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-

filiated societies and sections.

During its Council meeting, the Division chose Frederick Nichols (U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park) as president-elect. Stanley Williams (Departments of Biology and Computers, San Francisco State University) was elected to the executive committee, and two council members-at-large were voted in, William Lunch (Department of Political Science, OSU) and Harold Tukey (Department of Forestry, University of Washington).

At the Division's awards banquet, OSU president and marine geologist John Byrne welcomed the group to the campus. Division president Orrin E. Smith (associate dean, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences) conducted the student awards ceremony. Prizewinners of Division-wide awards for excellent papers given at the meeting went to Jose Ignacio del Real-Laborde (Utah State University: Klauber Award), Thomas Kaye (OSU: Lindsay Award), B. Vasiliki Vassil (San Jose State University: Sunshine Mining Award), Cheryl Ingersoll (OSU: ARCO Environmental Sciences Award), M. G. Dosskey (OSU: Larus Award), and Linda Chalker-Scott (OSU: Larus Award). Students who won section and affiliate awards for papers included Margaret Black (OSU), M. D. Dosskey (OSU), Craig Hazen (University of California, Santa Barbara), David Jordan (OSU), S. L. McGeehan (University of Idaho, Moscow), Robert Miller (Montana State University), Edith Read (University of California, Irvine), Scott Robinson (OSU), and John Weiland (OSU).

Copies of the Meeting program and abstracts of most of the papers presented are printed in the Division's Proceedings, available for $3 from Alan E. Leviton, executive director, Pacific Division AAAS, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Joint U.S.–Hungarian Seminar on Biotechnology

"Recent Developments in Biotechnology Applied to Agriculture and Food Industry," a joint seminar sponsored by AAAS and the Hungarian Federation of Technical and Scientific Societies (MTESZ), involved some 8 U.S. and 20 Hungarian participants in an information exchange about the fundamental molecular biology of agricultural plants and animals.

The seminar, held 16 to 20 May 1988 in Budapest, focused on biotechnology applications for both plants and animals and an improvement of species in growth, resistance to invasion, yield, and quality. It looked at model systems appropriate to analysis as well as economically important plants and animals.

Participants also visited the Biology Research Center and the Cereal Research Institute in Szeged, and the Meriklon Research Laboratory in Budapest. A number of cooperative research projects are expected to result from the seminar, and the Hungarian organizers are publishing the proceedings for distribution later this year.

The seminar resulted from a collaborative tie established in 1984 between AAAS and MTESZ. Since that time, several Hungarian experts have attended AAAS meetings including the R&D Policy Colloquium and the Annual Meeting. MTESZ is a nongovernmental organization composed of the scientific and engineering societies of Hungary and their members. MTESZ seeks to promote science and technology in Hungary, and to play an increasing role as a source of advice to the government about matters related to science and technology. Plans are being made for a second joint AAAS-MTESZ seminar on a different scientific topic. For further information, contact Sandra M. Burns, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address.

Read All About It!

The AAAS Observer, a new periodical for AAAS members, will make its debut next month.

The 16-page publication will mix features, commentary, interviews, regular columns, profiles, and news of AAAS activities in an attractive, lively format. *The AAAS Observer* is designed to give members fast, readable information about the huge array of professional issues woven into today's world of science.

Members will receive the first edition with the 2 September issue of *Science*. *The AAAS Observer* will be published every other month to start, with an increase in frequency later "if demand warrants," said Alvin W. Trivelpiece, AAAS executive officer. "I believe the *Observer* will be a lively, popular, and useful publication for the members of the AAAS, but in the end it is they who will have the final say," he said.

The Association needed the new publication to increase communications with its large membership. Most members regard *Science* as their principal benefit, Trivelpiece said, but "they are not generally aware of what else the AAAS does for them or on their behalf." Association activities range from analysis of the federal science budget to improving employment opportunities for minorities, women, and the handicapped, and include fellowship programs, human rights activities, and projects on science education.

Members were involved in *The AAAS Observer* at an early stage, when they were invited to enter a contest to name the new publication. Physicist Alfred B. Bortz submitted the winning entry, noting, "Since science begins with observing, the name of your newsletter should be *The AAAS Observer*." Bortz is assistant director of the Magnetic Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

News about the AAAS will continue to appear regularly in *Science*, although this is the last appearance of the present "AAAS News" section, which has been edited by Joan Wrather of the Office of Communications. With its 7 October issue, *Science* will begin publishing a new two-page section covering Association activities. This new section also will appear every other month, alternating months with *The AAAS Observer*.

Tabitha M. Powledge will serve as editor of both *The AAAS Observer* and the Association activities pages of *Science*. Formerly editor of *The Scientist* and senior editor at *Bio/Technology*, Powledge also was a science policy analyst at the Hastings Center for several years. The new publication's art director will be Janice Conklin, previously with *The Scientist* and *Science 86*.

Third Annual Arms Control Colloquium Set for October

"Technology and Arms Control for the 1990s" will be the focus for the third annual Colloquium on Science, Arms Control, and National Security, 13 and 14 October 1988. The Colloquium will address such issues as the challenge a new administration will face in building on the arms control agreements of the 1980s; the implications of