



The Future of Scholarly Meetings

COVID-19 has raised many questions for scholarly societies and professional organizations, but perhaps none more pressing than the future of conferences and meetings, which are a locus of intellectual exchange, a critical membership benefit, and a central gathering point for the community. It has become clear that even in a ‘post-pandemic world’ we will not be going back to business as usual. Some form of hybrid in-person and virtual events will be the new norm, creating risks as well as opportunities for societies to expand their outreach while deepening services for their members. Experiments begun in 2020-21 offer lessons and possibilities to explore, but much creative work lies ahead.

ITHAKA’s new project, conducted as a collaboration between Ithaka S+R and JSTOR Labs and with financial support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, investigates the potential for new approaches to meetings in partnership with scholarly societies. We will consider the relationship between modality and purpose, the financial implications of changes to conference formats, member engagement with virtual and hybrid events, and technological options for the future of meetings. By bringing societies from a range of fields together to work on the problem, we expect to advance our collective knowledge on these issues more quickly than any single society would be able to do on its own. Our guiding questions include:

- What lessons can we learn from how societies have managed their meetings before and during the COVID pandemic? How are other industries handling virtual and hybrid meetings?
- What are the financial and membership implications of changes to well-established meeting formats?
- What new skills and technologies are needed to effectively manage fully online or hybrid meetings, and what would it take to upgrade internal resources to meet these needs?
- What are the different kinds (and levels) of value that are possible to achieve in a scholarly meeting - from formal presentations to generative networking opportunities?
- What innovations can be made in the various components of the annual meeting to take advantage of digital options?

How will the project work?

ITHAKA will partner with approximately 15 scholarly societies to learn from COVID-era experimentation with conference formats and to explore emerging models. Over the eleven to twelve-month term of the project, the cohort will share information with each other and receive access to ITHAKA research that will inform three workshops devoted to identifying strategies

for navigating technological, financial, logistical, staffing, and other challenges associated with changes to meeting formats. All meetings associated with the project will be held virtually.

- Participating societies will asynchronously complete a questionnaire about their prior meeting models, 2020-21 experiences, and outlook and planning for the next five years.
- At our kick-off workshop, the cohort will discuss organizational responses to COVID-19 related meeting disruptions and consider the long-term strategic challenges facing academic meetings. Following the workshop, participants will gather existing survey data and other member feedback (e.g., focus groups) from members and other stakeholders about their 2020-2021 conference experiences and preferences for future meetings, and share those data with ITHAKA.
- Our second workshop will focus specifically on the question of how changes to meetings may affect the financial health and membership base of scholarly societies.
- ITHAKA conducts an aggregated analysis of the data submitted by the cohort and a landscape review of the meeting practices of other societies and industries, and of conference platforms and service providers. These findings will be shared with the cohort at an information sharing session.
- ITHAKA shares early findings of their aggregated analysis with the cohort in a virtual meeting. Later that month, the cohort will convene for a day-long design workshop, led by experts from JSTOR Labs. The workshop will provide an opportunity for discussion of next steps for individual societies, and collective identification of 4-5 strategic innovations in meeting planning worth further study by JSTOR Labs, who will subsequently develop 1-2 paper prototypes to share with participants.
- JSTOR Labs and ITHAKA will host a wrap-up meeting, sharing paper prototypes with the cohort and providing space for final reflections from the cohort. Later that month, ITHAKA and JSTOR Labs will co-author a public report to share selected, anonymized, insights from the cohort, highlights from the prototypes and recommendations for enacting them, on the ITHAKA website under a CC-BY license.

What costs and time commitments should societies anticipate?

Participating societies will identify 1-2 individuals with expertise planning conferences and developing meeting programming, and who can speak to the strategic goals of the organization, to serve as their project cohort team. Each team member will contribute approximately 15-20 hours of staff-time over the course of the project. This includes attending the remote workshops, answering the questionnaire, and gathering survey and member feedback data to share with ITHAKA.

A grant from the Alfred P. Sloan foundation will subsidize the central costs for this project, which include training, research, analysis, event planning, and design expertise.

How can my organization get involved?

The Future of Scholarly Meetings will officially launch in the fall of 2021. If your organization is interested in participating, please send an expression of interest to Roger Schonfeld (roger@schonfeld@ithaka.org) as soon as possible. We will then sign a collaboration agreement.

2022 Report on Future AAS Meetings Updated

Dr. Linda S. Rayor, President Elect

Hosting meetings are difficult and time consuming. Finding future hosts for meetings is difficult and time consuming. The pandemic threw everyone's timeline off and life continued through the pandemic, such that commitments to host meetings were no longer valid. A goal for the post-pandemic in-person meetings is to get commitments for three years in the future.

Additionally, rather than relying on host institutions for meetings, AAS needs to consider moving to a model of, or occasional use of, hotels or conference centers where the venue organizes the website and registration, rooms, food or restaurant options, and abstract submission. These cost more, but clearly reduce the burden on the host.

Upcoming meetings:

Meetings in 2023: Hosted by Dr. Linda S. Rayor from 25 – 29 June at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. In lieu of any other meeting host, I will host these meetings. I will rely heavily on the Cornell Conference and Event Services for the website, registration, housing, dining passes, and abstract submissions. This will be expensive, but I don't have numbers yet. With so little time to prepare, I would very much appreciate assistance from experienced colleagues to help plan next summer's meetings. I need program organizers.

Here is the working promotional slide show about the meetings at Cornell:

<https://cornell.box.com/s/t0w3oz64j6ld4w4zl7poe1od68k2jpaj>

Meetings in 2024: Hosted by Dr. Yann Hénaut and Dr Salima Machkour M'Rabet of the Biodiversity Conservation department at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (Ecosur) the Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico the week of 24 June 2024 will host the meetings. "We have several people in and we have our institution to help during the organization of the meeting (including students, colleagues). Chetumal is a small town, on the border with Belize in the Mexican Caribbean, without enormous touristic infrastructure but enough to organize the meeting. An advantage of Chetumal is that since it is outside the tourist circuit, the prices are lower and the surrounding nature is very attractive for biologists.

There are direct flights to Chetumal from Miami (American airlines) which allows an easy connection with the United States and the rest of the world too. There are also direct flights from Mexico City. An alternative is to fly into Cancun, which is very well connected, then it takes 5 hours by road to reach Chetumal.

Chetumal is close to Bacalar (30 min), natural reserves like the Manatees Sanctuary (30 Min) or Sian Khan (2,5 hours, Calakmul 2.5 hours). A lot of maya ruins and pyramids to visit, but also Majahual (1h30) in the coral reef seaside. We also have a lot of forest and mangroves, for people who want to look for arachnids. The town has a small airport with flights coming from Mexico City and Miami and you can come from Cancun (5 hours with bus or car).”

Potential Hosts in the Future: A number of people indicated a willingness in the future, but no one is clearly committed to 2025. We should actively solicit meeting hosts and suggest the Conference venue approach at the Davis meetings.

Locations for future venues:

The 2022 and 2023 meetings are on each coast of the US, and the 2024 meetings will (hopefully) be held in southern Mexico. We should be looking for meeting hosts and/or meeting venues in the Midwest and Canada. Have any AAS meetings ever been held in Canada?

To: AAS Executive Committee

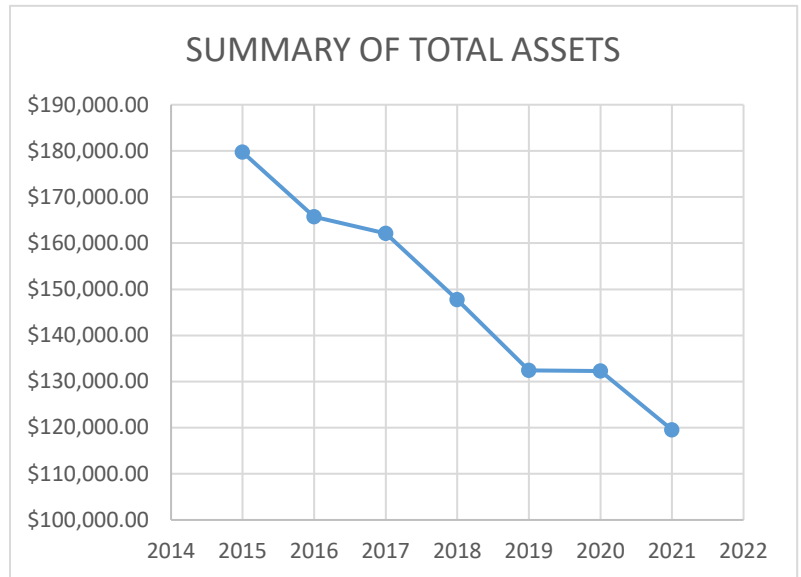
From: Cara Shillington, Treasurer

Date: June 2022

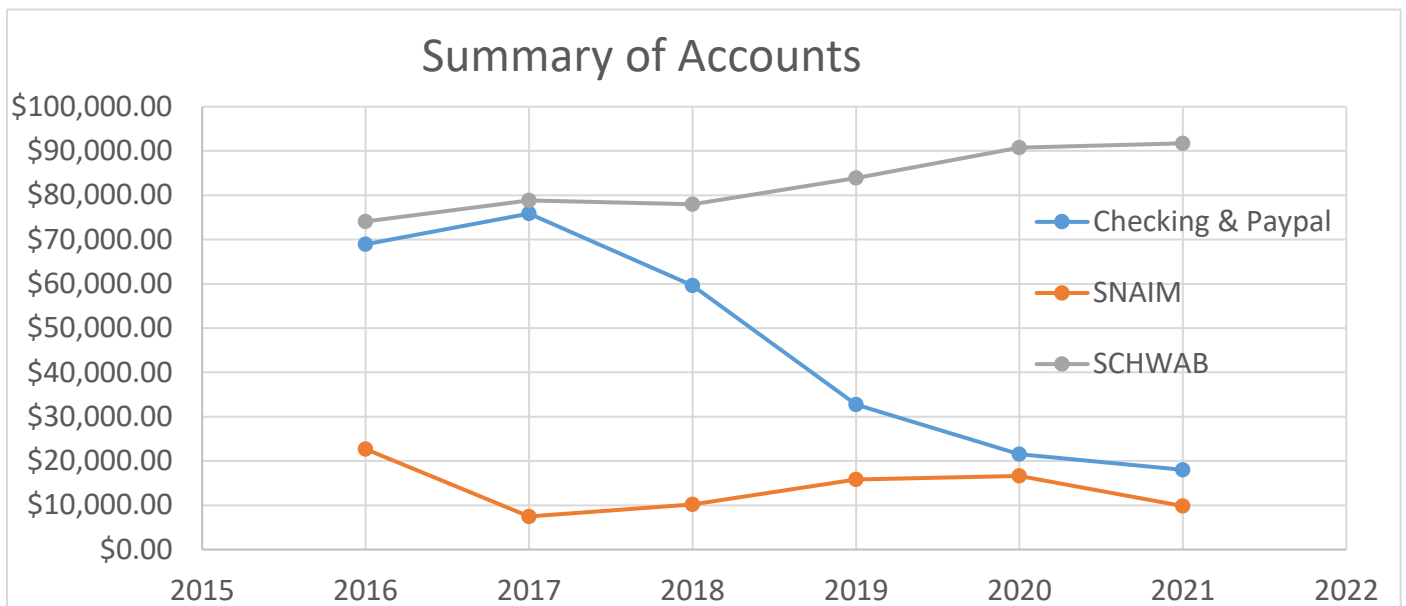
RE: Financial Report for January-December 2021

Quarterly Reports and annual financial reports are available on request.

