The number of contributions to AAAS from individuals increased by 80 percent in 2010, demonstrating that our members and friends recognize the challenges facing the scientific community—and the importance of our work to society.

Thomas W. Stern's Generous Legacy
The late Thomas W. Stern, an emeritus member and long-time supporter of AAAS, bequeathed a $1 million unrestricted gift to the Association.

This bequest, which is among the most generous in AAAS’s more than 160 years, was received in October 2010. The contribution will have a significant impact in supporting innovative programming to address issues and concerns of importance to the scientific community and to advance science at its intersection with society. The effects of Stern’s generosity will be felt for years to come: A portion of his bequest provided “seed funding” for a new effort to help sustain the work of the Association over the long term.

Stern, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey for 41 years, retired as the Chief of Isotope Geology in 1989. During his tenure, he studied the origin of the Colorado Plateau uranium deposits and determined the age of rocks by using the uranium-lead method, an isotopic dating system. He was the recipient of the Interior Department’s Meritorious Service Award in the 1980s and published more than 75 papers on rock dating and uranium deposits in scientific journals during his career. Stern was a member of the American Geophysical Union and a fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Mineralogical Society of America. In retirement, he worked as a docent at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum.

Thomas Stern and others like him who provide for AAAS in their wills or charitable gift plans are recognized among the members of the 1848 Society. The Society’s name references AAAS’s founding year, acknowledging the scores of scientists and engineers who have since followed in the footsteps of Science founder Thomas Edison and played a role in building a cross-disciplinary community of scientists, establishing AAAS as a central voice to speak on its behalf. Members of the 1848 Society demonstrate that same vision and commitment by providing gifts that will ensure the strength and relevance of AAAS’s future efforts to advance this mission.

Introducing the Flexible Action Fund
In this period of global change, contributions from individuals have been critical, providing AAAS the flexibility—the “running room”—to innovate and respond quickly as opportunities and issues arise. This flexibility helps AAAS provide a relevant, effective voice for science.

The association’s annual fund was renamed the “Flexible Action Fund” in 2010 to underscore the importance of gifts from individuals. Gifts to the Flexible Action Fund enhance our ability to provide timely, accurate, understandable scientific information to governments, scientists and the public and help to advance our collective efforts to solve some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Contributions from individuals have supported these and many other activities:
- educating policymakers about the importance of science to the future of the country in the face of drastic budget cuts;
• facilitating dialogue among U.S. and international leaders about how investment in research and development strengthens the economy and benefits society;

• launching a new Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science, which recognizes and promotes exemplary efforts to connect science and the public;

• giving science a non-partisan voice through op-eds, speeches and testimony; and

• organizing briefings for Congress and staff on topics like agriculture and climate change, women in science, diversity in STEM education and biosecurity.

For more information about how you can help AAAS continue to speak up for science in a timely, relevant way on the issues that matter most, or to make a gift to support this work, visit www.aaas.org/makeagift.

Join the President’s Circle
You can ensure that the voice of science—your voice—is heard by becoming a part of the AAAS President’s Circle today with a gift of $500 or more. As a President’s Circle member, you will receive personal updates about our latest initiatives from CEO Alan I. Leshner, as well as invitations to special events. Visit www.aaas.org/makeagift to join.

Are you interested in helping to ensure AAAS can continue to speak up for science as opportunities arise?
Would you like information about planned giving or establishing a special fund?

Please contact the AAAS Development Office at (202) 326-6636 or jstaiano@aaas.org.