

The Pennsylvania Academy of Science



The Pennsylvania Academy of Science

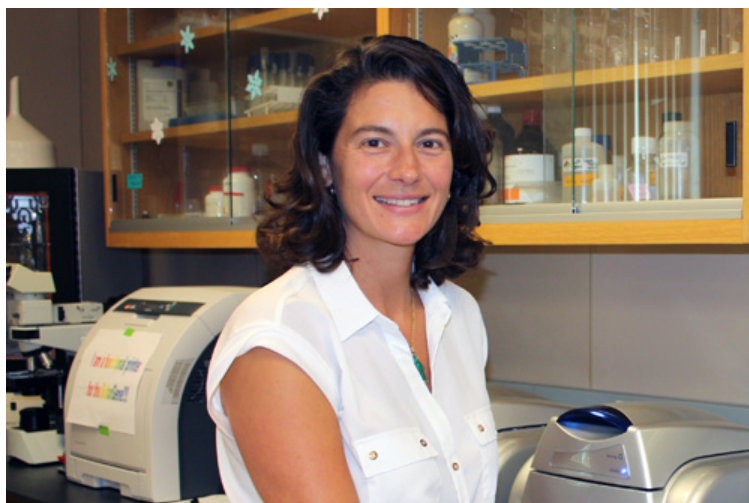


President's Welcome – Joy Karnas

Friends and Colleagues,

The Academy is getting ready for the upcoming annual meeting in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, April 1-3. Gregory George has been busy planning this much-anticipated scientific exchange to be held in Delaware Valley University's new \$7 million science building. In addition to the research talks and poster sessions, I invite you to attend the Saturday afternoon Business Meeting, which is open to the general membership and will cover important Academy information, including the election of new officers. There will be a Saturday night banquet (meal included as part of the registration) and, as an exciting mealtime twist, food trucks for lunch on Saturday (meal *not* included in registration). Abstract submissions are due by February 15th and we look forward to hearing research updates from both faculty and students, so get writing!

The Academy has been working to update the leadership structure of the Academy to modernize it and make it match current practices. The proposed changes are discussed later in this newsletter. This is a big year for elections—not only are there multiple positions that will see new officers, but it is also the year of the transition of Presidents. As I transition to Past-President, your President-Elect, Ed Levri will slide into the vacated role. The nominee for President-Elect is Amy Parente, and you can find her biography in this newsletter.



I am sure that everyone has noticed the major changes to the website over the past year, and I appreciate your continued patience as we transition to new ways of accepting abstract submissions, registration information, and payments. Through hard-work and dedication, several officers have spent countless hours behind the scenes to ensure that the mechanics of these processes work better for you. I need to thank André Walther (Webmaster), Jennifer White (Treasurer), and Sherry Fuller-Espie (Corresponding Secretary) for everything that they have contributed to the process, and for keeping our membership informed.

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President's Welcome – Joy Karnas

Finally, I want to make sure that everyone is aware that we have changed the due date for undergraduate grant submissions to February 15th. We hope to announce the grant recipients during the Awards Ceremony at the close of the annual meeting. Not only will this allow us to celebrate the student accomplishments, but it will also mean that students who wish to work on their research projects during the summer will be able to apply for funding from the Academy to do so, and that they will receive their funding prior to the work. We are always looking for grant reviewers, as well as judges for the Spychala Presentation Awards. If you are interested in serving as either, please contact David Singleton (pasgrants@pennsci.org) and let him know.

I look forward to seeing everyone in April, and wish you all the best as you dive into your spring semesters. Enjoy the snow while it lasts, and let's all hope for gorgeous springtime weather for the meeting!

K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.

President, Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences

Professor and Department Chair, Cedar Crest College

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Pocono Environmental Education Center

News from the PAS President - Joy Karnas

2016 PAS Annual Meeting at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, PA

Plans for the 2016 PAS Annual Meeting are underway. The meeting will be held from Friday, April 1, 2016 to Sunday, April 3, 2016. The meeting theme will be ... We have set deadlines for the meeting as follows:

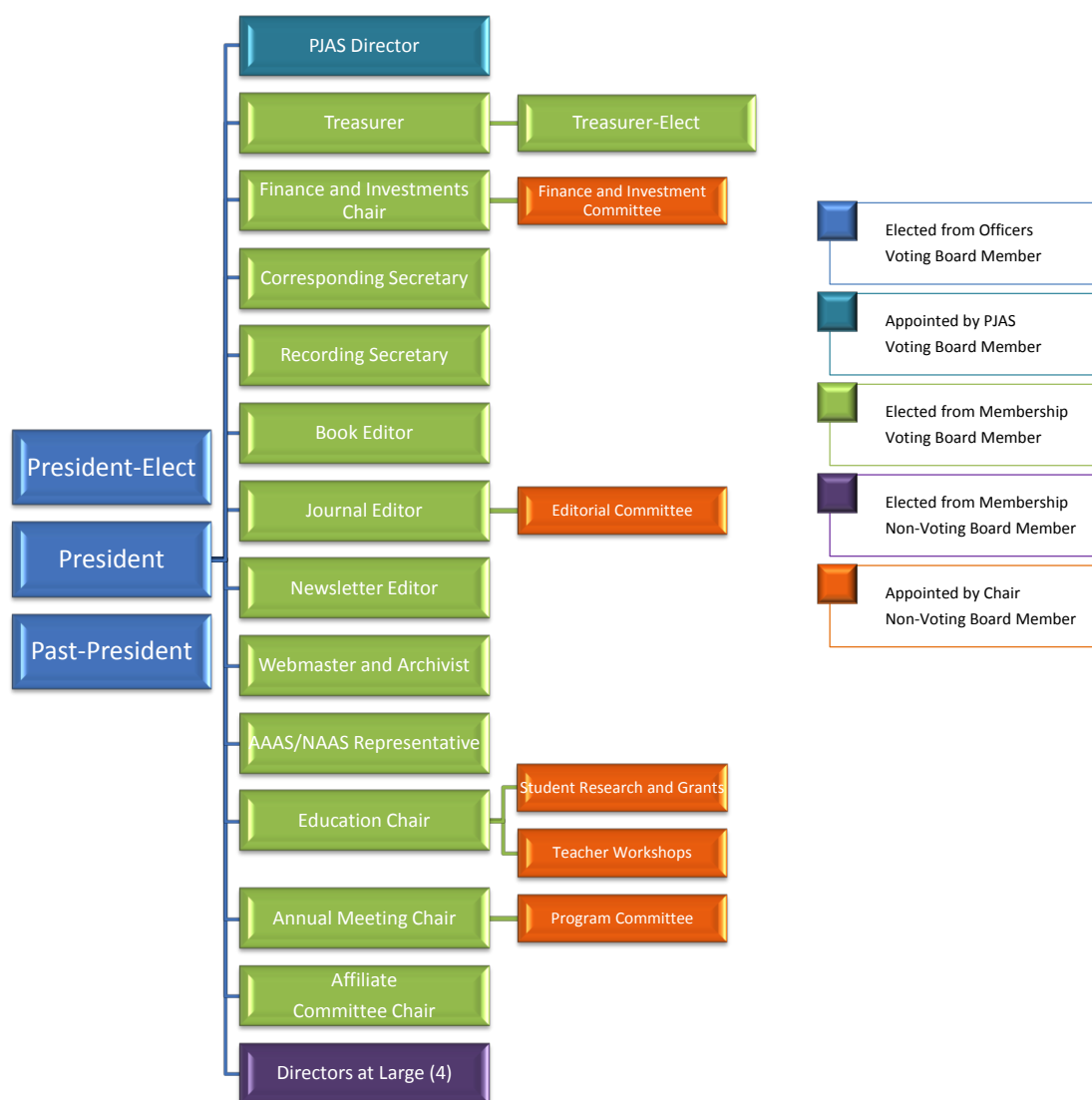
- * Feb 15th: Abstracts for the annual meeting
- * March 1st: Notification of abstract acceptance
- * March 15th: Registration for the annual meeting is due (\$75 students, \$100 faculty)
- * March 21st: Late registration fee (\$50) applied to meeting registration
- * March 28th: Abstracts pulled for anyone who has not registered

