

Environmental and Media Fellows at Work

Summer fellowships, long a Washington mainstay, are now also aimed at scientists and engineers. AAAS summer fellowships in science communication and environmental science provide interesting alternatives for the summer months.

Six Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows are spending 10 weeks at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), while 15 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows are working at newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations across the country. Both groups spent a few days in Washington in mid-June for orientation programs.

The Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows are postdoctoral to mid-career scientists. Each is working in a particular area of concern at EPA and each will prepare a written assessment for the Agency at the end of the summer. Fellows are focusing on such issues as ocean dumping, biological pesticides, dermal and pulmonary absorption of toxins, and ground water and hazardous wastes.

1983 Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows are William J. Mitsch,

Systems Science Institute, University of Louisville; Thomas Pierce, Department of Chemistry, University of North Alabama; Jane F. Rissler, Department of Botany, University of Maryland; Rafael Rob, Department of Economics, Brown University; Patrick J. Sullivan, Department of Natural Resources, Ball State University; and Ann H. Williams, Department of Zoology, Auburn University.

During their orientation program, Fellows met with key program people at the Council for Environmental Quality, Office of Management and Budget, Congress, Congressional Research Service, National Academy of Sciences, National Science Foundation, Office of Technology Assessment, and EPA.

The Environmental Fellowships 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 and engineering communities.

Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows are advanced science and engineering students who are putting their

science backgrounds to use as they serve as writers, researchers, production assistants, and on-air reporters for the summer.

Fellows are located at 15 different media sites including *Newsweek*, the *Detroit Free Press*, WDVM-TV (Washington, D.C.), the San Jose *Mercury News*, the Richmond (Virginia) *Times Dispatch*, KUNC-FM (Greeley, Colorado), California Public Radio, and *Business Week*. With only a short time on the job, Fellows report that they have been working on such stories as "a local scientist who wants to recreate woolly mammoths by injecting frozen woolly mammoth sperm into elephants"; crowd psychology; cultural and language barriers faced by Southeast Asian immigrants when first encountering the U.S. health care system; Detroit's version of the car of the year 2000; and a science project, designed by a local high school student, to be carried out aboard the next NASA shuttle.

Fellows took crash courses in print or broadcast reporting during their orientation in Washington, 13 to 15 June. The Fellows also participated in a "sources" session with association, government, and university public information people.

The Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program, which began in 1975, was designed to increase the public's understanding of science. It is sponsored by the AAAS, the National Science Foundation, and grants from private corporations.



(Left) Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows, left to right, John Reuss (EPA), Marvin Rogul (EPA), Patricia Curlin (AAAS), Ann Williams, William Mitsch, Jane Rissler, and Patrick Sullivan. Absent from photo: Raphael Rob and Thomas Pierce. (Right) Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows, bottom (left to right), Paula Mergenhagen, Kyle Fairchild, Jill Weinberg (AAAS), Sara Watson, Susan Jacobson, William Goodman; middle, Peter Alpert, Lisa Bain, Nancy Richardson, Charles Sawyers, Ronald Kahn; top, Marilyn Teeter, Susan Bereiter, Neal Baer, Megan White. Absent from photo: Laura Wiener.