edited by KAREN HOPKIN

20th Anniversary of Congressional Fellowship Program

In the early 1970s, the phrase "congressional science policy" was something of an oxymoron. With the importance of science and technology growing at a rapid pace, AAAS Science and Policy programs director Albert H. Teich recalls that "both political leaders and members of the science and engineering communities were becoming increasingly concerned about Congress' perceived weakness in this area." Adds Stephen Nelson, director of the AAAS Science, Technology, and Government program, "no more than a handful of staffers had any kind of real scientific training."

A group of AAAS officials and Board members decided that creating a fellowship program that would send scientists to Capitol Hill to work with Congress might be just the remedy. "We felt that having scientists on congressional staffs would improve the way Congress handles science and technology policy, and that having scientists better understand government would benefit science," says AAAS Treasurer William Golden, who anonymously contributed the funds that launched the program.

The result has been one of the Association's most successful projects—the Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows Program—which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The program brings 25 to 30 postdoctoral to mid-career scientists and engineers to Capitol Hill every year to work for individual members and congressional committees. (AAAS also operates two other policy-oriented year-long fellowship programs —an executive branch program and a diplomacy program, and a 10-week environmental science program.)

AAAS plays two related roles in the congressional fellows program. It recruits and funds two AAAS Fellows with a yearly stipend of about $40,000, and acts as an umbrella organization for roughly 20 other scientific societies that offer congressional fellowship programs. The other societies recruit and fund fellows, but contract with AAAS so their Fellows can take part in the Association's special year-long training and support program.

Each September, all the Fellows come to Washington for an intensive 2-week orientation. They attend seminars given by high-powered congressional and executive branch officials, including members of Congress, the president's science adviser, top managers at OMB, and executives from the key science and technology agencies.

They also get crash courses in the budget process and executive-congressional relations, as well as on the science and technology issue areas they will be handling. "It's both eye-opening and a little head-spinning," says Nelson. He also reports that some officials who give the seminars tell him, only half-jokingly, that they wish they could sit in on the entire 2 weeks to learn how Washington really works.

Armed with their new knowledge, the Fellows then have 2 to 3 weeks to find a position. "They can pursue any job possibility they want," says Nelson, whose program runs the fellowships. "We provide them with a lot of information and a lot of leads."

"Some Hill offices reserve a spot for a Fellow every year," adds Claudia Sturges, the fellowship project director. "Al Gore was a heavy user of our Fellows, as are the House Science Committee and the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee now."

Nelson reports that about one-third of the Fellows return to their home institutions, while the rest pursue careers in science policy, either in Washington or elsewhere, or move on to some other position.

AAAS President Eloise Clark says, "As you look at the persons who, over the years, moved from that program to positions of importance on the Hill, the Administration, and at universities, it's clear they have helped bring their scientific knowledge to informing policy at several levels."

Indeed, the list of those who have moved into policy positions is almost a who's who of science policy in Washington. It includes the head of the new White House Office of Environmental Policy; the director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology; a senior analyst for the House Budget Committee; the staff director of the Senate Government Affairs Committee; the staff director of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; the assistant director for the environment of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); the chief of staff of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; key officials in

Profile: Science and Policy

Director Albert Teich describes the AAAS Directorate for Science and Policy programs, home to the Congressional Fellows Program, as the Association's "outreach program to the government and other parts of the policy community." That outreach includes helping uncover the victims of human rights abuse throughout the world, preparing an amicus brief for the Supreme Court, and leading scientists through the maze of the federal R&D budget process.

Created in 1989 from the merging of two former program offices, the Directorate is responsible for a range of activities focusing on the public policy aspects of science and technology. Within the Directorate are three programs: Science, Technology, and Government; Science and Human Rights; and Scientific Freedom, Responsibility, and Law. The Directorate's staff is assisted by three groups: the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPP); the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR); and the AAAS/American Bar Association National Conference of Lawyers and Scientists.

In addition to administering the fellowships, the Science, Technology, and Government program analyzes the federal R&D budget and publishes a range of reports on science policy. COSEPP oversees and sponsors colloquia, symposia, and workshops on science and public policy as part of the program.

The Program on Scientific Freedom, Responsibility, and Law also focuses on public policy, but in a much different way. "Our mandate," says Director Mark Frankel, "is to take a leadership role with regard to science and ethics, science and law, and science and society." He adds that the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility has sometimes been called the conscience of AAAS.

