



Florida Academy of Sciences

floridaacademyofsciences.org

Where Science Happens

E news Edward A. Haddad, Executive Director : Julie Regier, Office Manager August 2009

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The summer months are passing quickly and before we know it, the start of another semester will be here and the Academy Office will begin another season. Our next Annual Meeting will be March 20 and 21, 2010 at Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce, FL. The office staff and our President will be making a visit to Ft. Pierce to look at the potential facilities. FAS member Dr. Mark Wade is serving as Local Arrangements Chairperson for this meeting. We have already had inquiries as to when the Call for Abstracts for the next Annual Meeting will be issued. For planning purposes, we expect the Call to be issued October 5, 2009. The Call will appear on the Academy's website <http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/>. Speaking of the website, we have kept you posted on the progress of restructuring our website, and the final design should be up and on-line soon. We will send out a general e-mail to all members informing them about the new website. It is a major change both in appearance and content from our previous website, but the formats we use for membership applications, etc. have not changed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although some gauges of national economic trends indicate stabilization or recovery, these remain hard times for all. I am facing decisions about the many professional organizations to which I belong. Those for which I have life membership offer a bit of relief right now, but those societies continue to challenge me with legitimate requests for financial help. For other societies for which I pay annual dues, I simply am reluctant to break long-standing relationships with them because of the principles for which they stand, their contribution to science, and their encouragement of young scientists. I assume devotion to these societies as my responsibility to the profession.

Included among those societies for which I pay dues annually are regional ones such as Florida Academy of Sciences. I have belonged to FAS since I was a graduate student in the early 1970s. My doctoral mentor, John Lawrence at USF, expected his students to participate in FAS meetings as he did. He and his students also contributed articles to *Florida Scientist*, a most appropriate place for research results from the Lawrence laboratory and its studies on Florida marine fauna. Later in the 1970s, as I transitioned from my doctoral program to employment on the faculty of Florida Institute of Technology, Frank Friedl of USF encouraged me to assume the chair of the FAS Biological Sciences Section as my first involvement as an officer in a scientific society.

It is exciting to travel afar to attend meetings of my other societies and to serve them as an officer, but the financial strain on personal and institutional budgets is more limiting—and not only to me but especially to the undergraduate and graduate students whom I now mentor. Meetings of FAS are affordable to me and my students, and they are easy to schedule into an already busy spring semester. My duties as an FAS officer maintain my network with colleagues around the State, many of them outside my discipline within the life sciences. My life is enriched by these relationships.

Regional societies such as FAS have always played important roles in professional development of young scientists as well as for established ones. At economically hard times, regional societies might hold an even greater importance in the scientific community. Thank you for your continued devotion to Florida Academy of Sciences—in the good times as well as the tough.

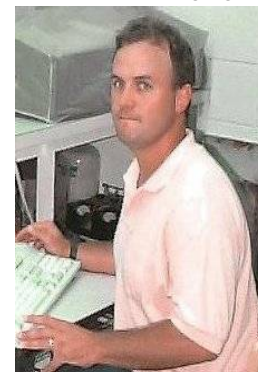
Richard L. Turner

NEW EDITOR APPOINTED

With the impending retirement of Editors Dean and Barbara Martin after 26 years of service, the FAS Council has appointed Tom Manning as editor of *Florida Scientist* for the term 2010–2014. Dr. Manning has been a member of the Academy and a regular contributor to the journal for many years. During his term as president of the Georgia Academy of Science, he worked with other GSA officers and with FAS Past-president John Trefry in organizing the joint FAS-GAS annual meeting held at Jacksonville University in 2008. He undertook his doctoral studies at University of Florida and held a postdoctoral fellowship at Florida State University. He comes to Florida regularly for teaching and research and to visit family.

He continues a tradition within the editorship of being an environmental chemist, although that tag doesn't represent the great breadth of his research interests shown by his extensive history of publications and grants. Manning's most recent contribution to *Florida Scientist* (Smith, Abadi, Noble & Manning. 2008. *Fla. Scient.* 71:341–359) gives evidence for the natural role of bryostatin as an iron-chelating agent. This marine natural product from the moss animal *Bugula neritina* has long been known to have pharmaceutical value as an anti-cancer drug. The interesting history of this chemical is briefly described in the introduction to the article. You can learn more about Dr. Manning at his website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/~tmanning>).

Meanwhile, our current Editors, Dr. Dean and Mrs. Barbara Martin, can look forward to a well-deserved retirement. Join the celebration of their editorial career at the 2010 FAS annual meeting next March at Indian River State College.



Dr. Thomas J. Manning
Editor Designate
Florida Scientist

Richard L. Turner

The Florida Academy of Sciences notes with regret the passing of Mrs. Betty P. Preece of Indialantic, Florida. Betty was a professional engineer and served the Academy in several roles during her membership, including the position of Executive Secretary in the early to middle 1990s.