Museum Project Special Events Draw AAAS Members

On 22 July, hundreds of New York area AAAS members and their families spent an evening exploring science and technology at a special preview opening of the New York Hall of Science. The event was part of the AAAS Science and Technology Centers Project—a program aimed at getting AAAS members nationwide more involved in their local science and technology centers.

The revitalized museum—first opened for the 1964 World's Fair in Queens, New York—has been closed and under renovation since 1981. It formally opens to the public on 7 October. What distinguishes the Hall of Science are its hands-on exhibits. Visitors explore scientific phenomena such as light, sound, medical imaging, robots, and more at their own pace. Workshops, demonstrations, and even planetarium programs invite audience participation. For those who have their scientific curiosity piqued by the exhibits, the Hall also offers a Science Access Center, featuring "Exhibit Link," a unique computer guide keyed to each display and program topic. The system permits easy access to popular and intermediate level books, magazines, and electronic media so that visitors can promptly follow up an interest generated by any exhibit or program.

Last November, AAAS members in the Chicago area attended a AAAS Member Night at the Museum of Science and Industry. The following day was designated "AAAS Day." AAAS member volunteers served as "working scientists and engineers" to discuss exhibits with museum visitors. Such "Member Nights" are one way of galvanizing the AAAS Science and Technology Centers Project at the various participating museums. A similar event is planned for the Cranbrook Museum, near Detroit, in mid-September.

Young scientist tries the "wave machine" at New York Hall of Science's preview opening for AAAS members.

The project, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, is one of many AAAS programs that address public understanding of science. Scientists who become involved with their local science and technology centers can contribute to an enhanced public awareness of science through a variety of outlets. Some museums will use AAAS volunteer scientists to explain or create exhibits. Others may have scientists give lectures, either in the museums or in nearby schools. In addition, some museums may benefit from AAAS volunteers who teach public workshops or "in-service" sessions for museum staff.

The AAAS project has named four more museums to participate in the program. They are the Buhl Science Center, Pittsburgh; The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; Museum of Science, Boston; and The Pacific Science Center, Seattle. This brings to 12 the number of science and technology centers participating in the program.

The Science and Technology Centers Project will continue to phase in more museums over the next 2 years. In making selections, an effort will be made to achieve geographic diversity as well as a balance of small and large museums. Persons interested in obtaining further information should contact Patricia S. Curlin in the Office of Public Sector Programs at the AAAS address.

JUNE WIAZ
Public Sector Programs

Report Details Human Rights in Guatemala

Under the last three military regimes, a large number of people from Guatemala's academic and scientific community were "disappeared" or murdered, apparently for political reasons, according to a new report issued by the AAAS. *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985* is the latest release of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR), which documents human rights abuses of scientists, engineers, and health professionals in foreign countries.

For 6 years, CSFR, through its Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights, gathered information on human rights abuses of scientists in Guatemala and appealed on their behalf to the military authorities. Now the Association and its Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility urge the newly elected civilian government of Guatemala to conduct an in-depth investigation of these cases.

The report, covering the last 5 years of military government, demonstrates that basic human rights violations against individual scientists entailed political killings and disappearances rather than mass internment or detention, involuntary expulsion, or travel restrictions. The report lists the names and circumstances of abuse or death of 201 Guatemalan physicians, scientists, engineers, university professors, and students from 1980 to 1985, with the overwhelming majority cited as dead or "disappeared."

In *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985*, the Committee notes that responsibility for the violations is attributed largely to political violence that was sanctioned or tolerated by the Guatemalan military authorities. The scope of violations is indicated by estimates that Guatemala suffered some 100,000 political killings and 40,000 "disappearances," in a population numbering some 7 million, in

the past 15 years of military rule.

In a letter to President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo accompanying the report, CSFR chair Elena O. Nightingale asks, on behalf of the AAAS Committee, that the Guatemalan government form a human rights commission of national members and international observers to resolve the cases of human rights violations in Guatemala between 1980 and 1985.

The submission of *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985* to the government of Guatemala follows a precedent set in 1984 when CSFR presented to the new civilian government of Argentina a report on 55 Argentine scientists who "disappeared" during the previous 7 years of military rule there. After receiving the documentation, the Argentine government requested that the AAAS provide forensic science assistance to the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, the group charged with investigating the cases of the "disappeared" in Argentina.

Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985 notes that "President Cerezo's effort to restructure and reform the Guatemalan national police and security forces is a positive step towards the prevention of future abuses." The report also "urges that the government investigate, to the fullest extent possible, the cases (described in the report) and provide the families with a report on the findings."

For further information, contact Kathie McCleskey of the CSFR. Copies of *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985* are available for $5 from the AAAS Sales Office at the AAAS address.

Election Ballots Are in the Mail

Ballots for the 1986 AAAS elections are in the mail. Members will vote for a new President-Elect, two seats on the Board of Directors, four positions on the Committee on Nominations, and for various Electorate officers.

Members also will have the opportunity to enroll in an Electorate (voting section). The Association is organized into 22 discipline-oriented sections corresponding to the fields of interest of its members. Sections promote the work of the Association in the various fields and arrange programs for presentation at AAAS meetings. Members may belong to several sections, but may vote in only one Electorate.

Two recent sectional changes should be noted: The name of Section X has been changed to "Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering" and the AAAS Council has authorized the establishment of a new Section Y, "General Interest in Science and Engineering." Members who wish to transfer from their present Electorate (voting section) to either X or Y should complete and return the blue enrollment card enclosed with voting information.

All members are encouraged to actively participate in Association affairs by voting in the election and joining an Electorate. If the ballots you receive are defective in any way, please return them directly to the Executive Office at the AAAS address so that we can send you replacements. Please do not use the envelope enclosed with your ballot to return defective ballots.

AAAS Travelers

AAAS has been invited to send representatives to meetings of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).

The 42nd Annual Session of SLAAS will be held in Colombo, 8 to 12 December 1986. The theme of the session will be "Science and Creativity in Sri Lanka and the Third World." The AAAS delegate has been invited to deliver a lecture in his or her area of expertise and to the relevant SLAAS Section.

ISCA's 74th annual session will be held 3 to 7 January 1987 in Bangalore. The focal theme of this session is "Resources and Human Well-Being: Inputs from Science and Technology."

AAAS members who plan to be in the area in December or January and/or who know of colleagues on sabbatical in the region who might be able to attend either meeting, should contact Sandra M. Burns, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address, *before 30 September 1986*. Please include a curriculum vitae. While no travel funds are available, AAAS will provide per diem for the Colombo meeting; ISCA will provide local hospitality in Bangalore.

Admiral Hopper Talks to AAAS Staff

Future possibilities in computer technology was the theme of a talk by Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper, at a AAAS staff luncheon in late July.

Hopper, whose Naval career began in 1943, was the third programmer on the first large-scale digital computer in the United States and a major contributor to the programming language COBOL.

While delighting her audience with stories from her long career, Hopper also stressed the importance computers will continue to play in our future.

She urged that serious attention be paid to establishing criteria by which value can be put on information. Not all information, she declared, is equal. To illustrate, Hopper described a hypothetical chemical plant where all operations are computerized, from plant operations to packing, shipping, and administration. "Suppose," she said, "that at 10:00 a.m. two

For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, unless otherwise indicated.