

OKLAHOMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

2010 SPRING NEWSLETTER



Hello OAS members and friends. We have now changed from a printed paper newsletter to disseminating information in electronic form. This change was initiated, discussed, and approved by the Executive Council in November 2008, and our last printed newsletter was about a year ago (Spring 2009). We published our electronic newsletter in the fall of 2009 and hope we have worked through any problems to correct them. Electronic communication will save the Academy printing and mailing cost, and reduce the use of paper. This also should keep members more up-to-date with our activities since these updates may occur quickly (electronically) instead of waiting six months for a newsletter to appear in the mail. We have tried very hard to contact all current OAS members and make them aware of this change, but it is possible a few were unintentionally missed. 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!!!

You may use the following links to the OAS web page (<http://oas.uco.edu>) to find out the latest information about upcoming OAS events and activities. Please understand that some of the information listed below will be updated over the next several weeks, so check the web site periodically.

From the OAS President

Dr. Ken Hobson has written his first newsletter article describing..... [Click here to read it.](#)

2010 OAS Officers

In case you have not heard, Dr. Craig Clifford of NSU was elected President-Elect. Some OAS members may recall Dr. Clifford served in this roll about 10 years ago. Dr. Connie Murray of TCC completed a term as Recording Secretary and has agreed to be elected for another term. Dr. Ken Hobson of OU has now taken over the reigns of the OAS as the 2010-11 President (see his message above). Finally, the work and dedication during the past several years by Dr. Ulrich Melcher of OSU as he slides into the enviable position of Past President is appreciated by members of the Academy.

Contact information for these officers and all other members of the 2010 OAS Executive Council

Section chairs and vice-chairs, has been posted on the webpage. [Click here to view names and contact information.](#)

Information Item for the membership of the Oklahoma Academy of Science (from Ken Hobson, Craig Clifford, Ulrich Melcher, and Connie Murray)

For many years, the OAS has been governed by an elected president and secretary and a board of sectionally chosen chairs and vice-chairs providing direction and oversight of an appointed executive secretary-treasurer. The operational face and fiscal officer of the society has been the executive secretary treasurer. The academy has grown very dependent on the person who serves in this position for the day to day business of publishing our journals, organizing meetings and processing memberships and records. Currently, these tasks are carried out by David Bass. We propose that the title of this position be changed to Executive Director to more accurately describe its expanded role in the society. We invite your comments regarding this proposed change which we will adopt immediately pending Executive Council consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Publication of Papers

For the *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science* (POAS) to be sent to the printers by early January with an anticipated publication date of around January 20, the following deadlines will need to be imposed. Manuscripts and notes must be received by the editor on or before August 15 (if the 15th is a Saturday or Sunday, then the following Monday) for peer review. Authors are being asked to submit a copy of the manuscript electronically to kurtisk@cameron.edu. Electronic submissions and reviews would expedite reviews. Peer reviewers are given approximately 6 weeks to review assigned manuscripts. To allow for author changes and for both the copy and layout editors to prepare for the journal printing, manuscripts and notes must be received by November 5 to be printed in that year's journal. Abstracts received for print must be received on or before the Fall Technical meeting. Other items such as Academy business, proceedings policies, financial statements, Letters to the Editor, and award announcements must be received by November 15. A goal is to have the journal mailed to members by the end of January.

Manuscripts and notes are peer-reviewed. However, even though abstracts are not peer-reviewed, they must align with the policies of the *Proceedings*. The substance of the abstract must fall within the scope of the *Proceedings*. Even though the quality or relevance of the work may not be in question, the printed material is subject to scientific accuracy. The same guideline applied to manuscripts and notes submitted for peer-review also apply to abstracts submitted for print. Manuscripts and notes are subject to thorough testing. The *Proceedings* understands that all disciplines are in a search for a deeper understanding of the world some of which are through creative expression and personal interpretation. Science is a system by which one discovers and records physical phenomena, dealing with hypotheses that are testable. The domain of "science" while working within nature is restricted to the observable world. There are many valid and important questions to be answered but lie outside the realm of science. The abstract must provide evidence that supports a conclusion.

Please contact the editor if you wish to be a manuscript reviewer. The editor is building a data base of reviewers and would like to do more of the manuscript transmittals electronically.

Congratulations to all undergraduate students who presented a paper or poster at the 2009 Annual Technical Meeting at East Central University and participated in the Oklahoma Collegiate Academy Competition.

The winners and their research topics may be found by [clicking here](#). Special thanks are extended to Dr. Nick Cheper, OCAS Director, and Dr. Ken Hobson, OAS President, for organizing the judging of each category. Also, thanks are extended to all of those who served as judges for the presentations.

American Association for the Advancement of Science / American Junior Academy of Science Meetings

The AJAS annual meeting was held in conjunction with the AAAS annual meeting in San Diego during mid-February. Dr. David Bass (OAS Executive Director, UCO) and Dr. Rahmona Thompson (OJAS Director, ECU) travelled to this meeting with one teacher, Sally Fenska (Miami High School), and the four top students at the 2009 OJAS meeting. These students included *Intel Talent Search Finalist* Evan Fenska (Miami HS), Meghan

Pantalia (Classen School for Advanced Studies), Varuna Rao (Tulsa Union HS), and Nick Shepherd (Miami HS). [Click here for the rest of the story and photos.](#)

2009 OJAS State Meeting

The OJAS State Meeting is scheduled for March 26-28 at East Central University in Ada. Judges are needed to evaluate secondary school student papers and presentations on March 26-27. It is quite interesting and stimulating to see these talented young scientists discuss their research endeavors. All food and lodging is provided to the judges and your help would be greatly appreciated. Contact OJAS Director Dr. Rahmona Thompson for additional information.

OAS Spring Field Meeting

This will be held at Lake Wister State Park on April 9-11. [Click here for meeting 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. Additional meeting information will be described in the fall newsletter and posted on the web page as the date approaches (probably during the late summer).

First Annual Paul Buck Memorial Lecture in Plant Ecology

The University of Tulsa is presenting the First Annual Paul Buck Memorial Lecture in Plant Ecology at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday April 15, 2010. David Inouye, Professor of Biology at the University of Maryland, will give the lecture *What is the Future of Rocky Mountain Wildflowers and their Pollinators in a Changing Climate?* in Helmerich Hall Room 219. All are welcome and reception will follow Dr. Inouye's talk. [Click here for the flyer.](#)

OAS Facebook Fan Page

President-Elect Ken Hobson has developed a Facebook Fan Page for OAS and hopes many people who use Facebook will be interested in joining. [Click here to join.](#)

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.