

Bowen discovered that many former congressional fellows are still running around Washington, DC, and in government. "I'm very excited to be joining 'the mafia,'" he says, using the term that AAAS fellows apply to themselves. "Everyone looks out for each other, and former fellows form a great network and are willing to give advice, even when they are busy."

"I want to learn how government works," says Alex Apotsos, a PhD civil engineer and oceanography expert also from MIT. Apotsos, the newest American Geophysical Union (AGU) fellow, previously spent two years as a Peace Corps water engineer in Mali and was discouraged by the way international policy can adversely affect underdeveloped regions. He is now motivated, he says, to learn how to get science incorporated into policy as he works on water

resource issues in the office of Sen. John Tester (D-MT).

John Veysey is this year's AIP congressional fellow and a physicist from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Through his experience in the office of Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), he hopes to learn about basic-science research funding. Veysey will assist the Menendez staff on the Senate energy and natural resources committee.

An inch deep and a mile wide

Eleanore Edson, last year's OSA/SPIE fellow, recalls her work on health policy for Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) as incredibly rewarding. "I certainly learned more in that one-year period than I had in any other year." Her advice to the new crop of fellows is to "get accustomed to having a very broad portfolio. [Policy work] is inch deep and mile

wide, . . . and prioritizing multiple tasks will become a critical skill." Edson, currently a program officer at the Office of Naval Research through a AAAS S&T fellowship, hopes to pursue a career in international science policy.

Last year's APS fellow, Don Engel, worked for Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) on the America COMPETES Act. Engel says he learned that "policymaking is based on trust. Congress relies on experts to advise them, and they tend to trust scientists and professors." Engel now has a new fellowship and is working on policy analysis for APS. Alex Saltman extended his APS fellowship and continues to work for Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) on nuclear nonproliferation. Mark Wenzel, last year's AGU fellow, has extended his tenure on the staff of Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), where he contributes technical expertise to many issues, including energy, the environment, and competitiveness.

Jonna Hamilton, last year's AIP congressional fellow, is now a AAAS fellow with the Foreign Agricultural Service at the US Department of Agriculture. "Policymakers are usually willing to meet with scientists who are willing to lend their knowledge to policy formulation," she says.

Jermev N. A. Matthews

Applications for congressional fellowships are due in early 2008. For details, visit <http://fellowships.aaas.org>, which has links to the various sponsoring professional societies.

International neutrino experiment breaks ground

A large project that will seek a small effect was inaugurated with a groundbreaking ceremony on 13 October. The Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment, located in China's Guangdong Province about 55 km northeast of Hong Kong, is designed to measure θ_{13} , the last unknown neutrino mixing angle.

The experiment will use eight movable underground detectors to monitor six local nuclear power reactors for the disappearance of electron antineutrinos (see PHYSICS TODAY, November 2006, page 31).

The ceremony marked the start of excavation for tunnels and experiment halls. It was attended by Chinese and American officials; Robin Staffin, associate director of the US Department of Energy's Office of High Energy Physics, is second from left in the photo. (Staffin has since become an adviser to Ray Orbach, DOE's under secretary for science.) The experiment is expected to be fully up and running in 2010. Chunli Bai, the Chinese Academy of Sciences' executive vice president (far left), said the experiment "bears great importance in strengthening international collaboration in the field of basic sciences."

More than 190 scientists from 35 institutions on 3 continents are involved in the



Daya Bay experiment, which in terms of both money and people is among the largest scientific collaborations between the US and China. The other participants are from Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Czech Republic, and Russia. DOE is expected to approve the final scope of US participation in the next few months, and to contribute about \$34 million, or roughly half the cost of detector construction.

Toni Feder

Industrial Physics Forum confronts energy challenges

Scientists from industry, government, and academia gathered this October in Seattle to discuss nuclear power, renewable sources, and related energy issues at the 49th Industrial Physics Forum organized by the Corporate Associates program of the American Institute of Physics (<http://www.aip.org/ipf>). The conference ran concurrently with the 54th annual AVS Symposium.

Although technological solutions dominated most sessions, the specter of climate change (see figure) loomed over the entire conference. For example, Rosina Bierbaum, an ecologist from the University of Michigan, illustrated a scenario in which annual US carbon emissions would nearly double by 2050 but could be halved in the same time if sustainable technology and policy are implemented.