

Executive Committee Meeting - Agenda

Ithaca, New York, June 25, 2023

In-Person Attendance: Andy Roberts, Brent Opell, Brian Patrick, Cara Shillington, Daniel Gloor, Deb Smith, Linda Rayor, Paula Cushing, Mercedes Burns, Hannah Wood

Remote Attendance: Edmundo Gonzalez Santillan, Greta Binford, Sean Walker, Ryan Jones, Jerry Rovner

Regrets: Brent Hendrixson, Lenny Vincent, Mark Harvey, Sarah Rose, Alex Berry, Eileen Hebets

Motion to accept EC minutes from 2022: Brian Patrick so moved, Linda Rayor seconded; all approved.

Reports:

President report – **Andy Roberts**

1. President Elect report – **Linda Rayor**

- a. Future meeting sites – Yann Henaut is interested in hosting in Mexico in April. Andy and Linda are trying to encourage him to host in the beginning of June instead. Linda suggested thinking of alternatives to hosting in-person meetings. Or going w/ conference-hotel that could do bulk of work. But that is pricey.

2. Treasurer report – **Cara Shillington**

- a. Don Cameron's estate donation hit bank balance in 2022 even though it was made in 2021. Frances Levi also contacted us and dedicated royalties for Levi & Levi guide to AAS for future (\$549 was the first royalty payment).
- b. Linda received donations to support meeting. Still had to transfer money out of our Schwab investment acct to pay our bills.
- c. Membership drive came in late but membership is catching up now. Looking pretty good w/ timing in call to membership. Usually happens in December and there is a pulse of \$ for previous yr. But because we separated green from hard-copy memberships, we had to alter the website and this resulted in a delay in membership call-out from the membership secretary.
- d. Switched to e-file for federal taxes. This went smoothly. But when went to do CA state taxes, the 990 software automatically imports into state taxes and some of the line items are incorrect. Still need some help w/ taxes. One of things that will change w/ new tax year, when we were paying student awards, we had them in this category that benefits just for members so students would not get hit w/ being taxed on these awards. We may have to report the awards as separate sheets for each student.
- e. Have to change our agent in California because that person (that name) is no longer associated w/ society and is likely deceased. We may have to add an agent depending on where the meeting will be held for that year (an agent in addition to the primary agent for the society).
- f. We need original non-profit status document from way back. Should be in the Smithsonian AAS archives. Contact Lenny to try to find this document. Original letter we received indicating our non-profit status.

3. Secretary report – **Paula Cushing**

- a. Election results (preliminary): tied between Jason Bond and Anne Danielson-Francois for President Elect (109 each); Sarah Stellwagen and Daniel Proud ran for

Director (Sarah won); and Nina Sandlin agreed to be our next treasurer.

- b. PR report
 - c. Newsletter report
 - d. SNAIM report
4. Director report – **Hannah Wood**
- a. Nominating Committee report: We might reach out to Nadia Ayoub and Eileen Hebets for positions – they both seemed interested. It was challenging to get candidates for some positions so we might try to solicit interest earlier. Cara suggested creating a Treasurer-elect position so that there is some overlap between old and new since there is a substantial learning curve. This would require a constitutional change. And also change it to a longer term (maybe a five year term).
 - b. Travel Grant Award Committee report: Committee (Sarah Stellwagen and Edmundo Gonzalez-Santillan and Hannah Wood).
 - Made it clear that students could only request housing for up to the cost of the dorm rooms.
 - Compared to last year, we had more money to spend and twice the # of students. This year we had more applicants and less money (only \$3K plus an additional \$1K from a donor).
 - Awards were lower in order to spread out the funds as much as possible. Provided funding for 14 students.
 - Should discuss how to increase diversity of society for these awards in the future.
 - Linda suggested that we encourage student membership by really stressing what society provides for students. Should think of a mechanism for getting the word out there to current non-member students. Maybe arachnid listserv could be one mechanism.
 - Greta suggested expanding channels of communication (e.g., tweet).
 - Maybe also stress the value of membership on the website.
 - Ask PIs to also encourage their own labs and students to become members.
 - Linda also suggested maybe asking or requiring those who apply for and receive travel awards to also step up to help at the meeting if they receive an award.
5. Membership report – **Brian Patrick**
- a. Started off slow (see above) but caught on by meeting time. We are on par with prior to the pandemic.
 - b. Wrote letter to life members who never created a profile and have stopped receiving their JoA copies despite trying to write letters.
 - c. Andy pointed out that Brian has done due diligence and we should not worry about them.
 - d. Has made an effort to boost individuals willing to sponsor memberships. That effort was successful. Only students or those living in IMF defined developing countries can get these sponsored memberships.
 - e. Because of how we track members, it is now not possible to differentiate student members from retirees.
 - f. Several people have donated free memberships. When individuals from non-IMF countries reach out individually to Brian about free memberships, he just provides these if they have been donated. We need protocol for how to assign these free memberships. We don't necessarily want to advertise the availability of these. We

should develop criteria. Maybe Alex, Brian, and maybe one or two others can work on developing these criteria.

