

OKLAHOMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

2010 FALL NEWSLETTER



Hello OAS members and friends. You may use the following links to the OAS web page(<http://biosurvey.ou.edu/oas>) to find out the latest information about upcoming OAS events and activities. Please understand that some of the information listed in this newsletter below will be updated over the next several weeks, so check the web site periodically. Also, please help us by sharing this information with colleagues and other interested individuals.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY NEED TO HOLD DOWN THE 'CTRL" KEY AS YOU CLICK ON THE WEB SITE LINKS.

From the OAS President

Dr. Ken Hobson shares his thoughts regarding pseudoscience and why he feels OAS may play a role educating students about some of the fallacies. [Click here to read it.](#)

2010 OAS Officers

Contact information for all 2010 OAS officers and other members of the OAS Executive Council, including section chairs and vice-chairs, has been posted on the web page. [Click here to view names and contact information.](#)

OAS Technical Meeting

OAS will meet for its next Annual Technical Meeting at the Broken Arrow Campus of Northeastern State University Friday, 5 November 2010. [Click here for meeting information.](#)

All undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate in the Oklahoma Collegiate Academy Competition and Graduate Student Award Competition, respectfully, during the Annual Technical Meeting. Information regarding both of these opportunities may be found under the meeting information above. Please note the deadline for entering these competitions is Wednesday October 20.

Dr. Craig Clifford and Dr. Erik Terdal have done a great job acting as Local Co-ordinators for this Technical Meeting. They have provided a description of the NSU-BA campus and the meeting site. [click here for campus map](#) and [campus photo](#).

Technical Meeting Abstract Publication

Consider having the abstract from your technical meeting presentation published in the 2010 volume of the *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science*. [Click here for more information.](#)

2010 OJAS State Meeting

The Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science held its annual meeting March 25-27 on the campus of East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. This meeting is held in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Science & Engineering Fair, so it is often a challenge to avoid scheduling conflicts. Dr. Rahmona Thompson, OJAS Director, did an excellent job organizing the oral presentations and research papers submitted by the students.

The number of students participating in the 2010 OJAS event rebounded from a reduced participation in 2009. The judges did an excellent job evaluating the papers and the student presentations. The quality of research remains high and the judges were sometimes challenged to determine award recipients. However, when the dust settled, everyone agreed the most deserving students were receiving the top awards. Four students were invited to represent Oklahoma as delegates to the 2011 AAAS / AJAS Meeting in Washington, DC and all are excited to have been selected.

OAS Fall Field Meeting

The Fall Field Meeting will be held at Roman Nose State Park on September 24-26. The weather should be great as we transition into fall. [Click here for meeting information.](#)

Publication of Papers

Please see the latest instructions and current deadlines for [submission of papers to POAS](#) for 2010. Our 2009 volume of *POAS* was printed and mailed to all 2009 OAS members several months ago.

OAS is a Publisher

After many years as a serial publisher of *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science*, the Academy has added book publisher to its portfolio. Past OAS President Ulrich Melcher has spearheaded this new venture.

After many years as a serial publisher of *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science*, the Academy has added book publisher to its portfolio. In 2009, thanks to financing obtained by LIBRA (Laboratory for Innovative Biodiversity Research and Analysis) at Oklahoma State University (OSU), the Academy acquired a block of ISBN numbers to use on publications. The first (ISBN 0-9843264-0-5) was issued in 2009 for *Lessons from the Prairie*. Research at the Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. It was written by then OSU graduate student Matthew S. Allen with assistance from Robert G. Hamilton of the Nature Conservancy, and Allen's advisor, Michael W. Palmer. I contributed a small part about virus research in the preserve.

The second publication, due out shortly (ISBN 0-9843264-1-3), is *Design Guidelines for Sustainable Biological Field Stations* by Khaled Mansy and Gregory Gundersen of OSU's

School of Architecture with Palmer acting as Project Coordinator. A National Science Foundation grant (DBI-0533896) supported the work on which the design manual was based. The goal and hope of the manual is expressed in the following quotation from the book's preface. "Buildings alter their surroundings and sometimes they interfere with or disrupt the native ecosystems. However, with sensitive design and careful operation and management, buildings can perform in harmony with the environment or at least minimize their invasive impact to an absolute minimum."

The request for ISBN numbers for each of these two publications was presented to the Executive Council of the Academy with my recommendation for approval. A similar procedure will be used for other requests to have the OAS imprimatur on publications produced by Academy members. I am the person to contact with such requests since I was Academy President at the time of the first request and am in charge of the remaining eight numbers.

Ulrich Melcher
OAS Past President

OAS Facebook Fan Page

OAS Facebook Fan Page All Facebook users are encouraged to join the OAS Fan Page. [Click here to join.](#)

WE WANT TO MAKE SURE ALL OF OUR MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE UPDATES. PLEASE CONTACT OAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER DAVID BASS IF YOU (OR ANOTHER MEMBER) DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER AND DESIRE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA POSTAGE. THIS ESPECIALLY APPLIES TO OUR HIGHLY VALUED LIFE MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO ARE NOW RETIRED.

Consider Leaving a Portion of Your Estate to the Academy

Have you thought about how you will be remembered by future generations? Please consider leaving something from your estate to the Academy. Both OAS and OJAS have benefited greatly from generous individuals, such as Jimmie Pigg, Larry Magrath, Paul Buck, and Kathleen Donovan, who left portions of their estate to our academies. These contributions have come in the form of cash, insurance policies, royalties, memorial donations, etc. Donations of these kinds are placed into accounts where the principle is never spent; only the interest is used and it mostly goes to support student awards. These gifts make a difference in the lives of many young scientists. Contact David Bass (dbass@uco.edu) for additional information.