

2006

90th Annual Meeting, 2006. Secretary's Report and Financial Statement

Academy Editors

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Editors, Academy (2006) "90th Annual Meeting, 2006. Secretary's Report and Financial Statement," *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science*: Vol. 60, Article 3.
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Arkansas Academy of Science, Dept. of Physical Sciences, Arkansas Tech University
PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Charles Brookover, 1917

Dwight M. Moore, 1932-33, 64

Flora Haas, 1934

H. H. Hyman, 1935

L. B. Ham, 1936

W. C. Munn, 1937

M. J. McHenry, 1938

T. L. Smith, 1939

P. G. Horton, 1940

I. A. Willis, 1941-42

L. B. Roberts, 1943-44

Jeff Banks, 1945

H. L. Winburn, 1946-47

E. A. Provine, 1948

G. V. Robinette, 1949

John R. Totter, 1950

R. H. Austin, 1951

E. A. Spessard, 1952

Delbert Swartz, 1953

Z. V. Harvalik, 1954

M. Ruth Armstrong, 1955

W. W. Nedrow, 1956

Jack W. Sears, 1957

J. R. Mundie, 1958

C. E. Hoffman, 1959

N. D. Buffaloe, 1960

H. L. Bogan, 1961

Trumann McEver, 1962

Robert Shideler, 1963

L. F. Bailey, 1965

James H. Fribourgh, 1966

Howard Moore, 1967

John J. Chapman, 1968

Arthur Fry, 1969

M. L. Lawson, 1970

R. T. Kirkwood, 1971

George E. Templeton, 1972

E. B. Wittlake, 1973

Clark McCarty, 1974

Edward Dale, 1975

Joe Guenter, 1976

Jewel Moore, 1977

Joe Nix, 1978

P. Max Johnston, 1979

E. Leon Richards, 1980

Henry W. Robison, 1981

John K. Beadles, 1982

Robbin C. Anderson, 1983

Paul Sharrah, 1984

William L. Evans, 1985

Gary Heidt, 1986

Edmond Bacon, 1987

Gary Tucker, 1988

David Chittenden, 1989

Richard K. Speairs, Jr. 1990

Robert Watson, 1991

Michael W. Rapp, 1992

Arthur A. Johnson, 1993

George Harp, 1994

James Peck, 1995

Peggy R. Dorris, 1996

Richard Kluender, 1997

James Daly, 1998

Rose McConnell, 1999

Mostafa Hemmati, 2000

Mark Draganjac, 2001

John Rickett, 2002

Walt Godwin, 2003

Wayne Gray, 2004

Betty Crump, 2005

Stanley E. Trauth, 2006

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief

Stanley E. Trauth
Dept. of Biol. Sciences
Arkansas State University
P.O. Box 599
State University, AR 72467-0599
strauth@astate.edu

Managing Editor

Chris T. McAllister
Department of Biology
Angelo State University
Cavnes Science Bldg.
San Angelo, TX 76909
chris.mcallister@angelo.edu

Biota Editor

Douglas A. James
Dept. of Biol. Sciences
Univ. of Arkansas - Fayetteville
Fayetteville, AR 72701
dj27387@uafsysb.uark.edu

COVER: Dicephalic western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*). Photo by Chris T. McAllister.

ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE 2006



APRIL 7-8, 2006
90TH ANNUAL MEETING

Lyon College
Batesville, Arkansas

JOURNAL ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

ANNUAL MEETING 7-8 APRIL 2006
LYON COLLEGE

Stanley E. Trauth
President

David Saugey
President-Elect

Jeff Robertson
Secretary

Joyce Hardin
Treasurer

Mostafa Hemmati
NAAS Delegate

Henry Robison
Historian

Secretary's Report MINUTES OF THE 90TH MEETING

ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SUMMARY OF 1ST AND 2ND BUSINESS MEETINGS LYON COLLEGE APRIL 7-8, 2006

