

FLORIDA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Where Science Happens®

SERVING ALL BRANCHES OF SCIENCE IN FLORIDA FOR 75 YEARS



E news *Edward A. Haddad, Executive Director : Jennifer Bouchard, Office Manager* **September 2011**

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our last issue of the newsletter, I talked about the importance of enhancing the public understanding of science. Many of you have contacted me and told me of your support for this objective. There will be a meeting held here at Orlando Science Center in September for science center representatives throughout Florida to discuss informal science education. I plan to speak at this gathering about the Academy's commitment to science education for all ages. As part of this conference, attendees will be visiting the local science cafe that FAS sponsors. Science cafes are growing in the US and there are a few in Florida. The cafe we sponsor in Orlando has been very successful. Last month we had 48 people in attendance. Surveys have indicated that the adult population is, in fact, interested in science and receptive to learning more about current science achievements. Starting a science cafe is not difficult. If any of you are interested in learning more about science cafes and/or would like to start one, please contact me at the office and I will be glad to assist you.

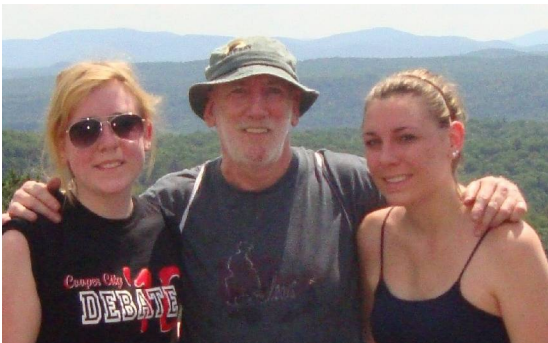
A new academic year is beginning soon and that signals the start of the busy season for the Academy and the office staff as we begin a membership drive to attract new members and encourage early membership renewals for current members. We are working with our President in planning for our next Annual Meeting. More news about the meeting appears below. Please put the date on your calendar and stay in touch with news about the meeting by visiting the FAS website. Speaking of the website, if any of you have websites which you suggest we include as a link on the

FAS website, kindly let me know. We are interested in science-oriented websites which are educational, informative, and non-political in nature. Our objective is to make our website valuable to citizens in Florida who are interested in science and current events in science.

FROM THE PRESIDENT!

As we move from summer into fall and a new academic year, I am happy to announce that plans for the 76th annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences are well underway! The meeting will be held at the University of South Florida in Tampa on March 16th – 17th 2012. The annual meeting is an outstanding opportunity to meet and network with fellow scientists and professionals from across the state and to present your current research. The meeting is also a great venue for students to present their research to a friendly audience, and I would especially like to encourage both undergraduate and graduate students to participate. We are also honored to have two very special speakers at the meeting, Dr. Michael Greenberg our 2011 FAS medalist and Dr. Gerry Meisels, director of the Coalition for Science Literacy at USF. Dr. Greenberg is a former director of the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience in St. Augustine and is well renowned for his work in pharmacology. He will be our banquet speaker on Friday evening. Dr. Meisels is a Professor of Chemistry and a former USF Provost and will be giving the Meg Gale Plenary address on Friday afternoon. We are looking forward to a very exciting and successful meeting at USF and we hope to see you there!

FEATURED FAS MEMBER - DR. JEREMY MONTAGUE



Dr. Montague and his daughters

Most all of you know Dr. Jeremy Montague as the Program Chair of all our Annual meetings of the past several years. He has been our Program Chair since 2002. His work is a key, and absolutely essential, part of the Academy's Operations. A great deal of work is necessary to plan the program for each Annual Meeting and most importantly, to ensure that abstracts are encouraged, obtained, properly reviewed for acceptance and readied for publication. This work of

preparation for the Annual Meeting begins in earnest in August of each year and carries through the entire academic year with follow up from that year's Annual Meeting. It is nearly a job that entails work all throughout the year. Thanks to Jeremy's patient and kind disposition and attention to detail, the preparation, arrangements and conduct of the Annual Meeting are always professional and correct. Also, Dr. Montague has assumed the post of Secretary of the FAS Council – a vitally important job. We would like to tell you some things about Dr. Montague who has a fascinating background. Jeremy was born and raised in Syracuse, New York. To quote him, he says "In my youth I loved outdoor nature hiking, especially in forest parks around Central New York and the

Adirondack Mountains...fascinated in 1955 by dinosaur scenes in Disney's "Fantasia" (one of my most vivid childhood memories). At age 8 I learned piano from my father and since age 13 I am self-taught on guitar and bass guitar...I played in several successful rock garage bands throughout high school; I picked up violin after college...currently I perform several times a year with the Irish folk group "Quiggy & the Bird" from Syracuse."