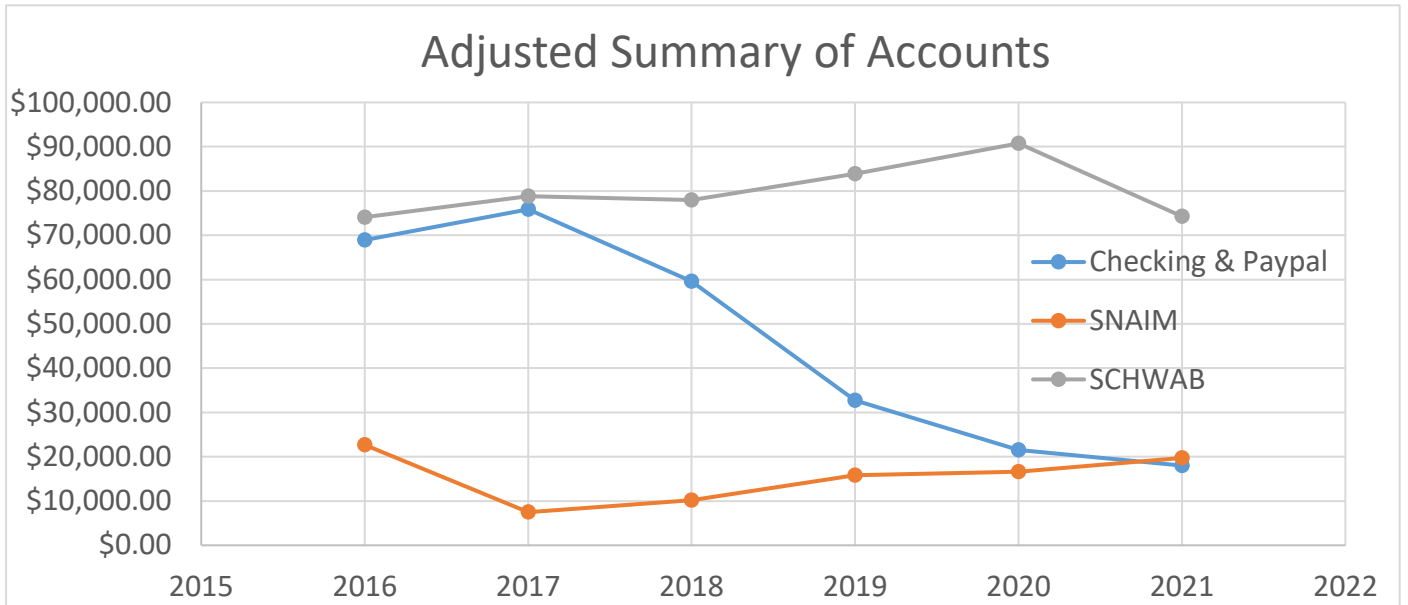
1. Transferred money from SNAIM to Charles Schwab account. One account but tracking separate balances for (AAS Main and SNAIM).
 - a. On average (past 4 years) have gained ~4% on investment; in 2021, gains were low (1%)
 - b. Transferred \$10,000 from SNAIM to Schwab in 2021
 - c. Transferred \$10,000 from Schwab to AAS Main to cover expenses in 2021
2. Website costs: \$12,081 (mostly 1 time expense) and \$3,087 (annual maintenance)
3. Total assets are declining



4. Summary of Individual Accounts
 - a. SNAIM account appears to lose money but this is due to \$10,000 transfer to Schwab
 - b. Schwab account increased by ~\$7000
 - c. Drop in Checking and Paypal combined (includes both bank accounts)



5. Adjusted Summary of Accounts. This is an accurate representation of the distribution of our total assets. In this graph, money in Schwab that belongs to the SNAIM account, is reflected in the SNAIM account. The decrease in the Schwab accounts reflects the transfer that was required to cover our 2021 expenses.



6. Comparison of expenses and income based on checking and Paypal accounts:
- With the final payments on the updated website in 2021, this was in first transfer out of the Schwab investment account (based on my memory). Another \$5,000 transfer has already occurred in the 2022 fiscal year to cover publishing costs.
 - With the transfer out of Schwab, there is a -\$4,876 difference between income and expenses.
 - The actual deficit is larger if we ignore the transfer i.e., we spent \$14,851 more than we brought in during 2021.
 - A small silver lining is that this annual deficit decreased by \$4,000 compared to last year. Despite increased expenses with the website, we brought in more money to cover expenses. However, activities supported by the AAS Main account (publishing costs, student awards, website etc) are not sustainable and our expenses continue to be larger than our income and the society as a whole is continuing to lose money.



7. Taxes:

- a. In the past several years, submission of tax forms via the US Postal Service. Tax forms have not reached their final destination requiring resubmission. USPS tracking indicates that tax forms are delivered appropriately but we still received notices about failure to file. Resubmission with documentation (i.e., tracking information and receipt of payment) has been required in 2019 and 2020.
- b. 2021 federal tax forms were submitted along with the resubmission of 2020 tax forms this year. I received notification that the 2020 taxes were received so I am assuming the 2021 forms in the same packet were also received. For the 2021 CA state taxes, online submission was required via a free website.
- c. For 2022 federal tax forms I plan to switch to online forms and submission. From what I can determine, online submission is not available for free. If anyone has suggestions on a software they have used and liked, please let me know.

2022 AAS Election Results

- Two positions were up for vote this year: Secretary and one Director
- Paula Cushing was willing to continue serving as Secretary. We offered voters a fill-in option for an alternate candidate.
- Four people were willing to serve as Director: Alex Berry, Kenny Chapin, Edmundo González Santillán, and Carlos Santibañez-Lopez.
- **Results:**
 - There was 47% participation in the election (193 ballots submitted of 408 eligible voters) - the highest level of participation (I think) ever.
 - Two individuals were written in as alternates for Secretary: Al Cady (1 vote) and Kenny Chapin (1 vote). Otherwise, Paula Cushing won with 191 votes.
 - Edmundo González Santillán won for the Director with 62 votes, followed by Carlos Santibañez-Lopez with 59 votes, then Alex Berry with 37 votes, and Kenny Chapin with 35 votes.
- Hard copy ballots will be made available during meeting registration with clear directives that only those who are members and who did not vote in the online system should participate (honor system). Since Edmundo and Carlos are only 3 votes apart, any hard copy ballots submitted during registration may change the outcome of the Director election.

Report on *Spiders of North America: an identification manual* (SNAIM) Report

Submitted, Paula Cushing, June 2022

- Electronic version of manual published in 2020
- 50 e-versions sold as of the end of 2021
- 412 copies of spiral bound hard-copy version remaining in inventory.
- Once inventory is considerably reduced, a 2nd printing of the 2nd edition hard-bound will be ordered. This version will have minor corrections (including family names at the tops of the pages). The minor corrections were carried out prior for inclusion in the e-version.

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Report on Journal of Arachnology Marketing (Press Releases surrounding JoA articles).

Cushing sent out one Press Release in 2021: “Clash of the Venomous: Snake Predation by Spiders” highlighting the article by Martin Nyffeler & J. Whitfield gibbons:

Nyffeler, M. & J. Whitfield Gibbons. 2021. Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) feeding on snakes (Reptilia: Squamata). *Journal of Arachnology* 49(1): 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.1636/JoA-S-20-050>

This Press Release resulted in hundreds of popular news articles and press coverage including LiveScience, sciencenews, Smithsonian Magazine online, National Geographic, Cnet.com, studyfinds.org, etc.

American Arachnological Society – Director’s Annual Report June 2022.

The directors are tasked with two primary responsibilities: gathering names to run in the election, and handling the student travel awards. The director (Kasey Fowler-Finn) and the junior director (Hannah Wood) worked collaboratively on the tasks listed below.

1. Elections.

The secretary term was up this year. The current secretary is Paula Cushing. We feel she is doing a phenomenal job and provides a great service to the society. She was also willing to serve another term. Thus, we did not actively pursue anyone to run against her, but made sure to have a write-in position on the ballot.

Every year we also find a new junior Director. This year, we asked 5 people to run for Junior Director, and 4 agreed. To find candidates, we reached out to early career folks from a variety of backgrounds and the following individuals agreed to run:

- Edmundo González Santillán (Researcher at the Biology Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and Curator of the National Collection of Arachnids)
- Kenny Chapin (Research ecologist for the USGS)
- Alex Berry (Asst Professor at Buena Vista University)
- Carlos Santibañez-Lopez (Asst Professor at Western Connecticut State University)

We additionally emailed Sarah Stellwagen, and she agreed to be considered in the future.

2. Student travel awards. The second responsibility of the Director is to organize the student travel grants. We revised the application this year to increase accessibility of the program by requesting just a short statement from the advisor about availability of funds, and by increasing the maximum award amount to \$1000. We had 11 students apply. We fully funded all requests from students in their last year of graduate school (4 students). The remaining applicants received between 25-50% of their request. We awarded a total of \$6570. \$1420 of the funds came from executive committee members donating registration fees, \$500 came from Jason Bond, and the remainder (\$4650) was allocated by Cara Shillington.

We suggest changes to the travel grant application formatting to have more lines in the budget so that students do not forget to budget in all expenses. We also suggest fundraising and an increase in the maximum, as well as a standardized rubric. We worked on a minimal rubric this year with a priority category being time to graduation. However, it would be good to have a pointed effort to increase diversity of the society through these awards. Gathering background information on candidates would be very helpful to this end.

And at some point, you might connect with Jason and see if he is hosting the Casual Night With Arachnids event and, if so, if he needs you to MC (that was one of the bullets under duties of Senior Director).

Annual Report of the Membership Secretary to the Executive Committee of the American Arachnological Society

June 20, 2022

1. Overall membership numbers for 2022 are down compared to the last several years.
2. With the change to the new AAS website for membership management, there are some Life members who have not made profiles, despite several individualized emails sent with instructions from two different email addresses (membership@americanarachnology.org and brian.patrick@dwu.edu). These are the Life Members who have not yet made a profile on the new AAS web page:

James Berry, Denis Blanchet, Jerry Bowen, Brendan Bower, Michael Brewer, Debbie Folkerts, Barry Nichols, Robert Raven, Peter Stoddard, Mark Stowe, Jan Weaver

As a result of these individuals not having a profile on the AAS page, they are no longer receiving emails from the society and no longer receiving hard copies of *Journal of Arachnology* for those on this list that preferred a hard copy. They have been counted in the membership total.

3. The number of Sponsored Members has declined as a number of these individuals have not created profiles on the new AAS page despite several individualized emails sent with instructions from two different email addresses (membership@americanarachnology.org and brian.patrick@dwu.edu).
4. There are 21 members who have paid but have not created a profile on the new AAS webpage. I have attempted to contact these members at least once (often many times) with instructions for creating a profile on the new AAS webpage. They are included in the to-date membership total, and in the totals for Domestic and International members, but no other categories in the below table.
5. With the creation of the new AAS website for managing the society membership, it is no longer possible to record reliably whether members are new or returning. Thus, these data will no longer be reported.

Respectfully submitted,



L. Brian Patrick
Membership Secretary

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total for calendar year	562	522	524	494	512	498	482	456	492	478	460	488	551	505	N/A
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total*	538	491	495	476	494	491	471	425	471	463	437	480	530	504	448
Total Regular	350	342	325	317	315	313	283	271	240	255	238	267	293	278	240
Total Student	135	100	97	82	97	90	103	72	135	100	91	110	124	94	83
Total Sponsored	17	15	19	22	28	32	29	28	39	48	46	40	45	60	45
Total Life/Gratis	53	49	51	54	54	56	56	54	57	60	62	63	68	69	64
Electronic Regular	na	na	na	na	49	44	38	53	58	69	60	87	110	109	81
Electronic Student	na	na	na	na	22	22	20	22	49	33	42	45	61	40	36
Electronic Life/Gratis	na	na	na	na	6	7	7	7	7	11	10	10	15	16	19
Domestic (USA)	324	299	312	286	305	309	298	272	280	279	264	311	348	314	291
International	214	192	183	190	189	185	173	153	191	184	173	169	182	190	157
New members Domestic (USA)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	45	48	59	73	45	*
New Members International	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	27	21	21	32	40	*
New Members USA regular	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	20	29	23	*
New Members USA student	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	39	44	21	*
New members Int regular	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	6	4	*
New members Int student	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12	19	13	*
New members Int sponsored	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8	7	23	*

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total for calendar year	93	91	71	63	65	57	54	46	40	35	26	26	23	20	N/A
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total*	87	89	65	62	63	57	51	43	39	35	25	26	23	20	20
Total Domestic (USA)	64	66	43	42	40	35	35	29	26	24	16	16	13	12	11
Total International	23	23	22	21	23	22	16	14	13	11	9	10	10	8	9

* indicates total at the time the membership report is produced

June 13, 2022
R. Ryan Jones
richjones327@gmail.com

AAS Student Representative Report

I am happy to report the following accomplishments since my appointment in October of 2021:

1. Distributed a survey for student members to collect career-demographic data, and determine if there was a desire for additional connection and communication between annual meetings. The respondents were overwhelmingly in favor of engaging with other members on a digital platform year-round, and also expressed strong interest in semi-regular workshops, panels, or group discussions. The summarized survey results were distributed to the EC and are appended to this report.
2. Following the survey, a Discord server was created to facilitate the above desire to build community and communication. The discord server currently has 27 student members, including members in Indonesia, India, Mexico, and Brazil. The Discord server has been useful in coordinating for the upcoming conference in Davis, sharing interesting publications, and seeking advice/help from each other.
3. An early career panel discussion was held via Zoom in early May, featuring five early career arachnologists that are post-docs, recently appointed faculty (<1 year), and one candidate that had been awarded an NSF postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian. Attendance was twelve non-concurrent students, but those that attended were very appreciative of the event and expressed interest in another similar event in the near future.
4. Assisted, in a modest capacity, Dr. Lisa Chamberland in coordinating virtual themed happy hours to take place the week prior to the annual meeting, and a RAEL informational meeting on July 5.
5. Planned a student night event during the annual meeting in Davis, on June 26th.

