2004 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program
THE PURPOSE
Increasing public understanding of science and technology is one of the principal goals of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). AAAS has improved coverage of science and technology in mass media for more than twenty years through the Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program. This highly competitive program strengthens the connections between scientists and journalists by placing advanced science, mathematics and engineering students in newsrooms across the country. The AAAS Fellows use their academic training in the sciences as they research, write, and report today’s headlines, sharpening their abilities to communicate complex scientific and technical issues to non-specialists.

THE PROGRAM
The AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows work for 10 weeks during the summer as reporters, researchers, and production assistants in mass media organizations nationwide. Fellows collaborate with media professionals at radio and television stations, newspapers, and magazines. The student-scientists and their host-journalists strive to make science news clear and comprehensive to the public.

The fellowship program is designed to enhance coverage of science-related issues in the media in order to improve public understanding and appreciation of science and technology. Fellows have the opportunity to observe and participate in the process by which events and ideas become news, improve their communication skills by learning to describe complex technical subjects in a manner understandable to the lay public, and increase their understanding of editorial decision making and the way in which information is effectively disseminated. Now in its 30th year, the program has supported more than 450 Fellows.
THE CRITERIA

Applicants must be enrolled as college or university students (in their senior year, or in any graduate or post graduate level) in the natural, physical, health, engineering, computer, or social sciences or mathematics in order to apply. Students enrolled in English, journalism, science journalism, or other non-technical fields are not eligible for these fellowships. Successful applicants will attend an orientation at AAAS headquarters at the start of the summer and a wrap-up session at the end of the summer. They will prepare reports on the progress of their fellowships throughout the summer.

THE AWARD

AAAS selects 20-30 Mass Media Fellows each summer. Fellows are provided a weekly stipend of $450 as well as travel expenses to and from AAAS and their sites.

THE RESULTS

The program’s impact extends beyond the 10 weeks Fellows spend at their summer sites. A significant number of program alumni have been encouraged by their fellowship experiences to pursue careers related to science journalism. Others, working as scientists or engineers, become more adept at describing scientific concepts to reporters who call their institutions for information. Some hire on as freelancers, or have otherwise incorporated new activities related to public understanding of science into their academic or professional work in science and engineering.

2003 HOST SITES

Chicago Tribune
Dateline NBC
Environment Hawai’i
KUNC-FM
Los Angeles Times
Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel
National Public Radio
Oregonian
Popular Science
Richmond Times-Dispatch
Sacramento Bee
Scientific American
Seattle Times
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
US News & World Report
Voice of America
WNBC
WOSU-AM

2003 FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Geophysical Union*
American Mathematical Society*
American Physical Society* +
American Physiological Society*
American Society for Microbiology*
American Sociological Association*
Burroughs Wellcome Fund+
Foundation for Child Development+
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, USA*
NASA Messenger
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics*

* AAAS Affiliate
+ Funded or Sponsored Multiple Fellows
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

An application for the Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program, is enclosed. To receive an additional application form or more information please contact:

AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program
1200 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 326-6441; FAX (202) 371-9849
The application is available online at:
http://ehrweb.aaas.org/massmedia.htm

A complete application packet consists of:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume (please include any honors, awards, and relevant activities).
3. Brief sample(s) of your writing (3-5 pages on any subject written in terms appropriate for the general public—no technical papers, please).
4. Three letters of recommendation (to be mailed directly to the program). Two of these letters should be from faculty members; one should be a personal reference.
5. Transcripts of your undergraduate and graduate work (to be mailed directly to the program).

The applicants are responsible for obtaining the necessary transcripts and letters of recommendation and seeing that all materials are sent directly to the program. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of experts in the sciences, education, and the media. The committee will make recommendations to the AAAS staff who are responsible for the final decisions and for negotiations between the candidates and the media hosts. Candidates will receive final notification of the status of their applications by April 15, 2004.

NOTE: All applicants should be available for a telephone interview in late February or early March and be able to accept assignments anywhere in the United States.

The deadline for receipt of applications is January 15, 2004.
AAAS announces the
2004 MASS MEDIA SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING FELLOWS PROGRAM
APPLICATION

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________ State: ____________________  ZIP Code:____________
Home Phone: ____________________________ School/Work Phone: _____________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Education:

**Undergraduate Institution:**

Address: ____________________________
Field: ____________________________ Year of Graduation/Degree: _______________

**Graduate Institution:**

Address: ____________________________
Field: ____________________________ Year of Graduation/Degree: _______________

Are you a member of any professional societies or associations? If so, please list them:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

List the names, address, and telephone numbers of the three people from whom you have requested letters of recommendation. Two of the letters should be from faculty members who can comment on your academic work; the third should be from someone who knows you in a non-academic context.

**Faculty References (2):**

1. Name: ________________________________________________________________________________
   Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
   Telephone Numbers/Home: ___________________________ Office: ____________________________
   Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

2. Name: ________________________________________________________________________________
   Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
   Telephone Numbers/Home: ___________________________ Office: ____________________________
   Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

**Personal Reference:**

3. Name: ________________________________________________________________________________
   Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
   Telephone Numbers/Home: ___________________________ Office: ____________________________
   Email: ________________________________________________________________________________
This form can be copied or is available online at http://ehrweb.aaas.org/massmedia.htm
You may use additional sheets if necessary.

1. What abilities do you have that could enhance the public's understanding of science and technology?
   Why are you, as a scientist or engineer, interested in participating in this program?

2. What in your background has prepared you for this fellowship?

3. Have you had previous media related experiences? Yes _______  No _______ If yes, give details.

4. Describe any activities, other than previous media experiences, you have undertaken that involved increasing public understanding of science and technology.

5. Do you have a preference for print, online or broadcast journalism or for a particular region of the country in which to spend your fellowship period?

6. How did you find out about the program?


All application materials should be sent to:
Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program
American Association for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005
(Voicemail) 202-326-6441; (FAX) 202-371-9849

Thank you for your interest.
About AAAS

Founded in 1848, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world’s largest federation of scientific and engineering societies, with over 270 affiliated organizations. AAAS individual members include more than 138,000 scientists, engineers, science educators, policymakers, and interested citizens. The Association’s goals include:

- Furthering the work of scientists and facilitating cooperation among them.
- Fostering scientific freedom and responsibility.
- Improving the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare.
- Advancing education in science.
- Increasing the public understanding and appreciation for the importance of the methods of science in human progress.

AAAS also is the publisher of Science magazine.

The Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) seeks to:

- Improve education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Foster equal access to these fields for racial/ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities.
- Enhance the public understanding of science and technology.

EHR’s many initiatives and projects include:

- School reform in science, mathematics and technology.
- Educational research on schools, colleges, universities, and human resources.
- Informal science and mathematics education with community-based organizations.
- Libraries, science museums, and technology centers. EHR projects and activities include a children’s science and mathematics online club, science media fellowships, science and technology summer internships in government and business for students with disabilities, and a science radio show.