

Florida Academy of Sciences

E news



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

From the Executive Director

Let me begin with an apology for the hiatus in issues of the E-news! It has been an extremely busy summer and early fall here at headquarters. We have a number of programs and initiatives in progress and are now beginning preparations for our 2007 Annual Meeting at USF in St. Petersburg.

During the summer, we hosted a group of talented science students from the Harlem Children Society in New York for an afternoon at the Orlando Science Center. It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm. WE are increasing our level of partnership with OSC – in particular, our Ask-A-Scientist Program is beginning to generate real interest and we are considering expanding this program to other Science Centers in Florida

I recently returned from representing FAS at the “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” Convocation at the National Academy of Sciences. Last year, the government requested NAS to assemble a panel of scientists and business leaders to address the issue of American competitiveness and the critical state of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and literacy in grades K-20. The results were contained in the Rising Storm report and the purpose of this recent gathering of 800 scientists and educators was to address how the 20 findings in the report can be addresses in our individual states. Both Florida senators are sponsors of a senate build to implement and fund every one of the 20 recommendations. The challenges facing Florida are significant and it was evident to me that many states are much more proactive in addressing these issues. The bottom line is that FAS can – and hopefully will –be a key player in improvements to be made in the state of Florida. Several of our FAS members have volunteered to be judges at state science competitions and this is one of many ways our members can contribute to improving the scientific literacy of our students.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we would like to increase the number of posters presented at our Annual Meeting. If you are a student, please consider this as a form of presentation and if you are an educator, please encourage your students to consider poster presentations. OSC is interested in having a poster session here in Orlando later in the year for FAS student members to display and discuss their posters.

We are investigating a restructure of our FAS website and the FJAS website to make them more appealing and informative. If any of you have any suggestions for enhancing the websites, please feel free to convey them to me.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS ISSUED!

The call for abstracts for the 2007 Annual Meeting has been issued! It is posted on our website. Please check our website www.floridaacademyofsciences.org for the Call and consult the website regularly for important information and updates regarding the meeting and other FAS events

Time to Renew Your Membership

Please remember to renew your FAS Membership for 2007 as soon as possible! The sooner you renew, the sooner you will receive your confirmation. Renewal forms and information can be found on the website. Also, please remember to include your correct e-mail address on your membership application, as all important FAS correspondence is now sent via e-mail. You may be sure that your e-mail address is never divulged to other members or anyone outside the Academy!

From the President

We are well along in planning for our 71st Annual Meeting at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, on March 16 and 17, 2007. Our Local Arrangements Chair is Kathy Carvalho-Knighton. Kathy and her colleagues are most enthusiastic about opening their campus to the academy.

I have several important requests for each member to consider.

1. Please **submit an Abstract** for the 71st Annual Meeting.
2. **Invite a colleague or student to join** the academy and to submit an Abstract for the 71st Annual Meeting.
3. Offer to **pay for a student** or colleague to join the Academy. Membership fees for a significant number of our student members have been paid by faculty and friends of the academy. Let's continue that nice tradition.
4. Consider submitting an Abstract for a **Poster** at the Annual Meeting. Last year, we had a record number of 43 posters. We are hoping to have one large central poster session on Friday this year as well as a likely session on Saturday. We are also considering a post-meeting display of posters at the Orlando Science Center.
5. Renew your membership this year as a **Sustaining Member** to help keep our financial needs on track.
6. Submit a paper to *Florida Scientist*.

Our links with the Orlando Science Center (OSC) have blossomed thanks to Ed Haddad. Check out *Ask a Scientist?*

<http://www.osc.org/askascientist/index.htm>

Download a copy of our first contribution to Scope (OSC) by FAS member John Brandenburg on page 5.

http://www.osc.org/whats_new/index.htm

Associate Editor for *Florida Scientist*

The Academy seeks applications for an unpaid position as an Associate Editor for our journal *Florida Scientist*. The individual selected will assist our current editors Dean and Barbara Martin. Experience in scientific publishing and editing is highly desirable. Please submit a letter of interest with a statement of qualifications and CV to FloridaAcademyofSciences@osc.org.