edited by Tiffany Ayers

GOVERNANCE

David E. Shaw Appointed Treasurer of AAAS

David E. Shaw

After three decades of service from William Golden, AAAS is beginning the new century with a new treasurer.

David E. Shaw, a scientist and financier, was selected by the AAAS Board of Directors as treasurer. Golden, treasurer of AAAS for 30 years, announced in December that he was stepping down from the post, retiring at the age of 90. Shaw, chair and chief executive officer of D. E. Shaw & Co., Inc., is familiar with both worlds of science and finance, with a Ph.D. in computer science and a reputation for financial innovation and technological leadership.

D. E. Shaw & Co., Inc. is a technology-oriented investment firm described by *The Wall Street Journal* as "in the vanguard of computerized trading," and by *Investment Dealers' Digest* as "arguably the most cutting-edge trading firm on Wall Street." Today, the D. E. Shaw group of companies has an aggregate capital in excess of U.S. $1 billion.

"Shaw is uniquely qualified for this job. AAAS is fortunate to have such leadership and commitment, especially in a position so important to AAAS," said Richard Nicholson, executive officer of AAAS. "He also has a great love for the association. When asked to assume the duties and responsibilities of treasurer, he accepted without hesitation." The treasurer is one of the members of the Board of Directors, which is the legal representative of the association and is responsible for conducting its affairs.

"I'm very enthusiastic and very honored. My only hesitation is that Bill Golden is a hard act to follow," Shaw said. "He's done a wonderful job for AAAS, both financially and in many other respects."

Shaw said that as treasurer his highest priority will be the preservation of AAAS assets rather than the maximization of returns. "Although I don't think we should expect to eliminate all forms of financial risk, I think we should be cautious enough to have a reasonable expectation that the resources will be there for AAAS to continue doing the many important things it currently does," Shaw said. He said he is also supportive of efforts to explore potential new sources of funding for AAAS, especially as the online world becomes more and more important to science and the conduct of scientific research.

Shaw founded D. E. Shaw & Co. in 1988, in a loft over a communist bookstore near Greenwich Village. Its early activities centered on the application of quantitative and computational techniques to various aspects of the securities markets. In 1994 the company also began to fund and sometimes organize early- and intermediate-stage technology-oriented businesses—activities that have come to account for an increasing part of the firm's focus.

In 1996, Shaw launched Juno Online Services Inc., which provides Internet-related services to millions of computer users throughout the United States and has more than 8.1 million subscribers. He also helped launch Schrodinger, Inc., which provides software used for drug discovery. And today, the firm has its own headquarters building in New York.

The author of 63 scholarly publications, Shaw received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1980 in computer science and later designed and built supercomputers. He joined the faculty of the Computer Science Department at Columbia University in New York in 1980, leaving as an associate professor in 1986 to join Morgan Stanley & Co. as

GOVERNANCE

William Golden Steps Down

William Golden

AAAS has been around for more than 150 years, *Science* has been published since 1880, and William Golden has served as treasurer for 30 years. Longevity is a regular thing at AAAS.

Now Golden, who assumed the post of treasurer in 1969, is stepping down at the age of 90. His long career has been marked by service in government, investment management, and nonprofit groups. Though not a scientist by profession, his life was dedicated to science and its importance in public affairs.

"Several of the association's activities are attributed to Golden's leadership, advice and generosity," said Richard Nicholson, executive officer of AAAS. "Golden will always be an institution at AAAS."

Golden has been a major benefactor of AAAS and will continue as treasurer emeritus. His name is on the AAAS's headquarters building, which opened in 1997. The AAAS William T. Golden Center for Science and Engineering, designed by renowned architect Harry Cobb, is structurally innovative and environmentally responsible. Golden gave a $1 million gift to AAAS for the building and was active in the capital campaign to complete the structure.

Since his early teens as an amateur radio operator, Golden has been involved with the science community. Golden began his career in the 1930s as an investment manager on Wall Street. After navy service during World War II, during which he invented gunfire devices, he served as one of the original staff members of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Golden served two presidents on science policy issues. In 1950 he helped establish the Office of Science Advisor to the President and the President's Science Advisory Committee. He played a key role in shaping the National Science Foundation. Later, he served as trustee or Board member at organizations such as the American Museum of Natural History and AAAS.

In 1982, Golden received the Distinguished Public Service Awards from NSF. And at the age of 70, he earned an M.S. in biology from Columbia University.

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its vice president in charge of automated analytical trading technology.

While working as an investment banker, he even played that role in a walk-on part in the Tom Hanks movie *Punchline*. He came home one evening from Morgan Stanley to find his street blocked off for the scene, and he was picked from the crowd for the role. The scene was cut from the movie, but he later played a bit part in *Dangerous Love* with Elliott Gould.

In 1994, Shaw was appointed by President Clinton to the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology, in which capacity he served as chairman of the Panel on Education Technology. Shaw gave Clinton a report on computers in schools when the president sought to connect every American classroom to the Internet. Shaw is also a member of the executive committee of the Council on Competitiveness.

