

Golden Fund Update

An extremely generous, historic gift from William T. Golden, AAAS's treasurer emeritus, stimulates programmatic innovation by funding activities not normally supported by the general budget. Most recently, Mr. Golden's vision and gift have made possible the following innovative new programs:

Understanding the Nature of Science

AAAS's Project 2061 is producing a booklet that portrays the nature of science in a set of four related strand maps, with additional text and illustrations drawn from the *Atlas of Science Literacy* (AAAS, 2001), *Benchmarks for Science Literacy* (AAAS, 1993), *Science for All Americans* (AAAS, 1990), and other sources. The booklet should help to promote the Atlas to new as well as existing audiences, to science education for everyone, and to increase public understanding of science.

Accessing K-12 Teaching Resources Online

Project 2061 also is developing a prototype of interactive strand maps to serve as a unified interface for accessing K-12 teaching resources online. The strand maps can be a powerful tool for helping educators to select stage-appropriate instructional resources, within a coherent set of interrelated K-12 learning goals, linked to the specific ideas and skills that students need to learn.

Science Reporting for a Young Audience

The new Science Reporting for Kids Portal on EurekAlert! is fully functional. Log onto www.eurekaalert.org/kidsnews to read the latest kids' news from *Science*, or to play free online games such as "Be on the Cover of *Science*." The portal now serves hundreds of reporters who specialize in science-news coverage for young audiences, and many are registered to receive weekly e-mail alerts featuring story ideas for kids. The portal is freely available to the public, too, and receives upwards of 4,000 hits each month.

Kinetic City Gym

Through the Kinetic City Gym, children are encouraged to love learning about science by playing high-energy games and engaging in "smart moves." This interactive online game kit requires kids to get out of their chairs and run, skip, toss, and twist while learning about science. Ideal for summer science camps or gyms, the kit is designed to teach children how the human body operates by playing high-impact games that either illustrate body functions or require kids to measure the effects of movement.



Science Online, Podcasts, and Blogs

AAAS has created a pilot podcast based on breaking *Science* content, geared toward general audiences and involving various AAAS departments; as well as a more focused Web log targeted at specific scientific disciplines. At press time, the fledgling *Science* podcast was ranking among the top 25 subscribed, science-themed podcasts on the iTunes site. Go to www.sciencemag.org/podcast.



EurekaAlert! Multimedia Gallery

The new multimedia gallery on EurekaAlert! is helping to enhance science communications with reporters across languages, while also assisting public information officers (PIOs) to better serve radio, television, and online reporters. The centralized, “one-stop-shopping” resource makes it possible for PIOs to provide thousands of registered reporters with freely accessible images. Soon, audio and short video files also will be featured within the gallery. For more information, visit www.eurekaalert.org/multimedia.

Science’s Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment (STKE)

STKE provides a central electronic information source focusing on how cells “talk” to each other through chemical signals. This biological information network is essential for understanding nearly everything in biology, from the development of an embryo to cancer. Now, STKE and the Blueprint Initiative at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, are enhancing the site’s Connections Maps Pathway display so that students and experts alike can obtain more information, simply by looking at pathway diagrams. Work by a new STKE database curator ultimately will result in expanded search options, too.

Evolution on the Front Line

Funding provided in 2005 supported a special event during the 2006 AAAS Annual Meeting that engaged some 500 attendees, including an estimated 250 K-12 educators who made their voices heard through advance focus groups and an instant “clicker survey.” The event featured prominent scientists, a policy-maker, the director of the Vatican Observatory, and even Jeff Corwin, host of Animal Planet’s “Corwin’s Quest.” Speakers and attendees discussed challenges confronting science teachers seeking to protect the integrity of science and science education. Teachers received a special *Project 2061 Abbreviated Guide to Teaching Evolution* and a video featuring teachers from Dover, Pennsylvania. See www.aaas.org/news/press_room/evolution.

“The purposes of the Evolution on the Front Line event are to give teachers a voice on the evolution issue and to advise the scientific community how best to support them. We hope to learn how we can best support teachers as they endeavor to help our children understand what is and isn’t science. And, we commend teachers for their efforts to safeguard the integrity of U.S. science education.”

— Gilbert S. Omenn, AAAS President (2005)