

conducting interviews and background research at newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations across the country.

Administered by the AAAS, the Mass Media Science Fellows Program was supported financially in 1980 by the National Science Foundation, Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Exxon Corporation, the Hearst Foundation, the Philip L. Graham Fund, and the AAAS.

At the evaluation meeting in September, the 1980 fellows described the variety of activities in which they were involved during the summer program. Many of them worked on science and technology issues as daily reporters at general circulation newspapers. Erica Goode, Science Fellow at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, described some of her functions at the paper: "Digging up or receiving assignments for stories, doing background research, writing for a deadline . . . talking to irate or enthusiastic readers of my pieces, dealing with editors, and sweating out a few nights worrying about potential inaccuracies in stories already lost to the unmerciful jaws of the presses."

Other participants served their fellowships at magazines such as *Business Week* and *Newsweek*, while still others worked at commercial and public radio and television stations. Leslie Reinherz spent the summer at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis, helping to prepare a 1-hour documentary on water quality issues in the upper Midwest. A few weeks before the end of the program she wrote: "My work is cut out for me: I'll be helping with the 'logging' of images (writing descriptions of everything we shot), the transcribing of interviews, and the actual editing and scriptwriting. School materials (to be used in high schools in conjunction with the special) are being assembled this week."

Benefits of the program are intended to accrue to the media organizations that host the students as well as to the fellows themselves. One newspaper editor acknowledged that one of the benefits of the program is in providing extra staff help during summer vacation months, but she added that another advantage is "the availability of a reporter with a science background who can do a thorough job of writing science-oriented stories that usually get a cursory treatment by nonscientific staffers." Another editor wrote that over the years "the science fellows have often provided us, as journalists, with a new perspective on subjects that we may have been treating in a hackneyed way." Jim Waltermire, news director at WOSU radio in Columbus,

Ohio, wrote: "We feel that AAAS has developed a successful program that has gone a long way toward sensitizing the media and the scientific community to each other's needs."

Several of the 1980 fellows reported that they have accepted jobs this fall that draw directly on their experiences this summer. Kelly Anderson, 1980 fellow at the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, has been appointed science writer for the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Richard Friedhoff, who spent the summer at CBS News headquarters in New York working on the science series "Universe," will be working part-time for the network on fall production activities to be used in future segments of the show. Erica Goode plans to return on a full-time basis in January to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the site of her fellowship this summer. Several other fellows are currently seeking employment in science journalism or are hoping to incorporate freelance writing into their other professional or academic pursuits.

Other fellows are returning to the "pure" scientific community this fall and feel that the program will also benefit them in the long run. Cathy Stieff, who spent the summer at the *Richmond (Va.) News-Leader*, and who admitted late in the program that she "could hardly wait to trade her pencil for a petri dish," plans to return to her biology studies, but noted that the program has strengthened her commitment to communicating science news. "I will never refuse an interview!" she promised.

Applications for the 1981 Mass Media Science Fellows Program are now being accepted. For application materials write to the Program at the Office of Public Sector Programs at the AAAS address.

GAIL J. BRESLOW

Office of Public Sector Programs

## **SACNAS to Hold 1980 National Conference**

Four hundred scientists, students, teachers, and industrial and government representatives are expected to attend the 1980 National Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 20-22 November 1980. With support from the National Institutes of Health, the Southwest Resource Center for Science and Engineering at the University of New Mexico and New Mexico

State University, and the Albuquerque LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) National Educational Service Center, the conference will be the largest gathering of Chicano and Native American scientists ever assembled.

Diana I. Martinez, professor of natural sciences at Michigan State University, and J. R. Martinez, program manager at the U.S. Department of Energy, will co-chair the conference, entitled "Biomedical Research and Its Impact on the Hispanic and Indian Communities." The technical symposia will consider such topics as alcohol and drug abuse, cancer, mental health, infectious diseases, and ethnomedicine. Speakers at these symposia will be largely, but not exclusively, Hispanic and Indian scientists reporting on their own scientific research. Conference activities also will include selected demonstration projects by area high school students, a poster session by undergraduate and graduate student researchers, and exhibits and tours of local scientific laboratories.

SACNAS was founded in 1971 by a group of American Indian and Mexican American scientists who recognized the need for collective efforts to increase the participation of Indians and Chicanos in science. Since that first meeting at the University of New Mexico, SACNAS (with a current membership of 200 scientists representing a wide range of disciplines) has arranged and sponsored symposia at the annual meetings of the AAAS in cooperation with the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science. Recent symposia have focused on the pre-Columbian science endowment for Chicanos and Indians (1979 AAAS Annual Meeting, Houston) and ethnomedicine (1980 AAAS Annual Meeting, San Francisco). In conjunction with these SACNAS/AAAS events, area Chicano and Indian students have had the opportunity to participate in the symposia, in conversations with Hispanic and Native American Scientists, and in touring local scientific laboratories.

For more information on the SACNAS 1980 National Convention, write to SACNAS, P.O. Box 30366, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, or call (505) 243-0302 (SACNAS conference office).

**For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.**