I would also like to thank Dr. Brian Patrick within this report for helping me communicate (many times) with the student membership.

Signed



R. Ryan Jones

Journal of Arachnology – Overview of changes and events in 2021/2022

After a Covid delay that saw issue 48(3) come out in 2021 instead of 2020, we (I) got back on track and all 3 issues of volume 49 came out in 2021. Small victories.

Editorships – Yael Lubin joined us as subject editor for behavior papers beginning with issue 48(3), which appeared in print in 2021. (This year, Mark Harvey stepped down as subject editor for non-spider systematics and Sarah Boyer from Macalester University joined as the new subject editor.) Solicitations for new subject editors are made in consultation with the other subject editors, but primarily the one stepping down.

Anniversaries - This year we are producing our 50th volume. To commemorate this, we are using a gold-colored cover with a special “50th” AAS logo. Cover images will reflect events in the history of JoA (first cover, first color cover...)

Continuous publishing – Beginning with volume 50 we are following a continuous publication model. Papers are posted on BioOne as soon as the manuscripts are print-ready (rather than waiting for the entire issue to be complete). Once posted on BioOne (the official “publication” date) they are posted on the AAS website. The page numbers that appear on the early online publication are the final page numbers that will also appear in print. Manuscripts including species descriptions or other systematic revisions receive special attention: if there is any chance that the BioOne posting and the physical print version of an article might appear in two different years (e.g., 2021 and 2022), I will hold that article until issue 1 of the next volume.

ORCID numbers – currently I include these if the authors provide them. For Volume 51, I am looking into simpler methods for including author ORCID IDs and encouraging their use. This will require us to add a note about that to Instructions to authors.

DOI numbers – This actually began with 48(2), but I’ll point it out anyway: we now include the DOI on the first page of each article just below the abstract.

COVERS - We are now beginning to include COMPLETE covers of our issues on the JoA website. These are not available on BioOne, but they include information on the cover illustrations and material of possible historical interest (editors, publishers, etc.). Working back through older issues will take time, as publishers did not retain these files.

The journal is still on shaky financial grounds, but changes to the page charge fees beginning June 2022 will bring in some needed income.

Needed for the future:

A consistent plan for billing authors for page charges.

An easy way to PAY page charges.

Some pointed guidance for reviewers.

Journal of Arachnology – Summary of 2021 submissions and finances

How are we doing?

Manuscripts submitted: In 2021 we received 79 manuscripts for review. This was fewer than in 2020 (96) and fewer than our norm ~ 95 to 100 papers.

Of these, 34 (43%) were accepted, 40 rejected (51%) and an additional 5 are in revision or in the review process; if accepted these would give an acceptance rate of 49%. This is higher than in 2016-2019 years, in which rates were 32-47%, but lower than 2020 (59%)

Our BioOne Impact factor is 1.01, up from the previous ranking.

We published a total of 417 pages (345 in 2020, 400 in 2019) comprising 3 review articles, 21 feature articles and 17 short communications and 2 errata.

How much is this costing us?

Cost per page was \$127.91. That is quite a bit lower than in 2020 (\$142.02), and more in line with 2017-2019.

None-the-less, total cost in 2021 (\$58,338.88) was much higher than in 2020 (\$48,998). Although all costs went up in 2021, all the price increases were modest. The main reason we spent more is that we published 73 more pages---almost a full issue's worth of pages.

Can we afford this? (revenue from BioOne and JStor)

Not really – not if the Journal is supposed to survive on its royalties.

Our income from BioOne for Volume 49 was \$44,769 (\$33,024 for Volume 48, \$41,570 for Volume 47), plus \$4,707.64 from JStore,

Total income from royalties: \$49,476.64

Total expenditures: \$58,338.88

What are we doing about it?

We have made changes to page charges that begin to take effect in June of 2022; charges for non-members remain at \$75 per printed page, but members will be charged \$10 per printed page. A second essential change is a more efficient system for billing, and amore user friendly method for payment.

Top 10 papers accessed by BioOne users in 2021

RANK	TITLE	Vol(issue)	HITS
1	An identification key for eggs and egg sacs of spiders of potential agro-economic importance: a feasibility study	41(2)	22,572
2	Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) feeding on snakes (Reptilia: Squamata)	49(1)	14,876
3	A phylogenetic classification of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae)	43(3)	3,136
4	Evidence of piercing and sexual differences in venom composition in asexual stinging scorpion (Scorpiones: Euscorpiidae)	49(1)	3,038
5	The earliest palpimanid spider (Araneae: Palpimanidae), from the Crato Fossil-Lagerstätte (Cretaceous, Brazil)	49(1)	2,852
6	Plant-eating by spiders	44(1)	2,657
7	A vertebrate-eating jumping spider (Araneae: Salticidae) from Florida, USA	45(2)	2,317
8	Spiders feeding on earthworms revisited: consumption of giant earthworms in the tropics	45(2)	2,210
9	Influence of prey availability on web-building in the social spider <i>Stegodyphus sarasinorum</i> (Araneae: Eresidae)	49(1)	2,203
10	Towards establishment of a centralized spider traits database	48(2)	2,151
	papers authored or co-authored by Martin Nyffler		

Who's reading our papers? (based on online hits) Top 10 countries (1 highest, 10 lowest)

1. USA
2. Brazil
3. Germany
4. China
5. Canada
6. Australia
7. United Kingdom
8. Mexico
9. Japan
10. Czech Republic

>>>Users reflect authorship of many of our manuscripts

Top 10 institutions

1. Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP)
2. Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg (Germany)
3. Universidade da Integraca Internacional da Lusofonia Afro Brasileira (UNILAB)
4. Hebei University (China)
5. Masaryk University in Brno-Faculty of Science (Czechia)
6. MacQuarie University (Australia)
7. Gardner-Webb University (USA-North Carolina)
8. University of Basel (Switzerland)
9. JSTOR
10. University of Oklahoma (USA-Oklahoma)

Respectfully,
Deborah Smith
Editor-in-Chief

American Arachnological Society - Website Report

June 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting 2021

The AAS website and the modules supporting virtual meeting components were reliable tools for various aspects of the 2021 meeting. Future in-person meeting hosts will be able to re-use these components.

Website updates

Kenny Prestwich kindly offered to scan all missing issues of American Arachnology, newsletter of the American Arachnological Society. The PDFs of all issues from issue #1 through the current (#88) are now available on the AAS website. Thanks again to Kenny Prestwich for his generous work.

The Executive Committee approved a proposal by Psbrands for a required upgrade to the core components of the content management system in order to receive future system security updates. Apart from some minor issues (which were addressed promptly by Psbrands), the upgrade was carried out successfully in March 2022.

Planned or ongoing website improvements:

- Paula Cushing asked Psbrands for an estimate of a simple integration of the Google Translate widget so that the website content can be easily translated to other languages.
- Adding missing PDFs of covers and tables of contents to the Journal of Arachnology volumes.

Infrastructure

There is still an open question regarding a long-term storage for AAS documents and Journal of Arachnology PDFs. Amazon AWS offers very cost-effective solution for data archiving called S3 Glacier storage that would cover the digital preservation needs for the society.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel Gloor
AAS Webmaster

AAS archivist report for June 2022

Hi EC,

I have two small boxes ready to ship to the archives housed at the Smithsonian. One contains American Arachnology issues 22-24 and 26-80. The archives already hold issues 1-21. Box 2 contains notes and correspondence of Vince Roth, Paula Cushing's notes on early recollections of Herb Levi, AAS articles of incorporation, Lenny Vincent's correspondence with/or regarding BJ Kaston, Christopher Starr's correspondence with Robert Jackson, Max Vachon and Robin Leech, Don Cameron's comments to Norm Platnick regarding nomenclature, and Don Cameron's misc. correspondence.

Currently we have 10.5 cubic feet of material in the archives. Here is a breakdown:

<https://siarchives.si.edu/gsearch/American+arachnology>

The following is on a personal note and maybe something worth considering in the EC meeting.

I've been retired now for seven years and thus no longer teaching my spider course. I look over at my bookshelf and see 16 feet of spider books including some classics such as Blackwall's A History of Spiders..... and MCCooks American Spiders and.....

Besides my books (and reprints) I have my spider collection, and spider images (35 mm, and digital). I remember when I worked on my Kaston biography that his second wife threw out much of his spider material. I live alone. What will happen to my stuff? I think about selling my books to help fund my retirement but I hesitate due to sentimentality and procrastination. Donating is not easy. I tried UCR and it was a pain.

The point of the above yada yada yada is that perhaps the AAS could have a mechanism whereby someone could leave, in their will, all their arachnological material, assuming it is of enough value, to the AAS for distribution or the infamous auction. The big question, if this is a good idea in the first place, how does the material get to where it needs to go.

On a more upbeat note I am attaching Bonnet's The Arachnologist's Song Perhaps it can be of use in the AAS meeting.

Cheers,
Lenny Vincent
AAS Archivist

The Arachnologists Song

1. Pseudoscorpions, Spiders
You are our love (yes, our love)
Scorpions, Ophiliones
You ever please us (oh! yes ever)

Nothing is beautiful as an Argiopid
What splendour a Scorpionid.

O Arachnologists
Sing in chorus, sing in chorus
Spiders and scorpions
Beauty, charm and fright!

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la, la-la...
Hold on, hold on, hold on
The Arachnologists
Hold on, hold on, hold on
The Arachnos are here
The Arachnos, the Arachnos are here!

2. Go to the mountains,
caves, woods and slopes (yes, the slopes)
Scour our countrysides
Follow the river banks (oh! yes rivers)

Everywhere collect your beasts
Fill up tubes and flasks.

But delicately, delicately
Catch them, catch them
Without damaging,
without damaging
Legs and tegument.

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la, la-la...

3. Then study hard,
Your lens at hand (yes, at hand)
Eyes, palps, chelicerae.
Of each specimen (oh! specimen)

If you find a difference
The species is new, ah, what chance.

And immediately, immediately
Baptize it, baptize it
With a new name, with a new name
You are its daddy.

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la, la-la...

4. But in this euphoria
Friends, be sure (oh, yes sure)
That my bibliography
Guides you always (yes, always).

Hence temper your zeal
That your animals are really new.

Because if the species is not nova
The name will be not either
A synonyme it will become
You are no longer the daddy.

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la, la-la...

5. So in Science
You turn to a great name (yes, a great
name)
As we have in France
Walekenaer and Simon (oh, yes Simon)

With names in -us, -a, -um...ôme
You become a famous man!

O, Arachnologists
Search for, find and baptize
Genus, species, varieties
That is the celebrity!

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la, la-la...

(Übersetzt nach EU-Norm von C. Rollard, Paris 1997)

LE CHANT DES ARACHNOLOGISTES



PAR PIERRE BONNET

LE CHANT DES ARACHNOLOGISTES

par Pierre Bonnet

Air Tyrolienne des Pyrénées (Les Montagnards)

Largo

1. Cher-né-tes A-rai-gré-es
2. Al-lez-dans les monta-gnes,
3. Puis é-tu-diez sc-vè-è-res,
Vous é-tes nos a-amours (oui, nos amours)
grot-tes, bois et co-o-teaux (oui, les cotéaux)
Vo-tre lou-pe à la main (oui, à la main)

Scorpions, Phalan-gi-de-és
Par-cou-rez nos campa-gnes
Yeux, pal-pes, ché-li-cè-è-res,
Vous nous plârez tou-ou-jours (oh! oui toujours)
Sui-vez le bord de-es eaux (oh! oui des eaux)
De cha-que spé-é-ci-men (oui, spécimen)

Rien n'est si beau qu'une Argo-pi-i-de
Par-tout re-collez vos bes-tio-o-les
Si vous trou-vez une dif-fé-ren-é-ence
Quelle splendeur qu'un Scorio-
Remplissez-en tubes et fio-
L'es-pèce est neuve, ah! quelle

Rall. *f* *Tempo* *p*

mi-i-les de A-rach-no-o-o-logis-tes
-châi-an-les Mais dou-ce-ment
-chéi-an-cc Et aus-si-tôt
Chantez en
Capu- rez-
Bapti - sez-

p

choeur, chantez en choeur Des A-rai-gnées et des Scorpions
-les, captu-rez-les Sans a-bi-mer, sans a-bi-mer,
-la, bapti-sez-là D'un nom nouveau, d'un nom nouveau
Beauté, charme, fray-cur!
Pattes et té-gu-ments
Vous é-tés son pa-pai

Rall. *p*

Tra-la-la-a, la-a-la Tra-la-la-la, la-a-

Allegro ma non troppo *pp*

la Halte - là! Halte - là! Halte - là! Les A - rachno - o -

p *mf*

o - logistes Halte - là! Halte - là! Halte - là! Les A - rachnos sont là! Les A - rach -

Largo *Vivo*

nos, les A - rach - nos Les A - rach - nos sont là!