1. With a crisp single BANG of the ceremonial gavel, Stan Trauth, President of the AAS called the meetings to order.
2. Local Arrangements Committee: Walter Roettger, President of Lyon College thanked the work of the Local Arrangements Chair Kurt Grafton and expressed his delight at the keynote speaker, Guy Consolmagno. Kurt Grafton then expressed his thanks to the many people who have helped to host the meeting who will also be recognized in the resolutions. There were 203 attendees that registered for the meeting. There were 92 oral presentations, 23 poster presentations as well as 35 students entered in the competitions. Also presenting will be the winner of the Jr. Academy. He then announced the various scholarly awards presented to students for their research presented at the meeting symposia. (They are listed elsewhere in this volume.)
3. Historian: Henry Robison reported that this is the 90th annual meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science. This is the very 1st time that the annual meeting has been held at the Lyon College Campus.
4. Secretary: The minutes from 2005 Executive Committee business meeting in November 2005 were distributed and approved. These minutes will be going on the AAS website. Prior to this meeting, the current membership list included approximately 120 members (56 which are life members) of the Academy along with 14 institutional members. A request for \$250 was made to offset mailing charges incurred for the AAS mailings, the Newsletter, and Journals that are not picked up at the annual meeting was approved.
5. Treasurer/Auditor: The financial report was presented by Joyce Hardin. Page charges for Vol 59 were all e-mailed

this year to save trees. Details on the income and expenses for the year were highlighted in addition to journal cost issues. The Academy posted a substantial gain of \$7,000, a record this year. Mostafa Hemmati and Jeff Robertson were acting auditors and reviewed the financial statements. The "books" maintained by the Academy Treasurer were found to be good financial records kept with excellent integrity and showing no inconsistencies or irregularities. (The financial status of the Academy is found elsewhere in this volume for review).

6. *Journal Editor-in-Chief*: Stan Trauth reported that Vol. 59, 2005 of the journal is 223 pages. This is 79 more pages than last year's journal. A request for the Academy to continue to support the *Journal Editor in Chief* with an allotment of \$200 and \$600 for assistant editor duties to cover incurred costs was accepted.
7. *Journal Managing Editor*: Chris McAllister reported that the journal contained 29 papers, 8 notes, 21 features with 1 rejection. He noted that the peer review process for the journal was quite vigorous as can be attested to by the extensive list of reviewers, their locales and disciplines. Revised publication policies for the journal will be posted on the AAS website. He also requested \$750 to cover incurred costs associated with managing editor duties and was approved.
8. *Arkansas Science Fair Association*: The state science fair is in its 52nd year and the annual winners go to an international fair that has 1000 students from 40 countries competing. The Association is looking for a replacement for the retiring director Micheael Rapp. A request and approval was obtained for \$400 dollars to support the Arkansas Science Fair Association.
9. *Junior Academy of Science*: The Junior Academy is in need of new directorship. Jerry Manion, the interim director, requested continued support through an allotment of \$250 which was approved.

Arkansas Academy of Science

10. Intel Talent Search: Will Slaton has replaced the outgoing Jim Murray as director for the talent search as this organization reorganizes.
11. Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: Linda Kondrick presented highlights from the 40th annual JSHS symposium and the 29th year hosted on the Arkansas Tech University campus (<http://pls.atu.edu/jshs>). Support from the military sponsors and the AAS help make the 3-day event and research paper presentations by students successful. Six students represent Arkansas in the national competition. A request and approval for continued support of \$100 towards their student awards was given.
12. Committee Reports:
 - a. Biota Committee: Doug James relays that online access to the Biota lists are moving forward, slowly but surely.
 - b. Science Education Committee: Mostafa Hemmati reported on a lively discussion over the current debate on evolution in the classroom.
 - c. Development Committee: Betty Crump related woes from an unsuccessful grant application to endow the journal but solicited other, "sexier" funding propositions to attract sponsors and hopefully produce successful grant applications.
 - d. AAAS: Mostafa Hemmati reported that 4 students benefited from memberships to the AAAS and that due to snow and ice his attendance at the national meeting was cancelled.
 - e. Arkansas Science Teachers Association: Tillman Kennon thanked the Academy for their continued support of the Science fair and the Jr. Academy. ASTA is hosting workshops for teachers in science lab safety and providing training to 7-12 grade teachers. They are also developing science benchmark tests for 5th and 7th grades.
13. New Business:
 - a. The JAAS Editor-in-Chief and managing editor are retiring! It is paramount for the Academy to find replacements for these critical positions soon. The time to think is now about what the journal needs are going to be and any changes necessary about how the publication of the journal is handled.
 - b. The nominations committee announced candidates they solicited for positions of Vice President and Treasurer. As there were no additional nominations from the floor, Joyce Hardin and Mostafa Hemmati were voted in by acclamation for V.P. and Treasurer, respectively.
 - c. The development committee solicited input for ideas to fund scholarships, awards, the journal, etc, including but not limited to: better advertising of science education initiatives and programs by the AAS, AAS membership benefits promotion, corporate members and/or sponsors, "friends" of the Academy (philanthropic).
 - d. Motion passed for the creation of a new poster award of \$100 each for graduates and undergraduates as this presentation style has become more numerous and popular at the meeting.
 - e. Motion passed for the Academy to adopt the position statement of our parent organization (AAAS) on intelligent design and a link to it and other information from the AAAS on our AAS website.
 - f. Jamie Oliver of the Arkansas Environmental Federation who sponsors our student awards to the tune of \$500 spoke about the participation of students at their convention and the availability of awards and scholarships.
 - g. Desires were expressed by members to have the Academy:
 - i. develop close contacts at each institution and promote the Academy. Department Chairs and Deans from science programs at each school should be educated and informed more about the Academy and the Journal,
 - ii. develop a strategy to have the old journals scanned electronically and available to the members online,
 - iii. find a way to reinstate journal distribution to student members,
 - iv. think about establishing a permanent, recognizable webaddress (e.g. www.arkansasacademyofscience.org).
 - h. Jeff Robertson from Arkansas Tech University announced the dates of the 91st annual meeting as April 13-14, 2007 on the ATU campus in Russellville, Arkansas. Locations for 2008 and beyond are solicited.
 - i. Resolutions for the annual meeting were read to the membership (see Resolutions).
14. Closing: New president David Saugey accepted the ceremonial gavel from outgoing president Stan Trauth making him Past-President, Collis Geren President-Elect and Joyce Hardin Vice-President.

