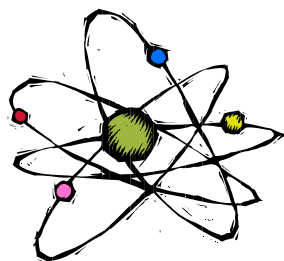


NAAS NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE
ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES

Fall 2014 Edition



Dr. Assad Panah
NAAS President

Message from the NAAS President

Helping young scientists to reach their full potential in conducting, presenting science and technology research in national level is one of our major missions in NAAS and AJAS. Now, more than ever before, as we struggle with challenges in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) education, it is clear that scientific thought and progress hold the key to environmental health and global prosperity.

AJAS/NAAS and AAAS 2015 joint annual meeting is scheduled in San Jose, the third largest city in California. In our 2014 Chicago annual meeting we had delegates from 27 states participated sending their outstanding young scientists. We anticipate more state academies to participate in our 2015 Annual Meeting.

Special thanks go to annual meeting site visitation team: Lee and Ed Brogie, Peter and Elaine Faletra for their hard work in site selection and creation of our annual meeting brochure, which is anticipated to be uploaded to our website along with our 2015 annual meeting program. Another positive accomplishment is due to Amy Strong, past treasurer, who has meticulously worked to safeguard our non-profit status and clarify matters of finance to ensure a smooth transition for Ernie Schiller, our new treasurer. Special thanks go to Dr. Don Jordan, our Past President and current Newsletter Editor, who consistently led the Academy's publications and Newsletter periodically.

Dr. A. Panah
(Pennsylvania)



Lee Brogie
AJAS Executive
Director (Nebraska)

Innovations, Information, and Imaging

*San Jose – Known as the
“Capital of Silicon Valley”
this city embodies the theme
for the 2015 AAAS Annual
Meeting: Innovations,
Information, and Imaging*

The AAAS Annual Meeting is for the entire science, technology, engineering, and mathematics community. Participants include the world's leading scientists, educators, policy makers, journalists and America's top high school science researchers: the AJAS Fellows! Our students have earned the opportunity to present their research at the most internationally recognized science gathering – the AAAS Annual Meeting. In addition, the students' names and their research titles will be printed in the Poster Section of the AAAS 2015 Program and their abstracts will be digitally published. The AAAS Program is a wonderful memento of their participation in the world's most prestigious general science meeting. Congratulations to our 2015 AJAS Fellows!

The site visit team (Peter Faletra, NAAS delegate to AAAS; Elaine Faletra, AJAS Assistant Director; Ed Brogie, NAAS Director; and Lee Brogie, AJAS Director) met in San Jose the last week in July. We viewed meeting rooms at the Hyatt Place and Fairmont; visited Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Stanford University, San Jose State University, Google, NASA Ames Research Center, Agilent, Pixar, One Infinite Loop, Lumos Labs, the Computer History Museum, The Exploratorium, and the Tech Museum of Innovation; and sampled the menus at a variety of restaurants. The trip was a huge success. We are excited about what we are planning for the 2015 AJAS student delegates and their chaperones.

What we know for sure... The AJAS/NAAS conference hotel is the Hyatt Place San Jose. This is a fantastic venue that features an amazing breakfast bar and free Wi-Fi internet access. Hotel rooms will also be available at the Hilton, across the street from the Hyatt. All of the AAAS meetings and the AJAS Poster Session will take place at the San Jose Convention Center. The AJAS Oral Presentations will take place at the Fairmont San Jose. Both buildings are a short walk from the Hyatt.

Continued on Page 2



What AJAS Delegates felt about their 2014 Chicago Experiences

By Ed M Brogie NAAS Exec. Director
(Nebraska)

NAAS would like to thank all the AAAS Affiliated Academies of Science and the AJAS Sponsors for their support of these great young AJAS high school STEM researchers. The American Junior Academy of Science ([AJAS](#)) is a national honor society for American students who have completed exemplar scientific research projects in STEM while attending high school. Without your support and sponsorship we would find it very, very difficult to honor these award-winning students. It is vital to keep these students in the science and engineering pipeline, and the AJAS does this by having them present their research at the AAAS meetings, meet the Senior Scientists that shape the research fields, and to understand what it takes to become a member of the science, technology, engineering and mathematical professions.