4. Mais dans cette euphori-e
Amis, soyez pru-u-dents (oh!, oui prudents)
Que ma bibliographi-i-e
Vous guide à tout moment (oui, tout moment)

Modérez donc votre grand zè-è-je
Que vos bêtes soient bien nouve-è-l-les.

Car si l'espèce n'est pas nova
Le nom, non plus, ne le sera,
Un synonyme il deviendra
Vous n'êtes plus le papa!

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la, la-la

5. Ainsi dans la Scien-ence
Vous, vous fait s un grand nom, (oui, un grand nom)
Comme l'ont fait en Fran-an-cc
Walckenaer et Simon (oh!, oui Simon)

Avec des noms en-us -a -um -ôme
Vous devenez un célèbre hom-o-me!

O Arachno-o-o-logistes
Cherchez, trouvez et baptisez
Genres, espèces, variétés
C'est la célébrité!

Refrain: Tra-la-la-la-la, la-la

TOULOUSE, juillet 1976

(Chanté pour la 1ère fois au Coux, le 22 sept. 1976)

(Bearbeitet von: Peter Jäger unter Mitarbeit von Christine Rolland, Edinburgh 17. Juli 1997)

2022 Common Names Committee Annual Report

The current members of the common names committee are:

Sarah J. Rose PhD (Chair)
The Ohio State University (former)
Currently unaffiliated
srose891@gmail.com

Richard Bradley, PhD
Associate Professor Emeritus
The Ohio State University
bradley.10@osu.edu

Ray Fisher, PhD
Entomologist at Mississippi State Entomological Museum
Based in Fayetteville, Arkansas
Naturalist; systematist; mites, spiders, ants, aquatic arthropods
jrf521@msstate.edu

Kari J McWest, MS
West Texas A&M University (former)
REVSYS, AMNH
kari.mcwest@gmail.com

Susan E. Riechert PhD
UTK Distinguished Service & Chancellor's Professor
The University of Tennessee Knoxville
rieichert@utk.edu

Louis N. Sorkin B.C.E.
American Museum of Natural History
sorkin@amnh.org

First I would like to congratulate Ray Fisher on his new position with the Mississippi State Entomological Museum.

The committee has been working on revising the rules and a document should be published on the website in the near future.

Ray Fisher is working through the Acari as they have been some major taxonomic changes since the last common names list. Unlike spiders (where we have the World Spider Catalog) there is not a single location with the up to date taxonomy, so this has proved to be a very time consuming task, Ray reports he is almost finished with the Parasitiformes and hopes to start on the Acariforms soon. Once we have the taxonomic changes made the new listing will be published.

We are working in conjunction with the Entomological Society of America to try and have consistent usage of common names. I have sent emails to Bugguide and iNaturalist in the hopes of also having consistent use of common names. Bugguide has a link to our current common name listing, but has not responded to the question of updating their site to reflect the approved common names. Although I have sent multiple messages to iNaturalist I have not heard back from them.

We continue to process common name requests as they are submitted, and once we have all the documents ready to publish on the website there will be a streamlined process for submitting those requests.

Submitted by
Sarah J Rose PhD
Chair of the AAS Common Names Committee

DEI committee status report:

Chair: Dr. Mercedes Burns

Members: Dr. Richard Bradley, Dr. Shahan Derkarabetian, Dr. Rowan McGinley, Dr. Victoria Schmalhofer

Objectives/Missions/Goals: The mission of the AAS DEI committee is to propose and carry out inclusive activities that support early-career, hobbyist, LGBTQ+, disabled, and underrepresented minority groups within the arachnological community. Our most immediate objective is to survey the membership and non-member meeting attendees of AAS to understand the intersectional identities of membership and the types of programming that will support us best.

Activities: All members provided content suggestions for a demographic survey planned for the AAS and ISA. We are currently preparing an NSF BIO-LEAPS grant proposal to deploy this survey, hire a postdoctoral STEM-Education researcher, add new website content, and support some initial activities for early-career researchers and hobbyist/enthusiast arachnologists. The proposal, entitled "EVALUATION: Study and integration of amateur, early-career, and professional arachnologists in the American and International Arachnological Societies," will be submitted by 7/1/2022.

AAS ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Director of the AAS Outreach and Engagement Committee: Eileen A. Hebets

Chairs of the Outreach and Education Subcommittee: Karen Cangialosi; Linda Rayor

Chairs of the Community Science Subcommittee: Catherine Scott; Marshal Hedin

Chair of the Social Media Subcommittee: Sebastian Echeverri

General Summary of Activities and Requests

Each subcommittee has provided a summary of their activities over the past year, their vision for the coming year, and if applicable, any perceived obstacles to the vision. Prior to articulating progress, however, we highlight a few things that we would like the EC to consider.

- (1) As you will read, the social media committee was not able to move forward to pull together a twitter team this past year. **We would like to ask for this commitment again this year. We are requesting a team of 6 (committee chair + 5 members) who would receive (i) free membership for 1 year and (ii) free registration to the 2023 meeting.** If this is approved by the EC, *we would like to request a time at the upcoming meeting (either during a morning/afternoon announcement or at the business meeting) to advertise this opportunity to the membership in attendance.*
- (2) In addition to renewed commitment for a social media team whose membership and registration is free during each year of their service, **we also ask the EC to consider a *paid* team that actively tweets summaries/promotion of new research in the JoA, and engages our existing community and beyond by fielding questions and running scicomm games and/or events.**
- (3) **We would also like to suggest institutionalizing professional development opportunities and outreach and engagement activities associated with the annual meetings,** similar to the science communication training and Eight-Legged Encounter event for AAS 2022. Many other societies have workshops/training the day(s) prior to the start of the conference. We suspect that there are many people in the society that may be interested in running or arranging such workshops and opening up opportunities for members to apply to host workshops could be a great way to increase member engagement in AAS. This might be something that one of the current EC members could coordinate, or the EC might consider adding another position – e.g., “Program Officer” – that works with local hosts on program development. *Perhaps the EC can consider a longer-term vision for outreach and engagement activities.*
- (4) **Similarly, we would like the EC to consider developing a more formalized way to move forward with summer meeting planning and programming; especially any programming that goes beyond the “traditional” meeting (e.g., public-facing BioBlitz’s, professional development opportunities, virtual programming, etc.).** It is currently unclear what any of our subcommittee’s roles are, if any, in developing and planning summer meeting programming. If this is something the EC would like, then it would be

great to articulate that. Alternatively, if the EC would like a meeting planning committee to work with particular Outreach and Engagement subcommittees, that will work too.

(5) We would like the EC to consider if/how funds might be secured to run a yearly “science communication/community engagement” grant competition.

Please see additional subcommittee-specific achievements, comments, and concerns below.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee – Karen Cangialosi & Linda Rayor

(i) Brief summary of activities

- Information has been gathered regarding the creation of an ArachnidOER hub (Open Educational Resources) in collaboration with webmaster Daniel Gloor.
- Applications were sought for a “Science Ambassador” program in which attendees of AAS2022 could participate in Science Communication professional development modules, Eight-Legged Encounters (ELE) training, and could then have a hand-on experience volunteering at a public-facing ELE event hosted by the Bohart Museum at UC Davis. The first online module will be June 17th and then there will be in-person training the morning prior to ELE on June 25th.
- The Science Ambassador program and associated ELE event was funded through a Nebraska Research Initiative Grant to Eileen Hebets and colleagues.
 - Email invitations were sent out through Brian Patrick’s email list as well as the AAS list serve to recruit participants. Please see APPENDIX 1 to view the invitation. Sebastian Echeverri also tweeted out information about the program from the AAS twitter account.
 - We received 18 applications and accepted all applicants. Applicants included undergraduate students (n=1), graduate students (n=10), post-docs (n=4), non-professional arachnologists (n=1), and full professors (n=2).
 - We covered the registration costs for all Science Ambassadors.
 - Jason Bond and Eileen Hebets together covered hotel costs for 6 double queen rooms to house all Science Ambassadors the nights of June 24th & 25th. This enabled everyone to arrive early and participate in the training and ELE event.
 - An online training module is set to take place on June 17th.

(ii) Vision for the coming year

- Potentially generate an interest survey to see what interest there is among AAS members in creating an ArachnidOER hub.
- It would be great if we could organize a public-facing event associated with each annual meeting
- We would need to be proactive and creative about fundraising and grant writing to enable such activities to continue moving forward.

Community Science Subcommittee – Catherine Scott & Marshal Hedin

(i) Brief summary of activities:

- We held our second annual virtual bioblitz from June 25-27 2021. The iNaturalist project for the 2021 bioblitz can be found at this link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/aas-2021-virtual-bioblitz-364cdd97-db65-4b71-95b7-9c05543bfb90>.
 - A total of 86 observers submitted 1408 observations of at least 328 arachnid species
 - 147 people contributed identifications.
 - Observations were submitted from all continents except Antarctica, with the majority from the Americas, and 7 orders of arachnids were represented: Araneae, Opiliones, Acari, Scorpiones, Pseudoscorpiones, Amblypygi, and Solifugae.
- At the meeting, we held a workshop titled 'Online Arachnid Identification Communities & Resources' where we heard short presentations about Bugguide, iNaturalist, and Facebook, and discussed ways to promote participation and collaboration between professional and non-professional arachnologists in these online communities.
 - Catherine announced her intention to organize some iNaturalist "ID-athon" events to encourage arachnologists to contribute to this resource, but has not yet followed through with this plan. She will endeavour to make this happen in Fall/Winter 2022/23.
- We also held a photography workshop at the 2021 meeting, led by Marshal and Sebastian, including techniques for photographing arachnids with both DSLRs and camera phones.

(ii) Vision for the coming year

- INatuarlist "ID-athons" organized for the coming year.

Social Media Subcommittee Report – Sebastian Echeverri

(i) Brief summary of activities:

- Continued operation of the AAS Twitter account: posting announcements from society members, RTing content from fellow arachnologists, replying to questions from the public.
 - The account has gained 579 followers since Jun 2021, the majority of those (410) from Jun-Oct 2021 and with the largest influx (172) from the month of the 2021 conference. Currently it has 2622 followers.

- Moderation of AAS Facebook Group: approving member requests, posting announcements from society members

(ii) Vision for the coming year

- Social media: A **paid** team that actively tweets summaries/promotion of new research in the JoA, and engages our existing community and beyond by fielding questions and running scicomm games and/or events.
- Newsletter: A revival of the Arachnews newsletter, which previously covered all/as-much-as-possible of research, art, and pop culture happenings related to arachnids. This was previously run by society member Aleck Pang, along with some help from myself, but has been "out of print" since sometime last year. It became way too much work for 1-2 people to do for free, despite the engagement from the community.
- Public-facing internet events: Bioblitzes, livestreams, etc, like we ran for the 2021 conference.

(iii) Perceived obstacles to your vision

- Limited/reduced leadership support for inclusive and equitable participation/policies that would result in that. I hope this is just a temporary situation, but am concerned about the harsh swing back to "business as usual" this year, despite the extremely positive response to the changes made for the 2020 and 2021 conferences
- I personally do not have the time and energy to keep pushing for changes against opposition. Partially this is me trying to admit that I have been working myself with extra projects past what is sustainable, and well into deep burnout, especially in light of disabilities that I am still coming to terms with/learning to deal with. It is also deeply frustrating to see what ground we have gained during 2020 and 2021 be erased so quickly.
- I am okay with continuing to run the AAS twitter and facebook pages as I have in the past few months, but am also happy to hand over the reigns to someone else who has more time, energy, and motivation. I recall that last year, after a lot of back and forth, the council approved free memberships for a social media team. I apologize that I never followed up on that, but I am sure that there are people who would be up for it.

APPENDIX 1 – EMAIL TO ARACHNOLOGISTS REGARDING SCIENCE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Dear Fellow Arachnologists,

It is my absolute pleasure to be able to invite you to participate in a Science Communication workshop and associated [Eight-Legged Encounters \(ELE\)](#) event hosted by faculty from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Kearney and funded through the National Science Foundation and the Nebraska Research Initiative.

