

Change is Coming

As I write this in mid July, the great heat of summer is bearing down on Oklahoma. Relentless days of heat for the Central Plains and Southwest are a part of climate change we are experiencing. This change will have consequences in the natural world of our fields and forests; our agricultural and urban landscapes. It is a time of change.

In our human world it is also a time of change. Senior leaders of a large American generation born 1947-1965, 'the boomers', are, in increasing numbers, completing their careers and handing over to a new generation and its new leaders. The world will go on, progress, grow and change with the vision of the new generation.

The same will be true for science and education in the United States and here for us in Oklahoma. Our OAS will turn over to a new generation of inquisitive minds, teachers and leaders. They will speak for and advance science. The natural world will remain as a challenge to our ingenuity, imagination and understanding.

At this time of transition, we must make the OAS its best to serve its sustaining goals.

With my final letter as OAS President, I want to invite younger OAS members to step up and take on leadership positions in the Academy. Refuse to sit back and let some bit of the Academy continue along when you know you can do it better. When you get that great idea for a new way to do things, new people to bring in, new way to make the OAS be part of the new times – don't sit back. Bring it on. Make the OAS be what you know it can be.

And to senior members of the Academy who have given and participated so much with the Academy over the years, let's make this transition one of the finest, most active periods of the Academy's history. Bring your students and new faculty colleagues so they experience OAS, see its potential for themselves and make it their own. Stand now at the Academy meeting in Durant – and speak. Science and the OAS needs you. Plan now to be there – and share what you know of science. Give us a retrospective of your area of work, or the prospective of the big ideas and questions that you see are there, beckoning new scientific study. Start planning your talk now so it will be ready when the time comes for abstracts early October. Start telling your new faculty colleagues about the OAS. Let me, and your Section Chair, hear if you have an idea. Then come to Durant on November 11 and make this 2011 Annual Meeting our best.

All the best,
Ken Hobson, OAS President