Meeting adjourned.

Jeff Robertson, AAS Secretary

**ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

BALANCE - January 4, 2007	\$36,896.76
BALANCE - January 17, 2006	\$36,174.06
NET GAIN	\$722.70

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Checking Account Bank of Ozarks, Russellville, AR	\$8,610.08
Certificate of Deposit Life Membership Endowment Bank of Ozarks, Russellville, AR	\$13,000.00
Dwight Moore Endowment Bank of Ozarks, Russellville, AR	\$5,286.68
Phoebe and George Harp Endowment Bank of Ozarks, Russellville, AR	\$5,959.51
Unrestricted Bank of Ozarks, Russellville, AR	\$4,040.49
TOTAL	\$36,896.76

INCOME:

1. ANNUAL MEETING	
a. Check from Lyon College	\$2,981.44
	\$2,981.44
2. INTEREST	\$366.22
3. JOURNAL	
a. Miscellaneous Sales	\$247.17
b. Page Charges	\$11,350.25
c. Subscriptions	\$950.00
	\$12,547.42
4. JOURNAL CONTRIBUTION	\$3,200.00
5. MEMBERSHIP	
a. Individual	\$620.00
b. Institutional	\$660.00
c. Life	\$100.00
	\$1,380.00

6. MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

a. Stan Trauth	\$35.00
b. Betty Crump	\$35.00
	\$70.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$20,545.08
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EXPENSES:

1. STUDENT AWARDS

a. Katie McLean	\$100
b. J.C. Wagnon	\$50
c. J.C. Douglas	\$50
d. Toby Ward	\$100
e. Laura McWilliams	\$100
f. Chris Wyatt	\$50
g. Mathew Lemay	\$50
h. Shara Jones	\$50
i. Marcy Bonitts	\$50
J. Bonnie Earleywine	\$100
k. Marcy Bonwits	\$100
l. Scott Jordan	\$50
m. Rex Medlin	\$50
n. Taldi Walter	\$50
	\$950.00

2. AWARDS

a. Junior Science and Humanities Sym.	\$100
b. Arkansas Science Fair	\$400
c. Arkansas Junior Academy of Science	\$250
	\$750.00

3. JOURNAL

a. Journal Expenses - Stan Trauth	\$200
b. Journal Expenses - Chris McAllister	\$750
c. Journal Charges (226 Pages + Cover)	\$16,239.04
d. Journal Expenses - Joy Trauth	\$600
e. Journal Expenses - Betty's stamps	\$46.80
	\$17,835.84

4. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

a. Jeff Robertson - Office Expenses	\$62.37
b. David Saugey	\$182.12
c. Bank Check Charges	\$13.35
d. Dues to the NAAS	\$115.40
	\$373.24

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,909.08
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Arkansas Academy of Science

APPENDIX A

2006 AAS Award Winners

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Environmental Science

1st Place Joseph R. Milanovich / ASU
Effects of Prescribed Burning on Reproduction of the Western Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon albagula*) in Arkansas.

