AUCHINCLOSS WILL BE APS CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW IN 1991

The American Physical Society has chosen Priscilla S. Auchincloss to be the APS Congressional Scientist Fellow for 1991. Since 1973 the APS fellowship program has sent one or two promising young physicists each year to Washington, DC, to work on the staff of a member of Congress or a Congressional committee. Like other fellows before her, Auchincloss was selected for her accomplishments in physics, involvement in science and public policy issues, and broad interests outside of science. The selection committee was also impressed by her experience and skill in communicating science and technology to a lay audience.

Auchincloss received an undergraduate degree in physics from New York University in 1977 and a PhD in physics from Columbia University in 1987. Her thesis work involved measuring the total cross section for neutrino–nucleon interactions. The work was conducted at Fermilab through the Chicago–Columbia–Fermilab–Rochester collaboration and was analyzed at the Nevis Laboratory at Columbia. During a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers University, Auchincloss was a member of the Collider Detector Facility collaboration, which was studying proton–antiproton interactions in Fermilab's Tevatron collider. She worked on the Level 3 Trigger project, for which she integrated a 55-node microprocessor array into the data acquisition system.

Since January 1989 Auchincloss has been at the University of Rochester, where she is a research associate and manages the Vax 8800 mainframe and workstations used by the high-energy physics group. Her research at Rochester is part of AMY, the US–Japan collaboration studying electron–positron collisions at KEK in Tsukuba, Japan. Auchincloss has taught an upper-level physics course called Energy and Environment, which dealt with the effects of energy use on the global and local environment.

Priscilla S. Auchincloss

Together with Arie Bodek, a professor at Rochester, Auchincloss helped organize an introductory workshop for teaching assistants in Rochester's physics department. The workshop presented basic teaching skills and also explored how various teaching techniques and teachers' attitudes can encourage or discourage women, minorities and other students who tend to be underrepresented in physics classes (see box).

In January Auchincloss began working with other Rochester scientists, government officials, industry representatives and community leaders to increase public awareness of issues that arise in environmental and health risk controversies. "Scientists and the public tend to be talking about different things when they talk about risk," Auchincloss said in a recent interview. The group, whose work is being sponsored by the Center for Environmental Information, a Rochester-based nonprofit organization that serves as a clearinghouse for information on environmental issues, held a conference on environmental risk in June and is now producing a videotape.

In September Auchincloss will attend an orientation program for science fellows organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The orientation helps fellows from APS and other groups arrange interviews with Congressional committees and members of Congress.

Auchincloss says that during her fellowship she would like to work on energy and environmental policy issues and science education. She is also interested in environmental health questions and the assessment and communication of risk, and she plans to pay particular attention to how Congress resolves these kinds of issues and decides on a course of action.

Information on the APS Congressional Fellowship program will appear in fall issues of the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society*. The deadline for applications to the 1991–92 program is 15 February 1991. ■

'Chilly Climate' Workshop Materials Offered by APS

Priscilla Auchincloss and Arie Bodek of the University of Rochester have developed alternative teaching strategies that aim to warm up the "chilly climate" often encountered in physics classrooms by women, minorities and other students who are underrepresented in physics. Auchincloss and Bodek introduced these teaching strategies in their workshop for teaching assistants at Rochester. Workshop materials are available from APS, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.