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News from the PAS President - Joy Karnas

Board Structure

The Board has been discussing a more modern structure for both officer organization and their job descriptions. The diagram below summarizes the basic structure of what has been developed. The Officer's Guide, last revised in 2000, has also been modified to reflect current practices such as the use of websites and electronic correspondence as the main mechanisms for communication, the publication of the journal in an electronic format, and the organization of the annual meeting at institutions rather than convention centers. I don't think it is necessary for the treasurer to arrange for a "safe-deposit box at meeting site for storage of registration receipts," but I do think that the word "website" should appear at least once in the guidebook. This organization will be discussed at the Business Meeting on April 2nd, and the general membership is welcome to give input.



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News from the PAS President - Joy Karnas

Nominating Slate

The slate for our annual elections is given below and will also be discussed at the annual Business Meeting. After nominations are taken from the floor, there will be a vote of the membership to approve the slate of officers.

Nominated Slate for 2016 Election:

President-Elect: Amy Diegleman-Parente (2016-2018, President 2018-2020, Past-President 2020-2022)

President: Ed Levri (2016-2018, Past-President 2018-2020)

Past-President: K. Joy Karnas (2016-2018)

PJAS Director: Fay Nelson (elected by PJAS)

Treasurer: Matthew Wallace (2016-2018)

Treasurer-Elect: André Walther (2016-2018, Treasurer 2018-2020)

Finance and Investments Chair: J. Michael Campbell (2016-2018)

Corresponding Secretary: Sheryl Fuller-Espie (2015-2017)

Recording Secretary: Tammy Tintjer (2016-2018))

Book Editor: Sandy Whidden (2016-2018)

Journal Editor: Carl Pratt (2016-2018)

Newsletter Editor: Sara Turner (2016-2018)

Webmaster and Archivist: André Walther (2015-2017)

AAAS/NAAS Representative: open

Education Chair: David Singleton (2016-2018)

Annual Meeting Chair: open, possibly Tammy Tintjer for Kings Meeting (2016-2017)

Program Chair: André Walther (appointed)

Affiliate Chair: Greg Czarnecki (2016-2018)

Director at Large: Greg George (2015-2017), Greg Czarnecki (2015-2017), *Chris Brey (2016-2018), Robin (2016-2018)*

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News from the PAS President - Joy Karnas

Amy Parente, President-Elect Nominee

Amy Parente earned dual B.S. degrees in Chemistry and Biology from SUNY Fredonia before completing her M.S. and Ph.D. in Bioorganic Chemistry from the University of Rochester. Following an American Cancer Society-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Penn State University, she spent 10 years as a faculty member at Penn State's Altoona campus. In 2010, she joined the faculty at Mercyhurst University where she is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and was recently appointed Associate Dean of the Zurn College of Natural and Health Sciences. Dr. Parente was named an Educational Fellow by the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in recognition for her contributions to Biochemistry education, and has authored over a dozen publications including several on innovations in pedagogy. As an environmental biochemist, Dr. Parente has secured nearly \$700,000 in research funding over the past 15 years.

She has developed patent-pending technologies in her laboratory to detect the artificial sweetener sucralose in environmental water samples and is collaborating with experts in the field of fresh-water plastic pollution to understand the effects of microplastics on Great Lakes microorganisms.



Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science:

The most recent edition of the *Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science* is now available through the PAS website at:

<https://pennsci.org> and https://pennsci.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/JPAS_V89_2.pdf.

NEEDED: Volunteers to serve on the Editorial Committee of the PAS Journal

Term length: The term length for a Board member is four years, but there is no limit to the number of terms one can serve.

Responsibilities/duties: Although members of the Editorial Committee are not frequently called upon, they are important assets to the Journal. The duties of Committee members can best be summarized as providing occasional help with review of articles and to provide advice to the editor in times when publication decisions need additional, expert opinion, and input. Committee members are occasionally asked to review articles for which the Editor has received divergent or contradictory input from regular reviewers.



