

Arkansas Academy of Science

AAS Newsletter 2021

Editor: R. Panneer Selvam

January 2021

Of Special Interest...

CALL FOR PAPERS

- 104th Annual Meeting of the Academy
- AAS Student Research Grants
- Members Corner
- Editorial Note & Liaison Officers



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***You are encouraged to duplicate all or part of this document for dissemination amongst your colleagues. Encourage them to become members and to attend the annual meeting including the business meeting.

104th Annual Meeting of the Academy at UAFS!-Virtually

The 104th annual meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science will be held virtually on April 9-10, 2021, hosted by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, Fort Smith, AR. All conference activities will take place virtually this year, because of the continued dangers posed by COVID-19.

Preregistered participants will be emailed their conference programs on Thursday, April 8. The program will include information about the presentations, including full abstracts. This information will be organized by subject area and also alphabetically by presenter. The program will contain hyperlinks to meeting activities including research presentations and the keynote address.

We are happy to announce that Dr. Helen James, Research Zoologist and Curator of Birds at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, will be our keynote speaker. Her presentation, titled *Discovering a Lost World of Birds: Fossils in Hawaii's Lava Caves*, will be available at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 9. Please be sure to attend this fascinating presentation.

This year, all research presentations will be through prerecorded video lectures. See Information for Presenters, below, for details.

Completed registration forms, abstracts, registration fees, and membership dues must be received by **March 1, 2021**. The



details of payment by web or mail are included on the registration form. Registration and abstract submission forms will be available online at <https://STEM.UAFS.edu/AAS2021>. Contact Jack Jackson (Jack.Jackson@UAFS.edu, 479-788-7620) or Julie Martin (Julie.Martin@UAFS.edu, 479-788-7960) if you have any questions.

Manuscripts for submission to JAAS Volume 75 should be submitted to the Journal Website by April 7th. See Page 5 for more details.

AAS Business Meeting for Everyone

The annual business meeting and presentation of awards for ALL members of the Academy will take place Saturday, April 10 at 11:00 am. The meeting is for you, and your attendance, contributions, expertise, and insights help the Academy provide the highest quality and service to its membership. A link to

the Zoom meeting will be in the conference program.

Information For Presenters

Abstract submission will be open for the 2021 AAS meeting soon. **Abstracts must be submitted online via the conference website by March 1 for the presentations.** Abstract submission should be made simultaneously with conference registration. **This year, all presentations will be in the form of video presentations.** Because of the virtual nature of the conference, there will be no posters and no in-person lectures. Presenters should prepare a 10-15 minute video presentation of their research. The video must be uploaded to your own YouTube channel with the following settings: privacy should be set to Unlisted, auto captioning should be enabled. All videos must be posted and links to the videos emailed to Jack.Jackson@UAFS.edu **no later than April 1.** Links to the videos will be included in the electronic program, which will be emailed to registered conference participants on Thursday, April 8. Participants are encouraged to interact with the presenter via the comments section below the video. Videos should stay available through April 15. After April 15, the presenters may leave the presentations online, delete them, or make them public at their discretion.

page 5 for brief information about publishing in the Journal.

PLEASE read instructions for prospective authors found on the Academy website <http://www.ArkansasAcademyofScience.org> (Journal tab). Any questions can be directed to the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal (Dr. Ivan Still, jarksci@gmail.com).

JAAS Publication

JAAS Publication Manuscripts for publication in the Journal, based on a presentation given at the meeting, are to be submitted two days prior to the meeting, (April 7th) via the Journal website. See

Membership and Registration Fee Payments & Other Details

Please complete the membership and registration forms at <https://STEM.UAFS.edu/AAS2021>. You may make online payments for conference registration from the same website. Details of fees and payment information can be found on the website. Because of the online nature of the conference, student registration fees are set at only \$10 and non-student registration fees are \$25. Annual membership dues to AAS will not be collected by UAFS. Instead, go to <http://www.arkansasacademyofscience.org/aasmembership.html> to pay your annual membership dues. If you paid your annual Arkansas Academy of Science dues in 2020, they will be rolled forward and also count as your 2021 dues. Do not pay again. If you do not remember whether you paid in 2020, e-mail Collis Geren at cgeren@uark.edu and he will check the master list and get back to you. Details on uploading videos for the conference can be found on the conference website.

