
Florida Academy of Sciences

E news



FAS Office *Edward A. Haddad, Executive Director : Julie Regier, Office Manager* March 2006

From the Executive Director

Our 70th Annual Meeting in Melbourne earlier this month was an outstanding success! A great number of you attended and I enjoyed meeting several of you and having the chance to put a face with the name on our office records. I had a little time to sample some of the presentations at the Meeting and also to visit the Junior Academy of Sciences sessions. I was very impressed with the poster displays in the lobby of the building where registrations were held. It is evident that a great deal of work and sound scientific investigation and analysis went into the posters. Having students there to discuss and answer questions relative to their posters was very helpful. We hope to expand our poster displays and display areas for our next Annual Meeting. By the way, our next Annual Meeting in 2007 will be held at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

We are beginning and continuing a number of initiatives to expand membership in the Academy and in increase public awareness of our work and mission. I will keep you posted on these and hope many of you will take part in them.

Notice from Dr. Richard Turner, Florida Scientist Business Manager

I have one copy of the following publication available to send at no cost to anyone doing research on the group:

Goulden, C. E. 1968. The systematics and evolution of the Moinidae. Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc., N.S. 58(6):1-101.

A request may be sent to my email address: rturner@fit.edu.

FAS Membership Drive

We are launching a concerted effort to expand membership in the Academy. You already are aware of the benefits of your FAS Membership. FAS is the state's only central organization representing all branches and levels of science to aid in the scientific development within the state and in the education of its citizens.

It is vitally important that each of us reaches out to our friends and colleagues in the scientific community and to fellow students pursuing studies in the sciences to invite and encourage them to become members of the Academy. So far this year, we have 125 new members of the Academy. 79 of these are students. We have an objective to recruit **100** more new members by the end of this year. We also want to have a strong presence at every college campus in Florida where science is part of the curriculum. We cannot reach these goals from the central office alone. It takes each of you to encourage people to become part of the Academy. Please refer people to our website to find out more about the Academy and to process their applications for membership on line. We are also preparing a supply of new brochures describing FAS and benefits of membership. Do not hesitate to contact the office for some brochures or for any help you need reaching out to potential new members. Our phone number is 407-514-2079.

From the President

I thank all of you who participated for making the 70th Annual Meeting so successful. John Windsor, Hamid Rassoul and Richard Turner were great co-hosts with me and worked hard to see that the details fell into place. The Section Chairs put together excellent programs. The poster session was the best ever with 32 posters on Friday and 11 posters for the NSF GK-12 program on Saturday. The future growth of our Annual Meeting will partly depend on making the Poster Session larger and more special. We also hope to maintain our links with the GK-12 program at future meetings.

We are most appreciative of financial and collegial support from our sponsor Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. I thank HDR Engineering, Inc. for preparing and printing the Annual Report and Banquet program. We hope to continue and expand our links with these and other private sponsors in the future. The academy received widespread publicity along the east coast of Florida for the Indian River Lagoon Symposium and I thank John Windsor for an excellent job. The Junior Academy of Sciences sessions on Saturday were outstanding and Pat Zalo and her colleagues provide a great service to the academy and Florida.

As we move forward in 2006, we look forward to an increased visibility of FAS through (1) increased membership and corporate participation, (2) through our *Florida Scientist*, (3) in our collaboration with OSC and other science centers, and (4) through an enhanced role as an advocate and scientific resource for promoting interaction among government agencies, industry, scientists, educators and the public. Please jump in to help – your suggestions and efforts are welcomed.

Dr. Maribeth Durst, Professor, School of Education and Social Services of St. Leo University was named Vice-president for Academic Affairs following a national search. Dr. Durst served as President of FAS from 1999-2001. Dr. Durst is currently a member of the FAS Council and Chairperson of the Social Sciences Section.

FAS and OSC

As most of you know, the Academy's Central Office is located at the Orlando Science Center (OSC) in Orlando. OSC is our host and provides us with office space and many other assistances. We make the services and expertise of our scientists available to OSC. This includes providing judges for science competitions held here at OSC and providing articles for the excellent OSC magazine, Scope. We are about to launch our Ask A Scientist Program which will be featured on the OSC website, as well as the FAS website. It will enable members of the general public to submit questions to FAS, via OSC. FAS scientists form our representative panel will provide answers to these questions. We are excited about this program and as soon as it is officially launched, we will inform you.

We encourage you to visit OSC anytime that you are in Orlando to see first hand their exhibits and participate in the many activities offered by the Center. If you should happen to be here in Orlando, give the FAS office a call so that we can arrange for you to come and visit us as well!