The workshops will introduce you to basic principles of science communication, including online science communication, and informal science education. The practicum (ELE) will give you an opportunity to test your newly developed skills with the local community in an engaging, hands-on science festival devoted to arachnids. The schedule will be as follows:

Module 1: Online June 17th (~1.5hr; time TBD)

Module 2: Saturday, June 25th 9:30am-12:15pm followed by lunch (provided)

Practicum: Saturday, June 25th 1-4pm [Eight-Legged Encounters](#) hosted by the [UC Davis Bohart Insect Museum](#)

ANYONE & EVERYONE is welcome to participate in the workshops and the ELE event! **Please register when you complete your [AAS2022 registration](#).** (If you have already registered and/or decide later to participate, contact Deb Klimes to let her know. dklimes@unl.edu)

ALL Participants will receive:

- A Professional Certificate
- A free Eight-Legged Encounters t-shirt
- Free lunch on June 25th

EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS are also encouraged to apply for the **SCIENCE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**. Successful applicants will receive **free registration and post-conference individual consultations with a science communication professional** to help you develop your personalized science communication strategy. Priority will be given to early career scientists, but anyone can apply. [We are currently exploring ways to cover early housing costs (June 24th & 25th) on an as-needed basis as well.]

Science Ambassadors will additionally receive:

- Free conference registration
- Post-conference individual consulting with a SciComm specialists to develop your own science communication strategy

To apply to the Science Ambassador Program, please submit an essay of no more than 500 words by WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH. At the top of your essay, write your **name, current position, and institution**. In your essay, describe (a) any past science communication experience or training, (b) your rationale for wanting to participate in this event, and (c) how this experience will help you in achieving your life and/or career goals. Please email your essay (as an attachment) to Deb Klimes at dklimes@unl.edu with the subject line **Science Ambassador Program**.

We hope to contact applicants with a decision by Thursday, May 12th.

General questions can be sent to Eileen Hebets at ehebets2@unl.edu

Look forward to seeing you all in Davis!

June 1, 2022

HLMFAR-Report 2022

For the year 2022, the HLMFAR committee received eight applications, with requests totaling \$ 16,109..... The applicants were mainly postdocs and recent PH.D. A list of the applicants and projects is given below. We received applications from Argentina (2), Brazil, Mexico (2), Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India (2), and Australia.

The committee members Paul Selden, Todd Blackledge, Sean Walker, and Petra Sierwald each evaluated eight proposals. Two proposals were eliminated from the competition: 1. The applicant Penna Goncalves, was deemed not eligible for the non-student research fund program.

The committee awarded the partial awards to ..., with \$1,700, and.....

The committee members express concern about the low success rate of faunal survey proposals. Faunal surveys are urgently needed in many parts of the world, yet faunal surveys cannot be framed within innovative or transformative research. The committee requests that the AAS executive committee considers securing funding for at least one faunal survey annually.

Dr. Sean Walker joined the HLMFAR committee in early 2022, after long-term serving member Eileen Hebets rotated off the HLMFAR committee. I thank my fellow committee members (DR. P. Selden, Dr. T. A. Blackledge, Dr. Sean Walker) for their service on the HLMFAR committee:

Respectfully submitted

Petra Sierwald
Chair, HLMFAR

2022 HLMFAR applications, funded proposals in bold:

Albo Graña, María José, Assistant Professor; Entomology Section, Faculty of Sciences, Udela R. Montevideo, Uruguay. Project title: *Following evolutionary traces of nuptial gifts in spiders: sexual selection and environment*. Requested amount: \$2,000. Awarded: \$1,700

Bustamante, Abel A.; postdoc; Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Pará Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Pará, Brazil. Project title: *A total evidence phylogeny and systematic review of a clade of Neotropical jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae: Salticinae: Node 2 of Amycoida)*. Requested amount: \$1,975. Awarded: \$1,700

Dharmaraj, J.; assistant professor; Sri Vijay Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science, Nallampalli, Dharmapuri – 636807, Tamilnadu, India. Project title: *Taxonomic study and discovering the hidden species of wolf spiders (Araneae: Lycosidae) in Western Ghats of Nilgris, Tamilnadu, India*. Requested amount: \$2,013

Gautam Kadam (Masters)
junior research biologist
SACON, Coimbatore, India.
gautamkadam7wild@gmail.com

Survey of spiders in non-protected areas of Meghalaya, North-eastern India

Nick Keiser
Assistant Professor
University of Florida
ckeiser@Ufl.edu

The Spider Parasite Digital Research (SPDR) Collection: An open-source tool for arachnologists, parasitologists, and hobbyists

Bilal Saeed Khan
Associate Professor
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (38000) Pakistan
bilalentomologyuaf@gmail.com

Collection, identification and population dynamics of some predatory spiders and mites in cotton fields from Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Kiran Thapa Magar (Masters)

Biodiversity Research and Conservation Society, Bagmati Province, Nepal
kiranmaski935@gmail.com

Systematics and taxonomy of tarantula spiders family Theraphosidae (Araneae: Mygalomorphae) in highly heterogeneous landscape of Nepal

Malamel, Jobi
Assistant professor
Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Thevara P. O, Kochi – 682013, Kerala, India
jomalamelcmi@gmail.com

Monitoring and Analysis of anthropogenic challenges of Araneofauna in Kumbalangi Island, Kerala, India: Implications for a positive future

Cargnelutti, Franco; postdoc, PHD 2020; University of Cordoba, Argentina. Project Title: Water quality effect on reproductive success in spiders associated with watercourses: an approach from behavior, sexual morphology, and sperm physiology. Request: \$ 1,995, funding to cover: Lab equipment for postdoctoral project

Chame Vazquez, David; postdoc, PHD 2020; Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico. Project Title: The genus *Plectreurys* Simon, 1893 (Araneae: Plectreuridae) in Northwest of Mexico. Request: \$ 2,000, funding to cover travel costs, camera, Helicon software. **Partially funded with \$1,000**

Cruz-Lopez, J.; Permanent Researcher Level C, Forest Entomology, PHD 2017; Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP), Centro de Investigación Pacífico Sur, Campo Experimental Valles Centrales, Oaxaca, Mexico. Project Title: Systematics and biogeography of the selected genera *Prosontes* and *Guerrobunus* (Opiliones: Cosmetidae and Phalangodidae). Request \$ 2,000, funding to cover travel costs, microscope, lab chemicals. **Partially funded with \$1,000**

Dharmaraj, J.; Assistant Professor (?), PHD 2019; Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India. Project Title: Taxonomic study and status of wolf spiders (Araneae: Lycosidae) in western Ghats of the Nilgiris, Tamilnadu, India. Request: \$ 1,988, funding to cover mainly field work travel costs, publication.

Garcia Hernandez, Solimary; Associate researcher, PHD 2020; INSTITUTO DE BIOCÍENCIAS, UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO, BRASIL. Project Title: Effect of food availability on the lifetime reproductive success of females in a wild population of a neotropical harvestman. Request: \$ 2,179, funding to cover travel cost for field experiments. **Fully funded with \$2000**

Khan, Bilal Saeed; Associate Professor, PHD 2009; Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (38000) Pakistan. Project Title: Studies of population dynamics, collection and identification of some predatory spiders and mites of some traditional and Bt cotton from Faisalabad, Pakistan. Request \$ 1,999, funding to cover travel costs, specimen preservation and storage, camera, microscope

Mbumba, Louis Juakaly; Professor; University of Kisangani, DRC. Project Title: Ecology and biodiversity of Spiders and Millipedes at Biaro Community Reserve in DRC/ Congo Basin. Request \$ 1,980, funding to cover travel costs for collecting, including students

Munevar, Ana; postdoc, PHD 2020; Instituto de Biología subtropica, Argentina. Project Title: Discovering the hidden diversity of spiders in the southern Atlantic forest and the phylogenetic consequences of human land uses. Request: \$ 1,999, funding to cover mainly DNA/mol lab costs. **Partially funded with \$1,000**

Penna Goncalves, V.; PHD candidate since 2020; Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia. Project Title: The effect of pesticides on the brain structure and behavior of spiders *Badumna longinquua* (Araneae: Desidae). Request: \$ 2,238, funding to cover fees for MicroCT scanning

Prajapati, Dhruv; PHD candidate? Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. Project Title: Systematics of spiders in different ecosystem of south Gujarat, India with special emphasis on the family Salticidae (Arachnida: Araneae). Request \$ 2,000, funding to cover travel cost and equipment, estimated

**American Arachnological Society
Norman Platnick Award 2022**

The Selection Panel for the Norman Platnick Award met on 23 May 2022 (Australian Western Standard Time) to consider the four applications received by the closing date:

- Dr Shahan Derkarabetian
- Dr Pradeep Sankaran
- Dr Gustavo Silva de Miranda
- Dr Jeremy Wilson

Conflicts of interest:

- Mark Harvey declared a working relationship with Jeremy Wilson (co-author on several publications, and co-grantee on an Australian Government grant).
- Hannah Wood declared a working relationship with Gustavo Miranda de Silva and was the nominator of his application.

Eligibility:

All four nominees and the nominators of Dr Sankaran, Dr Miranda and Dr Wilson are current members of the American Arachnological Society.

Dr Derkarabetian was nominated by Dr Sarah Boyer, Dr Marshal Hedin and Dr Gonzalo Giribet. Dr Giribet was not a financial member of the American Arachnological Society but the nomination was allowed based on Drs Boyer and Hedin being financial members.

Discussion:

The Panel then discussed the applicants:

Dr Pradeep Sankaran: Dr Sankaran has made numerous taxonomic contributions to Arachnology, with a total of 52 publications, and conferral of his PhD in 2019. The Panel felt that, although he is a prolific publisher, most of the publications are small contributions describing new species and redescribing previously described species, with very little synthesis of data into authoritative treatments.

Dr Gustavo Miranda de Silva: Dr Miranda's PhD was conferred in 2017, and he has published 31 papers, including 13 as first author, with a total of 54 new species. These publications include a 409-page monograph on the whip spider family Charinidae, along with a sister publication dealing with the phylogeny and biogeography of the family. The morphological components of his studies are exemplary and include detailed observations of spines and setal patterns. Dr Miranda was unanimously regarded to be the highest ranked applicant for the Award.

Dr Shahan Derkarabetian: Dr Derkarabetian has made significant contributions to Arachnology during his career, including 30 publications, with 13 as first author, with conferral of his PhD in 2019. The Panel felt that the majority of his publications have focused on molecular phylogenetic outputs, but with relatively few morphological studies. The application of phylogenomic methods to assist with phylogenetic and taxonomic work is very impressive and Dr Derkarabetian is one of a cohort of influential early career researchers in arachnology. However, the panel ranked this application lower than others due to one of the selection criteria which states "The main judging criteria will be that the applicant's publication record shows a strong commitment to morphological taxonomy."

Dr Jeremy Wilson: Dr Wilson's PhD was conferred in 2019. He has published 13 papers plus three in press, including seven as first author, which range from descriptive taxonomic papers to multi-gene

phylogenies. His taxonomic outputs include the description of 54 new species and a new genus, all of which are meticulously documented with numerous images. Dr Wilson has made an impressive start to his career and was unanimously regarded as the second-highest ranked applicant for the Award.

Recommendation:

The Selection Panel unanimously regard Dr Miranda to be the successful applicant for the Norman Platnick Award.

Respectfully submitted

Dr Mark Harvey (Chair)

Dr Brent Opell

Dr Cristina Rheims

Dr Hannah Wood

Dr Xin Xu

2022 Student Research Grants – Annual Report American Arachnological Society

The American Arachnological Society has two funds to support research by student members of the society (undergraduate or graduate):

- The Arachnological Research Fund (ARF) provides awards of up to \$1000 to support projects related to any aspect of the behavior, ecology, physiology, or evolution of any of the arachnid groups. The ARF subcommittee consists of Anita Aisenberg (Chair), Al Cady, and Jason Schmidt.
- The Vincent Roth Fund for Systematics Research (VRF) provides awards of up to \$1000 to support projects focused on the taxonomy or systematics of any arachnid group. The VRF subcommittee consists of Marc Milne (Chair), Neal McReynolds, and Dan Proud.

Total number of submitted proposals:	23
• Arachnological Research Fund (ARF) Proposals:	11 (48%)
• Vincent Roth Fund (VRF) Proposals:	12 (52%)

- **NOTE:** The number of proposals has dropped from 46 in 2020 and 36 in 2021.