<http://www.ArkansasAcademyofScience.org> (Meetings tab)

Keynote Speaker



Helen F. James, Ph.D : Dr. Helen F. James is a leading paleo-ornithologist, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Curator of Birds for the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History where she oversees one of the largest museum collections of birds in the world. She has led or participated in over thirty field expeditions, most of them to collect fossils for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu. During several decades of research, she and her collaborators discovered over sixty species of extinct fossil birds in the Hawaiian Islands, many of them with odd traits like the inability to fly. She will share the story of these astounding discoveries and how they changed what we think about extinction, as well as how to prevent it. Dr. James, daughter of the legendary late UA ornithologist Douglas James, is a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and was raised on Kessler Mountain, just outside of Fayetteville, AR.

The keynote speaker is sponsored in part by a grant from



Editor's Corner: I have been contacting different Universities for a Liaison Officer to AAS. I have names from ATU, HSU, PSC, SAU, UARK and ASU. So if you are interested to serve the AAS, please feel free to contact me: R. Panneer Selvam, UARK, email: rps@uark.edu, ph: (479)575-5356

Please feel free to give your feedback to improve the news items.

Tentative Schedule of Events

January 25, 2021 Conference Website available
Registration Begins
Submission of Video Presentation Abstracts Begins

March 1, 2021 Last day to submit abstracts for presentations
Undergraduate Research Award Proposals Due

April 1, 2021 Final deadline for uploading video presentations and emailing hyperlinks

April 7, 2021 Final deadline for submission of JAAS manuscript for review

April 8, 2021 Conference Programs emailed to registered participants

April 9-10, 2021 Annual AAS Meeting, Virtual Meeting, hosted by UAFS

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Aren't you the right person to step up to a leadership role?

Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science (JAAS):

Manuscripts for publication in the *JOURNAL*, based on a presentation given at the meeting, are due two days prior to the annual meeting. One of the authors must be an AAS member to publish in the *JOURNAL*. Manuscripts must be submitted to the *JOURNAL* website: <http://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/>. Authors and co-authors who have submitted manuscripts via the system previously, should use the contact/email and password that they used previously. New authors should follow instructions on the site to establish their profile. Authors can subsequently update their profile with any changes to their contact and account info as necessary. Should you have any problems, please contact the Editor-in-Chief (jarksci@gmail.com).

Comments for Prospective Authors

Authors are required to use the instructions found on the AAS website in preparing manuscripts submitted for publication in the *JOURNAL*. Authors are directly responsible for the major formatting of their article and, thus, manuscripts must be properly formatted PRIOR to submission. **Of particular importance is proper setting of margins, line and paragraph spacing.** Figures and tables must be inserted into their appropriate locations in the manuscript. A caption should be written under each figure and above each table. The editor and printer do no significant retyping or editing and only act to assemble the *Journal*. The electronic copy of the manuscript (word document, not pdf) should be a single file. To view and/or download new instructions visit the Academy website. Please note that after successful review **the final product submitted by the authors will be the published document in the *Journal*.**

All manuscripts must be submitted electronically via the *JOURNAL* website: <http://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/> with the entire review and publication procedure being handled via the server. Please allow time to get use to the new system if you have not used it before. E-mailed manuscripts will no longer be accepted.

To avoid rejection at Editorial review, PLEASE read the instructions for prospective authors found on the Academy website: <http://www.arkansasacademyofscience.org/aasjournal.html> (**Journal tab**). The instructions and policies can also be accessed by following the links from the *Journal* web site.

Reviewers, Associate Editors and future Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor Solicited

Persons interested in acting as Reviewers in their field of expertise of manuscripts submitted for publication in the AAS *Journal* are needed. We are asking for members who wish to become more involved with the production of the *JOURNAL* to consider becoming Associate Editors of the *JOURNAL*. In particular, we are looking for Associate Editors for Zoology (Invertebrate) and Botany. We are also looking for members who would like to become the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor when Dr. Still retires after Volume 75 in 2021. See next page for description of the duties of the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor positions.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Ivan Still (jarksci@gmail.com) by e-mail and provide your contact information and area(s) of expertise. For potential reviewers, please be specific about the individual subjects you wish to review. (e.g. not just Botany, but herbaceous plants, or woody plants, or aquatic plants; and not just vertebrates, but reptiles, particularly snakes.)

Awards competition for student presentations at the AAS Meeting: Students commonly present results of their research at the annual meetings of the Arkansas Academy of Science. Our award competition seeks to recognize outstanding presentations made by these students. Categories for oral presentation awards include Life Science and Physical Science, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of competition. Certificates and cash awards may be given for first place (\$100), second place (\$50), and third place (\$50). Awards for the best overall undergraduate and graduate poster presentations will also be made.

Student presenters interested in any of these competitions should indicate their desire to compete on their submitted abstract. Presentations and posters not specifically entered into the competition will not be judged, nor will they be eligible for an award.

