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Mary Gibson, Rutgers University

Gail M. Pesyna, E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc., Claremont, California

Section Y—General Interest in Science and Engineering

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Women in Science and Engineering: Changing Vision to Reality

The Office of Opportunities in Science (OOS) is sponsoring a national conference on barriers and solutions in science and engineering for women from the precollege to the professional level. The conference, "Women in Science and Engineering: Changing Vision to Reality," will be held 29 to 31 July 1987, at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. It will follow the Fourth International Invitational Conference on Girls and Science and Technology being held for the first time in the United States on 24 to 29 July.

Why a national conference on women in science and engineering? The increasing national need for personnel trained in the areas of science, engineering, and technology has been well documented. The 1985 report, "Demographic Trends and the Sci-

entific and Engineering Work Force," by the Office of Technology Assessment emphasized the need to understand and address the problems encountered by women and certain minority groups in entering science and engineering studies and careers in order to fill our future needs for scientific and engineering personnel.

The AAAS conference will focus on solutions as participants explore what is currently known about the factors related to women's interest and participation in science and engineering; what programs have been undertaken to address these factors; what opportunities exist to institutionalize what has been learned; and what policies have done and have the potential to do. At the precollege level, panelists will discuss the effects of the "classroom climate," curricular materials, and formal and informal intervention programs for students, teachers, and parents. Undergraduate sessions will examine recruitment, retention, sexual harassment, counseling, financial aid, and intervention programs. Panelists for the graduate and professional sessions will detail the current status of salaries, promotion and tenure, teaching and research, family/career issues, and funding of proposals. At all levels, issues related to minority and/or physically disabled women will be addressed.

During small group discussion sessions, participants will join facilitators and panelists in formulating recommendations for action by groups and individuals and in devising long-term strategies. These recommendations will focus on the translation of research into practice, policy into action, and special interventions into institutionalized practices. The recommendations and strategies generated at these sessions, along with the presentations of the major panelists, and an analysis of the conference and its potential outcomes will be included in conference proceedings which will be published by the AAAS.

Conference participants will include working scientists and engineers, educational equity researchers, intervention program implementors, college and university faculty, teachers of mathematics and science at all levels, supervisors, administrators, policy-makers, and others concerned about the participation of women in science and engineering in all phases of the educational pipeline and career advancement.

Registration information is available from Marsha Lakes Matyas, OOS, at the AAAS address, or call 202-326-6676. *The deadline for registration is 15 June.*

MARSHA LAKES MATYAS
Office of Opportunities in Science

AAAS Receives Distinguished Service Award from National Council on Communicative Disorders

The AAAS received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Council on Communicative Disorders (NCCD) in ceremonies in Washington, D.C., on 4 May.

The Association was recognized for its programs to widen opportunities in scientific fields for individuals with disabilities, including people who have communicative disorders. The AAAS "Linkages Project"—run by the Office of Opportunities in Science—was cited as an outstanding example of such a program.

The Linkages Project brings together students who have disabilities with educational programs in science and engineering outside of school curricula. Working with such organizations as the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Recording for the Blind, the project has identified and placed students with communication impairments in programs at NASA and Stanford Universi-

ty's summer space science programs.

The NCCD also hailed the AAAS's nationwide resource group of more than 1200 disabled scientists and engineers.

Others receiving awards from NCCD were the Foundation for Children with Learning Disabilities, National Dance Institute, McDonald's Corporation, and individuals Curtis Pride and David Sampson.

The NCCD is a consortium of 25 national organizations concerned with human communication.

CSFR Documents Scientists Still in Soviet Prisons

On 16 April, the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) published *Scientists Imprisoned in the Soviet Union in Violation of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975*, which documents the names of 63 scientists, engineers, health professionals, and students of science who remain confined for their political or religious beliefs in the U.S.S.R. Forms of confinement include prisons, labor camps, psychiatric institutions, internal exile, and compulsory recruitment for labor. The document also lists the names of 60 scientists who have been released since 1 November 1986. Since the publication of the report, the Committee has confirmed the release of an additional five scientists.