He received an A.A. in math from Onondaga Community College in 1970 and the his B.S. in biology from SUNY College at Geneseo in 1973. M.S. in biology from Kent State University, Ohio in 1976 his thesis was on egg nests and larval development in stream salamanders. He received his Ph.D. in biology from Syracuse University in 1983 (his dissertation was on ecology and evolution of flower-breeding insects in Hawaii enhanced by field work at Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii).

Jeremy became Assistant Professor of Biology at SUNY Cortland (1982-1983) and then Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Biology at Barry University (1983-present) He has authored 31 refereed publications (1977-2008)...seven of them published in the *Florida Scientist*. At Barry he teaches freshmen biology, botany, zoology, marine biology, evolution, ecology, biostatistics, and epidemiology. Is research at Barry encompasses ecology of sea urchins and sea grasses (1985-1998) and neural cytology (1996-2007).

Music is not Jeremy's only interest. He played 180 matches in amateur rugby union (1977-1983), mainly at wing and fullback for the Syracuse Harlequins Rugby Football Club, including regular season matches and invitational tournaments throughout the eastern U.S., eastern Canada and the Bahamas...former President of Syracuse Harlequins RFC, Inc. (1981-1983)...last played in 2006 in an over-50's match at the Ft. Lauderdale Ruggerfest Tournament. He also began martial arts training in 1996...earned a 1st degree black belt in taekwondo in 2002, and 2nd degree black belt in 2005...He is a former Florida State black-belt champion in over-50's sparring (2002) and a former U.S. national silver medalist in over-40's red belt sparring (1999). Hence, we have no need for a bouncer or behavior modification specialist at our Annual Meetings!

Last, but certainly not least, Jeremy is the proud father of two daughters (Kristin and Kelly, both currently undergrads at Syracuse University). We congratulate Dr. Montague as he begins his 29th year at Barry University and we know you agree that we are fortunate to have a man of his caliber doing so much important work for the Academy. Look for Jeremy Montague on FaceBook and keep up with his many adventures!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Each fall, as we begin a new academic year, the Academy conducts its annual membership drive to encourage you to renew your membership for the upcoming year early and to tell your friends and colleagues about the Academy and invite them to become members. It is also the season when we begin to make plans in earnest for the upcoming Annual Meeting. As you may be aware, when renewing your membership, you have the opportunity to register early for the Annual Meeting and receive a discount on the registration fee if you do apply early.

Membership in the Florida Academy of Sciences provides its members a very reasonably priced opportunity to:

- network with peers
- receive the *Florida Scientist* Journal covering all of the fields of science represented in the Academy

- publish papers in the journal
- attend the annual meeting and present papers and hear papers presented
- support increasing the public awareness of science in the state of Florida
- participate in the Academy's "Ask-A-Scientist" program
- serve as judges for student scientist presentations

Student membership can be of great value through networking with professional scientists, gaining publication experience, and exploring graduate program opportunities. Membership in the Academy is an important and favorable listing on a student's resume. Part of your membership fees goes to support the development of science programs and outreaches to enhance the public understanding of science in Florida. The Florida Academy of Sciences has been advocating for all branches of science in the state of Florida for 75 years. We ask you to continue to a part of this continual effort to promote science in Florida and want you to know that we do appreciate your membership and support.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

As our President reported above, the next Annual Meeting, our 76th Annual Meeting, will be held at University of South Florida in Tampa. We are pleased to be returning to USF where we have enjoyed previous FAS Annual Meetings. Our President, Dr. David Karlen, is serving as the Arrangements Chair for this meeting and we are making good progress in determining the room locations, schedules, activities, and events for the meeting. The Call for Abstracts has been issued and will be e-mailed to all members of records. The Call for Abstracts will also be posted on our website floridaacademyofsciences.org. Please be sure to consult the website regularly for any news and updates pertaining to the Annual Meeting.

FAS 2011 MEDALIST

Nominations will now be accepted for the Florida Academy of Sciences 2012 Medalist. The medal is presented each year at the annual meeting to a resident of the State of Florida who has contributed in an outstanding manner to the promotion of scientific research, to the stimulation of interest in the sciences, or to the diffusion of scientific knowledge. The candidate need not hold the Ph.D. He or she may be a research scientist, a philanthropist, an educator, a journalist, a science fair coordinator, or a member of industry, government, or other organization and who has met the criteria given above.

A form is available on the Academy's website <http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/awards.htm>. Please send the completed form to Dr. Richard L. Turner, Chair, Honors Committee, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne FL 32901-6975, or email him an electronic version at rturner@fit.edu. Your nomination form must arrive no later than 1 December 2011. The Committee might ask you to obtain a copy of your nominee's resume or curriculum vitae.

SUGGESTIONS WANTED

Please note that if you have any suggestions for us to consider, please send them by e-mail to the Executive Director at floridaacademyofsciences@osc.org. We encourage our members to let us know about ideas for improving the services the Academy offers and for programs and activities you would suggest we consider.