

# Inside AAAS

## AWARDS

1989

A researcher who exposed the misdeeds of a colleague, the scientist who coined the term "population bomb," and a psychologist who showed that human reasoning has been shaped by natural selection are among this year's recipients of an array of prizes awarded annually by AAAS. The awards were presented at a special ceremony held on 17 January during the Association's Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

John T. Edsall, emeritus professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Harvard, was awarded the Philip Hauge Abelson Prize of \$2500 for his contributions to protein chemistry and for being an outspoken champion of truth and openness in science. Known for his work on macromolecular flow birefringence, fibrinogen, and carbonic anhydrase, Edsall wrote the 1975 report "Scientific Freedom and Responsibility" that resulted in AAAS formally including those principles among its goals. He chaired the AAAS Committee of that name from 1979 to 1982.

The Behavioral Science Research Prize of \$1000 went to a paper based on a series of reasoning experiments. It concludes that rules of reason depend on the subject matter under consideration and have been molded by evolutionary processes. "The Logic of Social Exchange: Has Natural Selection Shaped How Humans

Reason?," written by Leda Cosmides, a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Psychology at Stanford, was selected "because of its substantial and surprising increase in understanding of the rules of thought," the judges said. The paper is in press at *Cognition*.

Two papers from *Science*, describing chemical reactions that might account for the springtime depletion of ozone in the Antarctic stratosphere, have won the AAAS-Newcomb Cleveland Prize, the Association's oldest. Both groups of authors will receive a plaque, a bronze medal, and a share of the \$5000 prize.

"Antarctic Stratospheric Chemistry of Chlorine Nitrate, Hydrogen Chloride, and Ice: Release of Active Chlorine" was written by Mario J. Molina, Tai-Ly Tso, Luisa T. Molina, and Frank C. Y. Yang. "Reaction of Chlorine Nitrate with Hydrogen Chloride and Water at Antarctic Stratospheric Temperatures" was written by David M. Golden, Margaret A. Tolbert, Michel J. Rossi, and Ripudaman Malhotra. Both were published 27 November 1987.

Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Awards went to Robert L. Sprague, director of the Institute for Child Behavior and Development at the University of Illinois, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Both will receive \$1000.

Sprague was responsible for detecting and reporting Ste-

phen E. Breuning's research fraud. Breuning, then a researcher in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, recently pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges of fabricating data on the effects of stimulants on the mentally retarded. Sprague spent years trying to convince the funder, the National Institute of Mental Health, to investigate. "His professional integrity was severely tested during the lengthy government investigation, but he held firmly to his belief in the inviolability of public trust in the research systems that develop and deliver medication," the citation said.

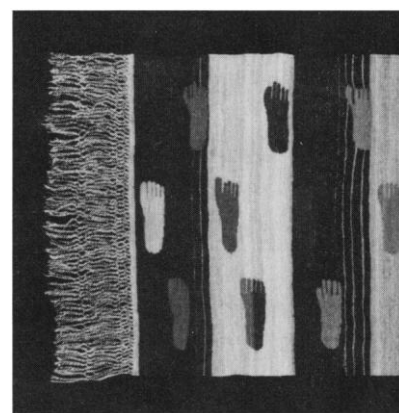
The NRDC was honored "for a bold and successful initiation of a nuclear test ban verification project requiring in-country monitoring in both the United States and the Soviet Union." Its 1986 joint seismic monitoring project with the Soviet Academy of Sciences marked the beginning of the largest privately funded U.S.-Soviet scientific exchange.

Advocates for the global environment and the nation's children shared the \$10,000 first annual Gerard Piel Award for Service to Science in the Cause of Humankind. It was established by the board of directors of *Scientific American* to honor the magazine's creator.

One recipient is Paul Erhlich, Bing Professor of Population Studies at Stanford, who was among the first to direct public attention to the colliding perils of population growth, environmental degradation, and climate change. With his wife, Anne, he is author of *The Population Bomb* (1968) and *Population, Resources, Environment* (1970).

The other is The Children's Defense Fund, headed by Marian Wright Edelman, a privately funded social action organization that has tackled issues involving young people. These include teenage pregnancy, child care, children's health, education, and family policy.

Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and NIH's new "AIDS Czar," received the second annual AAAS-Westinghouse Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology. Fauci demonstrated the precise nature of the immune defect in AIDS and has helped develop strategies for dealing with it. He now heads the NIH Office of AIDS Research. The \$2500 award was bestowed for his AIDS public education efforts. The colleague who nominated him said, "his extraordinary ability to explain complicated issues in a knowledgeable and reassuring manner has made him the most influential spokesperson. . . . Dr. Fauci has calmed hysteria, put new findings in perspective, and increased public confidence in the scientific process."



Leonard Guercio. "Messengers," © 1988.