

Massey, the former head of NSF, and D. Allan Bromley, the Presidential science adviser under George Bush; he has organized sessions at physics meetings and has been interviewed by newspapers, magazines and radio programs. But Aylesworth is no longer active in physics research. Last year he began working as a technical assistant and paralegal for Kenneth Chesebro, a lawyer based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who is also a childhood acquaintance.

"I feel pretty happy about my current situation," Aylesworth says, adding that eventually he'd like to get into science policy. Neither a militant nor a radical, he readily admits that the network would never have come to be had the job market been kinder. "In a perfect world," he says, "there would be enough funding to do what we [scientists] want to do. And I would still be in research."

—JEAN KUMAGAI

RECESSION EFFECTS SEEN IN AIP SURVEY OF COLLEGE GRADS

The latest survey of recipients of bachelor's degrees in physics registered little change from the immediately previous years, evidence apparently of the stubborn recession affecting the whole economy. The survey covered individuals who graduated from college in 1991-92 and was carried out by the Education and Employment Statistics Division of the American Institute of Physics.

The survey report identifies stagnant salary levels and diminished job opportunities as characteristic symptoms of the overall situation. For the third year in a row, the median monthly salary obtained by those bachelors who chose to take full-time jobs was exactly \$2085. Women working in the manufacture of technical products earned the highest monthly median salary, \$2890, but the median salary for all women was about \$50 lower than that for men.

Of the 1991-92 graduates, less than one-fifth took full-time employment, while 38% chose to pursue graduate studies in physics or astronomy and 21% opted for graduate study in other fields. The high proportion continuing with graduate study—59% in 1991-92 versus 50% in 1984-85—is in itself symptomatic of poor economic prospects in the view of Susanne D. Ellis, the AIP staffer principally responsible for the survey and survey report.

Women were disproportionately

likely to continue with graduate study in physics and astronomy in 1991-92. They constituted 18% of the graduating class, and 44% (194 individuals) planned on graduate study.

Of all the employment-oriented college graduates in physics and astronomy, 11% had two or more job offers at the time of graduation, just the same as the year before. The proportions with one job offer (69%) or none (20%) were not significantly different from the year before. In 1980, by contrast, 40% had two or more job offers at graduation and only 10% had none.

The survey report highlights some striking long-term trends. Of the physics bachelors taking full-time jobs, 20% went to work for manufacturing companies in 1991-92, compared to 40% in 1980-81. The proportion going into the military increased during the same period from 21% to 29%, and the share going into high school teaching went from 2% to 11%—good news in terms of the outlook for improved precollege science instruction. (Better to have a physics bachelor teaching physics than a football coach!)

Of the 1991-92 bachelors, 62% had taken general physics in high school, 23% advanced placement physics. The proportion with no physics upon entering college dropped to 9% from a record-high 13% in 1989.

Compared to the physics college graduates, astronomy bachelors were more likely to be women and less likely to be members of ethnic minorities.

The report on the 1991-92 survey of physics and astronomy bachelor's degree recipients is available from the Education and Employment Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017.

AIP HISTORY CENTER RECEIVES GIFTS FROM SEGRE, FORD FAMILIES

The Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics recently received two substantial gifts: a donation from Rosa Segrè, the widow of Emilio Segrè, for upgrading the center's photograph collection; and an unrestricted bequest from the late Clinton B. Ford. The gifts will significantly enhance the center's efforts to preserve and make known the history of modern physics and allied sciences.

The history center's collection of photographs and other audiovisual materials has been renamed the Emilio Segrè Visual Archives. In addition

to doing experimental research in nuclear and high-energy physics and writing books on physics history (see Segrè's obituary, *PHYSICS TODAY*, October 1990, page 122), Segrè was an avid photographer and often illustrated his books with his own pictures of colleagues.

The Segrè gift of about \$70 000 will help assure the long-term preservation of photographs and other materials, which frequently are used by historians, textbook publishers, and makers of film and television educational productions. The center is separating negatives from associated prints and duplicating about 2000 of the most valuable photographs—roughly one-tenth of the entire collection—so that the originals can be placed in cold storage at a separate location.

Later the center will put endangered films on videotape, publish a brochure describing the collection and seek out additional images of scientists. AIP has segregated \$13 000 as an endowment for the collection.

The Ford bequest of \$200 000 has been deposited in a new fund, the Clinton B. Ford Endowment. Ford, an amateur astronomer widely known for his work on variable stars, was a lifelong member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers and a fellow of the American Astronomical Society.

The first project funded from the Ford bequest involves locating correspondence and unpublished papers related to the history of astronomy in archives around the world. The information is being indexed and entered on the center's computer-based International Catalog of Sources for the History of Physics and Allied Sciences.

In addition to the Segrè and Ford gifts, the history center has seen a substantial increase in its endowment thanks to donations from hundreds of individuals. During the past five years these "Friends of the Center" have donated about \$170 000 more than in the previous five-year period; a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities matched these funds with an additional dollar for every three dollars given by friends. As a result, the center's endowment funds now total nearly a million dollars. The income is currently being used to make grants-in-aid to scholars who visit the center's Niels Bohr Library or who conduct oral history interviews that will be deposited there, and to support preparation of a guide to the library's collections. ■