Volunteers Help Bring Science Alive at Local Museums

THE AAAS members around the country are getting involved in a variety of programs aimed at increasing the public's understanding of science. They are donating both time and scientific expertise in a variety of special projects at their local science and technology museums. The museums—and AAAS members—are participating in the AAAS Science and Technology Centers Project, a network of AAAS members and science museums, begun in 1981.

For science museums, the program is a way to tap into a rich resource of highly specialized experts to add to their public education efforts. For AAAS members, it is an opportunity to contribute to the increasingly important science education programs in their own communities.

To date, more than 1500 Association members have participated in this project by donating their special talents and energy. AAAS volunteers are from fields as diverse as astronomy, metallurgical engineering, science policy, and microbiology. Eight science and technology centers across the country currently participate in the project.

One, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago (MSI), recently brought scientists and young people together in the schools AAAS volunteers initiated a "Scientists and Schools" program (the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science began a similar program in 1982). Acting with the museum's education department, the AAAS volunteers recruited nearly 300 scientists from AAAS and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, to visit schools and work with Chicago area students.

Since last fall when brochures about the program were sent to Chicago area schools, more than 60 teachers have contacted the scientists directly to enlist their assistance. The scientist-volunteers talk to students about career opportunities, give expert advice on science projects, help with science clubs, meet with teachers to expand science curricula, judge science fair projects, and discuss applications of new technologies.

In addition, a special event organized by the volunteer's program was held recently at MSI, a AAAS Member Night and Day. On Friday evening, 15 November, nearly 600 AAAS members and their guests came to the Museum to see the exhibits, meet one another, enjoy an informal reception, and learn more about AAAS activities through a mini-resource room, run by the AAAS Membership Office, displaying books, magazines, and informational materials. A highlight of the evening was an illustrated lecture on the Antarctic presented by Donald Langenberg, chancellor of the University of Illinois, Chicago, and a member of the AAAS Board of Directors.

When the museum opened to the public the following day, more than 20 AAAS volunteers were on hand to serve as "explainers" at various exhibits, answering questions from curious visitors. The AAAS volunteers enjoyed the chance to talk with the public one-on-one. "The program is a great idea giving us the opportunity to interact with the public and find out how we are perceived as scientists," said Sandra Garber from the Pathology Department at the University of Illinois. "I would definitely volunteer again."

Similarly, in the Detroit area, AAAS members can often be found volunteering at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. At the annual 10-day "Up with Science" event, AAAS volunteers give demonstrations in their areas of expertise. Wes Capeheart who works at the General Motors Technical Center, mesmerizes audiences of all ages with his liquid nitrogen demonstration.

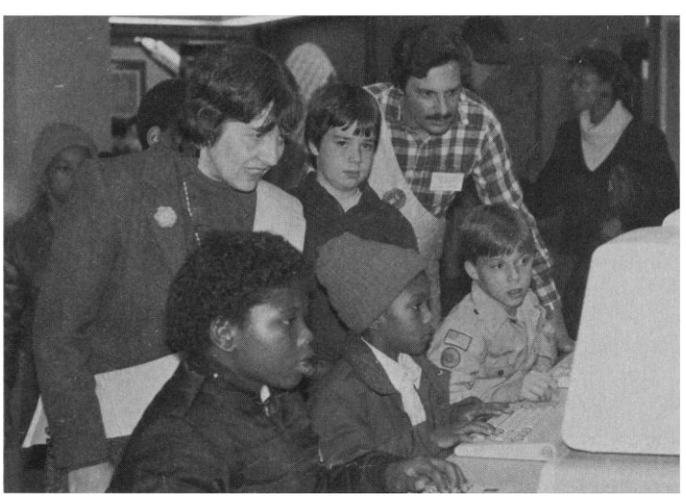
"By applying liquid nitrogen to a banana, it becomes hard enough to hammer nails into wood. The kids really enjoy it," Capeheart said, "and I get a lot out of doing demonstrations because I have so few opportunities to be in contact with the general public."

AAAS volunteer, Jean Riddle, director of the research electromicroscopy lab at Henry Ford Hospital, participates in another Cranbrook program called "Yes, You Can!" designed to encourage girls in grades 6 to 8 to become interested in science education. "It's been a very positive experience working with young people," Riddle said. "I explain to the girls how I meet the continuing challenge of scientific research."

At the Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta, AAAS has had an ongoing cooperative relationship for a number of years. AAAS members have been actively involved in many programs, such as community and regional seminars, and a long-standing Friday night public lecture series. Last November, Fernbank hosted a Junior Academy of Science lecture on DNA in which several AAAS members participated. In addition, AAAS volunteers consult on school loan exhibits designed by Fernbank in some 250 substantive areas and have advised museum staff in preparing media kits.

In addition to MSI, Cranbrook, and Fernbank, the other institutions in the project include the Capital Children's Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Exploratorium in San Francisco; the New York Hall of Science in Flushing, New York; the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science in Durham; and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland (see *Science*, 4 February 1983, p. 484).

The Association of Science/Technology Centers cooperates with the AAAS in the project. The purpose of the project is to enhance the public understanding of science and technology through community-based educational programs for all ages.



AAAS volunteers (wearing sashes) serve as "explainers" on AAAS Day at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. [*Susan Levin, Public Sector Programs, AAAS*]

The AAAS goal is to make the project a permanent, self-sustaining nationwide program.

