March 14--George J. Schroeffer, professor and chairman of biochemistry, "New Inhibitors of Cholesterol Synthesis of Possible Importance in Medicine."

Monday, April 11--Frank K. Tittel, professor of electrical engineering, "The Light Fantastic."

Gordon, in announcing the lectures and related events, emphasized a strong personal hope that Rice faculty would show enough interest in the work of their colleagues in other departments and schools to attend the afternoon programs and "try on these four occasions to think of themselves as a true 'community of scholars.'"

The four Provost's lecturers have all distinguished themselves both as teachers and scholars in recent years.

Brady, the newest of Rice's chaired professors, is in his first academic year as a full-time faculty member--though from his University of Houston base since 1973



David W. Brady



Martin J. Wiener



George J. Schroeffer



Frank K. Tittel

he has been a visiting professor. He is chairman of the National Science Foundation Committee on Congressional Elections and has authored Congressional Voting in a Partisan Era and co-authored Public Policy and Politics in America. He is a member of the editorial board of The Legislative Studies Quarterly and been a consultant to the U.S. House Commission on Administrative Review.

Wiener, 1981 recipient of the American Historical Association's Robert Livingston Schuyler Prize (presented every five years for the best recent book on British history by an American citizen) for his English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit, 1850-1980, is a 1982-83 American Council of Learned Societies fellow. His new project is a history of the British penal system.

Schroeffer, a recognized authority on cholesterol, has been engaged in extensive research in this area throughout the decade he has been at Rice. Holder of both

M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, he has synthesized compounds that control cholesterol levels in animals without harmful side effects and is on the verge of arranging tests on humans. This could prove of importance to human health.

Tittel joined Rice's electrical engineering department in 1967 following seven years' work at General Electric's Research and Development Center in Schenectady, N.Y., where he pioneered several laser devices and systems. In an introduction before Houston business executives a month ago, he was described as "a humanist-scientist engineer--a man who looks far beyond the technological confines of his specialty into the social, economic, and political dimensions of the laser's challenge and promise." His research at Rice has included assignments for the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the departments of the Navy and Energy. His study and teaching have taken him to the Max-Planck Institut in Goettingen in 1973 and Munich in 1980 and to several Japanese and Chinese research institutions this past summer.

Time scoops On Campus

The staff of On Campus is still reeling from the shock of having its announcement of Machine of the Year--the computer--scooped by Time magazine. In a surprise move that can only be termed a "preemptive strike" On Campus's somewhat more famous competitor announced in its January 3, 1983 edition that its Man of the Year was no man at all but that marvelous machine that is transforming all our lives day by day.

Speculation abounds over who might have leaked the news of the On Campus choice to the popular weekly, but editorial ethics precludes comment until results of lie detector tests are in.

The staff first began considering the computer as its most likely candidate for "the single person or thing that has had the most impact