



Florida Academy of Sciences

floridaacademyofsciences.org

Where Science Happens

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By now, you should all know that the next Annual Meeting will be March 20 and 21, 2010 at Indian River State College (IRSC) in Ft. Pierce, FL. The office staff and our President have visited IRSC to review the facilities for the Annual Meeting and we can assure you that IRSC is an excellent venue for the Annual Meeting and that you will find the facilities there very convenient and pleasant. Preparations are well underway for the Annual Meeting. The Call for Abstracts has been issued and is posted on our website. Please consult it regularly for additional news and developments regarding the Annual Meeting. We would also like to encourage you to forward a copy of the Call for Abstracts to your colleagues and encourage them to submit papers and posters. Last year's Poster Session was very successful and well-attended and we look forward to another excellent poster session in 2010. If you are planning on staying overnight in Ft. Pierce for the meeting, please make your reservations as early as possible and utilize the hotel facilities listed in the Call for Abstracts.

NEW FAS WEBSITE

We expect the new FAS website to be up and running in the next two or three weeks. When you consult the FAS website, you will automatically be directed to the new site when it becomes operational. <http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/> remains as the link to the new website. Many thanks are due to Jaime Wharton who developed the design for the new site and worked closely with us to refine it. We would highly recommend you consult with Jaime at <http://www.whartondesigns.com/> if you are seeking to develop or refine a website.

Revamping our website has been an important goal of our efforts for some time. We wanted a new website to be more visually attractive and to contain more information than the previous one. You will note some very important links on the front page of the site. FAS is committed to enhancing the public understanding of science and we want our site to be one that professionals, students, and the general public consult for news and information about science. These new links will help us achieve that objective and we will add more links as time passes. Please feel free to suggest links that are conducive to our mission and that could be added to our website.

MEMBERSHIP

Please make every effort to renew your membership for 2010 as soon as possible! You can do so easily from the FAS website and include your registration for the Annual Meeting along with your membership renewal. If you are a faculty member, please encourage your students to become members of FAS and point out to them the many benefits of FAS student membership.

HISTORY OF FAS

In 2011, FAS will celebrate its 75th anniversary! There are not many organizations in the state of Florida that can boast of 75 years of service. Indeed, the Academy has been around for a long time and has been graced by many distinguished members. We are already in the beginning stages of planning to celebrate this significant anniversary. Dr. Leslie Sue Lieberman, Past-president of FAS, and current member of the FAS Council, is seeking a grant to prepare and establish a traveling historical exhibit of the Academy, its members, and its activities. She is being assisted in this by Amy Foster, Ph.D, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Foster specializes in the history of science and technology. The plans are to have this exhibit travel around the state of Florida to institutes of higher learning and various museums. Eventually, the FAS historical display would be permanently housed at Orlando Science Center where the central office of the Academy is located. A request was sent out earlier this year to ask if you had any memorabilia, pictures, articles, etc. regarding FAS people and activities that might be utilized in or pertinent to this exhibit. If you do, please let the office know or simply send copies of your historical contributions to the office and we will see that they are provided to Dr. Lieberman and her team.

FAS SPEAKERS

An important part of FAS's mission to increase the public understanding of science is the willingness of its members to engage the public through speaking at various venues, contributing their expertise through the Ask-A-Scientist Program and reviewing proposed exhibits and their content here at the Science Center. Please let the office know if you are willing to participate in these activities (depending of course, on your schedule and availability). We are working with OSC to develop a speaker's series of presentations here at Orlando Science Center during the year 2010. Also, our Science Cafe operates the first Wednesday of every month here in Orlando. There are probably many venues in your area which would welcome your expertise and knowledge! Sharing your expertise is a wonderful contribution to science.

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we report the death in September of Dan Anderson Thomas. Dan was a President of Florida Academy of Sciences. He was elected to that position in 1958, in the middle of his tenure on the faculty of Rollins College. Dan later served as Vice President and Dean of Faculties at Jacksonville University, retiring from that institution in 1987