

Annual Meeting Returns to Philadelphia

NAPOLÉON III was elected president of the Republic of France; Mexico ceded claims to Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada; Marx and Engels published their *Communist Manifesto*; and the newly formed American Association for the Advancement of Science held its first national meeting—in Philadelphia—in 1848.

The 87 *men* (alas) who attended that first meeting in Philadelphia 138 years ago surely would be shocked to see the array of topics under discussion in Philadelphia this May. Participants in this, the 152nd national meeting, will explore science and technology from *Nautilus*, the only living fossil, to superstring theory to oncogenes and cancer. In addition, Meeting attendees will discuss such issues as science and apartheid and U.S. and Soviet missile defenses.

The AAAS will meet 25 to 30 May at the Franklin Plaza, Hershey Philadelphia, and Holiday Inn—Center City hotels.

In addition to the symposia, lectures, workshops, film festival, exhibit, and tours (see *Science*, 28 March 1986, pp. 1586–1607), of special interest are:

■ **Youth Activities**—The day-long “Youth Symposium” will take place Friday, 23 May, at the University of Pennsylvania. The program includes special lectures and demonstrations. High school juniors and seniors from public, parochial, and independent schools in Philadelphia will participate. Disabled students, in addition to attending the Youth Symposium, will have

lunch with disabled scientists and engineers. The young people will have an opportunity to discuss education and careers in science and engineering and to meet with scientist role models. The luncheon for disabled students and scientists will be on Wednesday, 28 May, at the Franklin Plaza.

■ **Communicating Science Workshops**—Two workshops for scientists and engineers will focus on how to communicate with the media and through them—the public. One workshop will feature television, the other print media. Participants will learn how to take part in a successful interview, how to enliven technical information with everyday words, how video cameras and recorders work, the value of brevity, and the role of lighting, clothes, and makeup. “Communicating Science to the Public: Strategies for Television” will be held at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, 25 May, in Salon 3&4, Franklin Plaza. “Communicating Science to the Public: Strategies for Print Media” will be held at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, 25 May, in Salon 5&6, Franklin Plaza. There is no fee for these workshops. For more information, contact Carol L. Rogers, Office of Communications, AAAS, 202-326-6440.

■ Immediately following Gerard Piel’s Presidential Lecture on Wednesday evening, 28 May, all Meeting attendees are invited to the AAAS Presidential Reception in the Wyndham Foyer at the Franklin Plaza.

■ **The Women in Science Luncheon** will be on Monday,

26 May, in Salon 3&4 at the Franklin Plaza, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Speakers will be Barbara Filner, president, Association for Women in Science, on “Equity in Science: Are We There Yet?,” and Monique Braude, president-elect, Graduate Women in Science, on “Drug Abuse in the 80’s.” Luncheon tickets will be available at the AAAS Ticket Desk, Wyndham Foyer, Franklin Plaza.

■ A cash bar reception, for constituents and friends of the Office of Opportunities in Science, will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 27 May, in the Horizons Room at the Franklin Plaza.

■ **A Speakers’ Ready Room** (Salon 7, Franklin Plaza) will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day of the Meeting. Speakers may use the Room to review their visual materials and familiarize themselves with the operation of projection equipment.

■ **Resource Center** (Conference Center Ballroom, Franklin Plaza). This year all AAAS Resource Rooms will be located adjacent to one another in this area. Resource facilities include:

AAAS Member Resource Room—Information on a range of projects from human rights to museum volunteers will be featured. A kit, containing information on each AAAS office, will be available to visitors. Visitors will be able to browse through the latest AAAS publications, view science education videotapes developed by the Association, listen to tapes of radio shows produced by the Association, and learn about the benefits of membership.

Perhaps most important, AAAS staff persons will be present to answer questions about the Association and help solve problems.

Resource Room for Disabled Registrants—AAAS staff and volunteers offer special resources for disabled people, including assistance in moving between hotels; transportation to and from airports and train and bus stations; interpreters for the

hearing impaired; emergency repairs for wheelchairs; and audio-taped highlights of the Meeting program for persons with visual impairments.

Resource Room for Minority Scientists—Information and printed materials related to the participation of racial and ethnic minorities in the sciences and in AAAS activities will be exchanged. Materials on education, employment, research, organizations, and individual scientists will be displayed.

JOAN WRATHER
Office of Communications

“Reporting the Shuttle Disaster”— Additional Annual Meeting Symposium

The tragic explosion of the space shuttle Challenger received more media attention than any single science-related event in recent years. Within 24 hours more than 90 percent of the American public had seen the same television footage of the disaster.

