AAAS News

AAAS Mass Media Fellows Are at It Again

THE AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program is once again in full swing, with 12 outstanding students in the natural and social sciences and engineering working as reporters, researchers, and production assistants at media organizations around the country. Six Fellows are working at newspapers this summer, two at weekly news magazines, one at a radio station, two at television stations, and one Fellow is working at a production company doing television documentaries.

The Fellows, most of whom are at the graduate level, were selected on a competitive basis from an applicant pool of 164. Each Fellow is working at an assigned media site for 10 weeks this summer.

Now in its 14th year, the Mass Media Program is considered an important component of AAAS' public understanding of science activities. The program seeks to strengthen the relationship between the scientific community and the media. More specifically, the program is designed to increase young scientists' skills in communicating complex issues to a lay audience, while also enhancing the coverage of science and technology by the media.

The Fellows began their summer with an intensive 3-day orientation in Washington, D.C., in early June. Workshops in both print and broadcast journalism were held, along with a special "science news sources" session. In addition, dinners were held featuring National Public Radio science correspondent Richard Harris (a former Fellow himself), and Institute of Medicine president Samuel Thier, as guest speakers.

AAAS Mass Media Fellows for this year are: William Burton, Ph.D., biochemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *The Oregonian*; Lisa Busch, B.S., geology and environmental studies, Tufts University, KUNC-FM (Greeley, Colorado); George Claxton, II, Ph.D. (in progress), anthropology/archaeology, University of Massachusetts, *Detroit Free Press*; Eric Dolin, M.A., environmental studies, Yale University, *Business Week*; Stephen Emond, M.D. (in progress), Harvard Medical School, *Dallas Morning News*; Stephen Epstein, M.D. (in progress), Harvard Medical School, *Milwaukee Journal*; Elizabeth Gorman, B.S., biology Georgetown University, *Richmond* (Virginia) *News Leader*; Robert Irion, B.S., earth and planetary sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and science communications certificate, University of California, Santa Cruz, *Chicago Tribune*; Burt Monroe, III, B.S., applied science (electrical engineering), University of Louisville, Cable News Network; Robin Nagle, M.A., anthropology, Columbia University, KQED-TV (San Francisco); Ingrid Wickelgren, B.S., biological sciences, Stanford University, *Newsweek*; and Michael Wysession, Ph.D. (in progress), geophysics, Northwestern University, Chedd-Angier Production Company (Watertown, Massachusetts).

The program has an impact extending beyond the 10 weeks Fellows spend at their summer sites. A significant number of program alumni have been encouraged by their fellowship experience to pursue careers related to science journalism. Others have incorporated new activities related to public understanding of science into their work in science and engineering.

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. This year's sponsors include: American Gas Association; Amoco; Dow Chemical Company; Edison Electrical Institute; IBM Corporation; ICI Americas Inc.; Johnson & Johnson Company; *Milwaukee Journal*; National Starch and Chemical Foundation; *The Oregonian*; Pfizer Foundation; Richmond Newspapers, Inc.; Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.; and The Upjohn Company.

Further information and applications for the 1989 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program can be obtained by writing Susan Sauer, Office of Public Sector Programs, at the AAAS address.

SUSAN L. SAUER
Office of Public Sector Programs

Enjoying a moment of fun before taking on the responsibility of reporting on science and technology, the 1988 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows are (left to right): Michael Wysession, Eric Dolin, Elizabeth Gorman, Robert Irion, Stephen Emond, Ingrid Wickelgren, George Claxton, Stephen Epstein, Lisa Busch, Robin Nagle, William Burton, and Burt Monroe.

Oregon Hosts Pacific Division

Lively debates marked the Crater Lake symposium at the Pacific Division's June meeting in Corvallis. Scientists and entrepreneurs argued about whether cold springs or hydrothermal vents accounted for mineral sources in the lake's depths. The answer has serious economic consequences for development of the area around the lake for geothermal energy. Researchers also discussed the potential villains in polluting the lake from shoreside. The symposium ended with a paper outlining similarities and differences with Lake Tahoe.

The meeting, 18 to 22 June, on the campus of Oregon State University (OSU), was the Division's 69th annual meeting.

In addition to the Crater Lake discussion, other symposia focused on volcanic soils, endangered plants of the Northwest, fungi in ecosystems, neural network learning, the test ban treaty, presenting evolution to the public, the new politics of science, theories in science, and ecological systems in agriculture. Contributed paper sessions, symposia, and field trips were sponsored by Division-af-