
Florida Academy of Sciences

E news



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

From the Executive Director

By this time, most people in the academic community have reached Summer Break time. For many people this is a time for traveling and vacationing. For many others, however, work continues during the late spring and summer months. I am a student at the University of Central Florida, part of the Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE @ UCF). LIFE is a group of some 400 students over the age of 50 pursuing learning for its own sake and joy. Many of our courses are science courses. So while I will be enjoying my summer break from school, work here at the Academy will continue as usual and Julie and I will be in the office.

We are still finishing up work resulting from our Annual Meeting in March. When that is completed, we will begin to focus on some new initiatives and preparations for the fall season.

The FAS Office has moved into another space at the Science Center and we are busily getting the new office arranged and organized. Our space is somewhat smaller than our previous office, but we are applying the best scientific principles to fit what sometimes seems like an infinite mass into a very finite space! Our phone contacts and e-mail addresses, etc. remain the same and we are still on the Science Center ground floor., but in a location that is not accessible to the general public. As always, anytime you should happen to be visiting Orlando Science Center, you are welcome to stop by the office. Just give us a call beforehand so we can prepare to meet you.

Dr. Dean Martin Retires

Dean F. Martin is retiring as Distinguished University Professor at the University of South Florida after having served as a faculty member there since August, 1964. He has been active in various scientific organizations, including the Florida Academy of Sciences, where he was the founder of the Environmental Chemistry and Chemical Sciences Section. He and Barbara Martin have also edited *Florida Scientist* and will continue to do so to the completion of twenty-five years in 2007.

Barbara and Dean Martin were honored by the USF Department of Chemistry on the last day of the semester (April 28th) at a wine and cheese reception. Among those present were Dr. Chris Clausen (2003 Medalist) and Dr. Cherie Geiger (FAS Immediate Past President) from the University of Central Florida.

Following official retirement (July 31), the Martins plan to continue research activities, do more traveling to see family members, and attack postponed projects.

Ask A Scientist!

We are happy to announce that our Ask A Scientist Program is up and running. We believe this program is a direct outreach of the Academy's objective to increase the level of scientific literacy in the state of Florida and to heighten the public's awareness of science.

This program is being operated in conjunction with Orlando Science Center. FAS provides the scientific expertise to answer questions and the primary vehicle for public access is the Science Center's website. Please take a few minutes to look at the OSC website, www.osc.org and you will find the link to Ask A Scientist and the ground rules for using the link. There is also a link on our FAS website. At the present time, 30 FAS scientists are serving as resource persons for the program. We expect to expand this roster and are considering operating the program in conjunction with all the science centers in the state of Florida.

Our Journal, *Florida Scientist, Travels*

Our Journal Business Manager, Dr. Richard Turner, is headquartered at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. He has recently compiled some very interesting information about the distribution of the Journal which we thought you might find of interest. As you probably know, each member of FAS is entitled to receive a copy of the Journal which is issued 4 times per year. This is directly mailed to each member from our printing firm in Lawrence, Kansas. Thus, it is extremely important that the office has an accurate mailing address for each member. Many libraries across the U.S. subscribe to the *Florida Scientist*. These libraries are associated with universities, government agencies, and municipalities. Additionally, through the University of Florida Exchange program, our journal is sent to libraries in almost 50 other countries around the world – from Armenia to Venezuela. Thus, the research findings and studies generated by Florida scientists and reported in our journal do indeed have a global distribution!

Student Awards

One of the major objectives of FAS is to provide recognition of Student Members through its Awards Program. At the Annual Meeting, student presentations are judged at the Academy's contributed paper sessions by section officers, session chairs, and other regular members of the Academy. Although academy-wide guidelines are not set, judging is generally based on experimental or observational design, significance of the research, delivery, and response to questions. Awards take the form of certificates and a letter from the FAS President. Other student awards from the American Association of Academies of Science and university Sigma Xi chapters are also designated from the Annual Meeting. Student awards are now being processed at the FAS Office. Recipients should receive notification before the end of May. The complete list of awardees will also be published on the FAS website.