2nd Place Taldi Walter / UCA
The Role of Biology and Culture in Species Invasions: Contrasting Evidence From Two Invaded Ranges.

Life Science

1st Place Toby M. Ward / UAMS
Genetic Strategies for Improvement of Varicella Vaccine.

2nd Place Rex E. Medlin, Jr. / ASU
Distribution of Arkansas's Bottomland Bats.

3rd Place Jacy L. Wagnon / UAMS
Trans-Activation of Meiotic Recombination by mRNA.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Environmental Science

1st Place Bonnie Earleywine / UCA
Population Status and Distribution of Spring Cavefish, *Forbesichthys Agassizi*, in Southeast Missouri.

2nd Place Shara Jones / HSU
Differences in Coral Community Structure Reflect Impacts of Indigenous Villages and Agriculture at 9 Reef Sites in Kuna Yala, Panama.

3rd Place Marcy Bonewits / UCA
Henderson Middle School Environmental Education Outreach.

Life Science

1st Place Katie McLean / Lyon
Developing a *C. Elegans*-Based Bioassay for Estrogenic Activity.

2nd Place J. C. Douglas / Lyon
A Mutation in Estrogen Receptor Alpha that Selectively Attenuates Activation by Phytoestrogens.

3rd Place Scott Jordan / HSU
Ichthyofaunal Assemblages in Three Proximate But Ecologically Diverse Streams in Clark County, Arkansas.

Physical Science

1st Place Laura McWilliams / Lyon
Response Surface Optimization of a Microwave Assisted Perkin Reaction.

2nd Place Chris A. Wyatt / UALR
When You Can't Take a Dust Mop to Space: A Solution to the Mars Rover Particle Adhesion Problem.

3rd Place Matthew Lemay / ASU
Investigation of Electromagnetic Shielding in Ferromagnetic Nano/Micro Powder/Polymer Composite Films.

The David M. Chittenden II
Undergraduate Green Chemistry Poster Award

Amon Holt
Lyon College
for
Ruthenium Complexes of Novel Thiosemicarbazones:
Synthesis, Characterization, and Antimicrobial Activity

APPENDIX B

RESOLUTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the membership of the Arkansas Academy of Science, offer our sincere appreciation to Lyon College for hosting the 90th annual Meeting of the Academy, held 7-8 April, 2006.

We thank our Local Arrangements Committee: Chair Dr. A. Kurt Grafton, Drs. Floyd Beckford, Ray Byler, Barry Gehm, Bob Gregerson, Stuart Hutton, David Koch, Tim Lindblom, David Pace, David Sonnier, Dave Thomas, and all of the student workers and staff who collectively contributed to such a successful meeting.

Appreciation is expressed for inviting us to this gorgeous campus and for use of these excellent facilities and the hospitality shown to us by Lyon personnel. We especially thank our keynote speaker Dr. Guy Consolmagno for his thought provoking presentation entitled, "Pluto and Planets X: Is Pluto a Planet? And Why Does It Matter?"

We thank Lyon College for their contributions to the Social and Banquet, which were both excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all. And we thank Provost Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Dr. John Peek. We sincerely appreciated and enjoyed the fine music provided by the Lyon College Pipe Band.

The Academy recognizes the important roles assumed by session chairs and expresses sincere appreciation to Mostafa Hemmati, James Engman, Wayne Wahls, Gus Williamson, Abul Kazi, Betty Crump, Scott Kirkconnell, Grover Miller, Steve Zimmer, Thomas Smith, Bill Shepard, Dave Thomas, Stuart Hutton, Brian Wagner, and Tim Lindblom.

A special appreciation is owed to those individuals who devoted considerable time and energy to judging student papers. They are Ginny Adams, Betty Crump, Steve Dinkelacker, James Kellum, Anwar A Bhuiyan, Mostafa Hemmati, Abul B. Kazi, Larry Lebofsky, William Slaton, Ying Hutton, David Thomas, Grover Paul Miller, Thomas Smith, Scott W. Kirkconnell, Deborah Wade, Bob Gregerson, and Tim Lindblom.

We gratefully acknowledge the various directors of the science and youth activities which are supported or supervised by the Academy: Mostafa Hemmati, Science Education Committee; Jim Murry, Intel Talent Search; Jerry Manion, Junior Academy of Science; and Linda Kondrick, Junior Science and Humanities Association.