Shaw, who was elected to the AAAS Board of Directors in 1999, said that he's especially concerned about government funding for science, especially for innovative research. "We have to make sure that we have adequate support for those who want to do research that doesn't fit neatly into current research paradigms, and for an adequate amount of high-risk research that could result in significant scientific and technological advances in the event it proves successful," Shaw said. "It's important that the process used to arrive at funding decisions not unnecessarily stifle the process of scientific innovation."

Shaw will play an important role at AAAS as treasurer, but he said he expects not to lead as much as support the staff at AAAS. "I would be disappointed if AAAS evolved into a business," Shaw said. "AAAS has such an important role to play at a time when federal funding is in danger, when public schools challenge the teaching of evolution, and when scientists don't have an adequate voice in government."

As to whether he'll play another role in the movies, "Nobody has asked me," Shaw said. "I sit by the phone waiting for it to ring."

PEOPLE

Planets Named After AAAS Figures

AAAS leaders are taking their place among the stars. Two planets were recently named after AAAS figures.

The Minor Planet Center at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics announced in November that minor planet number 8373, discovered in 1992 by Carolyn Shoemaker and Eugene Shoemaker at Palomar, was named Stephengould, after Stephen Jay Gould, award-winning author, evolution scholar, and president of AAAS. And minor planet number 4423, discovered in 1949 at the Goethe Link Observatory at Indiana University, was named Golden after William Golden, former treasurer of AAAS.

"We've got up to 13,000 planets all together, and we've named only 7000," said Brian Marsden, director of the Minor Planet Center. "They're being numbered at a greater rate than they're being named, so we're getting behind. Every 2 months we put out a batch of a couple of hundred new names."

Gould and Golden's names were proposed by Carolyn Shoemaker and Frank Edmondson, respectively. Their names were then approved by the Small Bodies Names Committee of the International Astronomical Union. "The only discussion was over how to handle Stephen Jay Gould's name, whether we should put the 'Jay' in the name or not," Marsden said.

The November announcement also included such names as Hitchcock, Gershwin, Conandoyle (after Arthur Conan Doyle), and Audrey (after Audrey Hepburn), proposed by scientists in Japan and the Czech Republic.

"They don't come with numbers and names already on them," Marsden said. "There are a whole lot that haven't been numbered yet, hundreds of thousands. Once they're numbered, they then become eligible for a name."

ELECTIONS

AAAS Fellow Nominations

AAAS Fellows who are current members of the Association are invited to nominate members for election as Fellows. A Fellow is "a member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." Each nomination must be sponsored by three Fellows, one of whom must not be affiliated with the nominee's institution. Election is by the AAAS Council.

Nominations with complete documentation must be received by 1 June 2000. Nominations received after that date will be held for the following year. Nomination forms are available from Linda McDaniel by mail at the AAAS Executive Office, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, or by telephone at 202-326-6635.

Questions regarding the Fellow status of specific members can be directed to Ms. McDaniel by e-mail at Lmcdanie@aaas.org. *The Directory of AAAS Fellows* is available from the AAAS Distribution Center, P.O. Box 521, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701 ($14.95 for members, plus $4 for handling and shipping, prepaid).

REPORTS

Report Looks at Human Subjects Research on the Internet

More and more people are communicating on the Internet, turning to chat rooms to discuss everything from news to fashion to personal health. Sometimes, the conversations are intensely private. This practice and the mass of information that comes from it have also made the Internet an attractive source for scientists who want to study human interactions in cyberspace. As a result, questions are being raised about how scientists can ethically and legally conduct such research, and how people using the Internet can protect their interests.

AAAS looks at the issue in a recently released report, "Ethical and Legal Aspects of Human Subjects Research on the Internet," which is based on a workshop held at AAAS in June 1999. Professional and online communities, research institutions, and government agencies participated in the workshop to explore the issues related to online research. The workshop was funded by the U.S. Office for Protection from Research Risks.

"To both protect the privacy and confidentiality of human subjects and at the same time to promote innovative and scientifically sound research, it is important to consider the ethical, legal, and technical issues associated with this burgeoning area of research," said Mark S. Frankel, director of AAAS's Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program.

With forecasts of 500 million people online globally by the year 2003, the Internet represents a rich resource for scientists. Researchers can potentially collect data from widely dispersed populations at relatively low cost and in less time than similar efforts in the physical world. Internet research offers great potential for improving scholarship in a wide variety of fields.

Questions are raised, however, about the ethics of researchers anonymously or pseudonymously recording interactions on a site without the knowledge of the participants, the complexities of obtaining informed consent, the expectation of privacy in cyberspace, and the blurred distinction between public and private domains. In the context of online research, are current policies for governing the conduct of social and behavioral research involving human subjects adequate? The report looks at these and other issues and includes a set of recommendations related to research and education as well as for action for dealing with the challenges posed by the Internet.

The report can be found online at www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/sfrl/projects/intres/main.htm.