

AAAS NEWS & NOTES

edited by S. L. BYRAND

AAAS Dedicates Golden Center for Science

Recalling the moment when he learned that the Association's new headquarters would be named after him, AAAS's longtime treasurer William T. Golden said he thought of the entombed pharaoh Cheops. "His pyramid was wonderful," Golden told those attending the headquarters' official dedication ceremony on 4 September. "But this building has the great advantage of being more useful and I have the great advantage of being here."

The AAAS William T. Golden Center for Science and Engineering now stands as a monument to the Association's mission and members. Designed by renowned architect Harry Cobb, the building is structurally innovative and environmentally responsible; for instance, its cooling and heating system completely bypasses the need for chlorofluorocarbons. The dedication ceremony and accompanying activities honored those benefactors who helped make the headquarters possible.

Chief among the patrons was Golden, whose financial generosity is exceeded only by his long years of service to AAAS and to science. In 1969, he became

treasurer of the Association, a post he still holds. He has also served as an adviser to two U.S. presidents. In 1950 he conceived the position of Science Adviser to the President and the President's Science Advisory Committee, and he played a key role



William T. Golden

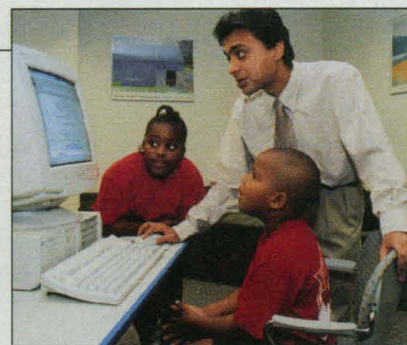
in shaping the National Science Foundation. Early on, Golden decided to spend part of his time working for nonprofit groups. He now devotes himself almost exclusively to duties as a trustee or board member at organizations such as the American Museum of Natural History and the AAAS.

"Bill Golden is the archetypal scientist-in-service-of-humanity," said Association chair Jane Lubchenco. "His contributions to AAAS and its programs and his international leadership in science policy and education are without parallel. So significant has been his stewardship and so indefatigable his service to science that AAAS decided to name its new headquarters after him."

Other major benefactors honored at the ceremony included Edward E. David Jr.—chair of the building's capital campaign and

former AAAS president, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and presidential science adviser—and his wife Ann; the late Thomas Dudley Cabot, a chemical engineer and conservationist whose family and Cabot Corporation donated in his memory; Neva and Philip H. Abelson—she a pediatrician and he a former editor of *Science* and current AAAS science adviser; Caryl and Edna Haskins, founders of the Haskins Laboratory and longtime AAAS members; the family of the late Roger Revelle—oceanographer, founder of the University of California at San Diego, and former AAAS president; and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc., which focuses on medical research, health care reform, and environmental programs. The names of these benefactors now grace public areas within the new Center, including the Grand Foyer—with its gallery space for science exhibits—and four conference rooms, equipped with state-of-the-art telecommunications technology.

During the dedication, one room in particular buzzed with excitement: the Cabot Teaching Laboratory, a model classroom where students and teachers can experiment with the latest in science learning. Girls and boys from several Washington, D.C., YMCAs clicked away at computer workstations and tried their hands at a variety of science activities, learning about sound waves and more. George "Pinky" Nelson, a former astronaut now with Project 2061, AAAS's long-term science education reform effort, showed Emanuel Waktola, age 8, how to swing a water-filled cup around in a circle without spilling any—thanks to centripetal force. The experiment worked fine until the boy's cup slammed against a wall, dousing the astronaut, much to the children's delight.



BILL FITZPATRICK

Keys to inquiry. AAAS's new teaching lab offers hands-on science to area students.

Nine-year-old Terrell Rempson tugged at the sleeve of Janice Williams, vice president of community development for the Washington, D.C., YMCA, and asked where his friend Matthew was.

"He's in school today," she said.

"Oooo, I'm glad I'm not in school!" he said.

Williams laughed about that later. "Of course, he is in school. But he's learning while he's having fun."

Training teachers in hands-on science activities, exposing children to the world of computers, experimenting with pilot approaches to the teaching of science, mathematics, and technology—these are just some of the activities to take place within the Cabot Teaching Laboratory, according to Shirley Malcom, director of AAAS's Education and Human Resources programs. "Unless you go to a museum, the only exposure to science is book-based and in school," she said. "We want to add more options. We also want to make this classroom available to the community of D.C., in recognition that AAAS is in partnership with the city we call home."

The man for whom the building is named couldn't agree more. "I've felt for many years that AAAS should have an adequate home of its own," said Golden. "I thought it should have public spaces and facilities for programs that are educational and can improve the public's understanding of science. And I thought it should also be aesthetically pleasing and intellectually stimulating."

And so it is.

—Cynthia Lollar

Honor Roll

AAAS is extremely grateful to these individuals, foundations, and corporations for their substantive contributions to the Center for Science & Engineering Campaign.