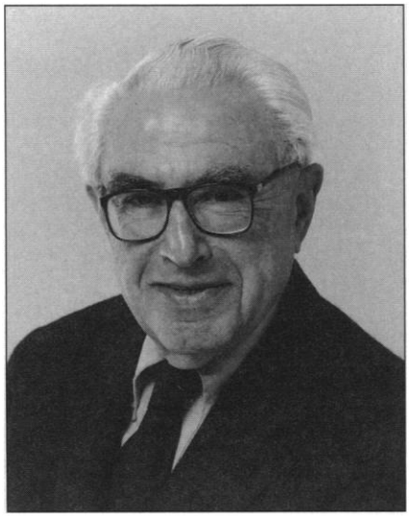
In the last 5 years, the program has had a continuing interest in misconduct in science, the use of animals in research, and conflicts of interest in science. Frankel notes that an old issue has recently taken on new importance—the use of science and technology by the courts. The issue generated headlines in July, thanks to a Supreme Court ruling changing the standards for admissibility of scientific evidence. Prior to that, the Association, spurred by the AAAS/ABA National Conference, helped draft a joint AAAS/National Academy of Sciences amicus brief that was filed with the Supreme Court.

Newly emerging issues have become an impor-

the Office of Management and Budget, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health; and many more.

"The Fellows have absolutely helped raise the level of scientific literacy, making a major contribution," says Representative George Brown (D–CA), chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. "That's tremendously valuable now because the content of so many policy decisions—including economic ones—is more and more determined by science and technology."

And the program has not been a one-way street. As those who founded it hoped, the Fellows clearly learn a great deal, too. "Most of those who come in don't understand for a while what it requires to be really effective. You learn that up here you're not just doing policy but politics, too," says Robert Palmer, chief of staff of the House Science Committee and a AAAS Fellow from 1979–1980. "The Fellows who last and enjoy it are the ones who are willing to learn a whole new vocabulary, a whole new way of doing business."



AAAS treasurer and Congressional Fellow benefactor: William T. Golden.

Thomas Moss, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and a 1974–1975 American Physical Society Fellow, adds that "before I went to Washington, I somehow thought scientific input would make the policy process all come out in an appropriate fashion. I learned that most science policy questions are really part of much broader political questions in this country's history: Which class will benefit? Which region?"

AAAS will be using the 20th anniversary of the program to celebrate its success. The Directorate for Science and Policy programs staff last year set up an advisory committee of former Fellows and worked with them for several months to develop the plans for the anniversary celebration.

The first event will be a special symposium at the U.S. Capitol on 30 September for former Fellows, members of Congress, congressional staff, and others who have been a part of the program's two decades. The symposium will feature a talk by William G. Wells Jr. about how the history of science and technology feeds into the legislative process. Wells, now a professor of management science at The George Washington University, has been staff director for a key science subcommittee in the House of Representatives, chief of staff at OSTP, and head of the AAAS Office of Public Sector Programs. Jeffrey Stine, a former Fellow, will deliver a paper on the history of the Fellows program. The 2-hour symposium and an evening reception will be hosted by Senators Jeff Bingaman (D–NM) and Pete Domenici (R–NM).

In addition, AAAS will publish two books in connection with the anniversary. "The former Fellows wanted to do something that would leave a legacy," says Sturges. The first collection will be a scholarly look at the interaction between science and policy making, featuring the papers and talks presented at the symposia during the year. The second will be less formal. "We've asked former Fellows to contribute short essays on their experiences," says Sturges. Those proposed so far range from policy essays to personal reminiscences.

While looking backwards is a feature of any 20-year anniversary, Nelson and Sturges stress the healthy future of the program. "This year applications to the program were up 120 percent," says Sturges. And the demand from Capitol Hill offices for Fellows continues to be high.

"Since the program started," Nelson says, "availability and quality of scientific policy analytical support for Congress has improved. But that has not lessened the need for the Fellows, because each year Congress has to deal with more and more technical issues."

–Jeffrey Porro

tant part of the program. These include anticipating the uses and abuses of computer networks, assessing the ethical and legal implications of genetic testing, and viewing questions of scientific values and ethics from the perspective of ethnic minorities.

Values are also at the heart of the Science and Human Rights program. According to director Audrey Chapman, the program has two main objectives: to document human rights violations directed against the scientific community, and to apply scientific methodology to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Probably the most dramatic and publicized example of the program's work is its leading role in using forensic science to help human rights investigators look into suspicious deaths and identify the victims of torture and official murder, first in Argentina, and more recently in several other countries.

In addition, says Chapman, "We've found many innovative applications for statistics and electronic data, applying information management techniques to human rights." Beginning this fall, the program will launch a Human Rights Action Network, a computer network that will disseminate AAAS documentation about human rights to individual scientists and to other scientific societies. "The new network will increase the effectiveness of our appeals by generating more pressure on governments," says Chapman. "And we hope it will get more members of the scientific community interested in human rights."

In the future, the program will try to use the resources of AAAS to develop measures and indicators for evaluating the performance of nations who have agreed to be bound by a series of U.N. international human rights covenants. The program will also be training human rights groups in ways to use personal computers to collect and communicate human rights data.

"As the most broad-based scientific organization in the country," Teich says, "AAAS has a special responsibility to speak on behalf of the scientific community and to see that the products and methods of science are used to promote human welfare."

