of the University of Idaho was chosen president-elect.

Outgoing president Orr delivered an address as part of the meeting's welcoming ceremonies, during which he made a special presentation to Robert C. Miller, who, during the course of a 30-year affiliation with the AAAS Pacific Division, served as Division secretary from 1943 to 1972 and as president during 1973–74.

Physical arrangements for the annual meeting were coordinated by a San Francisco local committee, under the direction of Jack Tomlinson of San Francisco State University. SFSU also donated the services of its public affairs office, under the direction of Don Scoble, which generated a large amount of press interest in the meeting. In addition to widespread coverage in the San Francisco dailies, reports appeared in newspapers and specialty magazines as far away as Tennessee and Baltimore, and the AP and UPI wire services carried stories to a number of publications across the country.

The next meeting of the Pacific Division will be held in June 1978 in Seattle, Washington, with the 1979 meeting planned for the University of Idaho at Moscow.

For further information about the AAAS Pacific Division and its activities, contact Alan E. Leviton, c/o California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118 (telephone: 415/752-1554 or 415/221-5100).

Multistate Speaking Tour Set for Deaf Scientist

Robert Menchel, a senior physicist for the Xerox Corporation in Penfield, New York, will join the AAAS Project on the Handicapped in Science this fall as a touring lecturer. Deaf since the age of seven, Menchel is one of 29 staffers chosen by Xerox to participate in its annual social leave program. He will use his year of leave to travel to a dozen states, seeking out and speaking to handicapped young people about education and careers in the sciences. The trips will be funded through the AAAS Project, and Xerox will continue to pay Menchel's salary during the leave period.

In talking to handicapped students, their parents, and school counselors, Menchel will be serving as a role model—a living example that handicapped people can make successful careers and get the necessary education for those careers. His goal is to remove the barriers to handicapped youths and adults that prevent their participation in science. A step toward that goal will involve guiding parents, who often don't know where to turn for help in securing good educations for their handicapped children, to the right resources. One barrier, says Menchel, is the stereotyped image that handicapped people need to be told what they can or cannot do; his contention is that handicapped individuals want a voice in determining what is best for them. His tour itinerary currently includes Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, California, Maryland, Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia. He will spend half of each month traveling and the other half preparing for his next stop. He will prepare a final report on the project, to be published next summer by AAAS.

Robert Menchel (left) converses with Leonard G. Zwick, superintendent of the Rochester School for the Deaf.

In addition to his responsibilities at Xerox, Menchel teaches a weekly course in science at the Rochester School for the Deaf through Xerox's Science Consultants Programs and, as an adjutant faculty member of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology, conducts college-level math classes.

Prior to joining the Xerox Corporation, he worked as a physicist for the Avco Corporation of Lowell, Massachusetts, where he planned and developed a nondestructive testing method for determining the moisture content of the Apollo heat shield; and for the U.S. Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory at Bedford, Massachusetts, where he was responsible for field testing and evaluation of control monitor and semiautomatic telecode transmitters for use in weather stations.

He received the B.S. degree in physics from Clarkson College and has undertaken studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the State University at New Paltz, New York, in the fields of optical lasers and photoconducting in polymers.

AAAS Activities in Hawaii

AAAS now has a liaison representative in Hawaii. She is Carina Christian, director of the Institutional Development Program at Chaminade College of Honolulu. Her first announcement to the AAAS membership is that plans are underway for a series of symposia on "science and society," and for the establishment of a Center for Science and Society. All AAAS members on their way to or through Hawaii, as well as Hawaii residents who are interested in participating in the program, are invited to contact Dr. Christian at Chaminade College, 3140 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 (telephone: 808/731-1471, extension 144).

Science Associations to Convene Desertification Seminar

At the invitation of AAAS, some 50 scientists and observers will assemble in Nairobi, Kenya, 21–25 August for the Science Associations' Seminar on Desertification. The seminar directly precedes a United Nations meeting on the same subject, continuing the AAAS tradition of convening experts immediately in advance of major U.N. conferences. The first such advance meeting was sponsored in 1974 in conjunction with the U.N.'s World Population Conference.

Joining AAAS in sponsoring the Nairobi seminar are the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Association Francaise pour L'Avancement des Sciences, East African Academy, Indian Science Congress, and Interciencia Association.

The seminar will bring together scientists and administrators from a wide range of disciplines, including soil science, climatology, plant ecology, agricultural economics, sociology, range management, anthropology, wildlife management, nutrition, and agronomy.

