

Arkansas Academy of Science

AAS Newsletter 2025

Editor: R. Panneer Selvam

February 2025

Of Special Interest...

CALL FOR PAPERS

- 108th 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.

108th Annual Meeting of the Academy at LC

The 108th meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science will take place on 4-5 April 2025 (Friday and Saturday) at **Lyon College**, 2300 Highland Road, **Batesville, AR**. Most of the meeting's activities will occur in the Derby Center for Math and Science at the corner of 23rd and College Streets. Registration will open at 8:00 AM on Friday morning and will be available throughout the conference. The conference activities start at 9:00 AM with brief welcome by Lyon College and Batesville dignitaries. Oral presentations will start at 9:30 and will continue throughout the day. Posters may be set up in the Scottish Heritage Building at any time and will be accessible throughout the conference. The Information about the conference is available at <https://www.lyon.edu/2025-arkansas-academy-of-science-conference>. Conference fees are \$200 for faculty, and \$100 for students. The fee covers meeting registration, banquet, mixer, incidental food, and AAS membership.

All meeting participants are encouraged to submit an abstract for a poster and/or oral presentation via the above web site. Subject areas will include biology, chemistry, engineering, data/computer science, math, physics, and social sciences. [repeated in the 2nd page]



Manuscripts for submission to JAAS Volume 79 should be submitted to the Journal website (<https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jaas/>) by **April 30**. For any questions contact Dr. Jason Ortega Jason.Ortega@uafs.edu.

Request: Judges are urgently needed, if we are to resume presenting awards for student poster and oral presentations. See the conference website to sign up.

AAS Business Meeting for Everyone

The annual business meeting for ALL members of the Academy will take place Saturday, April 5, 2024, at 12:30pm in the **Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center Reynolds Room** following the final presentations. Please make travel plans that will allow you to stay and attend the business meeting. The meeting is for you, and your attendance, contributions, expertise, and insights help the Academy provide the highest quality and

service to its membership.

Academy officers on the **AAS Executive committee will convene on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 11am-noon in Room 129AB, Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center**. Lunch will be provided.

Information For Presenters

Abstract submission will be open for the 2025 AAS meeting soon. **Abstracts must be submitted online via the meeting website by March 7 for both oral and poster presentations.** Presenters should clearly communicate any special equipment needs at the time of their registration. PC computer projection systems for PowerPoint will be available in all presentation rooms. All PowerPoint presentations must be on a USB flash drive. The presentation rooms will be accessible prior to the session for preloading presentation files on the desktop. Oral presentations are scheduled in 20-minute increments. Please plan on a 10–13-minute talk followed by 4–5 minutes of questions and a few minutes for observers to move among nearby rooms if desired. All oral presentations will begin on the scheduled time.

For optimal display, posters should be limited to 42 inches in both width and height. Poster sessions for all disciplines will be 10–11am Saturday morning with setup time 7:30–8:30am. The plan is for posters to be pinned to the walls of the hallways of the first and second floors of the Math-Science building. Pins will be provided.

JAAS Publication

JAAS Publication Manuscripts for publication in the Journal Volume 79, based on a presentation given at the meeting, are to be **submitted by April 2, 2025**, via the [Journal website](#). **PLEASE read instructions for prospective authors** found on the [Academy website](#). Any questions can be directed to the Editor-in-Chief/Managing Editor of the Journal (**Dr. David McClellan**, David.McClellan@uafs.edu).

Authors must follow instructions for prospective authors found on the Academy website (<http://www.ArkansasAcademyofScience.org>) under the Journal tab. Authors that fail to follow these in-

structions may be asked to revise their manuscript to bring it in line with instructions before it goes out for review. Any questions may be directed to the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal (**Dr. David McClellan**: jarksci@gmail.com).

The Journal encourages submission of manuscripts in the following areas (and other areas) of science:

- Behavioral Science
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Cell Biology
- Computer Science
- Ecology
- Engineering
- Evolutionary Biology
- Geoscience
- Invertebrate Biology
- Molecular Biology
- Physics
- Psychology
- Science education
- Vertebrate Biology

2024 AAS Registration & AAS Membership

Please register by **Friday, March 1st 2024**, on the 2024 AAS website to allow meeting organizers enough time to make necessary arrangements. However, later registration and day-of registration will also be available. Click here to [Register](#). The cost for a student registration is \$100. For a non-student registration, the cost is \$200. **The Vendor Registration Fee is \$500. Vendor registration includes the cost of two non-student registrations, a vendor table throughout the meeting, and vendor logo on all meeting materials.** To become an AAS Member, please visit the AAS website and click on Membership. Click here for [AAS Membership](#).

Keynote Speaker*



Mr. Michael Ray Taylor.

Evolution of a 50-year Research Career (Do you have a title of the talk)

Michael is a journalist known for his work on caves and cave science. He also is a professor emeritus of communication at Henderson State University. His books include *Cave Passages*, *Dark Life*, and *Hidden Nature*, which was a 2021 finalist for the Reed Environmental Writing Award. His cave-related articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *Sports Illustrated*, *National Parks*, and many other magazines and newspapers. He is a fellow of the National Speleological Society, and a member of the Cave Research Foundation, and The Explorers Club. Working with biologist James Engman of Rhodes College, Michael has been investigating exotic microbes deep within certain Tennessee caves. The genesis of this project is described in *Hidden Nature*.