Continued on Page 3

Inside This Issue

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INNOVATIONS, INFORMATION, AND IMAGING (CONT. FROM PG. 1) • MESSAGE FROM DAN SITZMAN • OKLAHOMA, KENTUCKY, AND SOUTH CAROLINA ACADEMY NEWS 	Page 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAT AJAS DELEGATES FELT ABOUT THEIR 2014 CHICAGO EXPERIENCES (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1) • BIODIESEL BOARD WEBINAR 	Page 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACADEMY NEWS • CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 	Page 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARIZONA/NEVADA, AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACADEMY NEWS 	Page 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND VIRGINIA ACADEMY NEWS 	Page 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPONSORS 	Page 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAAS NEWS • SECTION Y INFORMATION 	Page 8

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Member at LargeKentucky Academy of Science
nancymartin@louisville.edu**INNOVATIONS, INFORMATION, AND IMAGING****(Continued from pg. 1)**

On Wednesday, February 11th the registration table will be open from 3:00-5:00 PM (PST) and there will be a short meeting for Chaperones at 5:00 PM (PST). We will officially kick-off our conference at 6:30 PM (PST) for food, fun, and friendship at our Opening Reception. Registration and our Opening Reception are at the Hyatt. This is a time to relax, enjoy San Jose cuisine, rekindle friendships, and get to know your peers. A formal program will follow the reception.

Thursday, February 12th, is TOUR day. So far, our tours and lunches-with-scientists include: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Stanford University, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Pixar, and Agilent Technologies. A few more tours are still in the works.

The AAAS Exhibit Hall opens on Friday, February 13th, and will feature the research of AJAS delegates at AAAS's first poster session of the 2015 conference. Friday is also the morning for Breakfast with Scientists. This year's Breakfast is being held and hosted by San Jose State University. Oral presentations are scheduled for Saturday afternoon. The Saturday evening Awards Banquet will be held at the Hyatt Place with dancing and fun to follow.

The 2015 AJAS/NAAS Conference registration newsletter is scheduled to be emailed the first week in October. On-line registration, submission of research abstracts, and hotel reservations will begin at that time too. 2015 conference information can be found at: <http://www.academiesofscience.org> Follow us on Face Book **AJAS – American Junior Academy of Science**

Affiliated Science Academies...Please send me the names of the students who will be invited to attend the 2015 AJAS Annual Meeting along with the names of their official chaperones. You can email the list to me at ajas.naas@gmail.com

Oklahoma Academy of Science

By: David Bass

The Oklahoma Academy of Science is planning its two fall activities – the Fall Field Meeting and the Annual Technical Meeting.

The Fall Field Meeting is being held at Black Mesa State Park in the northwest corner of the Oklahoma panhandle on September 19-21. Morning and afternoon natural history hikes led by state experts will examine the flora, fauna, geology, and archeology of the area on Saturday. Several talks and astronomical viewing are scheduled during the evenings.

The Annual Technical Meeting will take place on the Broken Arrow campus of Northeastern State University on November 7. Numerous oral and poster presentations will be made throughout the day and Academy business will be addressed. Our luncheon speaker, Dr. Bruce Carnes, will discuss the evolution of human aging.

South Carolina Academy of Science

By Laurie Fladd, Trident Technical College SCAS President

2015 Annual Meeting: Saturday April 11, 2015 at Furman University

Junior Academy Fall Workshop: Saturday November 1, 2014 at The Citadel in Charleston SC

The South Carolina Academy of Science strives to improve science education in South Carolina by providing opportunities to explore and share scientific research. We foster collaboration between industry, government, and the academic and scientific community to encourage both high school and undergraduate students to pursue scientific endeavors. This year our SCAS Annual meeting will take place at Furman University, Greenville SC on April 11th. The annual meeting is an opportunity for high school and undergraduate students to present original research in a conference setting. On Saturday November 1st 2014, the South Carolina Junior Academy will host their annual Fall Work Workshop at the Citadel in Charleston SC. The Fall Workshop provides workshop sessions and a plenary speaker to educate and inform about current issues in Science and Mathematics.

