AAAS News

AAAS Summer Fellows at Work

THE Association's two summer fellowship programs are in full swing once again. This year 12 advanced science students are working in media sites across the country and ten mid-career professionals are at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows

The AAAS Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows Program, now in its seventh year, has placed 55 Fellows at EPA where they work as special research consultants and conduct a research project that is chosen on the basis of the Fellow's interests and EPA priorities. Many of this year's research topics focus broadly on health and environmental risk assessment. Expert systems for hazardous waste, pesticides, water quality and wetlands studies, and toxic fog are among their specific areas of research.

This year's Fellows are Gnanalingam Anandalingam, University of Virginia; Richard Arimoto, University of Rhode Island; James R. Fuxa, Louisiana State University; Kumar Ganesan, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology; A. Michael Macrander, Alabama Natural Diversity Inventory; Jonathan Phillips, Arizona State University; Joseph Powers, Southeast Fisheries Center; Danny D. Reible, Louisiana State University; Damian Shea, National Bureau of Standards; and Shobha Sriharan, Selma University.

The Fellows spend 10 weeks in Washington. AAAS arranged an orientation for them at the outset of the program; during the last week of their stay in Washington, the Fellows will report to EPA administrators and staff on the results of their research projects. In addition, the Fellows participate in a weekly seminar arranged by AAAS. Over the course of the summer, the Fellows meet with key officials of the Office of the President, the U.S. Department of Energy, congressional committees with environmental jurisdiction, the Congressional Research Service, the Office of Technology Assessment, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and various environmental public policy, legal, academic, and industrial groups.

The fellowship program, sponsored by the EPA, not only augments the Agency's research capabilities, it also provides it with better linkages to the research community. The Fellows, for their part, benefit by learning how government works from inside the bureaucracy and have an opportunity to meet with officials and staff in many relevant agencies. For example, several of the 1987 Fellows will present seminars at EPA facilities around the country and at the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C. Finally, many former Fellows still have extensive contact with EPA and have published reports based on their research projects.

Further information about the program and copies of the Fellows' research reports are available from Lisbeth A. Levey, Environmental Science and Engineering Fellows Program, at the AAAS address.

Mass Media Fellows

Twelve advanced students in the natural and social sciences and engineering were selected this year from a pool of 170 applicants to participate in the 1987 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program, also administered by AAAS. The students, most of whom are at the graduate level, have been assigned to various television and radio stations, newspapers, and magazines around the country and are working for 10 weeks this summer as science reporters, researchers, and production assistants.

The Mass Media Program, now in its 13th year, is an important component of AAAS' public understanding of science activities. The major purpose of the program is to strengthen the relationship between the science community and the media. More specifically, the program is designed to increase young scientists' skills in communicating complex technical issues to a lay audience, while also broadening the coverage of science and technology by the media.

The Mass Media Fellows began their summer with an intensive, 3-day orientation session in Washington, D.C., learning about broadcast and print communication skills. In addition, they learned how to develop story ideas and contacts at universities, the government, nonprofit organizations, scientific associations, and industry. Following their cram course on communication skills, the Fellows traveled to their respective media site assignments.

This year's Fellows, who come from broad academic backgrounds, include: Pamela K. Adelmann, a Ph.D. candidate in social psychology at the University of Michigan (*Detroit Free Press*); Steven W. Allison, a biology undergraduate at the University of Oregon (WSVN-TV, Miami); Marcia M. Barinaga, a biologist enrolled in the science communication program at the University of California, Santa Cruz (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*); Michael D. Cantor, M.D./J.D. student at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (*Newsweek*); Robert J. Coontz, Jr., a mathematics graduate from Swarthmore College (KUNC-FM, Greeley, Colorado); Elizabeth E. Culotta, M.S. student in geological studies at the University of Michigan (*Milwaukee Journal*); Cynthia Lollar, M.A. student in applied anthropology, University of Maryland (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*); Stephen Peters, postdoctoral candidate in neurology at Stanford University (Cable News Network, Atlanta); Jayne B. Robinson, Ph.D. candidate in microbiology at Ohio State University (WOSU-AM/FM, Columbus, Ohio); Sally A. Stephens, an astronomy Ph.D. candidate also enrolled in the science communication program at University of California, Santa Cruz (Chedd-Angier Production Company, Watertown, Massachusetts); Kurt R. Stern-

AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows for 1987 are, front row left to right: Sally Stephens, Michael Cantor, Marcia Barinaga, Jayne Robinson, Elizabeth Culotta, Cynthia Lollar; back row: Stephen Peters, Kurt Sternlof, Steven Allison, and Robert Coontz. Not pictured, William Wild.

lof, Ph.D. candidate in structural and regional techtonics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (*The Oregonian*, Portland); and William G. Wild, Jr., an industrial engineer at the State University of New York at Buffalo (*Business Week*).

The fellowship experience has a notable impact beyond the duration of the 10 weeks. Many program alumni, which now total 205, have chosen to pursue careers in science journalism on a full-time basis. Others have continued to free-lance at least part-time. Those individuals who, upon completion of the fellowship, return to careers as scientists and engineers play a valuable role in educating their peers about the ways of the media and the level of scientific literacy and understanding among the general public. Finally, the media site hosts benefit from the different perspectives of students with scientific and technical expertise.

The AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program is supported by grants from private corporations, foundations, and associations, as well as by the AAAS.

Additional information and applications for the 1988 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program can be obtained by writing Susan Sauer, Office of Public Sector Programs at the AAAS address.

LISBETH A. LEVEY
SUSAN SAUER
Office of Public Sector Programs

Abelson Receives National Medal of Science

Former *Science* editor Philip Hauge Abelson received a National Medal of Science from President Ronald Reagan on Thursday, 25 June, in ceremonies at the White House. He was honored for "his pathbreaking contributions in radiochemistry, physics, geophysics, biophysics, and biochemistry and for his vigorous and penetrating counsel on national matters involving science and technology."

"I was delighted to be named as a recipient of the National Medal of Science," said Abelson. But, he adds philosophically, "I am more interested in trying to be a useful part of the present and the future than in contemplating events of the past."

Heart surgeon Michael E. DeBakey, Baylor College of Medicine; radiation belt discoverer James A. VanAllen, University of Iowa; and mathematician Michael Freedman, University of California, San Diego, were among the recipients of this year's National Medal of Science.

The National Medal of Science is the nation's highest scientific honor bestowed by the President. Established in 1959, the Medal is awarded to individuals who deserve special recognition for their contributions to knowledge in the physical, behavioral, or social sciences. Selection is based on the total impact and importance of an individual's work on the present state of his or her chosen field. In addition, achievements of an unusually significant nature are considered in relation to their potential effects on the development of scientific thought.

Currently serving as science adviser to the AAAS, Abelson has been with the Association since 1962, when he became editor of *Science*. He retired as editor in 1984.

To honor his many years of service as editor of *Science*, the AAAS created the Philip Hauge Abelson Prize upon his retirement in 1984. The prize is now awarded annually either to a public servant in recognition of outstanding contributions to advancing science, or to a scientist whose career has been distinguished both for scientific achievement and for notable services to the scientific community.

JEFFREY L. TERAMANI
Office of Communications

Philip A. Abelson, former Science *editor, received National Medal of Science from President Reagan at White House ceremony.*

More Cost Savings for Insured Members

Effective 1 October 1987 all rates for the AAAS Group Term Life Insurance Plan will decrease by 10 percent. In addition, all

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.