

The Professional Society Ethics Group, an activity of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, was formed in 1979 to provide a forum in which representatives of professional societies can discuss ethical concerns. Although many societies ei-

ther have a code of ethics or are in the process of drafting one, the rationale behind the codes varies widely. A society may develop a code based on the highest ideal to which a professional can aspire, such as "... to discourage enterprises or practices inimical to the public interest or welfare ..." (The Chemist's Creed, American Chemical Society). On the other hand it might develop a code that provides minimum standards for professional behavior, and clearly lays out procedures for correcting wrongdoing.

The Group will meet again in the Fall. All AAAS-affiliated scientific and engineering societies are invited to designate a representative to participate in the Professional Society Ethics Group. For further information write Sally Painter, CSFR, at the AAAS address.

SALLY PAINTER

*Committee on Scientific
Freedom and Responsibility*

Summer Fellows Work on Environmental Issues and with Mass Media

The AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering and the Association's Environmental Fellows Programs again placed scientists and engineers at media sites around the country and in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Since 1975, with support from the National Science Foundation and a number of corporations and foundations, AAAS has administered the Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program as a part of its public understanding of science activities.

The 10-week summer program places 15 to 20 advanced students in science and engineering, primarily at the graduate level, with various print and broadcast sites across the country. Through this experience in science communication, the Fellows strengthen their skills in translating complex technical subjects to nonspecialists while acquiring an understanding of editorial decision-making and the ways in which news is disseminated effectively. A parallel goal of the program is to strengthen the relationship between scientists and engineers and the media.

Karen Wright, one of 17 1985 Mass Media Fellows, came to the program with a background in molecular biology at Bucknell University. Her experience at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* dem-

onstrates the value of being able to communicate—scientist to scientist—with interview subjects.

"As soon as they (scientists) learn about my background, they open up like steamed clams—they get excited about what they're telling me, they fill in small but fascinating details that make a story

more readable, and they offer more background and insight into their motives and goals," observes Wright.

"It certainly has convinced me that there's a niche waiting to be filled, and that the AAAS program has targeted a very important need—journalists who know what makes science tick, and who



1985 Environmental Fellows, left to right, first row; Appiah Amirtharajah, Johns Hopkins University; Margaret Carter, West Chester University; Jerzy Filar, Johns Hopkins University; Patricia Bradt, Lehigh University; second row: William McTernan, University of Wyoming; Marylynn Yates, University of Arizona; Lisa Nowell, University of California, Davis; Patricia Curlin, program manager, AAAS; Terry Shehata, Maine State Department of Human Services; and Deborah Ross, Procter and Gamble Company.



1985 Mass Media Fellows and their media sites are, left to right, kneeling: Ethan Canin, *Newsweek*, New York City; Judy Berlfein, KUNC-FM, Greeley, Colorado; Richard Strickland, WPLG-TV, Miami; Bruce Lewenstein, "Innovations," WNET-TV, Newark; standing: June Wiaz, program coordinator, AAAS; Hilda Colon, KPBS-FM, San Diego; Therese Lloyd, *U.S. News and World Report*, Washington, D.C.; Carl Winter, Richmond (Virginia) *Times Dispatch*; Nanette Sterman, Cable News Network, Atlanta; Stephen Redhead, Smithsonian World, Washington, D.C.; Karen Wright, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; Janet Weinrib, Charlotte (North Carolina) *Observer*; Carol Savonen, Portland *Oregonian*; Steve Mirsky, WSVN-TV, Miami; Ann Heise, *Milwaukee Journal*; Shara Lewis, WOSU-AM/FM, Columbus, Ohio; and Glenn Vogt, Chedd-Angier Production Company, Watertown, Massachusetts.