Twenty-three of the remaining 58 incarcerated scientists were arrested for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda"; seven for "defamation of the Soviet political and social system"; and another seven for "infringement upon the . . . rights of citizens in the guise of performing religious rites." The remainder were charged with such things as "hooliganism" and economic crimes, which were fabricated to mask the political nature of the arrest, according to reliable sources.

Of the 65 scientists released

since November, Soviet authorities permitted approximately 51 to leave prison in accordance with the February decrees promulgated, but not yet published, by the Supreme Soviet, the legislative body of the Soviet Union.

Soviet authorities sent most of the scientists arrested to a KGB Investigation Prison near their hometown where they were then required to sign a document disavowing future crimes against the Soviet government. Since political prisoners do not believe they are guilty of crimes, many refuse to sign the required statement. In some cases, when a standoff ensues, authorities continue to hold the prisoner in the KGB prison or send them back to their original camp. In other cases, authorities have allowed the prisoners to sign compromise statements or, in a few instances, permitted them to leave without signing any document. The Committee has requested in its report that Soviet authorities expedite the releases of these prisoners.

Of the approximately 19 scientists confined to psychiatric facilities for political reasons, only Lithuanian Algirdas Stratevicius, a psychiatrist himself, has been released. Yet the possibility of reform in the area of state-sponsored psychiatric abuse of dissenters is suggested by many, including Soviet psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin, who was incarcerated from June 1981 to mid-February 1987 for

publicizing this issue. Before Koryagin emigrated to Switzerland in April, he said that the Soviet leadership may want to amend its public image with regard to psychiatric abuse and he proposed a special commission to review the cases of people confined to psychiatric institutions under questionable circumstances.

The principal source of information for the Committee's document is Cronid Lubarsky, editor of the Munich-based *USSR News Briefs*, with corroboration from more than a dozen human rights and news agencies. Lubarsky, a physicist and former Soviet political prisoner, told the Committee on 22 May that although one person was briefly detained in a psychiatric hospital for political reasons, the Soviet government has not ar-

rested anyone in 4½ months for political or religious reasons. But he is discouraged that since the first large wave of 150 releases following the February decrees, the number of releases has dwindled to an average of ten a month. He believes that the rate of releases will depend on the strength of pressure by the West. Lubarsky documents the names of approximately 550 political and religious prisoners in the Soviet Union and speculates that the actual number is three times that amount.

The Committee submitted *Scientists Imprisoned in the Soviet Union* to U.S. Ambassador Warren Zimmermann and U.S.S.R. Ambassador Yuri Kashlev, who head their respective delegations to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki review meeting), cur-

rently convening in Vienna. The Committee requested that the scientists named in its report be released on the basis of international agreements signed by the Soviet Union, such as the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the final document of the 1980 Hamburg Scientific Forum which states that "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all States represents one of the foundations for a significant improvement in their mutual relations and in international scientific cooperation at all levels."

Copies of the report, *Scientists Imprisoned in the Soviet Union in Violation of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975*, are available, free, from the CSFR at the AAAS address.

CAROL O'HALLARON
*Committee on Scientific
Freedom and Responsibility*

Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award— Call for Nominations

Submission of entries in the 1988 selection of the AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is invited.

The AAAS Award recognizes scientists and engineers who have:

- Acted to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare; or
- Focused public attention on important potential impacts of science and technology on society by their responsible participation in public policy debates; or
- Established important new precedents in carrying out the social responsibilities or in defending the professional freedoms of scientists and engineers.

The Award consists of a plaque and \$1000 which are presented to the recipient at the AAAS Annual Meeting. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office of Scientific Freedom and Responsibility at the AAAS address. *The deadline for nominations is 31 August 1987.*