Please consider this as an opportunity to help the Academy and to promote the Journal. If interested please contact:

Carl R Pratt, Editor JPAS
cpratt@immaculata.edu

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An invitation to submit manuscripts to the open-access *Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science*

Dear Colleagues,

As newly selected Editor of the Journal, I want to thank Dr. Jane Huffman for her help during this transition period. Her insights, knowledge of the Journal's inner workings, and her willingness to answer my seemingly endless list of questions, is most appreciated!

I would like to extend an invitation to publish in the Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Instructions for manuscript submission can be found on the Academy's web site.

In 2012 the journal became open-access and is electronically published. It will continue to feature works of significance, originality, and relevance in all areas of biological science, chemistry, physics, geography, geology, curriculum and pedagogy. The journal will be published on the academy's web site. It will continue to disseminate significant research and original papers, research notes and case studies that can be of interest to a wide audience of scientists.

Scientists submitting manuscripts will benefit from:

- Open access to all published contents ensuring the widest possible, barrier-free distribution of works at no charge to any readers
- Online submission and editorial management system, professional review and editorial assistance, typesetting, proofreading and publication.

Address all inquiries relating to publication in the
Journal to the Editor:

Carl R. Pratt
Department of Biology
Immaculata University
1145 King Road
Loyola Hall 210B
Immaculata, PA 19345
484-323-3276
cpratt@immaculata.edu

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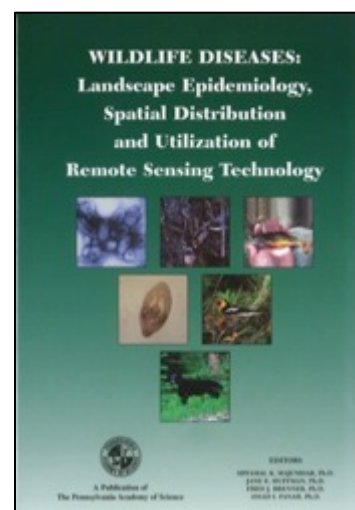
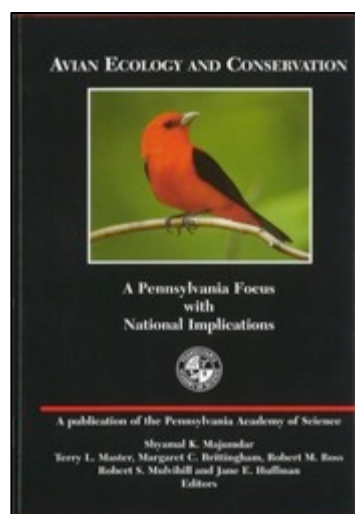
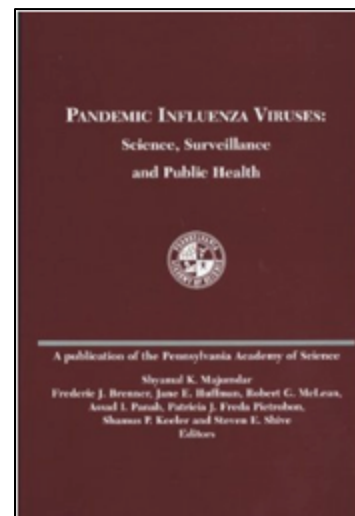
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PAS Books on the Move

The most recent PAS book publication is now available for purchase through Amazon and the PAS web-site! *Pandemic Influenza Viruses: Science, Surveillance and Public Health*, edited by Shyamal Majumdar (Lafayette College), Frederic Brenner (Grove City College), Jane Huffman (East Stroudsburg University), Robert G. McLean (National Wildlife Research Center), Assad I. Panah (University of Pittsburgh), Patricia J. Pietrobon (Sanofi Pasteur), Shamus P. Keeler (University of Georgia), and Steve Shive (East Stroudsburg University) features introductory chapters on the history and science of influenza diseases, plus contributions on surveillance and tracking technology, public health strategies and planning, and vaccines. This book is a compilation of up-to-date scientific information of pandemic influenza with particular focus on the 2009 pandemic H1N1 virus and the 2005 highly pathogenic H5N1 virus, and contains chapters on the biology, ecology, immunology, and genetics of influenza viruses.