The banquet will be served at 6:00 PM on Friday followed by the keynote speaker. An evening mixer with drinks will follow the keynote speaker.

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

Open for Registration	2024 AAS Meeting Website
9/1/2023	Submission of Oral and Poster Presentation Abstracts Begins
3/1/2024	Last day to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations.
3/1/2023	Undergraduate Research Award Proposals due
4/5 to 4/6/2023	Annual AAS Meeting, UAFS
4/30/2023	Final deadline for submission of JAAS manuscript for review

Conference Schedule at a Glance

Friday, April 5th

10:00-12:00	Executive Committee Meeting (Campus Center)
10:00-5pm	Registration, Vendors, Refreshments & snacks (Campus Center)
12:30-12:45	Opening session (Campus Center)
2:00-5:00pm	Oral Presentations (Math Science [MS] building)
5:00-6:00pm	Judge meeting (TBD)
6:00-6:30pm	Pre Banquet mixer (Campus center)
6:30-8:00pm	Banquet and Keynote Address (Dr. Douglas Rhoads –Campus Center)
8:00-10pm	Evening social (TBD)

Saturday, April 6th

7:30-8:30	Poster setup (MS 1st & 2nd floor hall ways)
7:30-9:00	Registration (Campus Center)
9:00-10:00	Opening address (Campus center) Dr. Hernandez's keynote address
10:00-11:00	Poster session (MS 1st & 2nd floor hall ways)
10:00-12:30	Vendor, Refreshments & snacks (Campus center & MS building)
11:00-12:00	Campus tours (TBD) Judge meeting (TBD)
12:30-1:30	Business Meeting/Awards (Campus center)

2024 AAS Executive Officers

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Please mail membership dues to the above address!!!.

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

I will update this part-Selvam

Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science (JAAS):

Manuscripts for publication in *JAAS*, based on a presentation given at the meeting, will be due **April 30, 2023**. At least one of the authors must be a member of AAS.

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.

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>

Conference Accommodations

For your convenience we have set up room blocks at three Fort Smith hotels for the 2024 AAS meeting. Please note: the [Great North American Eclipse](#) will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024. We highly recommend booking your hotels early for the 2024 AAS meeting on April 5-6, 2024. We ask that you **reserve your rooms by March 1 to guarantee the meeting rate.**

Hotel	Rate & Additional Details
Courtyard Fort Smith Downtown	Government Per diem rate. Hot breakfast buffet available for an additional \$10/guest + tax.
Hampton Inn Fort Smith	\$98 + tax. Hot breakfast buffet provided for no additional fee.
Wyndham Fort Smith City Center	Government Per diem rate. Hot breakfast buffet available for an additional \$10/guest + tax.

Please visit the [Fort Smith Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) website for additional information about where to play, stay and dine to enjoy your time in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Directions and Conference Parking

There will be adequate free parking near the conference buildings on the UAFS campus. The conference website will have maps and directions to campus as well as maps indicating parking and building layouts.

Organizing Committee

Chair: **Dr. Jason Ortega, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, UAFS**

AAS President-Elect: Dr. Jeff Shaver, Professor, Biology, UAFS

Jeff Adams, Assistant Director, Babb Center for Career Services, UAFS

Dr. Brittany Bright, Assistant Professor, Computer and Information Sciences, UAFS

Clint Brooks, Instructional Designer, UAFS

Lisa Cady, Senior Instructor, CBI Industry Administration, UAFS

Dr. Patti Conard, Jim L. Hannah Endowed Professor, School of Nursing, UAFS

Angela Consani, Co-founder & CEO of Bioscience Core Skills Institute

Dr. Nawa Dahal, Instructor, Physics, UAFS

Brent Gunnels, Associate Director of Development, Advancement, UAFS

Dr. Janet Jahn, Assistant Professor, Education, UAFS

Chris Kelly, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Marketing, UAFS

Sierra Laddusaw, Associate Librarian, Scholarly Communication, UAFS

Dr. David McClellan, Professor, Biology, UAFS

Dr. Paulette Meikle, Associate Dean/Professor, Sociology, UAFS

Dr. Archana Mishra, Assistant Professor, Physical Chemistry, UAFS

Mike Pate, Vice President, Powersports Listings Mergers & Acquisitions; Board, Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce

Jay Randolph, Administrator, Sebastian County Parks

Nancy Rhodes, Math/Science Curriculum & STEM Coordinator, Alma School District

Kendall Ross, Director, Center for Business and Professional Development, UAFS

Gary Udouj, Director, Career Education and District Innovation, Fort Smith Public Schools

Dr. Rahul Yadav, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, UAFS

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Arkansas Academy of Science

Undergraduate Research Awards

(up to \$1500)

Applications available at

<http://www.arkansasacademyofscience.org/aasnewsletter.html>

Applications are due: March 15,
2025???

To send applications or for more information
contact:

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

