AAASNEWS

Professional Society Ethics Group Exchanges Experience

In late October the office of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility sponsored the third meeting of the Professional Society Ethics Group. The group, comprised of 26 AAAS-affiliated societies, meets twice a year to discuss programs initiated by professional groups in response to contemporary issues involving ethics, science, and technology. At the October meeting, representatives from the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the American Psychological Association (APA) described the activities of their associations.

John Ball, associate executive vice president for health and public policy, ACP, discussed the new *ACP Ethics Manual*. The *Ethics Manual* was written by an ad hoc committee of the ACP to address major ethical issues confronting a physician in daily practice. Ball noted that although the *Manual* was not created to serve as a statement of legal principle or medical ethics policy, it is intended to guide physicians in making ethical decisions. The *Manual* touches upon such issues as the relationship between the physician and patient with regard to disclosure, informed consent, and conflict of interest; the physician's relationship with colleagues with regard to advertising and sharing patient files; and the obligation of the physician to society, other health professionals, the government, and news media. Through the *Manual*, ACP hopes to stimulate further discussion on medical ethics among physicians, other health care professionals, and the general public. Recently the ACP has formed a new ethics committee to continue its study of ethical principles in medicine.

David Mills, administrative officer for ethics, APA, described the investigative and adjudication procedures used by the APA for ethics complaints. He explained that APA first developed an ethics code in 1953, and that the code has been revised seven times since then (most recently in 1981) to incorporate experiences from the review of ethics cases. Within the code are ten principles designed to cover ethics issues such as moral and legal standards for psychologists, public statements, confidentiality, research with human participants, and care and use of animals. The APA Ethics Committee handles complaints against members, with support from the APA ethics staff. They meet three times a year for case deliberation and adjudication. Every active ethics case is assigned to a Committee member who monitors and directs the investigation between formal meetings.

To protect members from capricious accusations of wrong doing, all inquiries must be written and signed. If a complaint is judged to involve possible violations of the society's ethical principles, a copy is sent to the accused member, who is asked by the Committee to respond within 30 days. The Committee member assigned to monitor the case and the APA Ethics Officer then review the case material.

If the case warrants further procedure, it is placed on the Committee agenda and each member receives a confidential copy of all material. The Committee may dismiss a case without sanction or it may exercise a reprimand or censure. Although the Committee has broad powers and can recommend that a member be dropped, only the APA Board of Directors can actually expel or drop a person from membership and notify the 60,000 APA members of this action. The Board also decides if a state licensure board should be notified of the violation.

The AAAS Professional Society Ethics Group will meet again in early March. All affiliated scientific and engineering societies are invited to participate in the Group. Further information may be obtained by writing Sally Painter, CSFR, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

SALLY PAINTER
Office of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

Arctic Division Holds 1984 Meeting—35th Alaska Science Conference

As in previous years, the highlight of the Division activities during 1983/84 was the annual science conference. Reflecting the new name of the Division, the conference for the first time was called the Arctic Science Conference. The meeting took place 2 to 5 October in Anchorage and was chaired by John Davies, the Division's 1983/84 president. The theme for the Conference was "Science and Public Policy." Some 350 people attended the Conference, a few less than in recent years.

The largest of the symposia was "Meteorology and Oceanography of the North American High Latitudes," organized jointly with the American Meteorological Society. Other well-attended symposia were those on "Science and Public Policy," "Science Education," "Credibility and Acceptance of Sciences in the North," and "Arctic Air Pollution," the latter funded by the Alaska state legislature and attended by villagers from remote areas. Some 150 papers were presented during the Conference.

Several Alaska state legislators attended the conference and two were given awards by president John Davies in recognition of support given to science-related bills in the state legislature.

The next Division conference will be in September 1985 in Fairbanks; Robert White, the new Division president will chair the conference. In 1986 the Division plans to hold its meeting in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

GUNTER WELLER
Executive Secretary, Arctic Division

Pacific Division to Meet in Missoula

The annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the AAAS will be held this year at the University of Montana, Missoula.

Symposia are scheduled on a variety of topics, including organismic speciation, dinosaur origins, modeling natural

resources, biomonitors and bioassays, origins of Rocky Mountain flora, environmental risk, history of paleontology, biology for the nonmajor, bioethics, and Native Americans in science. The Division plans field trips to Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake, a bison range, and a paleontological site.

