

AIP REPORTS ON 1990 SALARIES OF MEMBER-SOCIETY MEMBERS

Pop star Madonna reportedly brought in \$20 million last year. Dan Quayle's Vice Presidential salary amounted to \$125 000. And the typical member of one of the member societies of the American Institute of Physics, with a PhD and 10 years' experience, earned \$55 000. Well, as the saying goes, money isn't everything.

Other facts about the careers of the 98 000 members of AIP's member societies are assembled in the recent report "1990 Salaries: Society Membership Survey." The report, which was prepared by Dawn Kellman and Catherine Scholz of AIP's education and employment statistics division, is based on a survey conducted in the spring of 1990. About one-sixth of the US members of AIP's member societies were polled, and the response rate was 67%.

According to the report, scientists with PhDs saw their median salary go up 5.5% from 1989, which just beat inflation. But salaries varied widely depending on where respondents lived and who they worked for, among other things. Geographically, the highest-paid members lived in the Pacific states (median salary \$61 300), the lowest-paid (\$48 000) in the West North Central states. Scientists at universities earned median salaries of close to \$50 000 in 1990, while scientists working in industry earned just over \$66 000. The typical PhD scientist employed by one of the national labs brought in \$64 500.

If you're looking for greener pastures, you might consider Albuquerque, New Mexico, or Knoxville, Tennessee. AIP member-society members living in those two cities had the highest salaries when adjusted for the cost of living—about \$63 500. The report attributes the high pay rates there to the existence of "high-paying nonacademic jobs, primarily at Sandia and Oak Ridge National Laboratories," combined with fairly low costs of living. The lowest salaries in 1990—again adjusted for cost of living—were in Philadelphia (\$40 400)

and Baltimore (\$44 900).

Over one-third of member-society members supplement their incomes with some kind of outside work, such as consulting, summer research or teaching. These individuals typically brought in around \$8000 in added earnings in 1990. As would be expected, second jobs were most common among academics who worked on 9- to 10-month contracts, and they earned an additional \$11 000; those at four-year colleges earned an extra \$5000. Those working in hospitals also did a lot of moonlighting, bringing in \$7000.

Women members now make up 7% of PhDs, 14% of masters and 17% of bachelors, while in the early 1980s women accounted for less than 5% of PhDs and less than 10% of masters

and bachelors. But the gap between men's and women's salaries persists. Although this is partly due to male respondents' being older and having more work experience than women, "age and experience do not account entirely for differences in salary," the report concludes.

In industry, men's salaries for entry-level positions were \$5000 more than women's; for people with 10 or more years' experience, that gap increases to \$15 300. In academia, at the highest level of experience, men make about 30% more than women.

Copies of the 1990 salary report are available free of charge from the Education and Employment Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

—JEAN KUMAGAI

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ISSUES SURVEY OF ITS MEMBERSHIP

The members of the American Astronomical Society are a research-loving bunch. So says a recent survey released by AAS, which polled its 5300 members last spring about their careers and use of the society's services. The response rate to the survey was 42%, and over half the respondents said they spend most of their time doing research, while less than 10% said that most of their time is spent teaching.

According to the survey, which was overseen by a committee headed by Frank H. Shu (University of California, Berkeley), 92% of AAS members are white and 87% are male. Two-thirds of the respondents earned the highest of their degrees in astronomy or astrophysics and one-fourth earned their highest degrees in physics.

Among the survey's other findings: 55% of AAS members work in academia, 16% in Federally funded research centers and 14% in other government-funded facilities. Full professors and senior scientists made

up 31% of the respondents, while 16% were associate professors and scientists; assistant professors and post-docs each accounted for 11% of the respondents.

When asked about public policy, the vast majority of respondents said AAS should lobby on issues such as Federal funding of astronomy (78%), science education (73%) and freedom of exchange of scientific information (70%). But most said AAS should not take action on disarmament or the Strategic Defense Initiative.

One of the survey's intentions was to evaluate sex bias within the astronomy community. Some rather startling findings emerged. Half of the women respondents said they have experienced or witnessed sex discrimination during their careers, and significant proportions of women said they had observed sex bias in decisions regarding promotions (33%), pay and fringe benefits (29%) and tenure (26%). Very few men said they had witnessed any discrimina-