At least ten more museums will be added to the project over the next 3 years with the support of a National Science Foundation grant. If you are interested in participating in the project, or for further information, contact Patricia S. Curlin, manager, AAAS Science and Technology Museum Project, at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6600.

PATRICIA S. CURLIN
Public Sector Programs

Boulder Hosts SWARM Annual Meeting

The Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division (SWARM) will hold its 62nd annual meeting in Boulder, Colorado, 25 to 29 March. A wide range of symposia will focus on current issues of concern both within and beyond the division's boundaries.

Among the symposia will be "Biological Effects of Acid Rain," "Genetic Counseling in the Rocky Mountain Region," "Strategic Defense Initiatives," "Cognitive Science: Theories, Methodologies, and Applications," "Regulation of Pulmonary Circulation: Biochemical and Biophysical Aspects," "Ecology of Rocky Mountain Wetlands," "Relation of Science and Philosophy," "Value Issues in Science and Technology," and "Innovations in Science Teaching."

In addition, the Committee on Desert and Arid Zones Research will sponsor a symposium on "Human Intervention in the Climatology of Arid Lands: A State-of-the-Art Review."

The meeting's opening session will focus on R&D and will feature presentations by Gerard Piel, chairman of the board, *Scientific American*, and president, AAAS, and Walter Massey, vice president for research, University of Chicago.

SWARM will meet at the College Inn Conference Center at the University of Colorado. Further information is available from SWARM executive officer, M. Michelle Balcomb, Colorado Mountain College, Spring Valley Campus, 4829 154 Road, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601.

Grants to Self-Sponsored Foreign Graduate Students to Attend R&D Colloquium

AAAS expects a limited number of grants of up to $250 to be available to assist self-sponsored foreign graduate students currently studying in the United States to attend the 11th AAAS Colloquium on R&D and Public Policy which will be held in Washington, D.C., 26 and 27 March 1986. Registration for successful applicants will be paid by AAAS.

Applicants should submit: (i) a curriculum vitae, including telephone number; (ii) a budget (round trip to Washington and estimated living expenses); and (iii) a short statement (250 to 300 words) describing the focus of current research, career plans, how training is expected to be applied on return to the home country, and interest in attending the R&D Colloquium. Material should be sent to Sandra M. Burns, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address. Deadline for receipt of applications is *28 February 1986*.

Nomination of AAAS Fellows Invited

The AAAS Executive Office invites groups of three Fellows to nominate AAAS members for fellowship, provided that in each instance at least one of the three sponsors is not affiliated with the institution of the nominee. In order to be considered for election in 1987, nominations must be received no later than 13 June 1986. Nomination forms should be requested from the Executive Office at the AAAS address.

A Fellow is defined as "a member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." Examples of areas in which nominees may have made significant contributions are research; teaching; technology; services to professional societies; administration in academe, industry, government, and other institutions; and communicating and interpreting science to the public.

Following their election, new Fellows will receive fellowship certificates; a list of their names will be published in the Proceedings Issue of *Science*.

A *Directory of AAAS Fellows* (1985) is available from the AAAS Sales Office for $9.50 prepaid.

New Book Looks at *Scientists and Journalists*

Most Americans depend entirely on reports in the mass media for information about science, medicine, and technology. But how good is that information? Are scientists so uncomfortable with the media that they avoid discussing important issues? Are media reports of science sensationalized? How well equipped are journalists to cover science and technology?

Scientists and Journalists: Reporting Science as News examines the relationship between the two groups. Edited by Sharon M. Friedman (Lehigh University), Sharon Dunwoody (University of Wisconsin), and Carol L. Rogers (AAAS), the book describes the relationship through the eyes of both scientists and journalists.

The 18 chapters deal with such topics as the scientist as source, covering science for local and national newspapers, scientists and television, the "gee whiz" phenomenon; media coverage of the recombinant DNA controversy and Three Mile Island, scientists as communicators, and reaching the public. Appendixes include a guide to communicating with the media, a bibliography of research on mass media and science communication, a guide to science in the mass media, and reprints of two major award-winning science articles.

Scientists and Journalists: Reporting Science as News, 1985, 352 pp., is available ($24.95 hardcover, AAAS member price $19.95) from The Free Press, Macmillan, Inc., 866 Third Avenue, New York 10022. When ordering, please include your member number (from *Science* label) and add $1.50 postage and handling per book.

For the Library

1986 Calendar of Scientific Meetings. Listing of major scientific and engineering meetings for 1986. Free on request from the Office of Communications.

1986–87 Public Information Contact Directory. Public information contacts and information about some 300 colleges and universities and 180 scientific and engineering organizations, as well as listings for government agencies, museums state academies of science, and nonprofit and industrial research institutions. Copies of the *Directory* are for sale at $10 each (prepaid only) through Carolyn F. Jones, Office of Communications.

Scientists and Human Rights: Present and Future Directions. A workshop report from the Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights presents human rights work of several scientific societies on behalf of their colleagues around the world. The report, from a workshop held during the AAAS Annual Meeting in New York in 1984, describes the institutionalization of human rights concerns within scientific societies and examines mechanisms within international and intergovernmental organizations set up to address hu-