For additional information about efforts sponsored by the Directorate's programs on Science, Technology, and Government; Science and Human Rights; or Scientific Freedom, Responsibility, and Law, write to AAAS Directorate for Science and Policy Programs, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, or call 202-326-6600.

–J.P.

Incorporation Update

Twenty-six years after its founding in 1848, the members of AAAS decided it was time for the Association to take on an official corporate structure. Because the group originated in Boston, members appealed to the Massachusetts legislature, which in 1874 passed the Articles of Incorporation into law.

Why the history lesson? Because a recent review of the original Articles has revealed that they do not include any reference to the Association's tax-exempt status or the objectives that qualify AAAS for that status. "The Internal Revenue Code didn't exist back then," notes Carl Amthor, AAAS chief financial and administrative officer.

In the interest of legal and financial prudence, AAAS officials remedied this omission with a set of revised Articles that in May 1993 was passed by the Massachusetts legislature and signed into law by the governor. The normally arduous process was made simpler, says Amthor, thanks to the personal efforts of Massachusetts Representative David Cohen and Senator Lois Pines.

As approved, the new Articles state that "the corporation is organized and shall operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes"; the six objectives of the Association as listed in the Constitution are cited; and contemporary powers and privileges of all Massachusetts corporations are extended.

While the Association's right to pursue its stated purposes has never been questioned, the Board of Directors agreed that it was important to amend the Articles to reflect the Association's tax-exempt status. To obtain a copy of the original or amended Articles of Incorporation, send your request to AAAS Office of Finance and Administration, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005.

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From the Pacific Division

The AAAS Pacific Division has compiled a volume on *Dietary Factors and Birth Defects*. Edited by Raghubir Sharma, the book contains an overview on maternal nutrition and pregnancy, and chapters discussing iron status, nutrient deficiencies, selenium in nutrition, cyanide-containing foods, and the affects of substance abuse on pregnancy outcome.

To order this volume, send $28.50 and $3.25 postage and handling to Pacific Division AAAS, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118.

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Reminder

The next meeting of the AAAS Council will take place during the Annual Meeting at the San Francisco Hilton in California on 22 February 1994.

Individuals or organizations wishing to present proposals or resolutions for possible consideration by the Council should submit them in written form to AAAS executive officer Richard Nicholson by 1 November 1993.

Items should be consistent with the Association's objectives and be appropriate for consideration by the Council. Resolutions should be in the traditional format, beginning with "whereas" statements of fact and concluding with "therefore be it resolved."

The Committee on Council Affairs will hold its open hearing on submitted items at 2:30 p.m. on 21 February, at the San Francisco Hilton. Late proposals or resolutions delivered to the AAAS executive officer in advance of 21 February will be considered provided they deal with urgent matters and are accompanied by a written explanation of why they were not submitted by the November 1993 deadline.

Summaries of the Council meeting agenda will be available during the Annual Meeting at both the AAAS information desk and the AAAS Headquarters Office at the Hilton. A copy of the full agenda will also be available for inspection.

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AAAS Representative to India

AAAS has been invited to send a representative to the 81st Annual session of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). More than 4000 scholars, scientists, and professionals will meet in Jaipur from 3 to 8 January 1994. The theme of the 1994 session is "Science in India: Excellence and Accountability," and speakers will discuss forging linkages between scientists and government to encourage better science in India.

Although no funds are available to defray travel costs, ISCA has offered to cover local expenses. If you plan to be in the region, or would like to recommend a colleague on sabbatical who might be able to attend, please submit a letter of application and a curriculum vitae by 15 September 1993 to Beth Boswell, AAAS Directorate for International Programs, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005; 202-326-6650; Fax 202-289-4958.

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Life Insurance Credit

Members insured in the AAAS Life Insurance Plan as of 31 March 1993 will receive a credit of 34 percent of their semiannual premium due on the 1 October 1993 renewal. This marks the eighth time since the inception of the current AAAS Program that premium credits have been granted by the Life Insurance Trust, thus further reducing the cost of coverage for eligible insured members and their families.

The AAAS Life Insurance Plan offers coverage up to $300,000 for members. In addition, a spouse may have coverage equal to the member's amount, not to exceed the spouse maximum of $150,000. (Spouses of members residing in Texas are limited to 50 percent of the member's coverage.) Protection for dependent children is also available.

For more information, contact: Administrator, AAAS Group Insurance Program, 1255 23rd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037; or call toll-free 800-424-9883.

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Where's Merck?

Looking to contact someone at the American Institute of Physics, but just can't remember where it's located? Or do you need to direct an inquiry to the proper authority on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee?

You need look no further than *Science Sources 1993*—the ultimate book of contact information. The sourcebook presents an extensive list of colleges and universities, museums, federal agencies, industrial and nonprofit research institutions, and scientific associations across the country. And this year the book includes international listings from France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Science Sources 1993 is available for $15 ($12 for AAAS members) from AAAS Books, Box A59, P.O. Box 753, Waldorf, Maryland 20604. Or call 301-645-5643 and ask for AAAS.