Kentucky Academy of Science

I hope some of you will be joining us to celebrate this milestone- please share with others who may be interested. Full details about the 3 day event are at

<http://kyacademyofscience.net/programs/annual-meeting/>

Thank you-
Amanda

**Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS)**

by
President Dan Sitzman

Members of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) look forward to an exciting year in 2015. First, we will celebrate our 135th anniversary and 125th annual meeting on April 17 at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. Based on recent years' attendance, we expect over 375 attendees, including undergraduates and graduates sharing their research. Scholarships for outstanding high school and college aged scientists are awarded annually at our annual meeting. That same day on campus, 60 of the state's top science students in Grades 7-12 will compete in the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences state science fair. The Nebraska Academy of Sciences provides financial support to cover most of the non-travel costs for our top Senior Division students to attend the AJAS/AAAS Conference. In 2015, we will have six of these students who qualified in 2014 who will participate in events at AJAS/AAAS in San Jose, California.

One month after the NAS annual meeting, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will host the 31st National Science Olympiad, with teams of middle school and high school students representing 50 states and Japan. The Nebraska Academy of Sciences has provided funding and volunteer resources for the planning of this outstanding opportunity for students.

During the summer, Omaha will host the National Education Conference on Science Education, bringing together 94 chapters and associated groups of the National Science Teachers Association. The Congress meets annually to discuss issues and bring forth recommendations that may be of interest to NSTA and the science education community. Participants also network and attend leadership workshops to enhance their roles as science education leaders. Several NAS Executive Committee members attend Congress each year, so the Academy is honored to see our state hosting this event.

NAS continues to publish an electronic journal, *The Transactions of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences and Affiliated Societies*, which can be found at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tnas/>. The Academy recently renewed its partnership with the Nebraska Environmental Trust to administer Public Information and Education mini Grants that are awarded to expand dialogue on important conservation topics and to provide information on emerging or highly useful conservation methods.

Share our passion for scientific research and science education! Please join us at AJAS/AAAS, at an event in Nebraska or online. If questions please contact: **Dan L. Sitzman** <Daniel.Sitzman@ops.org>

2014-2015 NAAS COMMITTEES

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Student Entertainment Committee

Peter Faletra, (NH), Chair

What AJAS Delegates felt about their 2014 Chicago Experiences **(cont. from pg. 1)**

By Ed M Brogie NAAS Exec. Director (Nebraska)

The 2014 AJAS meeting in Chicago had an outstanding group of 156 AJAS (89 females 67 males) high school research students from across the United States. Their projects ranged from Engineering, Ecology, and Agriculture, to Chemistry and Medicine. The meeting of top scientists at the “**Breakfast with Scientists**” was a highlight to both AAAS scientists and the AJAS students. Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Fermi Lab, Argonne National Lab, and Brookfield Zoo’s involvement with the “**Breakfast with Scientists**” and behind the scenes field trips, called “**Labs and Lunches with Scientists**”, made this year another year that these students will always remember. We would like you to read what the students said about their experience.

AJAS Quotes from 2014 Chicago Meeting

“The Breakfast with Scientists event was most definitely among my favorite. While eating with professional scientists, I learned how they came to their success in their careers and how I can “follow in their footsteps”.”

“All of the attendees gave both an oral and a poster presentation. This event was so interesting because I was able to talk to other students just like myself about their research.”

“My interest in the lab is not for the purposes of publication, patents, or fame. When I was able to share my research with others at the American Junior Academy of Science, I was ecstatic. From the first moment I stepped into the conference, I felt a connection with my peers.”

“With a devotion to science, AJAS exposed me to environment of individuals inspired to change the world one experiment at a time and has only fueled my drive to become part of an institution in which I can contribute to society’s advancement via scientific development. “

“At AJAS, I was among individuals who share my passion for scientific volunteerism so that we can collaborate to be able to make striking innovations in science.”

“Having participated twice over the past two years in the AJAS conference, I would like to acknowledge that this science academy has enabled me and my peers to present and publish our research, an experience of which I would not ever have been able to accomplish otherwise.”

