

never be repaid. The Council members rose in standing tribute to Mr. Carey. Mr. Carey expressed his appreciation to the Council for steadfastly supporting him throughout his years of service.

### **Strengthening the Annual Meeting**

Arthur Herschman, head of Meetings and Publications, reported on the Annual Meeting in progress. He noted a 15 percent increase in paid attendance, an improved situation with the meeting self-contained in a single hotel, and the very successful "Frontiers of Neuroscience" seminar that had attracted over 300 participants despite a second required fee in addition to the Annual Meeting registration fee.

Chairman Lawrence Bogorad reviewed other facets of the meeting, particularly the well-received Fellows' Reception that had been initiated for about 200 Fellows in the Chicago area and their 100 guests. Because of its success, the regional Fellows' Reception will probably become a standard feature at successive annual meetings.

### **Establishment of New Section Y**

Authorized by the Council at its May 1986 meeting, Section Y (General Interest in Science and Engineering) has been established with a full complement of officers. Section X (formerly General) has redefined its purpose and terms of reference, as reflected in its revised name, "Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering." Representing Section Y, its chairman Dael Wolfe, former AAAS Executive Officer, was welcomed by the warm applause of the Council members. The Association now has 22 sections.

### **In Memory of Ms. Letitia Lestina**

Remembered and admired for the notable Christmas science lectures for young people that she initiated and sponsored for many years on behalf of Illinois Science Lecture Association, a participating organization of AAAS, Ms. Lestina died in August 1986. The Council joined in remembrance of her through the following memorial statement prepared by Eugene Parker of the Fermi Institute:

Ms. Lestina was an educator who felt that education can and should be a dynamic force in society. She believed that every young person has the potential to achieve excellence in one thing or another, but that young people cannot aspire to excel unless they have a glimpse of the best. So she founded the Illinois Science Lecture Association in 1971 to see what could be done to activate the potential of teenage students for excellence in science. Her strategy, through the ISLA, was to confront teenage students with the wonders of science and the challenge of science as seen by the current leaders in scientific progress.

The most appropriate memorial to Ms. Lestina is the vigorous continuation of her inspiration.

MARGE WHITE  
*Executive Office*

### **Cost Savings for Insured Members**

Once again members insured in the AAAS Group Term Life Insurance Plan are receiving a premium credit on their 1 April 1987 semiannual bills. The credit is equal to 50 percent of premium contributions paid while insured during the period 1 October 1985 to 30 September 1986. An additional credit of 11 percent is planned for the 1 October semiannual bills.

The granting of these credits is determined annually based on plan experience. This is the third successive year that credits have

become available, resulting in a lower net cost of insurance.

The AAAS plan provides up to \$240,000 of term life insurance coverage in \$15,000 units. It is underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company and is offered as a benefit of AAAS membership. Enrollment in the plan is subject to approval by New York Life.

Any AAAS member who wishes to enroll in the plan should write to the administrator, Smith-Sternau Organization, Inc., Suite 300, 1255 23rd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

MARLENE ZENDELL  
*Membership*

### **International Symposium on Climate and Food Security**

An international symposium on climate and food security was held 6 to 9 February 1987 in New Delhi, India. The meeting, which was organized by the AAAS Committee on Climate, the Indian National Science Academy, and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), brought together 65 climatologists and agronomists, experts in irrigation and water-use efficiency, agricultural economists, and development planners from 21 countries, to discuss how climatological information can be used to help reduce fluctuations in agricultural output.

Participants at the meeting examined research results and their applications, including ways of exploiting favorable agroclimatic patterns. Systematically applied, these techniques could help achieve more effective use of climatic information, and maintain crop production despite weather and climate fluctuations.

M. S. Swaminathan, director-

general of IRRI, addressed the symposium and stressed that although food stocks are currently in good supply in many areas, there is no cause for complacency. He noted that weather and climate remain the most significant variables in agricultural production. If we are to maintain reliable production in the face of ever-growing world food demand, we must develop and implement systems which provide farmers with practical and timely information.

Roger Revelle, chairman of the AAAS Committee on Climate, reviewed the kinds of impacts expected as a result of a greenhouse climate change. According to Revelle, these changes range in certainty from extremely likely to unknown, with subsequent effects on agriculture also ranging from potentially beneficial to disruptive.

Papers presented at the meeting covered such topics as food supply and demand; climatic variability and crop yields; the role of modeling; climatic vulnerability of major food crops such as rice, wheat, maize, oilseeds, and pulses; social and economic implications of variability in agricultural production including drought and famine; climatic variability on factors of production such as soils, stress, diseases and insects, and post-harvest losses; and strategies for coping with and/or adapting climatic variability as it affects food production.

Other papers discussed climate as a valuable, but underexploited resource. Development planners were urged to give more consideration to climatic factors in planning and managing agriculture at national, regional, and local levels.

Proceedings of the symposium will be published by IRRI in 1988. For additional information, contact David Burns, Staff Officer, AAAS Committee on Climate.

DAVID BURNS  
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