

Economic Conditions Hit Scientists and Engineers

Somewhat belatedly, the recession affected scientists and engineers in 1983, with job offers down sharply to new graduates and salary increases for both inexperienced and experienced personnel small or nonexistent. These are among the findings in the new report by the Scientific Manpower Commission, *Salaries of Scientists, Engineers, and Technicians*. Some of the trends outlined in the report include:

- The volume of offers to new graduates at the bachelor's level was down 34.5 percent from 1982, with engineering graduates hit particularly hard.

- Computer science graduates led both job offers and salaries in the science fields.

- While there is no significant difference in starting salary offers to male and female engineers, in all other fields except economics, women continued to receive lower starting salary offers.

- The income advantages of an advanced degree are increasing faster than inflation, although the rate of increase has slowed.

- Teaching, the dominant work activity of doctoral scientists and engineers, continues to provide the lowest annual salary—a median of \$30,100—\$13,100 below that of doctoral scientists and engineers working in the management or administration of R&D.

- Regardless of discipline, those graduates beginning their professional careers in industry reported higher starting salaries than did those working in any other employment setting.

- The rapid rise of salaries in the data processing field also shows signs of abating, increasing only about 5 percent from 1982 to 1983.

- Among scientists and engineers working in research and development, aeronautical engineers topped the salary averages at both the bachelor's and master's level, while electrical engineers reported the highest salary at the doctoral level. Agricultural and biological scientists continued to be the lowest paid at all three degree levels.

This new report makes possible a close comparison of salaries in every field of science and engineering (as well as some comparative information in other fields) for professionals employed at various experience levels in business, the federal government, universities, and other employment sectors.

The report utilizes 209 tables of salary data from more than 50 surveys to provide a broad range of information includ-

ing 1983 starting salaries by degree level and discipline; salaries by field, years of professional experience, and type of employer; and differentials by sex, type of job, and geographic area.

Salaries of Scientists, Engineers, and Technicians—A Summary of Salary Surveys by Eleanor L. Babco is available for \$30 prepaid from the Scientific Manpower Commission, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Arctic Division Meets

The highlight of annual activities for the Arctic Division is the Alaska Science Conference. This year was no exception. The 34th annual conference took place in Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory, Canada, and was organized and chaired by Arthur Pearson, president of the Division for 1982–83.

In keeping with the desire of the Arctic Division (which comprises members residing in Alaska, the Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territories of Canada) for closer ties in science within this region, the theme of this year's meeting was "Alaska/Canada North—Neighbors in Science."

A large number of people (some 450) registered for the conference, with approximately one-third coming from Alaska, the rest mostly from Canada. Among the distinguished speakers at the opening session were Osmond M. Solandt from the Northwest Territories Science Advisory Committee; Walter Schytt from the University of Stockholm; Art Collin from Canada's Energy, Mines, and Resources; and Eugene Brower, mayor of the North Slope Borough which has headquarters at Barrow, Alaska.

More than 200 papers were presented with topics ranging from pure mathematics to resource management, energy conservation, river basin studies, and telecommunications in the North.

One feature of the conference was an arrangement with the local schools to allow selected high school students to

attend the sessions and several scientists attending the conference to lecture at the local schools. We hope to involve students even more actively at the 35th Alaska Science Conference, scheduled to be held in the summer of 1984 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Prior to the conference, elections of executive committee members for 1983–84 took place by mail. Officers for 1983–84 are: president—John Davies, Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys; president-elect—Robert White, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska; and executive secretary—Gunter Weller, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska.

GUNTER WELLER

Executive Secretary, Arctic Division

Grants to Self-Sponsored Foreign Graduate Students for R&D Colloquium

AAAS expects a limited number of grants of up to \$250 to be available to assist self-sponsored foreign graduate students currently studying in the United States to attend the 9th annual Colloquium on R&D and Public Policy in Washington, D.C., 29 and 30 March 1984. Registration for successful applicants will be paid by AAAS.

Applicants should submit: (i) curriculum vitae, including telephone number; (ii) a budget (round trip to Washington and estimated living expenses); and (iii) a short statement (250 to 300 words) describing the focus of current research, career plans, how training is expected to be applied on return to home country, and interest in attending the R&D Colloquium. Send applications to Denise Weiner, Office of International Science, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Deadline for receipt of material is 1 February 1984.

1983 General Election Results

The successful candidates in the 1983 general election are listed below. Terms begin on 30 May 1984.

President-Elect: Gerard Piel

Members of the Board of Directors: John Brooks Slaughter and Linda S. Wilson

Members of the Committee on Nominations: Eloise E. Clark, Jessica Tuchman Mathews, Robert W. Parry, and Mildred T. Stahlman

Results of the 1983 electorate elections will be announced in the 6 January 1984 issue of *Science*.