How well did the media cover the disaster? What was the public impact of the coverage? How has the continuing story been reported?

“Media Coverage of the Shuttle Disaster: A Critical Look” will feature former astronaut Scott Carpenter; senior NASA spokesperson Hugh Harris; journalists from television, radio, and print media; scientists; and others.

The session will take place at 2:30 p.m., Monday, 26 May, in the Rembrandt Peale Room at the Holiday Inn—Center City.

Winner of Trip to Annual Meeting Announced

Peter J. Pella, assistant professor of physics at Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, has won a free trip for two to the AAAS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia this May.

AAAS offered the trip as part of its annual member nomination campaign. More than 4000 members participated in the campaign. William D. Carey, executive officer, drew the winning entry at Association headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 13 March.

Pella has been a AAAS member for 2 years and is a member of the AAAS Resource Group of Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities. His research areas are in neutron-knockout reactions and spin-transfer measurements. This will be the first time Pella has attended the Association's Annual Meeting.

SB&F to Focus on Space Science in 1986-87

In its 1986-87 volume year, the AAAS review journal *Science Books & Films* (SB&F) will be concentrating on the critique of materials relating to space science and what we can learn through space about the earth as well as worlds beyond. The journal will be reviewing trade books and films for children, young adults, and general audiences.

To complement this theme, SB&F will publish a special section in the September-October 1986 issue evaluating most of the major physics textbooks used or destined to be used (1986 and 1987 copyrights) in the nation's high schools.

Many of the reviewers who volunteered for the physics texts

evaluation are AAAS members. Now, SB&F needs additional reviewers to critique books and films about astronomy, astrophysics, aeronautics, planetology, and political and social policy issues related to the exploration of space. If you are interested, please write Kathleen Johnston, editor, *Science Books & Films*, at the AAAS address, or call 202-326-6454.

Women's Participation in the Professional Work Force Levels Off—Minority Representation at Near Standstill

There is evidence of continued improvement in the participation of women in the professional labor force, but the rapid increases of the early 1970's have settled into a slow and unsteady rise. The evidence of true and steady increase in participation by blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians over the past few years appears to be almost totally lacking, according to a report released by the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (formerly Scientific Manpower Commission).

Professional Women and Minorities reports a major trend indicating a leveling off, and in some cases a dropping off, of participation by women. For example, as a proportion of first-year engineering students, women increased from 2 per-

cent in 1970 to 17 percent in 1983, or an average of 1.1 percentage points per year for 13 years. However, in fall 1984, the proportion of women in the freshman class dropped back to 16.5 percent.

The proportion of women among the bachelor's graduates in geology, earth sciences, mathematics, and the biological sciences shows the same phenomenon. However, in other fields, including computer sciences, medicine, business administration, and law, the proportion of women enrolled and graduating at every level continues to increase.

Minorities show mixed progress in technical fields. Among first-year engineering students, Hispanic students have increased from 2.9 percent in 1973 to 4.6 percent of the total in 1984. Asians have moved from 1.7 percent to 5.3 percent of the entering class in those same years, while blacks have moved up slightly from 4.8 percent to 5.9 percent of the class in 1984, down from the 6.1 percent peak in 1981.

Among bachelor's graduates in science, blacks have dropped slightly from 6.4 percent of the total in 1979 to 6.2 percent in 1984. Asians have increased from 2 percent to 2.8 percent; Native Americans have stayed steady at 0.4 percent; and Hispanics have risen from 3.3 percent to 4.5 percent of science bachelor's awards. Thus, little progress has been made in those 5 years.

Women have made more pro-

gress in moving up in the occupational labor force than have underrepresented minorities. For example, among all personnel and labor relations managers in 1980, 36 percent were women, 6.5 black, and 1.5 Hispanic. In 1985, 44.5 percent were women, 5.6 percent black, and 3.3 percent Hispanic. Women were 30 percent of economists in 1980 and 34.5 percent in 1985. Blacks, on the other hand, have dropped from 4.1 percent of the total to 3.4 percent.

These statistical parameters are among many available in the new sixth edition of *Professional Women and Minorities—a Manpower Data Resource Service*. The report provides a comprehensive statistical picture of yesterday's, today's, and tomorrow's professional work force in the United States in the natural and social sciences, engineering, arts, humanities, education, and all the professions. Data in all fields from more than 200 sources are detailed by sex and/or minority status. The volume includes annotated recruitment resources, both for specialized fields and for general recruitment of professional women and minorities.

Professional Women and Minorities—A Manpower Data Resource Service is available for \$75 from the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 831, Washington, DC 20005.

BETTY M. VETTER
ELEANOR L. BABCO
Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology

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