

Golden Fund Update — 2006

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. The following summaries offer a snapshot of programs and activities that were made possible in 2006 by the William T. Golden Endowment Fund for Program Innovation.

Promoting High-Quality Instructional Materials

Project 2061, the science-education reform initiative at AAAS, is developing a *Consumer's Guide to Selecting High-Quality Instructional Materials*. Evaluations have shown that most textbooks fail to help students meet Project 2061's *Benchmarks for Science Literacy* (1993) or the National Research Council's *National Science Education Standards* (1996), which represent a broad consensus on the specific knowledge and skills that students should have at each grade level, from kindergarten to 12th grade. *The Consumer's Guide* will address the need for instructional materials targeting content specified in those standards.

Support for Informal Science Institutions

Project 2061 is customizing its professional-development offerings to meet the needs of informal science institutions and the teachers they serve. While Project 2061's emphasis thus far has been on science-education reform within the context of formal education, it recognizes that informal science institutions play an important role in supporting classroom-based learning, too. As education experts at many science centers and museums are already working with teachers in their communities, Project 2061 plans additional support as schools get ready for testing in science under the federal No Child Left Behind legislation.

Travel Awards for Young Science Journalists

Under a Golden Grant to the AAAS Office of Public Programs, 10 student journalists in 2006 received up to \$1,000 for expenses related to travel to the AAAS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The awards, administered by the National Association of Science Writers (NASW), allowed deserving students to attend the 2007 meeting and to participate in the NASW mentorship program. One student commented: "Being able to attend meetings on topics ranging from deep-sea fishing to advances in our understanding of brain function expanded my science knowledge base and sparked my interest in new areas of science."



EurekaAlert! Multimedia Gallery

The EurekaAlert! Multimedia Gallery was established as a service to an increasingly diverse science-reporting community. Within its first year of operation, the site had grown to include more than 3,000 high-quality, science-related images — from purple sea urchins to robots, and from dinosaurs to nanotubes. At press time, the Gallery was receiving some 300,000 hits per month. In the coming year, the EurekaAlert! Multimedia Gallery will expand further to include high-quality audio and video files. Significant infrastructure improvements are underway to accommodate expansions. See www.eurekaalert.org/multimedia.

Advising Research Competitiveness

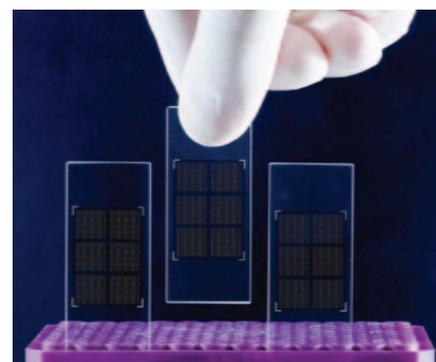
The AAAS Research and Competitiveness Program is developing and producing a book of lessons learned in building competitive research programs at the university and state level, based on their experience with an array of clients over the past 10 years. The program assists universities, government agencies, research consortia, and other institutions in planning, reviewing, or evaluating programs, and initiatives in research, development, and innovation.

State Science and Policy Programs

A new marketing campaign directed at American states' needs in science education, workforce, and innovation is now under development, thanks to a Golden Grant. As states have begun paying considerable attention to these issues, AAAS program offices are gearing up to serve many needs — from advising on the design, review, and evaluation of programs in STEM education, to workforce, research and innovation, to strategic planning for science and technology investments at the state level.



IMAGE COURTESY OF USDA



Science for the Developing World

AAAS provides science communities in developing countries with free access to the archives of the journal *Science* through an array of outlets, such as the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), the Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), and the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) programs. But, these programs depend on Internet-based delivery systems, and Internet connections may be expensive, unreliable, slow, or non-existent throughout most African countries. To help bridge this gap, AAAS's International Office is spearheading an initiative to provide content from *Science* in PDF format on a portable USB flash drive to scientists at universities and research institutions in some of the least developed countries in Africa.