Arkansas Academy of Science PERMANENT ONLINE HOME:

AAS Web Pages: The official website of the Academy now has a permanent public portal whose web address will never change although internal links for member pages might whenever the host migrates. Always access the online Academy pages from the permanent public portal...

<http://www.ArkansasAcademyofScience.org>

Duties of the Editor-in-Chief

The Editor-in-Chief is an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Academy of Science and is responsible for oversight of the publishing the Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science. The Editor-in-Chief works closely with the Managing Editor and members of the *JOURNAL* Editorial Board (the Academy "Publication Committee") in all aspects of the publication process. The peer-reviewed *JOURNAL* has evolved over the past decade, and is now globally available through the *JOURNAL* website (<https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/>). The *JOURNAL* is thus published on-line and also as a hard copy *JOURNAL* that is distributed to Academy members, and member Institutions.

Specific duties:

1. Receives manuscripts submitted for publication and cooperates with Managing Editor and Associate Editors in the review, revision and acceptance process
2. Liaises with the Treasurer of the Academy of the Arkansas Academy of Science with regard to the financial management of the *JOURNAL*, and prepares reports for the Executive Committee and the Annual General Business meeting regarding the status of the *JOURNAL*.
3. Prepares the next issue of the *JOURNAL* by assembling the final copies of manuscripts accepted for publication
4. Works with the printer in the technical preparation of the Journal.
5. Arranges for the distribution of copies of the Journal at the next annual meeting, and mailing of copies to Academy members and Institutional Members.

Duties of the Managing Editor

Publication of the Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science

The Managing Editor acts as the primary contact person during manuscript submission in March/April each year. All manuscripts are submitted a minimum of 2 days prior to the annual meeting electronically via: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/>, the *JOURNAL* website. The Managing Editor ensures that manuscripts and their authors are in compliance with the policies and instructions to authors as laid out on the *JOURNAL* website and cooperates with the Editor-in-Chief to perform initial Editorial review. The Managing Editor assigns manuscripts to appropriate Associate Editors who subsequently submit manuscripts to referees for critical review for scientific content, originality and clarity of presentation. This process is handled via the *JOURNAL* server. Associate Editors are assigned based on their areas of expertise. The Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor and Associate editors, (the Publication Committee) cooperate in the acceptance, rejection or revision of all manuscripts.

Author-revised manuscripts will be the manuscripts that will be entered into the final on-line and hard copy *JOURNAL*. However, manuscripts frequently require finishing touches to formatting to maintain the quality of the *JOURNAL*. Thus, the Managing Editor subsequently ensures that accepted revised manuscripts meets publication standards for the *JOURNAL* on-line and in the hard copy. The Managing Editor also collects the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, the annual meeting report and assembles the meeting reports with the final copies of manuscripts into the completed *JOURNAL* for publication. The on-line system allows a relatively simple way of assembling the on-line *JOURNAL*. The Institutional Repository Coordinator at University of Arkansas (currently Cedar Middleton) can aid with this final assembly. Finally, the Managing Editor is responsible for the distribution of hard copies of the *JOURNAL* at the next annual meeting, and where necessary prepares journals for mailing to the Institutional members of the Academy and to Members of the Academy who were unable to attend the annual meeting.

Liaison with associated organizations.

The Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science is an Open Access Journal. The University of Arkansas Libraries have partnered with the Academy to archive and make volumes of the *JOURNAL* and Proceedings freely available worldwide online at <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/>. This repository is indexed in the Directory of Open Access Repositories. The Managing Editor is the contact person for the Directory of Open Access Journals and the International directory, SHERPA, and handles any issues with maintaining status within these directories.

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<http://www.ArkansasAcademyofScience.org>

Conference Organizing Committee

Chair	Jack Jackson
Associate Chairs	Ragupathy Kannan, Clint Brooks
Committee Members	Myron Rigsby, Tom Buchanan, Joshua Burns, Amy Skypala, Kristine Garner, David McClellan
Website, IT Support	Jason McGee, Rhonda Boyd
Administrative Support	Julie Martin
Finances, Administration	Linus Yu, Interim Dean, STEM College

Contact Jack Jackson (Jack.Jackson@UAFS.edu, 479-788-7620) or Julie Martin (Julie.Martin@UAFS.edu, 479-788-7960) for any questions or clarifications.

Arkansas Academy of Science

Undergraduate Research Awards (up to \$1000)

Applications available at
<http://www.arkansasacademyofscience.org/>

Applications are due: March 1, 2021

To send applications or for more information
contact:

**Dr. Stephen R. Addison saddison@uca.edu
(501) 450-3199**