Demographics:

- Total number of applicants: 22
 - One student submitted two proposals, one to each fund
- Applicants by educational level:
 - PhD: 10 (45%)
 - MS: 5 (23%)
 - Undergrad: 7 (32%)
 - **NOTE:** The proportion of undergraduate applicants increased considerably from 2021 to 2022 (11% to 32%)
- Nationality of applicants:
 - United States: 6 (27%)
 - Other: 16 (73%)
 - Argentina (1)
 - Brazil (1)
 - Canada (1)
 - Ecuador (1)
 - Honduras (1)
 - Hong Kong (1)
 - India (2)
 - Mexico (5)

- Pakistan (1)
- Portugal (1)
- Thailand (1)

Total Student Research Fund Budget: \$15,000

- Budget is allocated annually based “roughly” on relative proportion of total applicants in each fund (see above).
 - ARF: \$7,200
 - VRF: \$7,800
 - **NOTE:** All but one proposal was funded.
- Total funding requested: \$22,503.39
 - ARF: \$10,685.00
 - VRF: \$11,818.39
- Total Awarded, Arachnological Research Fund: **\$7,200.00**
 - **Bradley Allendorfer**, UG student, Eastern Michigan University. \$900. *Title:* Natal dispersal and activity of tarantula spiderlings (*Aphonopelma hentzi*)
 - **Rose Andrews**, UG student, Eastern Michigan University. \$600. *Title:* Can dietary supplements result in color change? Accessory pigments (carotenoids) and color change in tarantulas (*Psalmopoeus irminia*)
 - **Irina Das Sarkar**, PhD student, Wildlife Institute of India. \$600. *Title:* Spiders of the cold deserts of Trans-Himalayas: A case study from Spiti Valley of India
 - **Shubhankar Deshpande**, MS student, InSearch Environmental Solutions. \$500. *Title:* Untying the knots: Population structure in lithophilic species of *Scorpiops* (Scorpiiones: Scorpiopidae) from Peninsular India with additional investigations into the spermatophores and constellation arrays
 - **Miguel Ángel García-García**, PhD student, Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral Regional Unidad Oaxaca. \$500. *Title:* Review of the *Anyphaena* Sundevall, 1833 species (Araneae: Anyphaenidae) from Mexico
 - **Dallas Haselhuhn**, MS student, Eastern Michigan University. \$900. *Title:* Phenology of a unique population of male brown tarantula (*Aphonopelma hentzi*)
 - **Luis Carlos Hernández**, PhD student, Centro de Investigación Científica y Educación Superior de Ensenada. \$600. *Title:* Biogeography and macroevolution of the genus *Phidippus* (Araneae, Salticidae)
 - **Yu-Heng Lin**, PhD student, University of British Columbia. \$600. *Title:* Web-building spider strategies to cope with damage from the rain along a gradient of precipitation intensity
 - **Agustina Peralta**, UG student, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. Mendoza. \$900. *Title:* Characterization of the vegetation dwelling spider fauna in vineyards with different inter-row management in Mendoza, Argentina

- **Alexander Salazar**, PhD student, Miami University (Ohio). \$600. *Title:* Settling in at home: How long does an edge population remain an edge population?
- **Varat Sivayyapram**, PhD candidate, Chulalongkorn University and University of Kansas. \$500. *Title:* Preliminary survey on population demography of segmented spider genus *Liphistius* in Thailand
- Total Awarded, Vincent Roth Fund: **\$7,800.00**
 - **Joel Jair Alcántar Valenzuela**, UG student, Instituto Tecnológico de Los Mochis. \$500. *Title:* The genus *Oecobius* Lucas, 1846 (Araneae: Oecobiidae) in northwestern Mexico
 - **Javier Blasco Aróstegui**, PhD student, University of Lisbon and University of Cologne and American Museum of Natural History. \$975. *Title:* Disentangling the Euro-scorpion systematics: Venom as a novel tool for understanding diversity and evolution of small wood-scorpions across Europe
 - **Alex Mauricio Cubas Rodríguez**, UG student, National Autonomous University of Honduras. \$500. *Title:* The family Sicariidae Keyserling, 1880 (Araneae) in Honduras
 - **Tan Kai Teck Desmond**, MS student, Lingnan University. \$900. *Title:* Biodiversity and systematics of harvestmen in Hong Kong
 - **Alma Rosa Juárez Sánchez**, MS student, Universidad Autónoma de Mexico, Tlaxcala City. \$500. *Title:* Species complex *Loxosceles 'colima'* Gertsch, 1958 (Araneae, Sicariidae): one species or several?
 - **Samuel Nolasco Garduño**, PhD student, Universidad Autónoma de Mexico, Tlaxcala City. \$500. *Title:* Molecular phylogenetics, diversification and lineage dating of the spider genus *Physocyclus* Simon, 1893 (Araneae: Pholcidae)
 - **Pedro Peñaherrera Romero**, UG student, Universidad San Francisco de Quito. \$975. *Title:* 200 years after *Cyclosternum* (Mygalomorphae: Theraphosidae) description: New studies towards resolving the taxonomy of theraphosids in Ecuador
 - **Blaise Sava**, UG student, Pennsylvania State University. \$500. *Title:* Description of two new species of the purseweb spider genus *Sphodros* from Pennsylvania and Texas
 - **Goran Shikak**, MS student, University of Colorado at Denver. \$975. *Title:* Investigating the monophyly of the palpusetulosus species group through integrative taxonomic methods
 - **Varat Sivayyapram**, PhD candidate, Chulalongkorn University and University of Kansas. \$500. *Title:* Multilocus phylogeny of primitively segmented spiders, genus *Liphistius* (Mesothelae, Liphistiidae) in Thailand
 - **Cláudia Xavier**, PhD student, Universidade Federal do Pará and Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi. \$975. *Title:* Phylogenetic analysis of the *Stethorrhagus* complex of genera (Araneae, Dionycha, Corinnidae, Corinninae)

Respectfully submitted,

Brent E. Hendrixson
Chair, AAS Student Research Grants Committee

2021 ACTION ITEMS (response/status in blue)

Andy:

- Send Deb a copy of any tax exempt form for AAS that you have. (Done)
- Suggestions for future meeting hosts made at EC meeting included: Yann Hénaut (Mexico), Neil McReynolds (southern TX), Michael Brewer, maybe Maggie Hodge (LA). (See Rayor future meetings report)

Brent:

- Send 200-250 word end-of-year reports from student award winners (ideally along with one or two photos) for inclusion in Society's newsletter. Deadline corresponds with deadline for newsletter articles (April 15 for May issue; October 15 for Fall issue). (My plan will be to reach out to grant awardees from the past two award cycles and to include them in the Fall 2022 newsletter)

Cara:

- Coordinate with Mark Harvey to send \$500 award to 2021 winner of the Platnick Award (Ivan Magalhaes) – directly following 2021 virtual meeting. (THIS WAS SENT OUT SOON AFTER THE MEETING)
- Send Deb Smith copy of our tax exempt paperwork. (THIS WAS DONE BUT WE ARE STILL WORKING ON THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THEY NEED I.E., I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY NEED; HOW DO WE SHOW THAT WE ARE A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION? I AM GOING TO CONTACT THE IRS AND WE ARE WAITING FOR FURTHER INFO FROM PUBLISHER.)
- Pay for balance of website development from 2021 virtual meeting profits. (Done)
- Transfer most of the SNAIM profit to the Schwab investment account. (\$10,000 was transferred)
- Nothing was definitively decided about the Platnick GoFundMe money – since the website expenses can be paid primarily using profit from the virtual meeting, should this GoFundMe money be deposited in the Schwab account since awards in the future will be minimal (\$500 per award)? (THIS MONEY IS STILL IN THE GENERAL ACCOUNT. INVESTMENT GAINS ARE DOWN (ACTUALLY NEGATIVE SINCE JANUARY), SO HOLDING OFF ON THIS.)
- Work with Daniel (and Development committee) to consider adding donation button for Platnick Award. (STILL NEED TO DO THIS ALONG WITH ANOTHER BUTTON FOR PAYMENT OF PAGE CHARGES WHICH CAN VARY A LOT. THIS IS EASY TO DO, BUT I JUST HAVEN'T DONE IT. SORRY.)

Daniel:

- Find safe back-up mechanism for journal issues and covers. (I included an option in my report. We can discuss it further if we think that this would be the way to go. If I remember correctly, Paula mentioned that an AAS Dropbox would also be available.)
- Research why links via BioOne to JoA articles are problematic. (Deb had a lot of back and forth with BioOne and I think this can be marked as resolved. At least Deb did not report any further problems with links.)

- Work with AAS President and next meeting host, Jason Bond, to develop dedicated template for annual meetings with dedicated logins. (The hosts decided to set up their own meeting website.)

Deb Smith (JoA items):

- Work with editors and editorial board to draft full proposal regarding page charges and how to deal with increasing expenditures and present that to the EC by **Jan 1, 2022**. (We've instituted a \$10/page charge for members that will begin with manuscripts submitted in March 2022, in addition to the \$75/page charge for non-members.)
- If page charges are re-instated, add PayPal option for page charges to website w/ help from Cara and Daniel (Cara and I are working on this with Daniel's help. Cara and I will discuss this more in person at the meeting. We need to also plan a routine invoicing system.)
- Find out why we have been paying taxes on our Allen Press bills for the past 3 years (and not prior to that time). Did we lose non-profit status? Get tax exempt documents from Cara and Andy that you can send to Allen Press. **Deadline – before billing for the next issue.** (We (Cara and I) thought we HAD taken care of that by sending documents to Allen Press, and yet I just spotted another charge for taxes on issue 50(1). We have contacted Allen Press again and asked what they want in form of documentation.)
- Open access policy – After one year do ALL JoA papers become open access on both AAS Website and BioOne? Yes, they should. Coordinate with BioOne to make sure they do become open access after 1 year. (Actually, NO they should not. I discussed this with BioOne, and they would be willing to do this --- but we lose any revenue for "hits" and downloads of those papers. This would eliminate much of our income.)
- Work with editors to develop more specific instructions for reviewers (e.g., check to make sure figure legends match figures). (Not done yet - now that we have 2 new subject editors, it's probably time to address this.)
- Work with editors to develop plan to celebrate and highlight the 50th anniversary of the formation of the AAS in 2022 and first publication of JoA in 2023. (We have a special cover for volume 50 issues, and cover images will highlight events in publication history of JoA)

Eileen:

- Work with Engagement and Outreach committee and Daniel to develop content for Resources section of the AAS website. (Members of the Engagement and Outreach committee provided some content for the AAS website.)
- Communicate with broader Engagement and Outreach committee that if they receive ad hoc proposals for outreach activities, that committee can consider such proposals as long as the proposal is fully fleshed-out and includes a detailed budget. The committee should then provide a recommendation to the EC via the President requesting that the EC make the final decision about funding (no funding, partial funding, full funding). Funding level for such ad hoc proposals will ultimately be at the discretion and vote of the EC. (This was shared with the committee, but without a formal call for proposals and dedicated budget for such proposals, the committee does not feel comfortable moving this forward in any way. We did not receive any proposal this year either, but most people do not know this is even a possibility so that isn't particularly surprising.)

- Since AAS cannot presently provide compensation for this work, EC requests that Engagement and Outreach Committee formulate clear guidelines for sustainable expectations of committee members (e.g., how many tweets to send out, how many online engagement activities are expected, possible honorary guest hosting, etc.). [\(As you will read in our report, the social media team is frustrated by perceived lack of support. Clear guidelines for sustainable expectations of committee members was not completed. This is something that can be done in the coming year once we receive more feedback from the EC on potential support. I also think announcing the need for more participation at the meeting could be very helpful.\)](#)

Greta: [\(Did not respond as of 6/23; Andy can comment instead.\)](#)

- Work with Andy and Mercedes to create new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee [\(Done\)](#)
- Meet with Jason Bond (next meeting host) and organizers of past two virtual conferences as well as participants of virtual conferences to determine what aspects of virtual meeting should be incorporated into future meetings while keeping costs and work load for virtual elements in mind. [\(Done\)](#)
- (With Andy): Find new member for HLMFAR committee to replace Eileen, who is stepping off – deadline before April 1, 2022. [\(Done\)](#)
- Decide on new student representative of AAS EC [\(Done\)](#)
- Work with Andy and Cara to create an *ad hoc* Development Committee [\(In progress, see Old Business\)](#)

Greta, Andy, Cara: [\(Andy to comment\)](#)

- Create Development committee that can consider - ASAP: [\(See Old Business\)](#)
 - Develop guidelines regarding society expenditures
 - Suggest meeting registration cost guidelines to ensure that the AAS makes some profit from hosting annual meetings.
 - Maintain a small fee in the future for virtual attendance
 - Survey society membership policies and make suggestions about increases in membership fees to ensure society remains solvent.
- Communicate to Engagement and Outreach committee that the AAS does not have the money presently to routinely support any level of compensation for work done by members of the Engagement and Outreach Committee. If supporting virtual elements of future meetings becomes consistent responsibility, this will be considered separately. [\(This will need significant discussion at EC meeting. Based on EOC report, there is an apparent disconnect between EC and EOC members' expectations.\)](#)

Mark Harvey – directly after 2021 Virtual meeting: [\(Did not respond as of 6/23; Andy can comment instead.\)](#)

- Work with Cara (AAS Treasurer) to transfer the \$500 award to Ivan. [\(Done\)](#)

- Work with your committee to create a certificate of award or plaque – please standardize the wording so it can be used each year. AAS can pay for printing costs and shipping costs. (Done)
- Discuss with committee any additional feedback to present to those nominated for Platnick awards. (Done)

Mercedes: (Committee finalized in Spring 2022)

- Create new three ad hoc person committee to draft ideas for DEI initiatives. Maybe consider Jillian K. if she wants to serve as student rep or find student/postdoc rep. (Done; committee to be standing committee, not ad hoc?)
- Work with new DEI committee to revise and broaden the existing society Code of Conduct so that it applies to society business in its entirety rather than just annual meetings. (I'm happy to discuss how to work on the code of conduct with the committee after the meeting (and grant) is done.)