We wish to thank all those who served as directors at Regional Science Fairs and Junior Academy Meetings, including Bryan DeBusk, Jim Edson, Lynne Hehr, Tillman Kennon, Brian Monson, Mike Rapp, Kathryn Shinn and Gus Williamson.

We congratulate all who presented papers and posters at this meeting. Student participants are especially recognized since their efforts contribute directly to the future success of the Academy and the improvement and advancement of science in Arkansas.

We very much appreciate Walt Godwin for maintaining the Academy website.

The continued success of the Academy is due to its strong leadership. We offer sincere thanks to our officers for another excellent year: Stan Trauth (President), David Saugey (President-Elect), Collis Geren (Vice President) and Betty Crump (Past President), Jeff Robertson (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Joyce Hardin (Treasurer), Stan Trauth (*Journal* Editor-in-Chief), Chris McAllister (*Journal* Managing Editor), and Henry Robison (Historian).

Finally, the membership wishes to posthumously recognize Tom Palko for his many years of service and contributions to his students, the Academy, and to the science and biology profession.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of April, 2006
Resolution Committee
David Saugey, Chair
Joyce Hardin
Mostafa Hemmati

2006 - 2007 MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

FIRST MI	LAST NAME	INSTITUTIONS
Edmond J.	Bacon	University of Arkansas-Monticello
Vernon	Bates	Ouachita Mtns. Biological Station
Floyd	Beckford	Lyon College
Wilfred J.	Braithwaite	University of Arkansas-Little Rock
Calvin	Cotton	Geographics Silk Screening Co.
Betty	Crump	U.S.D.A.
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Collis	Geren	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
John	Giese	Ark. Dept. of Env. Qual. (ret)
Walter	Godwin	University of Arkansas-Monticello
Anthony	Grafton	Lyon College
Joe M.	Guenter	
Joyce	Hardin	Hendrix College
George	Harp	Arkansas State University
Phoebe	Harp	Arkansas State University
Gary	Heidt	University of Arkansas-Little Rock
Ronnie	Helms	
Mostafa	Hemmati	Arkansas Tech University
Douglas	James	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
Ronald	Javitch	Natural History Rare Book Found.
Arthur	Johnson	Hendrix College
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Roger	Koepp	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
Donald	Mattison	March of Dimes National Office
Roland	McDaniel	FTN Associates
Grover	Miller	University of Arkansas/Medical Sciences
Herbert	Monoson	Arkansas Science & Technology Authority
James	Peck	University of Arkansas-Little Rock
Michael	Rapp	University of Central Arkansas
Dennis	Richardson	Quinnipiac College
Jeff	Robertson	Arkansas Tech University
Henry	Robison	Southern Arkansas University
David	Saughey	U.S. Forest Service
Stephen	Sewell	University of Mississippi
Betty	Spears	Ouachita Mtns. Biological Station
George	Templeton	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
Stanley	Trauth	Arkansas State University
Gary	Tucker	FTN Associates
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Tillman	Kennon	Arkansas State University
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Secretary's Report

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Mary	Lynch	University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff

STUDENT MEMBERS

FIRST MI	LAST NAME	INSTITUTIONS
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Cassandra	Brooks	Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Misty	Caple	Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Laura	Conley	Hendrix College
Rupali	Das	University of Arkansas/Medical Sciences
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Matthew	Hurd	University of Arkansas- Monticello
Rebecca	Mason	Texas A&M University-Texarkana
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Christy	Melhart	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
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Tess	Perez	Ouachita Mtns. Biological Station
Jennifer	Roller	Hendrix College
Harish	Shandilya	University of Arkansas/Medical Sciences
Brandon	Thurrow	Hendrix College
Jacy	Wagnon	University of Arkansas/Medical Sciences
Toby	Ward	University of Arkansas/Medical Sciences
Bradley	Williams	University of Central Arkansas
Katherine	Winsett	University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

Contributions to the Arkansas Academy of Science's Journal
As of February 6, 2007

\$500

Dr. Arthur Johnson
Hendrix College
53 Meadowbrook Drive
Conway, AR 72032

\$100

Dr. William Willingham
UAPB
1200 University
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

\$100

Dr. Joyce Hardin
Dept. of Biology
Hendrix College
Conway, AR 72035

\$100

Dr. John Giese
37845 Sr 16
Jerusalem, AR 72080

\$100

Mr. David Saugey
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Jessieville, AR 71949

\$100

Dr. Mostafa Hemmati
Department of Physical Science
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR 72801

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Dr. Scott Kirkconnell
Department of Biology
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR 72801