William T. Golden
Philip H. and Neva Abelson
Cabot Corporation Foundation
Caryl and Edna Haskins
The Roger Revelle Family
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Foundation, Inc.
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Virginia Wellington Cabot
Foundation
Fisher Scientific International Inc.
Ford Motor Company Fund
Daniel E. Koshland Jr.
MCI Foundation

Moore Family Foundation
Hewlett-Packard Company
OCLC Online Computer Library
Center, Inc.
Schindler Elevator Corporation
Battelle
The Hearst Foundation, Inc.
Mobil Foundation, Inc.
The Procter & Gamble Fund
Francisco J. Ayala
Ann and Ed David
Robert G. and Alexandra
C. Goelet
Estate of Alice Newkirk

A Window on Cuba's Biotech Initiative

For the first time, a technical report details Cuba's biotechnology and genetic engineering activities—an area that few Americans know about. The report is the result of a AAAS trip to Cuba in late June. Said Dick Getzinger, director of AAAS's international programs, "We toured all the major biotechnology facilities to give the American science community a snapshot of Cuba's scientific endeavors—what has been done there, what the research facilities are like, and who the people are."

The Cuban Academy of Sciences hosted the AAAS team, which included former AAAS chairman Rita Colwell. "It was useful to see all the investment, which may have been as much as a billion dollars to date," reported Colwell, president of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. She has prepared a technical report that includes an overview of Cuba's vaccine program, which is focused on meeting that nation's goal to be self-sufficient in vaccine production by 2000. Of particular interest, several Cuban researchers recently volunteered to take a prototype AIDS vaccine developed by Cuban sci-

entists. Dr. Colwell also writes of how Cuba has tied biotechnology research to production. "In most countries there often is a division between research discovery and application of the findings," said Colwell. "But in Cuba, they have sharply focused their investment on medical biotechnology, and the research is very closely linked to technology transfer."

"Dr. Colwell is to be commended for opening a window to the progress in biotechnology in Cuba," said Tom Malone, chief scientist for Sigma Xi and former foreign secretary of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition to providing information on Cuba's scientific infrastructure, the AAAS tour identified key scientists with whom U.S. researchers could communicate when Cuban scientists get better access to the Internet. Said Malone, "The value of open communication between scientists in countries experiencing diplomatic tensions was amply demonstrated during the Cold War by the constructive scientific conversations maintained between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union."

The AAAS trip to Cuba was scheduled as part of the Association's initiative to coordinate

science and technology to meet the needs of the Caribbean nations. It directly followed a UNESCO-funded planning meeting in Trinidad that AAAS organized with the Caribbean Academy of Sciences. Experts in science and technology from seven countries, along with personnel from AAAS and UNESCO, laid the groundwork for a conference in 1998, which will coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences and feed into the World Science Conference in 1999.

For a copy of Dr. Colwell's report, call 202-326-6650. Summaries of the trip to Cuba, describing key findings, and of the planning meeting are also available.

Making Tracks to Bookshops Near You

Starting the first week of October, bookstores across the United States will carry AAAS's *Kinetic City Super Crew* novels. Based on the Peabody Award-winning radio show that is produced in the Association's studios, the books highlight the adventures of six young sleuths who solve mysteries through science, with help from a high-tech train and a hyper computer. Geared for children 8 through 12, five novels will launch the new book series. In addition to telling a *Super Crew* adventure, each book offers science activities to do at home and in school.

"The *Kinetic City Super Crew* series brings science to life in a child's world," said Judith Terrill-Breuer, who is editor-in-chief of Learning Triangle Press, an imprint of McGraw-Hill, which is publishing the books. "We are proud to be a significant part of this AAAS outreach program, which seeks to demonstrate that science is not just a lab experiment, but a lifelong adventure that helps us solve everyday problems."



Annual Elections

Ballots for the 1997 election of the AAAS president-elect, members of the Board of Directors and the Committee on Nominations, and section officers were mailed to all active AAAS members (as of the 8 August 1997 issue of *Science*). Please return the ballot by 14 November. Ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted. If you did not receive a ballot, write to Linda McDaniel, AAAS Executive Office, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Association members can nominate candidates (including themselves) for president-elect and the Board of Directors for election in the fall of 1998 for terms beginning in January 1999. For a list of this year's candidates, see "AAAS News & Notes" in the 27 June issue of *Science*; for a list of current Board members, see the contents page of any recent *Science* issue. Please send nominee's curriculum vitae no later than 31 October to Gretchen Seiler, AAAS Executive Office. Nominations will be considered by the AAAS Committee on Nominations at its fall 1997 meeting.

Bob Hirshon, executive producer of the *Kinetic City Super Crew*, related that the books solve a problem for many parents—how to give their kids something to read that has more substance to it as

compared with some of the current book series for children. "Of course, kids are our audience, so we made the books fun to read," Hirshon added. "But, as with the radio program, we sneak in a lot of science, too."

In addition to being sold in U.S. stores, the books can be purchased by calling 1-800-262-4729.

Call for Resolutions

The next meeting of the AAAS Council will take place during the annual meeting, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on 15 February 1998 in Grand Ballroom H of the Philadelphia Marriott, in Philadelphia, PA. 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 3 November 1997.

Items should be consistent with AAAS's objectives and be appropriate for consideration by the Council. Resolutions should be in the traditional format, beginning with "Whereas" statements and ending with "Therefore be it resolved."

The Committee on Council Affairs will hold its open hearing on submitted items at 2:30 p.m. on 14 February 1998. Late proposals or resolutions delivered to the AAAS Executive Officer in advance of the 14 February meeting will be considered, provided that they deal with urgent matters and are accompanied by a written explanation of why they were not submitted by the November deadline.

Summaries of the Council meeting agenda will be available during the annual meeting both at the AAAS Information Desk and in the AAAS Headquarters Office. A copy of the full agenda will also be available for inspection in the Headquarters Office.