

## Association's Work In Argentina Featured in NOVA's Season Premier

**T**HE story of how scientists are aiding in the identification of human skeletal remains of Argentina's "desaparecidos" will open the NOVA television season on 14 October.

The "desaparecidos" or "disappeared" are the victims—probably numbering about 12,000—killed during military rule in Argentina between 1976 and 1983.

The Association's involvement with the identification process began in June 1984 when the AAAS sent a delegation of scientists to Argentina at the request of the Argentina National Commission on "Disappeared" Persons. The delegation observed the medical and scientific investigation of the human remains of the "disappeared" and made recommendations to the Commission.

In September 1984, the Commission recommended that the government begin a concerted effort to identify and determine the cause of death of the "disappeared." As a first step, the

Commission suggested that teams of scientists should be trained in the archeological techniques used to open graves and remove skeletal remains. The AAAS agreed to assist in the training. Twenty participants, ranging from practicing scientists to undergraduate stu-

dents in archeology and anthropology, attended the workshop held at the University of Buenos Aires Medical School.

The training was directed by Clyde C. Snow, a forensic anthropologist from Oklahoma, who led students in the excavation of ten graves. Joining Snow in the training were John J. Fitzpatrick, a radiologist from Cook County (Illinois) Hospital; Robert H. Kirschner, a pathologist and deputy medical examiner for Cook County; and Lowell Levine, a forensic odontologist from Nassau County, New York. Besides trying to establish identity, Snow and his team-mates instructed the students on how to determine the cause of death.

The NOVA program, "The Search for the Disappeared," will feature Snow, Eric Stover, staff officer for the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, and several Argentine scientists. Both Snow and Stover have been heavily involved with the Association's work in Argentina from the

beginning and they worked closely with NOVA writers and producers both before and during the filming of the program.

In addition to forensic science, "The Search for the Disappeared" documents the progress of geneticist Mary Clare King and physician Ana Maria Di Lonardo. King, also a member of the 1984 AAAS delegation to Argentina, and Di Lonardo, chief of immunology at the Hospital Durand in Buenos Aires, have used paternity testing methods to establish an "index of grandpaternity." Using blood samples from children and surviving grandparents, King and Di Lonardo are trying to confirm grandpaternity of children, about 120 of whom were born in detention. Many of these children are now living with families of the same military personnel responsible for the disappearance of their parents.

In a follow-on to the work done in Argentina, the AAAS recently received an indication of the worldwide scope of the application of forensic science in the documentation of human rights abuses. Philippine President Corazon Aquino's Committee on Human Rights has invited the team of forensic scientists to come to the Philippines to present a series of seminars on forensic techniques and procedures for identifying human skeletal remains. The trip is being planned for early December.

"The Search for the Disappeared" will air on NOVA, 14 October at 8:00 p.m. on PBS (check local listing).

JOAN WRATHER  
*Office of Communications*



*Clyde Snow (center) and Eric Stover (right) during seminar on forensic techniques at University of Buenos Aires Medical School. The role of science in identifying victims of Argentine military rule will be the subject of a NOVA television program this month.*

### AAAS Travelers

The Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science has invited AAAS to send a representative to their 12th Annual Science Conference. The conference will be held at the Jahangirnagar University Campus 25 miles outside Dhaka City. The

organizers will provide transportation between Dhaka and the conference.

AAAS members, who would be interested in participating on behalf of the Association and will be in the region at the time of the conference, should contact Sandra Burns, Office of International Science at the AAAS address no later than 1 November 1986. Please include a curriculum vitae. No travel funds are available; however, the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science will extend local hospitality.

## Ethics Society Group Meets This Month

The AAAS Professional Society Ethics Group, sponsored by the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, will convene its fall meeting on 14 October. The session will feature presentations by John O'Brien, NASA general counsel, and Milton Silveira, NASA's chief engineer.

O'Brien will discuss how NASA takes into account ethical considerations in its planning and decision-making. Silveira will provide an engineering perspective on professional responsibility concerns at NASA, including the ethical issues associated with the launch decision of the Challenger 51-L flight.

