number of Ph.D. recipients in science and engineering who are U.S. citizens dropped 6.6 percent from 1975 and 1985 despite a 68 percent increase in the number of American women earning such degrees. This change results principally from a 23 percent drop in the number of white American men earning doctorates in these fields. Although the numbers of Hispanic and Asians among degree recipients increased slightly, there was a decline in the number of science and engineering Ph.D. awards to blacks over that decade, and the number earned by black men dropped 17 percent in those 10 years.

■ Women have made more progress in moving into the professional labor force than have underrepresented minorities. For example, between 1980 and 1986, the percentage of chemists who were women rose from 20 percent to 23 percent, while blacks dropped from 5 to 3 percent and Hispanics grew half a percentage point to 3 percent.

Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians make up an increasing proportion of the U.S. population, and their proportional growth is fastest among the school and college age groups. The number of college age Americans, the source for most science and engineering graduates, is dropping, and will continue to drop through 1998. The implications of minority population growth in a decreasing college age population, if not accompanied by a parallel growth in representation in higher education and among professional workers, raises serious questions about U.S. ability to maintain its technological competitiveness. Of special concern to academic institutions and many large corporations is the drop in production of U.S. doctoral scientists and engineers needed as faculty and/or researchers.

The statistics needed to assess both the attainment of women and minorities in entering the professional labor force and forecasting the probable number and characteristics of persons available for employment in various fields are provided in the seventh edition of *Professional Women and Minorities—a Manpower Data Resource Service*. This 272-page volume provides a comprehensive statistical picture of yesterday's, today's, and tomorrow's professional work force in the United States in the natural and social sciences, engineering, arts, humanities, education, and all the professions. Data in all fields from more than 200 sources are detailed by sex and/or minority status, and the volume includes a comprehensive bibliography of data sources and a detailed cross-index. Copies are available for $85 from the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 831, Washington, D.C. 20005.

BETTY M. VETTER
Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology

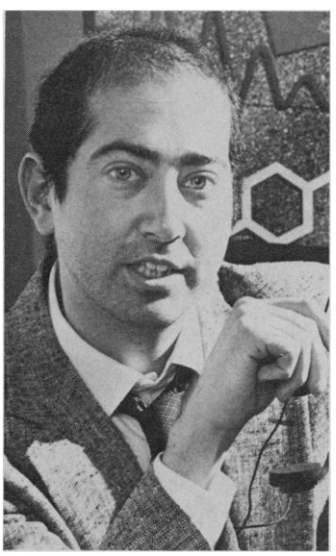
AAAS Radio Program on Mutual

The AAAS is back on commercial radio stations across the country. After a hiatus of about a year and a half, the AAAS Office of Communications is producing three 90-second science radio news feature programs each week. The new show complements "Focus," the Association's long-running interview/panel format program on public radio. It follows the highly successful earlier AAAS commercial radio program, "Report on Science," which was coproduced with the CBS Radio Station's News Service from early 1981 through July 1986.

Topics covered on the new program are decidedly eclectic: an electronic desk that listens to and talks back to the user; explosions that blast materials together, rather than apart; and microorganisms that rescue gold and silver from toxic waste.

The Mutual Broadcasting System makes the new program available to over 800 commercial radio stations nationwide. In addition, they incorporate some of the stories into their early morning show, "America in the Morning," which airs on nearly 300 stations, including those in the top-ten markets in the United States.

The strategy of using both commercial and public radio to communicate about science is a deliberate one. Project director Carol L. Rogers, head of the AAAS Office of Communications, believes that radio offers excellent opportunities to provide news and perspectives about science to a lay audience. "Increasing the public's understanding of science and technology is a major AAAS objective," notes Rogers. "And the public has demonstrated a keen interest in having more information about scientific and technical topics. Producing radio programs for commercial and public stations can be useful in reaching different segments of that public."



Bob Hirshon in on the air in new AAAS radio program on Mutual Broadcasting System.

Bob Hirshon is the on-air reporter for the show. Previously, he produced science radio stories for the Christian Science Monitor and WGBH in Boston. "In 90 seconds we can't report on all the current science news stories; nor can we cover a story in-depth," explains Hirshon. "But what we can do is pique the listeners' interest, and tell them about some aspect of science they might not know, or reveal the science side of a story already in the news."

For example, one story takes up the issue of nature versus nurture as it relates to pit bull terriers. Another looks at what physicists hope to discover with the proposed superconducting supercollider. Still another looks at various types of gambling through the eyes of a mathematician.

The cooperation of researchers from across the country is essential to the show's production. In fact, researchers are an integral part of the show, describing their work or explaining scientific concepts. Further, they offer ideas for new shows and verify the accuracy of scripts.

"When I tell a researcher I'd like to do a radio story explaining their work to a lay audience in 90 seconds, they're justifiably dubious," says Hirshon. "Yet they've been extraordinarily cooperative, and very pleased with the results."

Mutual Broadcasting sends the AAAS radio program via satellite to its affiliate stations. Individual stations then schedule them to fit their own programming needs. AAAS members who want to hear the programs in their area should contact their local Mutual Broadcasting station for air times or write to the Office of Communications at the AAAS address.