

## Project on Liberal Education and the Sciences Receives Funding

THE quality of education from kindergarten to graduate school has prompted many to consider the purpose and goals of undergraduate education. Several recent reports have called for a major restructuring of the education of prospective teachers that would include abolishing the undergraduate major in education and requiring a liberal arts degree for all teachers. What and how much science and technology should be included in a liberal arts education? A newly funded project, AAAS Project on Liberal Education and the Sciences, will attempt to outline the scientific and technological knowledge that should characterize the liberally educated person of the 21st century. In keeping with the goals of the Office of Science and Technology Education, a particular emphasis will be on the liberal education of teachers.

The Association is announcing that Carnegie Corporation of New York will fund the 2-year project. The project will be an activity of the Coalition for Education in the Sciences and will be directed by Audrey B. Champagne of the AAAS Office of Science and Technology Education. In addition, it will be coordinated with two other Carnegie-sponsored projects at AAAS: The National Forum for School Science and Project 2061: Education for a Changing Future.

To determine the science and technology that should be in-

cluded in liberal arts education, the new project will examine the role of a liberal education in a society in which the influence of science and technology is pervasive.

The project will give the scientific community an opportunity to review the scientific and technological competence required by all college graduates regardless of their vocational or professional aspirations. It will also explore creative ways in which this competence can be attained while maintaining strong undergraduate majors in the sciences.

The envisioned end product is a position statement that describes the facets of scientific and technological literacy that meet the demands of today's society. It also will propose designs for model programs to achieve that goal.

The work of the project will be done by a study group composed of nationally recognized working scientists and scholars. The position statement, produced by the study group and endorsed by participating scientific societies, will represent the perspective of the scientific community, informed by extensive interactions with academicians from other disciplines, educators, and representatives of the professions.

The Coalition for Education in the Sciences is an informal partnership made up of AAAS and other scientific and educational societies and organizations. Its purpose is to enhance

the role of professional societies in improving precollege science and mathematics education. The AAAS serves as secretariat for the Coalition.

Your views about the role of the sciences in the liberal arts, and information about exemplary programs that integrate liberal arts and science and technology education are encouraged. Please write the project director, Audrey B. Champagne, Office of Science and Technology Education at the AAAS address.

BARBARA G. WALTHALL  
*Office of Science and  
Technology Education*

### Reminder for Members

If you should receive a promotion mailing from the Association in the next few weeks, please accept our apologies.

Please keep in mind that the Membership Office does its best to screen current members from the mailing lists we use. However, if there is any variation in name or address, duplications will not be caught during the computer merge/purge.

If you should receive a mailing piece, please return it with a recent label from *Science*. Also, please include a listing of any names or spellings of your name by which you may be listed elsewhere. Send this information to: Gwen Huddle, Membership Office, Room 812, at the AAAS address. We will place your name on an additional suppression file so that you will not get future direct mail promotions.

This information is for internal use only. Thank you for your understanding.

### Pacific Division Meets in San Diego, 14–18 June

The deadline for preregistration at the annual Pacific Division meeting, which will be held

this year on the campus of San Diego State University, is 25 May.

The program includes symposia on biodiversity and extinction, lie detectors, utilizing desert plant resources, endangered California plant communities, international cooperation in developing shared resources, and modeling nutrient intake in physiological systems.

Special lectures will include those by James Randi on faith healing, as well as Jerold Lowenstein on hominid evolution and Robert Schmidt on the current state of AIDS research.

The national AAAS Office of Communications is sponsoring a 1-day workshop on communicating about science, with David Perlman of the *San Francisco Chronicle* as the featured luncheon speaker.

Sea World will host a reception for meeting attendees and the local chapter of the Association for Women in Science will hold a luncheon meeting, with a guest speaker, during the Pacific Division meeting.

### SB&F Focuses on Science in the Middle Grades

The May/June 1987 issue of *Science Books & Films (SB&F)* reports a round-table discussion held recently at AAAS on a range of serious problems in science instruction in the middle grades of American schools.

The participants, included science education, teaching, reading, and writing professionals, and their discussion, moderated by Audrey Champagne, of the AAAS Office of Science and Technology Education, focused on criticisms of middle school science texts and suggestions for specific changes, based in part on emerging cognitive theory. The group agreed that, in addition to the need for more careful presentation of fundamental science concepts, middle school science texts must explicitly "recognize common alternative ex-

planations of phenomena in the physical world and deliberately talk about why the scientific view is different from the ones that people commonly hold."

