

AAAS Initiates Barrier-Free Meetings

This year in Boston the AAAS rolled out the welcome carpet for the physically disabled in the scientific community. More than 200 persons walked or wheeled over that carpet to attend the annual meeting with their colleagues. For many of this group, full participation in a professional meeting had previously been impossible. At this year's AAAS meeting the housing and meeting facilities selected were highly accessible to wheelchairs, interpreters were available to the deaf, and volunteers were on hand to help as requested. In addition, a resource center and 24-hour-a-day hot line offered on-the-spot assistance.

The AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science, with the cooperation of the Meetings Office, coordinated the activities. The university student volunteers and members of the Massachusetts Council of Organizations of the Handicapped served as the backbone of the accessibility effort. Also, the Boston Advisory Committee, hotel and convention bureau staff, and tour directors eagerly participated by adjusting their plans to accommodate the special needs of the disabled. The tour director, with the help of the Advisory Committee, even managed to have a ramp built at Symphony

Hall and provided a van with hydraulic lift to transport people to the Boston Pop's Concert.

Close association with their disabled peers seemed to have had a profound effect on the able-bodied scientists who attended the Boston meeting. Many expressed regret that their colleagues had been unthinkingly excluded in the past. Plans are currently underway to ensure that the Denver meeting and others in the future will be made as barrier-free as possible. Also, efforts will be made to provide whatever assistance is necessary to encourage and ensure the full meeting participation of all members of the scientific community.

Surprisingly, the AAAS staff responsible for the accessibility effort found that the tasks involved were much easier than they had expected. And they confirmed that the benefits received from tapping these valuable human resources far outweighed the efforts in their behalf.

In order to assist AAAS affiliates and other professional organizations to provide barrier-free meetings, the Office of Opportunities in Science is preparing a guide to making professional meetings accessible. The guide, based on the experiences in making the Boston meeting

accessible and written with the guidance of a large number of the disabled scientists who attended, will be ready for distribution this summer. The Office also has offered its help to several scientific societies in planning for their future meetings. The American Physical Society at its recent meeting in Washington provided special information and assistance to the handicapped. The American Psychological Association is planning to expand its services to the handicapped at its meeting in Washington this fall.

One highlight of the AAAS meeting as it concerned the physically disabled was a symposium, "Science, Technology, and the Handicapped," which focused on technological innovations and research needs, as well as on the removal of physical, educational, and career barriers for the handicapped. Featured were two computers, one that reads to the blind, the other that helps teach the deaf to speak, and communication devices for the nonvocal. Special attention was given to the implications for action by professional societies in the removal of barriers to the physically disabled. Proceedings of the symposium will be available by the end of the summer from AAAS.

Also, as part of the Science International exposition at the AAAS meeting, 14 booths demonstrated the work of rehabilitation research and training centers across the country; instructional methods for teaching science and art to blind students; the work of state



Fig. 1 (left). Martha Ross Redden (far right), director of the AAAS Project on the Handicapped in Science, discusses the program with several disabled scientists at the Boston meeting. Left to right, Frances Lowder, Phyllis Stearner, Cheryl Davis, and Robert Larsen. Fig. 2 (right). Robert Haushalter of American University explains some of the features of Laboratory Science and Art for the Blind to an exhibit visitor at the AAAS meeting. [Photos by Steven Brody]

SB & F Needs Reviewers

Science Books & Films magazine, a quarterly publication of AAAS, publishes reviews of more than 1000 new science books and over 250 new science films each year and covers all areas of the physical, biological, and social sciences. The magazine is now in its 11th year of operation and depends on the volunteer services of scientists in all fields in universities and industry. Books and films for all reader and viewer levels are reviewed, from kindergarten through college, with emphasis on materials for students and the general reader and viewer.

The magazine is seeking additional reviewers for elementary level films in psychology, mathematics, zoology, nutrition, and medicine. Reviewers are also needed for high school level films on child development, human sexuality, sociology, and space sciences. Films to be reviewed are 16mm, and reviewers must have access to appropriate equipment. Interested scientists should respond to the Editor, *Science Books & Films*, AAAS, 6th Floor, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Colloquium on R & D in the Federal Budget

The agenda is now complete for the AAAS Colloquium on Research and Development in the Federal Budget, to be held on 15-16 June in Washington, D.C. (*Science*, 2 April 1976, page 43). The opening plenary session, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on 15 June at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, will feature H. Guyford Stever, director of the National Science Foundation; Representative James Symington (D-Mo.); Paul O'Neill, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget; Paul Doty of the Harvard University Program on Science and International Affairs; and Ruth Davis of the National Bureau of Standards. They will discuss the problems of R & D budgeting from their various perspectives.

Four parallel workshop sessions are scheduled for the morning of 16 June on the following topics:

- Budgeting for Basic Research
- Budgeting for Development and Demonstration
- R & D Budgets and Technological Advance
- R & D Budgets and Long-Range Planning

The workshops will include short addresses and prepared commentary by representatives from federal agencies concerned with R & D, the Congress, and the scientific community. Ample time for group discussion has been allotted in each session.

The afternoon schedule will be highlighted by a luncheon address by Representative Brock Adams (D-Wash.), who will discuss R & D in the new congressional budget-making process. This will be followed by reports from the workshops, after which there will be a closing plenary session, designed to provide guidance to the ongoing AAAS budget analysis project.

Through these workshops and plenary sessions, the colloquium will focus on general and recurring problems in budgeting for R & D, rather than on specific issues raised by the FY 1977 budget. A primary objective is to assemble, in working sessions, members of the scientific community and Washington policy-makers who are concerned with federal support for R & D.

For information regarding registration, see the 30 April issue of *Science*, page 427, or contact C. Lighthizer, Division of Public Sector Programs, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-467-4449.

Physically handicapped persons planning to attend are asked to notify Ms. Lighthizer in advance if special arrangements will be needed.

CATHERINE LIGHTHIZER and WILLIAM A. BLANPIED
Public Sector Programs

agencies and local organizations serving the needs of the deaf, blind, and physically disabled; and some of the technological developments to aid the disabled.

AAAS began to actively consider the needs of its physically disabled members over 2 years ago, at the urging of one of its members, a deaf biologist. During the past year an all-out effort has been launched to facilitate the full participation of handicapped scientists in the activities of the Association. The steps taken thus far are intended to be only the beginning of activities to remove the barriers to the handicapped for education and careers in science. AAAS also is encouraging its affiliates to become involved in programs toward this end.

MARTHA ROSS REDDEN
Opportunities in Science

AAAS Receives \$75,000 Bequest

AAAS has recently received a bequest of \$75,000 from the estate of Carolyn Crossland, wife of the late Harvey A. Crossland of Indianapolis. Her will stipulated that the bequest be made in Mr. Crossland's memory and at his request. There are no restrictions on the gift. Mr. Crossland, a social scientist, was a member of AAAS in the 1940's.

Bequests are a long-established and well-recognized form of giving, although gifts of this size are infrequent. AAAS members wishing to investigate this form of contributing financially to the Association should contact Hans Nussbaum, Business Manager, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

New Publications

Materials: Renewable and Non-renewable Resources (196 pp; \$11.95; \$4.45 paper), edited by Philip H. Abelson and Allen L. Hammond, is now available. The fourth in the series of *Science Compendia* explores such problems as the cost of the energy required for mining, processing, transporting, and manufacturing materials; environmental constraints which impact on the materials cycle; attitudes of developing countries which reflect their increasing awareness of the vulnerability of developed nations to short-term interruptions in materials supplies; depletion of some raw materi-

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