Check out the other recent PAS books on sale through Amazon. *Avian Ecology and Conservation: A Pennsylvania Focus with National Implications* (edited by Shyamal Majumdar, Terry Master, Margaret Brittingham, Robert Ross, Robert Mulvehill, and Jane Huffman) published in 2010 offers 27 chapters by dozens of ornithological experts from Pennsylvania and other states, with cutting edge insights on habitats of PA breeding birds, migration and wintering ecology, conservation issues and challenges, and emerging issues such as climate change, wind power development, contaminants, and emerging diseases. The other recent book to buy is *Wildlife Diseases: Landscape Epidemiology, Spatial Distribution and Utilization of Remote Sensing Technology*, published in 2005. It has been a great seller, but a few copies are still available.

Finally, a unanimous vote by PAS Board members approved advancement of the next book project, tentatively entitled *Ecology and Conservation of Pennsylvania's Bats in a Time of Crisis*, with editors Howard P. Whidden (East Stroudsburg University), DeeAnn Reeder (Bucknell University), with Cal Butchkoski and Greg Turner (Pennsylvania Game Commission).



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PAS Grant and Prize Opportunities

Darbaker Prize - \$1000

The Darbaker Prize is a Pennsylvania Academy of Science (PAS) award given for outstanding scholarly contributions, which use microscopic techniques and present microscopic illustrations in the reporting of biological research. The award is competitive amongst qualified papers submitted in association with the Academy's annual meeting.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Science established the Darbaker Prize in 1952. Funds for the award are made available through a bequest of the late L.K. Darbaker, 1939 PAS President. Referring to the award, Dr. Darbaker stated: "Any sum applicable to the Pennsylvania Academy of Science shall be for grant or grants in Microscopical Biology."

To qualify for the Darbaker Prize, a scientist or scientists must: (1) have used microscopy (light, SEM, TEM or other technologies) in the research they report, (2) submit in proper format a manuscript reporting the results of the completed study for consideration to be published in the *Journal*, (3) specifically state a request to the Editor of the *Journal* to have their manuscript considered for the Darbaker Prize for the current calendar year, and (4) be a member of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Darbaker Prize competition manuscripts are expected to be presented and submitted at the PAS annual meeting, but if not, manuscripts will be accepted for consideration within four weeks (28 calendar days) following the last day of the annual meeting. Only manuscripts that have successfully completed the review process and have been accepted for publication in the *Journal* will be eligible for the award.

For further information contact:

Contact David Singleton (York College) for details at dsinglet@ycp.edu

PAS Research Grants

The Pennsylvania Academy of Science has funds available to support *UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENT* research in the natural, physical, or social sciences. Proposals should be written and submitted by the student under faculty guidance. 2016 PAS Grant Proposals are due **February 15, 2016** and will undergo review by professional referees, and evaluation by the PAS Research Grant Committee. Grants are normally made in the amount of \$500 or less, as requested in the proposal and, therefore, proposal budgets should take this limit into consideration.

Make sure you check out the PAS website (under "funding opportunities") for announcements, instructions, and deadlines for our *college and high school student research grants*.

Contact David Singleton (York College) for details at dsinglet@ycp.edu

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Reminder of PAS Mission

The mission of PAS is to “encourage scientific research; to promote interest in the teaching of science; to stimulate exchange of ideas among those engaged in scientific work especially in Pennsylvania; to assist in the development and distribution of information about the material, educational, and other resource and riches of the Commonwealth; and to arrange and prepare for publication such reports as may further these objectives, all of which purposes do not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise, to the members of the corporation.” *Excerpt from PAS Constitution*



Stay Connected with Twitter: Twitter users can now follow PAS for meeting and PAS updates: @PennAcadSci <https://twitter.com/PennAcadSci>