Faculty Fellows, designed for those who turn in stellar performances in both research and teaching.

Postmaster Follows The Times

What do the postal service and biotechnology have in common? United States Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank. Frank is leaving his job this month to help run an Oakland, California, biotech company called Acrogen that makes vaccines and diagnostic test kits.

Frank is a former banking executive who co-founded Acrogen in 1987, then left in 1988 for Washington, D.C., where he has attempted to bring private enterprise-style efficiency to postal practices. But getting the mail there on time is not where his heart is. "I love to see the interaction of science and money," he says.

Rockets for Sale

For sale or rent by owner: rockets, rescue spacecraft, automated docking systems, ground antennas, one used space station in constant need of repair. Priced for quick turnover.—Contact B. Yeltsin.

The Russians haven't yet resorted to the classifieds, but the collapse of the Soviet Union—along with its huge military budget—has forced its reeling space program to auction off some of its wares simply to survive. These assets, which include the Mir space station, the huge Energia rocket, and the Soyuz-TM spacecraft, are "international treasures" that may become "endangered species," said Roald Sagdeev, former head of the Soviet Institute for Space Research, at a Senate hearing called by Barbara Mikulski (D–MD) last week.

Outgoing NASA administrator Richard Truly testified that the agency is particularly interested in the Soyuz-TM, Russia's version of the old Apollo vehicles, as well as an automated docking and rendezvous system. Truly said the Soyuz-TM could serve as the "assured crew return vehicle" required for the proposed U.S. space station for use in shuttle delays, medical crises, and other emergencies. Technical teams from NASA may soon travel to Russia to evaluate this option, according to Truly.

And then there are the large ground antennas that formed the Soviet Union's deep space network. By acquiring tracking time on these, Truly said, "we could get a great portion of the Galileo mission done." If the troubled spacecraft's high-gain antenna cannot be fixed, NASA would use the extra ground stations to ensure a nonstop flow of data from Galileo's one working transmitter.

Conservation Collaboration in Kenya

Zebras are among hundreds of species at Mpala Ranch.

Kenya, Princeton, and the Smithsonian Institution are getting together to launch a center for conservation research on Kenya's Laikipia Plateau. The new entity, the Mpala Wildlife Research Trust, is based on a 48,500-acre cattle ranch owned by Baltimore, Maryland, businessman George L. Small, who in 1989 created the Mpala Wildlife Foundation. Anthropologist Richard Leakey, director of the newly created Kenyan Wildlife Services, is one of the prime movers behind the plan. At a press conference at the Kenyan Embassy in Washington, D.C., Leakey explained that the facility is expected to train Kenyans for conservation and wildlife management. "We do not want this to be a foreign research center in our country for the benefit of foreigners," Leakey said. Early on, however, most projects will be those cooked up by Princetonians—for example, Daniel Rubenstein, chairman of Princeton's department of ecology and evolutionary biology, headed out to Mpala in January with a group of students for research on the longterm effects of grazing by wildlife and cattle. Smithsonian scientists are also planning to put together a database of zoological and ecological information gathered at the ranch.

Addled Science for Young Minds

A mathematician at the University of California, Riverside, has taken a widely used seventh grade social studies textbook—Houghton Mifflin's *Across the Centuries*—to task for what he calls "a pervasive pattern of flaws, goofs, and misunderstandings" of math and science.

At one point, notes John de Pillis, the book describes an Indian belief that the body consists of the five "natural elements" earth, water, fire, wind, and space under the heading "Science Context." At another, the text correctly defines the "knot" as a unit of nautical speed, but then employs the redundant phrase "knots per hour." What's more, de Pillis says, the book is prone to sloppy, content-free generalizations—such as stating that Isaac Newton's "biggest contribution" was "providing an explanation for the universe which was very large in scope."

When de Pillis wrote to Houghton Mifflin pointing up some of the book's weaknesses, company vice president Ray Shepard admitted some errors but would not acknowledge others. For instance, Shepard wrote, "We do not say the Indian idea of five natural elements *is* science." And he defended as sound several historical examples de Pillis had attacked as misleading—such as one suggesting that Ptolemy's biggest mistake was wrongly estimating the earth's size, when Ptolemy's bigger goof was placing Earth at the center of the universe. Contacted by *Science*, Shepard requested time to compile some documentation but did not return subsequent telephone calls.

High Biology Posts

Two biologists have just received an additional measure of job security: Nobel laureate Torsten Wiesel, who took over as president of Rockefeller University upon the resignation in December of David Baltimore, has been appointed to a 3-year term. And Jasper Rine, who has been acting director of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory's Human Genome Center since the July departure of Charles Cantor, has been named the center's director.

ROBERT REICHERT

Torsten Wiesel