Contributed papers are welcome in the diverse sciences represented in the Division (biology, geography, geology, psychology, sociology, economics, science education, oceanography, and history and philosophy of science); other papers can be presented in the Division's general section. Affiliated societies meeting with the Division also accept contributed papers—the Pacific Coast Entomological Society and the western branches of the American Meteorological Society, American Society for Horticultural Sciences, American Society of Plant Physiologists, Botanical Society of America, Ecological Society of America, and Society of American Foresters. Prizes will be awarded for the best papers by graduate students.

AAAS members living in the area covered by the Division—California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, Alberta, British Columbia, and western Montana—will receive a copy of the *Newsletter* with the call for papers, housing information, and registration forms. Others interested in giving a paper or attending should write Alan Leviton, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 94118 or call 415-752-1554. Abstracts of papers are due 31 March 1985.

AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize

Submission of entries in the 1985 competition for the AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize is invited. Established in 1952 with funds donated by Arthur F. Bentley, the $1000 prize is awarded annually for a meritorious paper that furthers understanding of human psychological-social-cultural behavior. The prize is intended to encourage in social inquiry the development and application of the kind of dependable methodology that has proved so fruitful in the natural sciences.

Entries should present a completed analysis of a problem, the relevant data, and the interpretation of the data in terms of the postulates with which the study began. Purely empirical studies, no matter how important, and purely theoretical formulations, no matter how thoughtful, are not eligible.

The winning entry will be selected by a committee of judges appointed by the Executive Officer in consultation with officers of the AAAS Sections on Anthropology (H), Psychology (J), and Social, Economic, and Political Sciences (K). The prize will be presented at the 1986 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, 25 to 30 May.

Unpublished manuscripts and manuscripts published after 1 January 1984 are eligible. The deadline for receipt of entries is 13 September 1985. For entry blank and instructions, write to the AAAS Executive Office, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Grants to Self-Sponsored Foreign Graduate Students to Attend AAAS Annual Meeting

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 AAAS Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, 26 to 31 May. Registration for successful applicants will be paid by AAAS.

Applicants should submit: (i) curriculum vitae, including telephone number; (ii) budget (roundtrip to Los Angeles and estimated living expenses); and (iii) a short statement (250 to 300 words) describing the focus of current research, career plans, and how training is expected to be applied on return to home country, and interest in attending the Annual Meeting. Material should be sent to Denise Weiner, Office of International Science, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Deadline for receipt of applications is 12 April 1985.

Chartbook Shows Employment Trends in Science and Engineering

"Opportunities in Science and Engineering," a chartbook prepared by the Scientific Manpower Commission, describes where the jobs in science and engineering exist and what changes are likely to occur in the job market.

Some of the findings indicate that:

- A significant excess of graduates over position openings is expected in most of the social, behavioral, and life sciences. Supply and demand are expected to be in approximate balance in the physical sciences. However, there are not expected to be enough graduates to fill job openings for systems analysts and other highly trained computer specialists, aeronautical engineers, and industrial engineers. The present shortage of electronic engineers is projected to end by 1987.
- Job offers to new graduates at all degree levels are disproportionately weighted toward engineering, computer sciences, and physical sciences, relative to the proportion of all degree recipients who major in these fields.
- Although women increased their proportion of science and engineering degrees from 7 percent in 1965 to 26 percent in 1983, employment and advancement opportunities in science are not yet as good for women as for men. Women still have higher unemployment rates and lower salary levels than men. However, opportunities for women appear to be considerably better in science (and particularly engineering) than for women in most other career fields.
- Despite a 26 percent decline in the number of 18-year-olds between 1979 and 1992, which will result in fewer college graduates over the coming decade, the total number of graduates is expected to exceed the number of jobs requiring a college education between now and 1995. Thus, one of every five graduates will not find a job requiring or previously filled by a college graduate. However, the imbalances will not be spread evenly across all fields, so that both surpluses and shortages are expected to occur within the sciences and engineering.

"Opportunities in Science and Engineering" includes information on the present supply of men and women scientists and engineers, detailing such characteristics as their educational preparation, their labor force participation and employment opportunities, and their starting and advanced salary levels.

Each page of text is accompanied by a full-page chart illustrating some of the statistical information included; an appendix includes all the data tables from which the charts are derived and a bibliography of data sources.

"Opportunities in Science and Engineering—A Chartbook Presentation," by Betty M. Vetter (Second Edition, November 1984, 96 pages), is available for $15 from the Scientific Manpower Commission, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.