“At AJAS I met Nobel Prize winners, ate breakfast with a Biologist who had recently discovered a new species of snail, spoke with Harvey Cox’s daughter about my data, and enjoyed dinner with the creator of Wolfram Alpha. I am eternally grateful for what this conference has contributed to my knowledge of the scientific community. I have always loved science and believed that I have great potential as a scientist, but never had the chance to take direct action until my science teacher, Dr. Peter Faletra, told me about the American Junior Academy of Science. “

“The breakfast with scientists allowed me to talk with a professional in the field and ask questions about not only science, but information such as preferred college options and career choices. I now have a much better college plan and career path to help guide my scientific career.”

“Inspiration, knowledge, and fun! The AJAS experience has been incredibly influential for my scientific future. Meeting other science students and seeing the work young scientists can do was an amazing experience, and there is nothing more rewarding than meeting professionals in the field; Collaborating with scientists and engineers as a high school scientist at the AJAS meeting has been a highlight of my academic career.”

“I also made connections to a world-renowned scientist, which will last long after my high school career. Connections like that are what make AJAS so much more than a science fair. “

“Getting to meet with scientists on a casual and intellectual level provides more opportunity for connections to labs, new ideas, and improved science.”

“It was literally a convention for similar minded science students to meet and collaborate, which I found to be extremely beneficial. “

“After hearing the research of my peers, I became much more interested in all of the other categories of science as it helped open my mind to new and exciting fields. There is so much more going on that I had never even heard of; it is amazing how wonderful students’ research can be.”

“I am grateful to have the opportunity to share my research with others. This event has helped me realize the impact that science has on our community. There are so many young students that are passionate about research and this event brings them all together.”

“I am proud and honored to be a new member of the AJAS.”

Biodiesel in the class lab: Ensuring safety in a learning environment

Thursday, September 25, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Central.

By Ed M Brogie NAAS Exec. Director (Nebraska)

The science of biodiesel offers exciting opportunities for high school student scientists to become investigators and conduct their own research in chemistry, biology and other fields. The **National Biodiesel Board** is teaming up with the Methanol Institute to present an interactive webinar, which will help students and teachers understand the basics of biodiesel production and safety. You’ll also hear from a high school chemistry teacher who built a biodiesel lab, helping him earn the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators for 2014.

<http://kce.informz.net/InformzDataService/OnlineVersion/Ind/bWFpbGluZ0luc3RhbmNISWQ9MzYyMjk2MCZzdWJzY3JpYmVySWQ9ODE2MzEyODgy>

Academy News

New Ohio Roadmap Published

Mileposts to future jobs and prosperity

By: Lynn E. Elfner

Columbus (August 27, 2014) ... The Ohio Academy of Science today unveiled a new Ohio roadmap, but the roads don't lead to big cities or the hinterlands. Instead, the map's mileposts chart a course to future jobs and prosperity. Prepared for the Believe In Ohio program, the map is a brainstorming tool to help high school students develop STEM commercialization and business plans in a new \$2 million, state-wide student competition.

Supported by The Ohio General Assembly and The Ohio Board of Regents, Believe In Ohio is a free new program from The Ohio Academy of Science and Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio that helps Ohio high school students prepare for the future and encourages them to become the innovators and entrepreneurs Ohio will need to create jobs and prosperity in the future.

Believe In Ohio helps students develop their critical thinking skills and offers them an opportunity to compete for nearly \$2 million in cash awards and college scholarships. Competitions will be held in local schools, multi-county regions and at the state level. Believe In Ohio will open students' eyes to what they will experience in the future and how to prepare for it, inspire students' interests in STEM where many of the best jobs and careers of the future will be, plant seeds of entrepreneurship to give them the tools to create their own future and provide a competition for cash awards and Ohio college scholarships.

Ohio's high school science, technology and business teachers also will benefit from Believe In Ohio through grants, professional development and more. They also can be recognized as accomplished teachers under Ohio's new teacher evaluation system.

Brainstorming mileposts that students must reach include statement of a problem, proposed solution, underlying STEM concepts, target customers and intended users, competitors, value proposition or competitive advantage, revenue streams and operating costs. Written reports for competition require an elevator speech and an executive summary.

STEM commercialization plans must contain a scientific or engineering proof of concept while a STEM business plan also must provide a business or financial proof of concept with a projected three year budget.