Winner of Amateur Scientist Contest

The winner of the AAAS Amateur Scientist Contest held at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Denver (20–25 February 1977) was Chris Gilmore of Greeley, Colorado. Gilmore, a Greeley high school senior, built his prize-winning "Home-Made Atom Smasher" as a special project at Aims College in Greeley and exhibited it at the *SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL* exhibition of scientific books and instruments held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The prize, awarded by the AAAS executive officer William D. Carey, consisted of a cash award of $75 plus a student membership in AAAS. This is the second year in which this prize has been awarded.

These experts will come from Africa, southwest Asia, and Central and South America.

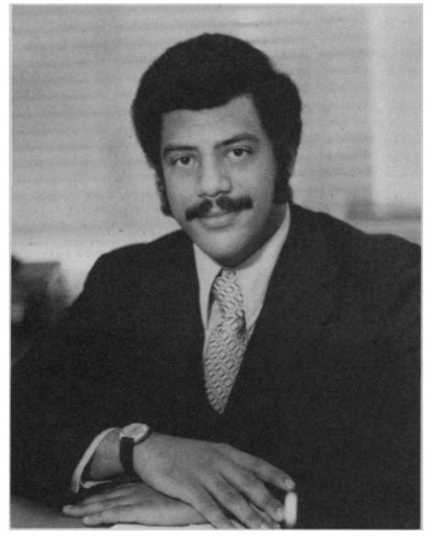
A priority of the seminar participants will be to reach a consensus on a small set of critical indicators of the processes of desertification which will be applicable to antidesertification programs. During the 5-day seminar in Nairobi, the conferees will consider the best, simplest, and most efficient means of using available data and of acquiring essential new data in order to monitor the processes of desertification.

Because desertification is a worldwide phenomenon, three places are to be selected where field adaptations of the set of indicators are likely to be most useful both to local populations and regional administrators, as well as to the international scientific community. The field adaptations will be undertaken by three working groups of experts selected from the seminar participants, who will present a report to the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in February 1978.

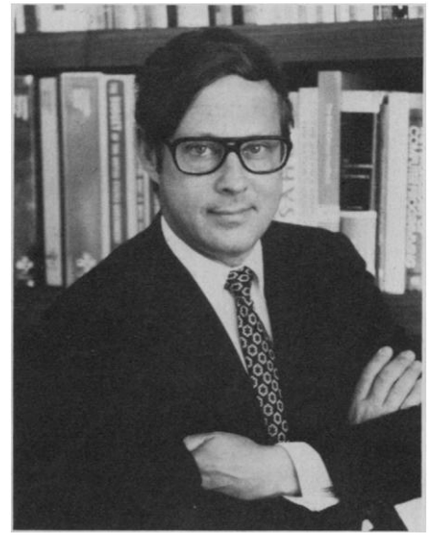
Resource materials for the seminar are being prepared by the cosponsoring science associations and consist of three types: (i) a preliminary draft of indicators of desertification, (ii) an overview and background papers prepared by members of the AAAS Advisory Committee on Desertification, and (iii) critiques of the "U.N. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification."

Since the seminar is designed to be of use to policy makers and citizens alike, results from the sessions will be widely disseminated. In-depth briefings will be held for delegates to the U.N. Conference, which follows the seminar, as well as for other interested observers, including members of nongovernmental organizations. Some seminar participants will be national delegates, thus providing an additional means of ensuring that the views of the international scientific community are considered during the U.N. deliberations. Also, information will be made available through international media outlets to countries especially affected by desertification. For further information contact Priscilla Reining, Office of International Science, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

AAAS People



Bernard Robert Gifford, deputy chancellor and chief business affairs officer of the New York City Public School System, was appointed to the AAAS Board of Directors during its April 1977 meeting. He was selected by the Board to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Kenneth B. Clark of Clark, Phipps, Clark & Harris of New York. Prior to joining the New York City school system in 1973, Gifford was president of the New York City–Rand Institute for 2 years. As a biophysics doctoral student at the University of Rochester, Gifford was actively involved in the community organization known as FIGHT, which was successful in establishing one of the largest community-owned manufacturing enterprises in the country. He has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council's Commission on Sociotechnical Systems, the New York Urban Coalition, the New York Regional Panel of the President's Commission on White House Fellows, and a number of other scientific, academic, and public service boards, commissions, and committees. Between 1973 and 1975, he served on the AAAS Committee on Environmental Alterations.



Edward E. David, Jr., AAAS president-elect, has been named president of EXXON Research and Engineering Co., Inc., in Florham Park, New Jersey. David, a former Presidential science adviser, was a private consultant to government, industry, and academia before assuming the EXXON post.

Ruth M. Davis, AAAS Board member and formerly director of the Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology of the National Bureau of Standards, was sworn in on 6 July as deputy director (Research and Advanced Technology), Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, U.S. Department of Defense.