The meeting will be held at the AAAS from noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 October. AAAS affiliate organizations are invited to join the Professional Society Ethics Group. For more information contact Mark S. Frankel, Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, AAAS, or call 202-326-6793.

## AAAS' Malcom Receives Award

The Science Skills Center in New York recently honored Shirley M. Malcom, head of the AAAS Office of Opportunities

in Science (OOS). Malcom received an award at the Science Skills Center's "Minds in Motion" Tribute to African American Scientists.

The awards, presented annually, signal the Science Skills Center's efforts to "honor the



outstanding work of a group that receives very little publicity. The program recognizes a segment of the black community that is too often ignored as positive role models."

Malcom has headed the OOS since 1979. She is a member of the Advisory Council of the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy and, from 1984 to 1986, chaired the National Science Foundation Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Technology.

## Proposals and Resolutions Invited for 1987 Council Meeting

The AAAS Council will hold its next meeting on 18 February 1987 during the Association's Annual Meeting in Chicago. Organizations or individuals who wish to present proposals or resolutions for possible inclusion in the meeting agenda should send them in writing to the Executive Officer at the AAAS, for receipt *no later than 14 November 1986*, so that they may be considered by the Committee on Council Affairs at its winter meeting.

The Committee asks that the following guidelines be observed:

1) All proposals and resolutions should be consistent with the objectives of the Association and deal with matters appropriate for consideration by the council of a scientific organization.

2) Resolutions should be written in the traditional format, beginning with one or more "whereas" statement-of-fact clauses and concluding with a "therefore be it resolved" paragraph which presents a position that follows logically from the stated premises.

3) Proposals and resolutions that deal with technical matters must be accompanied by substantive supporting data and references.

4) Any proposal involving substantial expenditure of AAAS funds—such as a recommendation for the establishment of a study or investigative committee—should be presented in the form of a research proposal, with budget included, so that the financial implications of positive action are clearly stated.

5) All proposals and resolutions adopted by the Council at its forthcoming meeting will be published in the Proceedings Issue of *Science*. Proponents who wish the AAAS to undertake wider distribution are requested to submit with their proposals or resolutions the names and addresses of individuals, organizations, or publications to which they would like to have copies sent.

An open hearing will be held by the Committee on Council Affairs at 2:30 p.m. on 15 February in the Hyatt Regency Chicago to give interested persons an opportunity to speak for or against duly submitted resolutions or proposals.

At a meeting immediately following the hearing, the Committee will consider for possible inclusion in the Council agenda any late proposals or resolutions delivered to the Executive Officer in advance of the hearing, provided they deal with urgent matters and are accompanied by a written explanation of why submission was not made on or before 14 November.

The Committee also will review and take action on requests from persons who wish to address the Council on particular agenda items. Such requests must be delivered to the Executive Officer or to the Committee Chair, Sheila E. Widnall, in advance of the 15 February Committee meeting.

Summaries of the Council meeting agenda will be available at the AAAS Information Desk in the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The full agenda may be inspected, upon request, in the AAAS office in that hotel.

## D.C. Members—TV and Radio Reviewers Needed

Entries in the AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Awards Contest are due in November. All entries, covering science stories from acid rain to space exploration, must be screened for scientific accuracy before submission to the final judging round.

This Award, administered by the AAAS Office of Communications, honors outstanding reporting in the sciences and their engineering and technological applications, excluding medicine. By encouraging the highest quality science journalism, the Award plays an important part in advancing the Association's goal of improving the public understanding of science and technology. Because so many people rely on the broadcast media for much, or all, of their news, the scientific accuracy of these reports is especially critical.

We are asking AAAS members in the Washington, D.C., area to help us screen radio and television entries in the Awards Contest. If you would be willing to come to the Association's headquarters (1333 H Street, NW) to screen entries in your scientific discipline, please contact Joan Wrather, Office of Communications, at the AAAS address, or call 202-326-6440 by 31 October 1986.