Entitled *Believe In Ohio—A STEM Bridge to Ohio's Innovation Economy of the Future*, the Believe in Ohio program was developed by The Ohio Academy of Science and Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio with support from NorTech, The Ohio General Assembly and The Ohio Board of Regents. Further information on Believe In Ohio is available at www.BelieveinOhio.org

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR NAAS BOARD POSITIONS

NAAS is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- NAAS President Elect (Two Year Term)
- Archivist (One Year Term)
- Member-at-Large Academics (Two Year Term)
- Member-at-Large Business (Two Year Year)
- NAAS Delegate to AAAS Council (A) (Three Year Term)
- AJAS Director (Three Year Term)

If you are interested in shaping and enhancing the future of NAAS, and supporting talented young scientists by serving on the NAAS Board of Directors, let us know. Nominations will be accepted up until the vote, but we welcome all interest and inquiries. Please email any questions or interest in running for office to: Dr. Mandana Sassanfar email: Mandana@mit.edu

Academy News

ARIZONA/NEVADA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

By Karen Conzelma, Treasurer
Pamela A. Marshall, President
& Pedro Chavez ,
ANAS Permanent Secretary

-ANAS's 58th Annual Meeting was held at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, AZ on April 11, 2014 and hosted by Past Presidents Aregai Tecle and Shafiu Jibrin. In addition to great posters and oral presentations by students and professors, the day culminated with an outstanding plenary presentation on "Plague and its Expansion around the Globe" by NAU's Regents Professor and Cowden Endowed Chair in Microbiology, Dr. Paul Keim. Dr. Keim gained international recognition for the biodefense applications of his expertise in using genomic analysis to track infectious diseases such as anthrax.

-Exciting developments during the past year include:

-Digitization of *Hydrology and Water Resources of the Southwest's* archives recently completed by University of Arizona's library and available as an open source repository (<http://arizona.openrepository.com/arizona/handle/10150/293742>). Full text articles are available in a searchable format. The University of Arizona also stores electronic versions of the most recent annual meeting *Proceedings* volumes (<http://arizona.openrepository.com/arizona/handle/10150/302133>). The library is seeking to establish as complete an archive as possible by acquiring missing volumes from other libraries and/or Academy members.

-*Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science* began publication in 1959 (at that time it was the *Journal of Arizona Academy of Science*). The complete archives are now available online through JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublicat?journalCode=jarznevaacadsci>). Electronic version of most recent issues can be accessed through BioOne (<http://www.bioone.org/loi/jana>)

-President-Elect Theodore Manno is anticipating publication of his second book, *The Utah Prairie Dog: Life among the Red Rocks* in October 2014.
<http://www.amazon.com/Theodore-G.-Manno/e/B00KMASK3W>

-The Arizona Nevada Academy of Science sponsors the Arizona Science Olympiad (Division C) (<https://aznvas.org/SO>) tournament annually. The Science Olympiad brings together teams of up to 15 students per high school to compete in 25 different events that align with the breadth of disciplines represented by ANAS. The Science Olympiad helps to develop science knowledge as well as problem solving and collaborative skills; participation in the program tends to help sustain students interest in STEM courses and careers. Gift cards and medals/ribbons are awarded to top seven-placing teams in each event; the overall first place team advances to National tournament to compete against teams from throughout the country.



Southern California Academy of Sciences

The Southern California Academy of Sciences' Junior Academy's programs are well underway and looking forward to another eventful year with the 2014-15 Research Training Program for High School Students and Junior Academy delegates' attendance at the AJAS meeting with the AAAS Annual Meeting February 11-15, 2015.

Seven SCAS Research Training Program (RTP) students were chosen at the 2014 SCAS May Annual Meeting held at California State University, Channel Islands to represent the SCAS Junior Academy at the national meeting in the Silicon Valley city of San Jose, CA. They are:

- 1-Shannon Chen, Palos Verdes Peninsula HS, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
Mentor: Dr. Robert Boyd. Lockheed Martin (ADP), Palmdale, CA
- 2- Timothy Kim, North Hollywood Highly Gifted Magnet HS, North Hollywood, CA
Mentor: Dr. John Dorsey. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
- 3- Hayden Kirschbaum, Santa Monica HS, Santa Monica, CA
Mentor: Dr. Greg Pauly. LA Co Natural History Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 4- Jason Li, Glen A. Wilson HS, Hacienda Heights, CA
Mentor: Dr. Mark Boldin. Beckman Research Institute, City of Hope, Duarte, CA
- 5- Vick Liu, Flintridge Preparatory School, La Canada, CA
Mentor: Dr. Robin Liu. Beckman Coulter (Iris), Chatsworth, CA
- 6- Brandon Ng, Walnut HS, Walnut, CA
Mentor: Dr. JC Burnett. Beckman Research Institute, City of Hope, Duarte, CA
- 7- Maribel Tran, Marina HS, Huntington Beach, CA
Mentor: Dr. Julie Patterson. University of CA, Irvine, Irvine, CA

For the 2014-15 year, twenty five RTP high school students living in areas of San Diego county to northern Los Angeles county, began research with their respective Mentors during the summer in laboratories, that include those at UC Irvine, City of Hope, and the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, among others. Throughout the academic year, there are three Saturday meetings of the Junior Academy which will be held at three separate locations: Loyola Marymount University, The City of Los Angeles' Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and the University of California, Irvine Air Pollution Health Effects Lab. On May 15-16, 2015, the SCAS Annual Meeting will be held at Loyola Marymount University. Initial tentative symposia topics are on Parasitology, Urban Ecology, Sharks and Marine Mammals. RTP students will submit written papers and give oral presentations at this meeting in the Junior Academy Sessions. A panel of judges will choose the following year's AJAS delegates.

Go to the SCAS website: <http://www.scas.nhm.org/> for further information about the SCAS and the SCJAS.

Gloria J. Takahashi

North Carolina Academy of Science

Contributed by Dr. Karen Guzman, NC Academy of Science

The Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences will be jointly hosted by the Wake Forest School of Medicine, the Wake Forest Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Wake Forest Innovation Quarter at Wake Forest Biotech Place in the heart of the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, Winston-Salem NC on March 27-28, 2015. The theme of the meeting, Innovation in Research, promises to be an exciting topic of interest to scientists throughout the state.

For Information Contact: Allyn Howlett: ahowlett@wakehealth.edu

Academy News



The Southern California Academy of Sciences was founded in 1891. The objectives of the Academy are to promote fellowship among scientists and those interested in science; to contribute to scientific literature through publication of pertinent manuscripts; to encourage and promote scholarship among young scientists; and to provide information to the membership, to the public, and to public agencies on such matters as may be of joint interest to the sciences and society. The Academy publishes the *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences* three times per year and a Newsletter, *The Smilodon*. The academy is associated with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County where monthly Board meetings are held. We also sponsor the Junior Academy of Sciences which has over 20 high school participants this year in the Research Training Program.

This year's meeting will be May 15-16, 2015 at Loyola Marymount University (LMU).

We will have multiple symposia both days including, Parasitology, Urban Ecology, Wetlands, Marine Mammals, and Nature as a Classroom. The plenary speaker on Friday will be Dr. Bill Lynn from LMU, Center for Urban Resilience (CURES).

For more information about the Academy visit our web site at <http://scas.nhm.org/>.

Julianne Kalman Passarelli,
President

Virginia Academy of Science Virginia Junior Academy of Science James P. O'Brien, Ph. D.



In honor of long time leaders of NAAS & AJAS, the Academy has established two new awards: the **Ertle Thompson Memorial Awards** and the **R. Dean Decker Awards**. Proceeds from endowments provide funds for students and teachers to attend the annual meetings of AJAS-AAAS. Together, Ertle and Dean represented over 50 years of service to AJAS, NAAS, and AAAS. The first awards were made by Ertle's wife and daughter and Dean at the Virginia Junior Academy of Science annual conference at Virginia Commonwealth University in May. **Donors are invited to honor Ertle and Dean** by contributions to their endowed funds by simply noting "Ertle Thompson Fund" or "Dean Decker Fund" on their checks (payable to "Virginia Academy of Science") and mailing them to Dr. Arthur Conway, Executive Officer, Virginia Academy of Science, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond VA 23220.

The **VAS Annual Undergraduate Research Meeting** was held on October 18, 2014 at Virginia State University. The morning poster session was followed by lunch and a guest speaker. Five \$500 research grants and Student Membership in the Academy were awarded to undergraduate students to support their research during the 2014-15 academic year. The grant award recipients are expected to present the results of their research at the **VAS Annual Meeting, May 20-23, 2015 at James Madison University**.

