

KAS BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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KANSAS BORED OF EDUCATION STRIKES AGAIN!

For the second time in the past few years, the Kansas Board of Education has focused its expertise on scientific education and found it severely wanting. The problem seems to be that a huge majority of scientists hold a quaint belief in organic evolution and insist it be taught in the states schools. This attitude parallels similar opposition to alchemy which if substituted for the so-called chemistry courses now taught in Kansas' schools could quickly and easily solve the funding crisis which continually affects the entire education system.

It is our understanding that the Bored also is casting a wary eye on the curricula of history departments throughout the state. One Bored member who preferred to remain anonymous was heard to mutter, "I jest cain't dang-blamed understand how all them hairy elephants, dinosaurs, and big camels could all die off here in jest six-thousand years after they was created and put here. Maybe it's that global warming I hear about." Other concerns involve physic folks who opine that the earth and heavens and all are tied together with strings when *everybody* knows that an intelligent designer would use bailing wire at the very least. As pundit Roseanne Roseannadonna portrayed by the late entertainer Gilda Radner was fond of remarking, "It's always something!"

KAS PRESIDENT PENS BEST SELLER

Paleontology books usually are to be found in university bookstores at registration time and are purchased by students. However, KAS President Mike Everhart has written a real winner, *Oceans of Kansas*, which is leaving empty shelves at commercial bookstores around the nation. The beautifully illustrated book explains the marine life which thrived in the Cretaceous-age sea which once covered much of present-day Kansas. The book was released earlier this year and now is in its third printing. Well worth the cost and the reading time, I (KAS Bulletin editor) highly recommend it. If you were impressed by the shark in the movie *Jaws*, read Mike's descriptions about the *Cretoxyrhina* sharks which prowled the Cretaceous Seaway. Now there was a shark!

138TH ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR WICHITA

Wichita State University will host the 138th annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science on 7 and 8 April 2006. Details are herein.

DR. PATRICIA MEINHARDT TO ADDRESS KAS 138TH ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Meinhardt will present "Protecting Americans from Waterborne Disease and Water Contamination." Dr. Meinhardt received a B.A. in biology and M.A. in botany from the University of Montana and earned her M.D. at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. She earned the M.P.H. (Master of Public Health) degree in epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University. She presently is the Executive Medical Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, Arnot Medical Center, in Elmira, New York. She has for more than a decade provided medical expertise in recognition, treatment and prevention of water-related diseases and recently has published *Physician Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism: An On-Line Readiness Guide*. Dr. Meinhardt's topic of presentation to KAS is *Protecting Americans from Waterborne Disease and Contamination*.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

It is time for the annual election of officers. A ballot is enclosed for your use. Please mark (or don't mark) the block of your choice, fold, seal or staple, add a stamp and return to the KAS Secretary. Be aware that the single slate of officers given is not by choice. It is, at a minimum, difficult to find volunteers willing to accept nomination to an office. Those who volunteer to run for office are sincerely appreciated. Voting, even for a single nominee, is necessary so that those holding office may do so in accordance with the Academy's constitution and by-laws. **VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

**AND THE NOMINEES ARE—
NEXT PAGE PLEASE**

The KAS constitution provides that the President-Elect moves into the President's job and the Vice-President advances to President-Elect. The incumbent secretary and incumbent treasurer have agreed to serve another term. Positions to be filled for 2006 are those of Vice-President and two members to the Council-at-Large. The nominees are:

Eric L. Trump -Vice-President

Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Radiation Safety Committee at Emporia State University, Dr. Trump earned the B.A. degree at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska; an M.P.A. in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and the M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemistry at Kansas State University.

Dixie L. Smith - Council-at-Large.

Dr. Smith is Assistant Professor of Biology (Plant and Soil Ecology) at Pittsburg State University. Also a coordinator for the Junior Kansas Academy of Science, Dr. Smith earned the Ph.D. degree in Biology at Kansas State University.

Gregory A. Smith - Councilor-at-Large. Dr. Gregory A. Smith is Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of Natural Areas & the Schmidt Museum of Natural History at Emporia State University. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, he earned the B.S. degree in General Zoology at the University of Florida, the M.S. in Biology (Vertebrate Ecology) at Mississippi State University and the Ph.D. in Zoology (Biogeography & Macroecology) at the University of Oklahoma.

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

The venerable KAS Transactions are in the process of being scanned from Volume 1 (1872) to Volume 105 (2002) with future volumes to follow. This work is being accomplished by JSTOR, a Michigan firm which also publishes on-line collections of more than 550 other scholarly journals. Check the KAS Website (WWW.WUACC.EDU/KAS) and future issues of the KAS Bulletin where access instructions will be published as they become available. Current (2002 to present) issues of the KAS Transactions are available on BIO-ONE.

DUES DUE!

Members soon will receive their notice for KAS 2006 membership dues. All are encouraged to promptly remit to the indicated address. This is an ideal time to encourage your colleagues who may not be KAS members to become so. With the pending holiday season (Yes, Bored of Education members, KAS members *do* believe in Christmas!), this also is an ideal time to surprise

someone with a gift membership. If you are paying dues to other scientific societies, you should realize what a bargain KAS membership is. Be prepared to pay the following 2006 dues (Extra or added donations are gratefully accepted!):

- **Regular membership: \$25.00**
- **Sustained membership: \$30.00**
- **Family membership: \$35.00**
- **Emeritus membership < 1991: no charge**
- **Emeritus membership > 1990: \$10.00**
- **Student membership: \$15.00**
- **Life Membership : Contact Secretary**

GREG LIGGETT FOLLOWS HORACE MANN'S ADVICE – GOES WEST!

KAS President-Elect Greg Liggett. Long a stalwart Academy member and worker surprised us when he resigned his position and announced that he was moving to California. Greg, who was a staff member at Fort Hays State University and Adjunct Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Sternberg Museum there has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Northern California Natural History Museum at California State University at Chico, California. The absence Greg's on site participation at KAS events is a debit to the Kansas Academy of Science but he will be an asset to California.

**DEADLINE APPROACHING
STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT
REQUESTS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED
SOON**

Are you aware that KAS will fund up to \$500.00 for Ph.D. and M.S. student research grants and up to \$250.00 for undergraduate research? The grant may be used by students to pay expenses incurred in research only. This would include such things as purchase of supplies and equipment, travel to and from research sites, purchase or collection of data, etc. Such things as tuition, travel to meetings or symposia, manuscript preparation and associated publication costs are **not** fundable. Last year (2004-2005), the Academy funded \$2700.00 of such grant requests. Instructions and submission forms are available on the KAS Website or contacting Dr. Shaun Schmidt at Washburn University shaun.schmidt@washburn.edu. **Submission deadline for this year's (2005-2006 grants is 30 November 2005.**

**7TH ANNUAL PALEONTOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM WILL ACCOMPANY
138TH ANNUAL MEETING.**

If you've attended any of the six previous Paleontology Symposia, you know how they continue to evolve [?!] and improve over time. So don't miss this the seventh of these exciting events organized by KAS President Mike Everhart. As were previous symposia, it will be held at and along with the 138th Annual KAS Meeting at Wichita State University.

Abstract submission for both events is 6 February 2006. Registration deadline for both is 13 March 2006 (After then, registration fees increase!). See enclosed sheets in this KAS Bulletin or the KAS Website for details. As always, judges are needed for student paper presentations. If you want the pleasure of hearing some excellent papers and helping students by judging them, contact: kristie.bixby@wichita.edu or mike@oceansofkansas.com.