

# AAAS News

## Members Help Museums Fulfill Mission

**M**ORE and more science museums are stressing their teaching missions. Robert L. White, director of the Exploratorium, pointed out in the *Exploratorium Quarterly* that "... museums are coming to regard themselves as teaching institutions and to judge themselves accordingly. ... our educational system is doing an unacceptable job of motivating youth to become competent or literate in science and engineering and museums can provide an attractive way to make science interesting and comprehensible."

AAAS members can participate in informal museum-based education. You can join your colleagues in the Association's Science and Technology Centers Project, which encourages AAAS members to volunteer their energies and expertise to benefit public understanding of science and technology. AAAS volunteer programs will begin at four new museums this year in Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale, West Hartford, and St. Paul. Members in these areas can expect a letter from their respective museums and AAAS announcing the new programs.

■ **The California Museum of Science and Industry** is in the process of expanding its education programs. According to deputy director David Ucko, AAAS volunteers may work with students on science fairs, "career days," and research programs, and serve as role models, particularly for the large black, Hispanic, and Asian popula-

tions who reside in the area. AAAS volunteers also may be called upon to advise and review new exhibits and programs at the museum.

■ Fort Lauderdale's **Discovery Center** not only serves a large number of retirees but also caters to a booming tourist market. The Center is now in a rapid growth stage, emerging from a small child-oriented museum into a high-tech museum. AAAS volunteers may be asked for advice on developing exhibits for the new center, they may take part in a special science speaker series, or become involved in programs such as "Turtle Safaris" to the beach where participants witness research by the Sea Turtle Conservation Project. Many outreach programs involve special constituencies, such as the "Grandparent & Me" classes.

■ A primary goal of the **Science Museum of Connecticut** is stimulating young people to take an interest in, and develop an understanding of, science, technology, and nature. Many of its programs encourage young people to study science, engineering, and math. Director Robert Content noted that the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (CPEP) would benefit from AAAS volunteer involvement. Currently, this statewide program is providing 200 young, mostly minority students, with the skills necessary to major in engineering, math, and science in college.

■ At the **Science Museum of Minnesota** in St. Paul, more



*Attendees at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston in February saw the "Structures" exhibit developed by the Franklin Institute Science Museum. "Structures" was presented at the Meeting courtesy of the Association of Science-Technology Centers and the AAAS Science and Technology Centers Project.*

than 27,000 individuals attended continuing education classes and activities for children, adults, and families last year. One out of every six students in the state had direct contact with its programs. Vice president Sondra Quinn would like to use AAAS volunteers to expand the "mentor referral service," which helps advise or guide students on science fair projects; to expand the visiting scientists in the schools program; and to strengthen the "meet the scientist" programs for visitors, as well as interpretative staff workshops. AAAS volunteers also might be advisers for special programs and exhibits.

Currently, science centers participating in this Association project, in addition to those mentioned above, are: Buhl Science Center, Pittsburgh; Cranbrook Institute of Science, Detroit; Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta; Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia; Museum of Science, Boston; Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago; New York Hall of Science, Queens; North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, Durham; Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland; and Pacific Science Center, Seattle.

If you live in any of these areas, why not sign up to be a

AAAS volunteer? Volunteering at your local science museum can be an educational experience, you will be making a contribution to your community and to the young people who might become tomorrow's scientists and engineers, and besides, science museums are fun! For further information on this project, contact Patricia S. Curlin, project director, at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6600.

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### Listing of Women in Science Groups Gets Update

In 1984, the Office of Opportunities in Science (OOS) published *Associations and Committees of or for Women in Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine*. This listing provided information on contact persons, membership, publications, and the current and future activities of 44 women's committees and caucuses affiliated with scientific societies and of 31 associations of or for women in science and engineering. Over the last 4 years nearly 3000 copies have been distributed.

The OOS is currently updat-