Paula:

- Include in future newsletters 200 word (abstract length) reports from various award winners (student, HLMFAR) to include in *American Arachnology* newsletter with photos. (Never received these reports from Petra or from Brent so I assume they did not implement this suggested end-of-year report from student and other award recipients.)
- Publish reports about 2021 Virtual meeting in next newsletter – including winners of student research awards, HLMFAR awards, Platnick award winner, and student presentation winners. (Done. All these reports included in *American Arachnology* #87.)
- Request that EC members send suggestions for graduate student representative who can replace Alex Berry directly to Greta and Andy. (Done – Ryan Jones recruited as new grad student rep.)
- Communicate with our social media team when the society newsletter is published (<https://www.americanarachnology.org/news-projects/aas-newsletter/>)– make sure all are aware this is a good mechanism for publishing general natural history observations. (Done. And have altered length requirements of natural history articles (some authors were submitting overly long articles for publication in the newsletter).)
- Communicate with Engagement and Outreach Committee when each issue of JoA is published on so they can broadcast on social media. (Never really followed up with this – not sure best way to communicate. Do broadly communicate about any Press Releases sent out focused on JoA articles.)

Petra: (Did not respond as of 6/23; see report?)

- Request that HLMFAR winners write and submit to committee chair 200-250 word end-of-year reports for inclusion in newsletter with one or two photos from field or lab. Deadline corresponds with deadline for newsletter articles (April 15 for May issue; October 15 for Fall issue).
- Communicate with HLMFAR committee that EC passed a motion that HLMFAR may earmark some of existing funds allocated for HLMFAR awards for faunistic study if one is submitted. Total award allocation will not increase. Amount allocated for faunistic study is at discretion of HLMFAR committee.

Sarah:

- Work with Common Names committee and Daniel to find a mechanism by which members can suggest common names via the AAS website. (We have a draft idea for what the "form" for submitting a new common name will look like, but are waiting to have the new common names listing and the updated rules to go live on the website before pushing it out. We underestimated how long it would take to update the Acari taxonomy so we are running a little behind where I would like to be. (As Acari doesn't have something like the World Spider Catalog our mite and tick expert said that it is taking a long time to update the listing).)

Constitution of the American Arachnological Society

ARTICLE I: Name

Section 1: The registered name of the organization shall be: The American Arachnological Society Corporation, registered in California, USA under California Corporate Number C0687375.

Section 2: Similar groups or organizations which are willing to abide and uphold the Constitution and By-Laws if the Society may be incorporated as branches of the organization.

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Objectives

Section 1: To promote the study of Arachnida.

Section 2: To achieve closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional arachnologists.

Section 3: To publish the Journal of Arachnology (JoA).

Section 4: The general purposes and powers are to have and to exercise all rights and powers conferred on nonprofit corporations under the laws of California, including the power to contract, rent, buy, or sell personal or real property, provided, however, that this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the primary purposes of this corporation.

Section 5: No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1: All persons interested in the objectives of this Society shall be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE IV: Meetings

Section 1: There shall be an annual meeting open to all members.

ARTICLE V: Officers

Section 1: The elective officers shall consist of the President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and a three-member Board of Directors.

Section 2: The officers shall be elected by a majority of votes cast. In case of no majority (a tie), the Executive Committee will choose between (among) the tied nominees.

Section 3: Officers appointed by the President, with the approval of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall include the Editor-in-Chief, Membership Secretary, Webmaster, Parliamentarian, Archivist, and the Graduate Student Representative.

ARTICLE VI: Amending the Constitution

Section 1: The Constitution or any part thereof may be amended, suspended, or repealed by a two-thirds majority of those members voting in a standard society ballot, provided there is a two month notice of the proposed change.

Section 2: Any member in good standing may propose, in writing, an amendment to the Constitution to the Executive Committee. Such a proposal, if approved by a majority of the Executive Committee, shall be submitted with a recommendation to the members. A proposed change to the Constitution not recommended by the Executive Committee must be submitted to the members of the Society if five or more members re-submit it.

ARTICLE VII: Non-Profit Purposes

Section 1: This corporation is organized pursuant to the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of California and does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof and it is organized for non-profit purposes.

ARTICLE VIII: Dissolution

Section 1: The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to arachnological purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or through the benefit of any private individual. Upon dissolution or winding up of the corporation, the assets remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for arachnological purposes and which has established tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The non-profit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for arachnological purposes shall be named at the time of dissolution by the Executive Committee or vote of the membership. If this corporation holds any assets in trust, or a corporation is formed for charitable purposes, such assets shall be disposed of in such a manner as may be directed by decree of the superior court in the county in which the corporation has its principal office, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by a person concerned with the liquidation, in a proceeding to which the Attorney General is a party. The purposes contained in this paragraph are limited to those meeting the requirements for welfare exemption under Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

By-Laws of the American Arachnological Society

ARTICLE I: Membership

Section 1: Membership shall be open to all persons who make formal application, for whom prescribed dues are paid in full, and who are willing to abide by and uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. As described in Article I, Section 8, the society recognizes regular members, student members, lifetime members, sponsored members, and honorary members as members of the society with services and privileges as described in Article I, Section 7.

Section 2: Institutions may not become members, but may subscribe to publications.

Section 3: Dues shall be paid upon receipt of an annual bill.

Section 4: All members in good standing shall have the right to vote.

Section 5: Any member in good standing is eligible to hold office.

Section 6: A member whose dues have not been paid within a reasonable period of time will forfeit the privileges of membership. Such members may be reinstated upon payment of delinquent dues.

Section 7: The services and privileges of membership shall include the following:

- Subscriptions to all publications
- Vote in accordance with the By-Laws
- Participation in all activities and functions of the Society

Section 8: Membership categories of the society include:

- Regular Member: A standard member of the society.
- Student Member: A standard member of the society who can provide evidence of current enrollment at a recognized institution of learning such as a school, college, or university.
- Lifetime Members: A standard member of the society who has paid, in advance, 25 times the regular membership dues (annual dues x 25).
- Sponsored Member: A standard regular or student membership, as appropriate, for individuals from developing nations (as defined by the World Bank) or other individuals for whom society dues represent a significant financial burden. Sponsored memberships are considered on a case-by-case basis, by application to the society membership secretary. Sponsored members will be provided electronic access to all publications of the society but will not receive print copies.
- Honorary Member: A special category of membership established to acknowledge arachnologists who have achieved a high level of eminence on the basis of significant research contributions. After being nominated, an individual may be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. The number of honorary members is not to exceed 5% of the total membership. A list of these Honorary Members is to be published in each issue of the Journal of Arachnology.

ARTICLE II: Officers

Section 1: The elective offices shall consist of: President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and a three-member Board of Directors.

Section 2: The elected officers, Editor-in-Chief, Membership Secretary, Webmaster, Parliamentarian, Archivist, and Board of Directors shall serve as the Executive Committee. Fifty percent of the Executive Committee represents a quorum. Voting members of the Executive Committee include: all elected officers, the Editor-in-Chief, and the Membership Secretary.

Section 3: The officers and Board of Directors of the Society shall be elected by a majority of votes cast by the published deadline determined by the Secretary in a standard ballot.

Section 4: Officers and Directors shall serve for two years, or until their successors are elected. Beginning in 1977 and every other year thereafter, the incumbent President Elect shall assume the presidency, and the incumbent President shall continue on the Executive Committee as one of the Directors. A new President Elect, the Treasurer, and one Director shall be elected in these times, odd-numbered years. On the alternate, even-numbered years, beginning in 1978, the Secretary and one Director shall be elected.

Section 5: An elected officer or member of the Board of Directors may be re-nominated, but only the Secretary and Treasurer may serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 6: The duties of the President are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Shall preside at business meetings of the Society and Executive Committee.
- Shall appoint all committee chairpersons as the need arises.
- Shall appoint the Membership Secretary to serve on the Executive Committee with the approval of the other members of the Executive Committee.
- Shall appoint the Graduate Student Representative to serve on the Executive Committee with the approval of the other members of the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee shall appoint all ad hoc and standing committees and the President will work with all committees and officers to promote the society and its products.
- The President will keep the Executive Committee informed by email of new issues that arise between the annual meetings and will arrange voting by email of the Executive Committee when deemed necessary.

Section 7: The duties of the President Elect are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Shall assume the duties of the President in his or her absence at the business meeting, and shall become the President in the event of death, resignation, or disability of the President. In the event of the absence of both President and President-Elect at a business meeting, any member of the Society duly chosen by the members present ought to preside.
- Appoints judges for the student presentation award competition at the annual meeting.
- Sends the meeting host the link to the Meeting Host Guidelines and AAS Code of Conduct or sends these documents directly to the host if the documents are unavailable on the AAS website.
- Contacts the meeting host to get a list of all student competitors and sends judges this list, score sheets, and presentation abstracts.
- Sends meeting host, student competitors, and judges links to the student paper guide and judging rubric posted online or sends these documents directly to same if unavailable on the AAS website.
- Arranges future venues and hosts for the annual AAS meeting.

Section 8: The duties of the Secretary, or his/her delegate are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Keeps minutes of the proceedings of all Society business meetings, conduct official correspondence, and maintain an on-going record of Society affairs.
- Distributes minutes from the Executive Committee meeting directly after the annual meeting so action items can be completed in a timely fashion.
- Distributes minutes from annual Business Meeting to membership prior to annual meeting so discussion and corrections can ensue at that year's Business Meeting.
- Records minutes from current year's Executive Committee meeting. Minutes should include: clearly demarcated Action Items, names of awardees of AAS research awards (from committee report), and other committee reports presented at the Executive Committee Meeting.
- Records minutes from current year's Business Meeting and includes as an addendum to Business Meeting notes names of student presentation award winners (announced at the banquet).
- Creates the election ballot with assistance of Directors, works with Membership Secretary to distribute ballot to members, and tallies the election results to report to membership.
- Produces a society newsletter twice a year to provide an outlet for ideas, short articles, and discussion; promote society products; advertise upcoming annual meeting and events. Newsletter will be distributed to membership as pdf.
- Promotes JoA through Press Releases, working with the Editor-in-Chief to identify upcoming articles of interest to the general public.
- Maintains a list of current Ad Hoc committees, their charges, and chairpersons.
- Works with chair of Student Research Grants Committee to get updates and information distributed to society members about student research grant applications (should be done at least one month prior to application deadline).

Section 9: The duties of the Treasurer are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Keeps the financial records, accepts monies, issues invoices, pays bills, issues grant/award payments, and maintains all bank and investment accounts.
- Maintains separate records for general society finances and society products or projects in which the society is involved (e.g., Spiders of North America manual).
- Files federal and state tax forms for the society.
- Provides funds for research and travel grants as decided by the Executive Committee.
- Works with the Director – past President to carry out an annual audit.

Section 10: The Membership Secretary shall serve until replaced. The duties of the Membership Secretary are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Keeps membership records, issues dues renewal notices, and accepts and transmits dues to the Treasurer for deposit.
- Sends letter to new members that includes information about the AAS website and the new access codes for the current online issues of JoA.
- Checks membership status of students participating in student competition at annual meeting and communicates membership status of these students to President Elect (who runs the student competition).

- Checks membership status of students submitting student research grants and communicates membership status of these students to the Student Research Grants Committee Chair (who runs the student grant competition).
- Serves on the AAS Social Media Sub-Committee.
- Assists with other membership-related tasks as needed.

Section 11: The duties of the Senior Director are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Serves as the chair of the Nominating Committee (made up of newly elected director and one other appointed member) – seeks qualified and willing nominees for upcoming election.
- Works with President to select non-Director member of Nominating Committee.
- Communicates with Secretary when nominees have been chosen so ballot can be created.
- Serves as chair of Travel Grant Award Committee for next upcoming meeting(s) – AAS only or AAS and ISA.
- Selects one additional committee member for Travel Grant Award Committee.
- Hosts the informal arachnological event (casual presentations) at annual meeting if requested to do so by meeting host.