*SB&F*, the Association's review journal, previously has published comprehensive evaluations of high school science texts. Copies of single issues are \$6, plus \$1.50 for handling and postage. The annual subscription price is \$25 (\$28, starting in September) with a 10 percent discount for AAAS members. Write to *SB&F* at the AAAS address for further information.

In addition, several field trips are scheduled, including one to the Salton Sea and Anza Borrego desert.

Scientists and graduate students will summarize original research in technical sessions on ecology, botany, psychology, atmospheric science, earth science, science education, history and philosophy of science, general biology, and social science. Research findings will also be presented in sessions of the Division's affiliated societies, including the Western Society of Soil Science, Southern California Skeptics, Botanical Society of America Pacific Section, Conference on Mathematical Modeling in Experimental Nutrition, American Society for Horticultural Science Western Section, and American Meteorological Society Western Section.

Individuals may register for \$30 before 25 May (\$38 afterward) and students, teachers

(kindergarten through grade 12), and retired persons for \$18 (\$26 later). On-campus housing is available at reasonable rates.

For additional information write to Alan Leviton, Pacific Division AAAS, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118, or call 415-752-1554.

## Section Y Adopts Statement of Membership and Purpose

The newly established Section Y (General Interest in Science and Engineering) has adopted a statement describing its purposes and welcoming interested members. The text is a result of discussions that took place at the Section's first business meeting, held during the 1987 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The statement is as follows:

Section Y welcomes individuals and affiliated organizations that have a general or transdisciplinary interest in science, engineering, or the affairs of the Association as a whole. In particular, the Section undertakes to develop and sponsor activities dealing with (1) public understanding of, and support for, all aspects of science and engineering; and (2) the management of science and engineering programs.

Membership in the Section includes, but is not limited to, AAAS members from state and local academies, science and technology centers and museums, the print and broadcast media, and the general public;

members who are managers and administrators of science and engineering programs; and any other members interested in furthering the Section's purposes.

Dael Wolfle, former AAAS Executive Officer, is the current chairperson of the Section; the chairperson-elect is Ertle Thompson of the Virginia Academy of Science; and the secretary is Jim McCullough, director of the program evaluation staff, National Science Foundation, Room 425, 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20550. For more information on the Section Y statement, contact McCullough.

Members who wish to enroll in Section Y as their Electorate (voting Section) should write to the Member Records Office, Room 117, at the AAAS address.

In June 1986, all of the AAAS affiliates were invited to request enrollment in Section Y in readiness for the official establishment of the Section in February 1987. The requests of those affiliates that responded are being processed.

## Obituaries

*S. A. Asdell* of Frederick, Maryland, member of Section G since 1934, 21 February 1987.

*Hans G. Baerwald* of Albuquerque, New Mexico, member of Section B since 1948, 27 February 1987.

*Manfred Braun* of New York, New York, member of Section N since 1970, 28 February 1987.

*Clarence D. Davis* of San Diego, California, member of Section A since 1983, 26 January 1987.

*H. A. Dettwiler* of Greenfield, Indiana, member of Section N since 1941, 19 November 1986.

*James L. Forstner* of Aiken, South Carolina, member of Section A since 1954, 26 December 1986.

*Giampiero di Mayorca*, New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey, member of Section N since 1986, 25 November 1986.

*E. B. Hershberg* of West Orange, New Jersey, member of Section S since 1961, 22 January 1987.

*John F. Hill* of Neosho, Missouri, member since 1986, 10 February 1987.

*George E. Holbrook*, former vice president and member of the DuPont Company's board of directors, member of Section C since 1940, 26 February 1987.

*Tyr V. Johnson* of San Jose, California, member of Section K since 1964, 25 November 1986.

*Edward H. Kingsley* of Reston, Virginia, member of Section A since 1962, 8 January 1987.

*Howard J. Laster*, former dean of liberal arts and professor of physics and astronomy, University of Iowa, member since 1964, 31 December 1986.

*Eleanor Slifer* of Glenside, Pennsylvania, member of Section G since 1929, 1 November 1986.

*Laurence H. Snyder*, former president of AAAS (1957), member since 1934, 8 October 1986.

*John I. Yellott*, president, John Yellott Engineering Associates, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, member of Section M since 1944, 27 December 1986.

### Chairmen and Secretaries of AAAS Sections

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Lynn Arthur Steen

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Betty-ann Hoener

**INFORMATION, COMPUTING, AND COMMUNICATION (T)**  
Joyce Friedman  
Elliot R. Siegel

**STATISTICS (U)**  
Ramanathan Gnanadesikan  
Joan R. Rosenblatt

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Robert A. Duce  
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For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, unless otherwise indicated.