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Dr. William Shepherd
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\$100

Dr. Arthur Fry
University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
1923 Joyce Street #323
Fayetteville, AR 72703

\$200

Dr. Rudolph Eichenberger
Southern Arkansas University
Box 9176
Magnolia, AR 71754

\$100

Dr. Stanley Trauth
Department of Biological Sciences
Arkansas State University
P.O. Box 599
State University, AR 72467

\$100

Dr. George Templeton
University of Arkansas Fayetteville
PS 217
Fayetteville, AR 72701

\$50

Mr. Brian Lockhart
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 227
Stoneville, MS 38776

\$100

Mrs. Betty Crump
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902

\$900

Anonymous
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902

\$100

Dr. Henry Robison
2714 Chaffin LN.
Magnolia, AR 71753

\$100

Dr. Wayne Gray
215 Colonial Ct
Little Rock, AR 72205

\$100

Dr. Roger E. Koeppe
305 N. Washington
Fayetteville, AR 72701

\$50

Dr. Barry Dean Gehm
3425 Juniper
Batesville, AR 72501

\$1000

Dr. Douglas James
University of Arkansas
Department of Biological Science
Fayetteville, AR 72701

\$25

Dr. Michael Looper
3214 Excelsior RD.
Greenwood, AR 72936



**Arkansas Academy of Science
90th Annual Meeting
April 7-8, 2006**

Welcome

I welcome all of you to the 90th annual meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science. This year, we are very pleased to be meeting on the Lyon College campus for the very first time. On behalf of the AAS Executive Committee, I also thank all of you for your attendance, participation, and involvement in the AAS as well as the Arkansas Junior Academy of Science. We are looking forward to many diverse presentations during the next two days. This time will go quickly, but I hope you will have the opportunity to meet new acquaintances, visit with colleagues, and renew old friendships as we share and disseminate scientific knowledge. On behalf of the entire AAS membership, I want to extend a deep appreciation to Local Arrangements Committee and Lyon College for hosting this year's annual meeting.

Stanley E. Trauth
President, Arkansas Academy of Science

On behalf of Lyon College and the Local Arrangements Committee, I welcome you to our campus and the 90th Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science. This is the first time, but hopefully not the last, that Lyon (once known as Arkansas College) has hosted the AAS. This year, we are pleased to be hosting over 100 presentations and posters from a wide variety of scientific disciplines. We hope you enjoy the meeting and your time on our campus as much as we've enjoyed planning and preparing for your visit. To help you find your way around Batesville and Lyon College, you'll find building, campus, and area maps in the back of this program. If you have any other questions or need any assistance during the meeting, just look for any member of the Local Arrangements Committee; we'll all have red ribbons on our name badges.

Anthony K. Grafton
Chair, Local Arrangements Committee

Keynote Speaker



PLUTO AND PLANETS X: IS PLUTO A PLANET? AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Guy J. Consolmagno, Vatican Observatory, V-00120 Città del Vaticano, Italy

Less than 15 years ago, the first “trans-Neptunian Object” besides Pluto was discovered. Within the past two years, a rush of new discoveries have revealed a number of bodies whose size rivals that of Pluto. What are these objects? Where did they come from, and what can they tell us about the origin and evolution of the solar system? How are these objects found, and why they only being discovered now? Finally, are they indeed new planets? Who gets to say, and how is this determined? Observing these objects, and observing their observers, is a revealing story in both the science and politics of planetary astronomy.

Dr. Guy Consolmagno, S.J., is a Jesuit monk, and an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory whose research includes observing the colors of trans-Neptunian Objects at the Vatican Observatory’s Advanced Technology Telescope. He is also president of the International Astronomical Union Commission 16, Planets and Satellites, and a member of the IAU Working Group on Defining a Planet. Dr. Consolmagno also serves as curator of the Vatican Meteorite collection, one of the largest in the world. His research explores the connections between meteorites and asteroids, and the origin and evolution of small bodies in the solar system. Dr. Consolmagno divides his time between Tucson, Arizona, where he observes asteroids and Kuiper Belt comets with the Vatican’s 1.8 meter telescope on Mt. Graham, and Castel Gandolfo, Italy, home of the Vatican meteorites. He has also traveled extensively around the world doing research and giving talks. A short biography (from which this was excerpted) is available from the Vatican Observatory facility in Arizona (<http://clavius.as.arizona.edu/vo/R1024/GConsolmagno.html>). Image courtesy of Alessia Giuliani.