Also at the May 2015 Annual Meeting, Academy Fellow Richard Groover has organized *The State of Virginia's Environment*, a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary symposium with experts on 16 topics: Forests, Rivers, Air Quality, Wetlands, Geology, Water Quality, Marine Areas, Land Use, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects, Fish, Mollusks, and Plants. Info at vas@smv.org, 804-864-1450.

An Academy Leadership Retreat was held September 5-6, 2014 in Fredericksburg to plan for the Academy's future. To develop recommendations for VAS Council, topical sessions studied the role of the Academy and what do we need to do to advance it in four breakout sessions:

"Academy Communications -- What do we need to do to ensure that our methods are keeping up with the times?"

"Academy Initiatives -- What programs/activities should we offer to increase our visibility and participation?"

"Academy Finances -- How can we attract additional donors/funds to support our activities?"

"Academy Annual Meeting -- What works and what does not in our annual meeting?"

One of the things state academies can do that other organizations are unable to do is to sustain a long-term project. For example, VAS began an effort to publish a new *Flora of Virginia* in 1927 to replace John Clayton's *Flora Virginica* (1763). The goal was finally achieved in 2012 (now in its second printing) under the direction of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (<http://floraofvirginia.org>). Similarly, the *James River Basin: Past, Present and Future*, a multi-disciplinary study, was sustained by VAS through World War II to its funding by the Virginia General Assembly and publication in 1950. Currently, the **Academy Fellows** have initiated a project to save the history of the Academy's 50-year effort to establish the Science Museum of Virginia and other STEM facilities throughout the Commonwealth. Documents and oral histories have been archived and author selection will soon be underway for *A History of the Science Museum of Virginia and the State Science Museum Movement in Virginia, 1935-1985* to be published in 2017. Info at jobrien@tcc.edu.

				
				
		A Special Thank You to all of our private donors! Alison Butler Bruce Alberts Ed and Lee Brogie		
				
	Omenn-Darling Family Advised Fund at The Seattle Foundation			
				
			A special invitation goes out to other Academies of Science and Industries to help sponsor our national effort.	

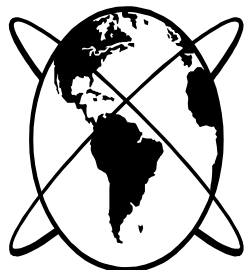
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2015 AAAS ANNUAL MEETING: San Jose, CA February 12-16, 2015

2016 AAAS ANNUAL MEETING: Washington, DC February 11-15, 2016

2017 AAAS ANNUAL MEETING: Boston, MA February 15-19, 2017

NOTE: NAAS and AJAS

2015 NAAS/AJAS ANNUAL MEETING: San Jose, CA February 11-15, 2015

AAAS NEWS

By: Betty Calinger, AAAS Office of Human Resources

The 2015 AAAS Annual Meeting will be held 12–16 February in San Jose, CA. K–12 educators and high school students can receive [discounted registration rates](#) for the entire meeting. Activities include an education-focused symposia track, the AJAS poster session, and plenary lectures by world-renowned speakers. The full program will be available in early October. Check the [AAAS website](#) for updates

[Family Science Days](#) will be held 14-15 February at the San Jose Convention Center, in partnership with the Bay Area Science Festival [Pre-registration](#) for this free, public science event for children, families, and teachers is now available. Family Science Days features hands-on science activities, stage shows, and a Meet the Scientist! speaker series.

Science Advances, the online-only, open-access journal and [newest addition](#) to the *Science* family of journals, has announced its team of deputy editors. The editorial office opens in September 2014; the journal will publish its first articles in February 2015. *Science Advances* seeks to publish articles that make important contributions to research in the life, physical, environmental, engineering, math, computer, and social sciences, and those that promote new collaborations, stimulate further experiments, or inspire new directions in applying science to solve immediate problems that matter to society.

SECTION Y, General Interest in Science and Engineering

General Interest in Science and Engineering will meet in San Jose, California on Saturday, February 14th
from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Location and menu to be announced in Winter Edition by Secretary Don Jordan