

input. Several Board members also volunteer at MNA to fully understand daily operations, recognizing that staff members are, in many ways, the Museum's greatest asset, given their passionate commitment to the Museum and its work.

Much of MNA's funding continues to derive from a membership program with varying levels of patronage. About 4,800 MNA members support

"...TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP  
IN ADVANCING NEW  
AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
KNOWLEDGE THROUGH  
RESEARCH;..."

the institution and are provided with benefits such as free admission, publications, discounts in the Museum shops, and invitations to special events. The membership program is included in the Division of Marketing and Public Relations. A separate development office raises additional funds through grants and an annual giving program. Additional institutional patronage comes from a mix of private support, including foundations, major individual and corporate contributors, Trustee donations, retail operations, exhibitions revenue, governmental support, and admissions.

Volunteers help in the collections areas, or as docents, and in additional areas, assisting the limited number of staff members in their efforts to fulfill the Museum's broad scope. In the nearby town of Sedona, a group known as the Muses meets regularly and supplements MNA's programs in several ways, including a Sedona Lecture Series each winter.

With the 1994 revision of MNA's Mission Statement, new programs have begun or are planned. Some of these are outlined below, listed under the appropriate section in the Mission Statement.

The innovative MNA Alumni Association began in 1995 with the goal of bringing together former MNA staff, researchers, volunteers, and

"...FOSTERING SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY  
AND CHANGE;..."

Board members to form a productive group that supports the Museum and its many programs. The group is managed by a committee composed of alumni with the help of MNA staff. Each Alumni Association member receives a semiannual newsletter that announces the whereabouts of alumni and current activities of MNA, an invitation

to an annual Alumni Association gathering held in conjunction with MNA's Open House, and a complimentary copy of any *Plateau* published. At the October reunion, the association presents the J. Ferrell Colton Outstanding Alumni Awards to recognize deserving alumni. This association is unique to private museums, and both MNA and the

association hope for many collaborative ventures allowing the diverse people who have graced MNA's campus over the years to participate once again. One immediate plan is to resurrect the summer weekly seminar program using the impressive research talents present in the alumni ranks.

The Colorado Plateau Institute of Paleontology has been recently formed to increase



SCHOOLCHILDREN TRY HANDSPINNING DURING  
A TOUR AT MNA. PHOTO BY TONY MARINELLA.  
(MNA COLLECTIONS)