Section 12: The duties of the Director – past President are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Serves as auditor of society financial records with assistance by committee formed for this purpose with help of the AAS Executive Committee. Society financial records should be audited once a year or no less than once every two years.
- Assists other directors and committees as needed.

Section 13: The duties of the Junior (newly elected) Director are as indicated below:

- Serves on the Executive Committee.
- Serves on the Nominating Committee.
- Serves on the Travel Grant Award Committee.

Section 14: This section describes the duties of the appointed members of the AAS Executive Committee (besides those whose duties are described above).

Sub-section 14a: The Webmaster shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee until replaced. The duties of the Webmaster are indicated below:

- Attends Executive Committee meetings.
- Shall maintain the society's website and consult with the Executive Committee about its content and its contribution to the society's operation and interests.
- Works with annual meeting hosts to advise on and coordinate meeting registration tasks.
- Works with the Secretary to update the website content regularly.
- Works with the Editor-in-Chief to update the JoA contents and information online.

Sub-section 14b: The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee until replaced. The duties of the Parliamentarian are indicated below:

- Attends Executive Committee meetings.
- Serve as a consultant to the society in matters of parliamentary protocol during Executive Committee meetings and the annual society's business meeting as stated in Article VI of the by-laws.

Sub-section 14c: The Archivist shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee until replaced. The duties of the Archivist are as indicated below:

- Attends Executive Committee meetings.
- Maintains records of past meeting minutes (Executive Committee and Business Meetings).
- Maintains historical records pertaining to society (meeting photos, correspondence, procedural documents, etc.).
- Reminds Secretary to send documents for the archives.
- Provides information or copies of documents about the society when requested.
- (Please Note) AAS archived material is periodically transferred to the archivist at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., thus requests for materials made through the Archivist will be forwarded to the Smithsonian Archivist as necessary.

Sub-section 14d: The Graduate Student Representative shall be appointed by the President and serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee until replaced. The duties of the Graduates Student Representative are indicated below:

- Attends Executive Committee meetings.
- Provides input and feedback on all issues but especially issues impacting graduate student membership.
- Writes a report about graduate student topics to AAS to be included in Executive Committee meeting minutes (e.g., AAS business of direct concern to student membership).
- Works with Membership Secretary to communicate with student members (e.g., reminders to students about AAS products, requests for student involvement in AAS committees, information about student socials at upcoming annual meetings).
- Coordinates with the meeting host to organize a student social for the annual meeting and a lunch meeting for doctoral students and early career professionals.
- Assists other committees on an ad hoc basis.

Sub-section 14e: The *Journal of Arachnology* Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the Executive Committee with advice from the journal editors and serves as a voting member of the Executive Committee. The duties of the Editor-in-Chief are indicated below and in Section 15:


- Attends Executive Committee meetings.
- Provides an annual report about the *Journal of Arachnology* to the Executive Committee and at the AAS Business Meeting with data on acceptance rate, rejection rate, number of articles submitted, impact factor, and publication costs.
- Provides a written publication report including editor information, summary of journal statistics, and summary of other journal-related data.

Section 15: Publication policy shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee, which shall also appoint the Editor-In-Chief to act on behalf of the Executive Committee in matters related to publication of the society journal. An Editorial Board shall be appointed by the Editor-In-Chief in consultation with the Executive Committee. The purpose of the Editorial Board is to assist in the review process.

Section 16: Committees of the Society. The chairperson of each committee shall be responsible for submitting an annual report (or final report, in the case of ad hoc committees) to the Executive Committee prior to the annual meeting and shall provide interim reports as requested by the Executive Committee. Each committee chairperson shall maintain a current roster of committee members to be included in the annual (or final) report. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the committee chairperson, shall appoint members to fill vacant positions.

Sub-section 16a: Ad hoc committees shall be formed by the Executive Committee as the need arises and the committee chairperson appointed by the President. Ad hoc committees will be re-evaluated annually and disbanded when their function or charge has been completed. A list of current Ad Hoc committees, their charges, and chairpersons shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Society.

Sub-section 16b: Standing committees shall be formed by the Executive Committee and the chairperson appointed by the President. Standing committee membership and charge will be reviewed biannually by the incoming president. Standing committees of the Society are listed below with brief descriptions:

- Common Names Committee: Charged with standardizing common names for arachnids and updating the Common Names of Arachnids publication produced by the AAS. Also communicates with the Entomological Society of America Common Names committee.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Charged with establishing mechanisms for supporting and recruiting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) scientists interested in a career in arachnology.
- Engagement and Outreach Committee: Divided into three sub-committees (indicated below), the Outreach Committee is responsible for promoting the Society, AAS products and activities, and arachnids to a general audience (including K-12 and undergraduates). This committee is also responsible for reviewing (on an ad hoc basis) funding requests received by the AAS Executive Committee members for proposed outreach activities.
 - Community Science
 - Outreach and Education
 - Social Media
- Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research (HLMFAR): Established in 2015 to provide grant funding to non-student AAS members (including post-docs) who receive little to no institutional support for their research programs.
- Nominating Committee: Chaired by the Senior Director, the nominating committee seeks qualified candidates for open positions in AAS elections.
- Platnick Award Committee: Established to honor Norman Platnick, the Platnick Award Committee identifies and honors a body of outstanding work in the field of arachnid biodiversity (including taxonomic and phylogenetic) that has the potential to transform the field.
- 
- Spiders of North America: An Identification Manual (SNAIM) Production Committee: This committee, made up of the editors of SNAIM, is responsible for leading revision efforts, communicating with the publishing house, and promoting sales of SNAIM to members and to the general public.
- Student Paper Presentation Award Committee: This Committee is chaired by the President Elect and recognizes outstanding work from students presenting oral papers and posters at the annual AAS meeting.

- Student Research Grants Committee: Divided into two sub-committees (indicated below), this committee provides support for undergraduate or graduate student AAS members whose work relates to any aspect of the behavior, ecology, physiology, taxonomy, systematics, or evolution of any of the arachnid groups.
 - Arachnological Research Fund
 - Vincent Roth Fund for Systematics Research
- Student Travel Grant Award Committee: Provide support for high school, undergraduate or graduate student members of the AAS who have limited or no funding support, but plan to be presenting authors on a poster or oral presentation at the upcoming AAS meeting.

Section 17: Election of the Officers and the Board of Directors shall be provided for in Article II, Section 4 of the By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the two non-past-president Directors and one other member selected by the President, and membership will be announced at the annual business meeting. The most senior non-past-president Director shall serve as chair of the Nominating Committee. The nominees must indicate to the Nominating Committee their willingness to serve if elected. Ballots received shall be tallied by the AAS Secretary. Write-ins on ballots will be permitted. Election results will be announced at the annual business meeting. Newly elected officers shall take office on the first day of September of the year in which they are elected.

Section 18: Procedural matters shall be passed by a default system. If less than 10% of the membership send negative remarks to the Secretary within one month of mailing, the motion will pass. If 10% or more reply with negative comments, a vote will be taken following the same procedure as for elections (see section 17), with a majority of votes cast determining the issue.

ARTICLE III: Meetings

Section 1: There shall be a general meeting of the Society open to all members. The date, time, and place are to be determined by the host(s) and coordinated by the President-Elect.

Section 2: The membership shall be informed of the date, time, and place of the annual general meeting at least three months prior to the meeting.

Section 3: Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President.

Section 4: An annual business meeting open to all members will be held in conjunction with the general meeting at a time designated by the President.

Section 5: Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or by the request of twenty or more members.

Section 6: All Constitution Article 5 Executive Committee members (including the President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, three Directors, Editor-in-Chief, Membership Secretary, Webmaster, Parliamentarian, Archivist, and Graduate Student Representative) have the option to have their registration fee costs waived for the annual meetings. The costs of this shall be borne by the Society, not by the local host committee.

ARTICLE IV: Dues

Section 1: Annual dues for standard regular, student, and lifetime members shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and duly announced to the membership.

Section 2: Institutional subscriptions shall be an amount fixed by the Executive Committee and duly announced to the membership. Journal subscriptions may be exchanged with other professional societies that publish a journal.

Section 3: Honorary Memberships will be gratis and must be bestowed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 4: Sponsored Memberships will be gratis to the applicant and either bestowed by a vote of the Executive Committee or paid for by identified or anonymous sponsors from among the regular membership.

Section 5: Records pertaining to Society funds shall be open to inspection to any member at any time.

ARTICLE V: Amending the By-Laws

Section 1: The By-Laws, or any part thereof may be adopted, amended, suspended, or repealed by a two-thirds majority of those voting in a standard ballot, provided there is a minimum two month notice of the proposed change distributed by the Secretary and Membership Secretary.

Section 2: Any member in good standing may propose, in writing, an amendment to the By-Laws to the Executive Committee. Such a proposal, if approved by a majority of the Executive Committee, shall be submitted with a recommendation to the members. A proposed change to the By-Laws not recommended by the Executive Committee must be submitted to the members of the Society if five or more members re-submit it.

ARTICLE VI: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: If not contrary to the Constitution or By-Laws, procedures to be followed in business meetings of the Society shall be those established in "Robert's Rules of Order Revised", seventy-fifth or later editions.

Amended last –2022

Proposal: Implement a Google Translate “widget” on the AAS website to allow instantaneous translation of AAS content into other languages.

Proposed by: Paula Cushing, June 2022 at Davis, CA AAS meeting

Reasoning: In a recent student survey sent by grad student representative, Ryan Jones, the responses received by Latin American students indicated that the AAS could become more inclusive if the website implemented a mechanism to translate the content into other languages.

The following message was received from Heiko Metzner, developer of the AAS website, outlining three options available for such translation. Heiko’s recommendation was Option 3, which would cost 270 € (under \$300 US)

From: Heiko Metzner <heiko.metzner@psbrands.de>

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 6:34 AM

To: Paula Cushing <Paula.Cushing@dmns.org>; Daniel Gloor <daniel.gloor@cogeco.ca>

Subject: AW: Google Translate now offered on DMNS.org !

Hi Paula & Daniel,

there are different ways to include new languages in TYPO3:

1. Set up a new language in TYPO3-System – translate the complete content in that language by yourself to switch from a page in EN to the same page e.g. in FR. Language selection via dropdown or flag. Translated Text is part of the TYPO3 system and can be changed by yourself.
2. Set up a new language in TYPO3-System – use deepl – Plugin to translate automatically the content in TYPO3 – rest as nr. 1
3. Include google translate code snippet in the TYPO3-System with iFrame manipulation:
 - a. Navigation bar Desktop version
 - b. Navigation bar mobile version responsive view

I think in our case it’s the fastest way to select possibility 3. With implementing in different responsive views and testing we need about 3 hrs = 270,- € to implement that. We testet the basic functionality in our sandbox system – it worked (see Screenshot attached).

Remember: It’s an on the fly translation which can have effects on position of Navigation points and content elements... but it works 😊. Translation is google like – not so perfect as deepl with manual proof reading ... “Mit Kapuze Spinne” as an example...

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Freundliche Grüße | Best regards

Dr. Heiko Metzner

Account Manager

Fon [+49 911 970 77-52](tel:+499119707752)

Mobil [+49 175 9387 133](tel:+491759387133)

heiko.metzner@psbrands.de

psbrands GmbH | Agentur für effiziente Kommunikation

Hermann-Glockner-Straße 4, 90763 Fürth, Germany

www.psbrands.de

Von: Paula Cushing <Paula.Cushing@dmns.org>

Datum: Dienstag, 24. Mai 2022 um 23:37

An: Daniel Gloor <daniel.gloor@cogeco.ca>, Heiko Metzner <heiko.metzner@psbrands.de>

Betreff: RE: Google Translate now offered on DMNS.org !

And, Heiko – can you let me know if there is a cost involved? If we can get an estimate of cost/time/etc to implement the Google Translate option on the AAS website, I can move this idea forward to the Executive Committee.

Paula

From: Daniel Gloor <daniel.gloor@cogeco.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:32 PM

To: Paula Cushing <Paula.Cushing@dmns.org>; Dr. Heiko Metzner <heiko.metzner@psbrands.de>

Subject: Re: Google Translate now offered on DMNS.org !

Hi Paula and Heiko

I am forwarding this message to Heiko as this feature would require code change or an installation of a plugin. Heiko and his team are maintaining the CMS instance and do development for it.

@Heiko

Is there a Typo3 plugin available for the Google Website Translator? If not, what are the options for Typo3?

Thanks,
Daniel

On 2022-05-20 12:51 p.m., Paula Cushing wrote:

This is really helpful, Carlos! Thanks so much. I am cc'ing the AAS webmaster, Daniel Gloor, so he can look into implementing the Google translate Widget for our society site.

Paula