

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 11, 2009

Board Meeting
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AWARD THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION
TO ANTHONY J. LEGGETT

Sir Anthony J. Leggett is recommended for the Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion. The Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion was created to recognize individuals whose contribution to the growth and development of the University of Illinois, through extraordinary service or benefaction, has been of unusual significance.

A world leader in the theory of low-temperature physics, Sir Anthony Leggett, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor and Center for Advanced Study Professor of Physics, has been a faculty member at the University of Illinois since 1983. Professor Leggett's groundbreaking theoretical work has helped provide a better understanding of both high-temperature superconductivity and low-temperature superfluidity. His areas of research also have included foundations of quantum mechanics and the thermal and acoustic properties of glass.

Professor Leggett was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physics, shared with Alexei Abrikosov of Argonne National Laboratory, and Vitaly Ginzburg of the P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow. The prize was for studies in quantum physics in superconductivity and superfluidity. Professor Leggett developed a theory of the behavior of atoms in a superfluid state. This has been applied to studies of the

universe and other physical phenomena, and has advanced the field of quantum information. While this is the first time he has won the prize, his work was also honored in the announcement of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics for assisting the winners in their discovery that a rare isotope of helium became a superfluid at a temperature 1,000 times lower than the helium commonly found in nature.

Professor Leggett's work has had significant influence on quantum mechanics and the understanding of the behavior of subatomic structures. It also helps explain the interface between quantum mechanics and the world in which we live. He demonstrated that helium chilled to near zero flows through microscopic spaces with no friction, a state of superfluidity. The Swedish Academy stated that researchers could use superfluid helium to study how order turns to chaos, which might in turn explain how turbulence arises--an unsolved problem in classical physics.

Among his many other accomplishments and awards, Professor Leggett is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Russian Academy of Sciences (foreign member), and is a Fellow of the Royal Society (U.K.), the American Physical Society, and the American Institute of Physics. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics (U.K.). He was knighted (KBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2004 "for services to physics."

To Anthony J. Leggett, an extraordinary member of the University of Illinois family, the members of the Board of Trustees take pride and express great joy in presenting the Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion.