

## Social Issues Are Themes for Seminars

Unemployment among black teenagers, the need for scientific and technical training for these young people, and the issues affecting the nation's children were the subjects of three recent AAAS Congressional Seminars.

"Black Youth Unemployment" featured economists Bernard E. Anderson, director, Social Science Division, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Robert Taggart, III, director, Youth Knowledge Development Project, National Council on Employment Policy.

The 52.6 percent unemployment rate for black teenagers (Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 1982) shows that unemployment among black youth is growing at a disproportionate rate. Among the reasons for this rise are the increasing number of black teenagers and the location of a larger percentage of the black population in areas of the country where jobs are scarce.

Government intervention, in the form of job-training programs, however, seems unlikely. Yet, both speakers pointed to the large body of evidence indicating that job-training programs have been successful. Graduates of these programs are less likely to commit crime and more likely to earn higher salaries than their peers with no training.

Anderson and Taggart urged members of Congress to use the knowledge accumulated from past job-training programs and to establish stronger programs. They also called on legislators to address the question of changing the labor market itself so that young people who complete a job-training program are not headed for a dead-end job.

Cosponsors for the 15 July luncheon, along with the AAAS, were the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities of the House Committee on Education and Labor, the Congressional Science and Technology Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Consortium of Social Science Associations.

### Children's Issues

A second seminar focused on issues concerning children. The speakers were Mary Jo Bane, Kennedy School of Gov-

ernment, Harvard University; Donald J. Hernandez, Center for Population Research, Georgetown University; and Nicholas Zill, Foundation for Child Development.

In spite of a falling birthrate and smaller families, there is a higher percentage of children living in poverty now than in 1970. With no voice in national affairs, many programs of critical importance to children are being drastically cut back. In addition to welfare programs, day-care facilities, school lunch programs, and scholarship funds, data gathering about children is also slowing down. Seminar speakers told the audience that these long-term studies are essential for federal, state, and local planning on issues such as health, education, welfare, reading skill levels, adolescent pregnancies, and drug use.

Cosponsors of the seminar, "Our Nation's Children: The Invisible Constituency," along with the AAAS, were Senator David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.) and the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs; Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.); and Representative Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

### Role of Education

Education and training of black students were discussed at the third seminar. It placed special emphasis on the important role science and mathematics education play in employability. As the science and technology job market expands and other fields, too, become more reliant on sophisticated technologies, this training becomes increasingly vital.

Speakers noted that while many science education programs are below par, black students often not only suffer from poor classroom science but also do not receive the career counseling necessary to prepare them for the job market.

Representative Mervyn M. Dymally (D-Calif.) called for closer ties between black colleges and industry and labor,

especially in light of reduced federal funding for scholarships. Other featured speakers and panelists were Vincent Reed, vice president, The Washington Post; F. James Rutherford, AAAS chief education officer; David Swinton, director, Southern Center for the Study of Public Policy, Clark College; and Hilda Mason, member, City Council of the District of Columbia.

Cosponsors of the "Black Youth Employment, Education, and Training Conference," along with the AAAS, were the American Council on Education; the Congressional Black Caucus; the Congressional Science and Technology Caucus; the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Washington Bureau; the National Council of Negro Women; the National Urban Coalition; the United Negro College Fund; and the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Employment Opportunity, Committee on Education and Labor.

Summary reports of the three seminars are available from the Office of Opportunities in Science ("Black Youth Employment" and "Black Youth Employment, Education, and Training Conference") and Office of Public Sector Programs ("Our Nation's Children: The Invisible Constituency") at the AAAS address.

JOAN WRATHER  
*Office of Communications*

## AAAS Summer Fellows

During the summer months, two groups of AAAS Fellows worked in two different worlds. Six Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows spent 10 weeks at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), while 17 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows were located at newspaper, magazine, and television and radio sites around the country.

The Environmental Fellowship program was started in 1980 with funding from the EPA's Office of Strategic Assessment and Special Studies. Its purpose is to identify and assess long-range problems and to improve the Agency's

communication with the scientific community.

Fellows, who are postdoctoral to mid-career scientists, choose a particular project on which to work. This summer, Fellows worked on problems involving acid rain, toxic wastes, processed shale waste disposal, and pollution of aquatic ecosystems.

Each Fellow prepared a final written assessment for the EPA. Their reports on how acid precipitation is formed, the effects of those acids on aquatic systems, land reclamation after mineral extraction, water quality, toxic wastes, and effects of low-level pollution, are available from the Office of Public Sector Programs at the AAAS address.

The Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows put their science backgrounds to work as writers, researchers, production assistants, and on-air reporters. Fellows, who are advanced science and engineering students, worked on a wide range of stories and reports, including black youth unemployment in the Twin Cities, the use of computers in architecture, the deaf community in Virginia, philosophy and medical ethics, and hay fever in Oregon.

The purpose of the program, which was begun in 1974, is to increase the public's understanding of science. It is sponsored by the AAAS, the National Science Foundation, and grants from private corporations.

## NSF Chautauqua Courses for 1982-1983

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will fund a program of 49 Chautauqua Short Courses for College Teachers for the 1982-1983 academic year. Most courses will be offered in single 3-day sessions under the auspices of 12 regional field centers.

New this year will be eight courses at selected research laboratories and observatories and five courses at the annual meetings of the AAAS, its Pacific and Southwestern and Rocky Mountain divisions, and two affiliated societies.

Course topics cut across the sciences and are designed to help keep undergraduate faculty up-to-date in their teaching. Courses will begin in October 1982 and extend through June 1983.

Further information, including schedules and application forms, is available from the Office of Science and Technology Education, Box 82/82, at the AAAS address.

## Nomination of AAAS Fellows Invited

The AAAS Executive Office invites groups of three Fellows to nominate AAAS members for fellowship, provided that in each instance at least one of the three sponsors is not affiliated with the institution of the nominee. In order to be considered for election in 1984, nominations must be submitted no later than 1 February 1983. Nomination forms should be requested from the Executive Office at the AAAS address.

## Major Scientific Meetings

The following is a listing of major meetings of the AAAS, some of its affiliated scientific societies, and other key scientific organizations. The list is updated quarterly. Affiliated societies are invited to send announcements of their major national and international meetings to the Office of Communications at the AAAS address.

### October

- 1-2. Nature Conservancy, Washington, D.C.
- 10-15. American Physiological Society, San Diego
- 14-17. Society for the History of Technology, Philadelphia
- 17-21. Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Dallas
- 18-21. Instrument Society of America, Philadelphia
- 18-21. Geological Society of America, American Geological Institute, and Geochemical Society, New Orleans
- 18-22. American Dietetic Association, San Antonio
- 20-21. Institute of Medicine, Washington, D.C.
- 22-25. Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, Dallas
- 23-28. American Society for Metals, St. Louis
- 24-27. American Astronautical Society, Houston
- 24-28. American Association of Cereal Chemists, San Antonio
- 25-29. American Society of Civil Engineers, New Orleans
- 25-29. Human Factors Society, Seattle
- 26-30. American Medical Writers Association, Los Angeles
- 27-30. History of Science Society, Philadelphia
- 28-31. Society for Social Studies of Science, Philadelphia

### November

- 1-4. Boston Laser Conference, Boston
- 3-4. National Academy of Engineering, Washington, D.C.
- 4-7. Speech Communication Association, Louisville
- 6-11. American Dental Association, Las Vegas

- 8-12. Acoustical Society of America, Orlando
- 14-18. American Nuclear Society, Santa Barbara
- 14-18. American Public Health Association, Montreal
- 14-18. National Fuel Cell Seminar, Newport Beach, California
- 14-19. American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Phoenix
- 16-22. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, New Orleans
- 18-21. American Speech, Language, Hearing Association, Toronto
- 28-3 Dec. American Society of Agronomy, Anaheim, California
- 29-2 Dec. Globecom '82, Miami

### December

- 4-7. American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 6-10. CHEMRAWN II, Manila, Philippines
- 6-10. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco
- 28-30. American Economic Association, New York
- 28-30. Linguistic Society of America, San Diego

### January 1983

- 5-9. American Mathematical Society, Denver
- 9-15. National Society of Professional Engineers, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 24-27. American Physical Society, New York

### February

- 13-16. Biophysical Society, San Diego
- 14-15. Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Melbourne
- 28-2 March. National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, Arlington, Virginia

### March

- 6-12. American Society of Microbiology, New Orleans
- 13-18. American Society of Photogrammetry, Washington, D.C.
- 17-20. American Association for Dental Research, Cincinnati
- 18-20. National Wildlife Federation, Albuquerque
- 20-24. American College of Cardiology, New Orleans
- 20-25. American Chemical Society, Seattle
- 23-24. AAAS Colloquium on R & D and Public Policy, Washington, D.C.

### April

- 4-8. VIth European Cell Cycle Workshop, Prague, Czechoslovakia
- 7-10. National Science Teachers Association, Dallas
- 15-17. Pi Gamma Mu, Birmingham, Alabama
- 17-18. Sigma Pi Sigma, Baltimore

**For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.**