- g. Linda pointed out that in Uruguay, people complained that it was challenging to track their membership. Maybe consider 3 year membership options. Sean pointed out that lots of societies allow 1, 2, or 3 year membership.
 - h. Largest part of communication issues is that AAS msgs go into people's spam or junk folders – might need to remind members to make AAS msgs safe.
 - i. Membership drive must be promoted via social media.
 - j. There is a membership committee that can discuss these action items for increasing membership.
6. Graduate Student report – **Ryan Jones**
- a. Ryan thought grad student rep position was a two year term but found out it is an at-will position. He and Andy will discuss if he wants to stay as grad student rep.
7. Journal of Arachnology report - **Deb Smith**
- a. We were down in #s of submissions this year. Had 63 new submissions relative to 71 last year. Acceptance rate was 49%. See report.
 - b. Impact factor rose to 1.38. Highest it has been. This is BioOne impact factor. We are ranked 59 out of 100 entomology journals. Rise might be due to Martin Nyfeller's review articles about what spiders are eating.
 - c. Income from royalties from BioONE and JStor was \$50K + some. Expenditures were \$1,758 over royalties. This is a reduced loss but still a loss.
 - d. In Jan, Allen Press was purchased by a larger group – CJK Group and we are part of their Sheraton Works Ltd, etc. They seem to be specialists in scholarly pubs as well w/ a larger operation than Allen Press had.
 - e. Right now, we just have one set of invoices from the new company. Seem to be on part with the previous expenses. Nothing has changed substantially but are slowly starting to improve processes (e.g., how authors input changes to page proofs). Deb is hopeful that these changes might help bring publication costs down.
 - f. Last year, we raised issue of making it easy to pay page charges. Deb, Cara Shillington, and Daniel Gloor have worked on a mechanism for capturing payment for page charges online. Other challenge was sending authors invoices. One of the limiting factors was figuring out if any of the authors was a member. Deb is going to see about adding a button to the online submission process asking if one of the authors is a member of AAS and make it clear what page charge costs are.
 - g. From last year that still needs doing: figuring out a way to reduce time from submission to acceptance. Plans to write clearer guidelines for authors and reviewers. Edmundo pointed out that there already exists a pdf document called "author instructions." This should be reviewed and maybe converted to a checklist.
 - h. Sean suggested creating a checklist that the authors have to go through before hitting the submit button.
 - i. Do the editors have a plan for closing the gap between expenditures and royalties. We should be more diligent about capturing page charges.
 - j. Deb can dig up itemized breakdown of the costs of journal production. She has this from a few years ago since that is how she caught that we were being charged taxes for a couple of years.
 - k. Linda suggested raising page charges to \$12 or \$15. Deb pushed back and said that we should go through at least one year cycle at the member cost of \$10 per

page before raising it again.

8. Webmaster report – **Daniel Gloor**

- a. Added Google Translate button; revamped the donation button so donors can donate to a specific fund; page charges button is developed; will add button for translation service for non-English speakers.
- b. We will need an upgrade from PSBrands. We will need to do this upgrade to maintain security on the site. We could skip this upgrade until modules (below) are developed and then do it all in 2026. Peter suggested that if we just save our yearly costs for upgrades and then do an upgrade every 3 years. Daniel is not sure that is a good idea. Because the yearly costs allow us to reach out to Heiko to fix minor issues as they arise.
- c. Daniel, Greta Binford, and Peter Midford got together and discussed collaboration between ISA and AAS to develop a re-vamped membership module that would include an integrated payment gateway. Can we use this also for other services like page charges?
- d. ISA is talking about a social media aggregator as a mechanism to draw new members to the website. This might be a way to increase interest and membership.
- e. We could share develop costs for these modules but AAS is more complicated website than ISA. Question for the society: Do we consider collaboration with ISA? Should we also consider revamping virtual part fork meeting hosts – to provide all services needed, particularly for non-university hosts. For example a proper registration mechanism. The poster module that we have is working great. But can improving registration module.
- f. Peter is meeting with Heiko to get a quote for these modules and for the collaborative pricing.
- g. Daniel suggested deferring \$6K yearly maintenance until we get a quote from Peter and Heiko for development of modules. Andy just wants some assurance that we won't have to pay both \$6K maintenance costs and also then have additional costs for these add-on module development and we should not have to subsidize ISA maintenance and upgrade costs.
- h. Sean Walker asked if the issues with an obsolete CMS are going to impact access to the site. Daniel said that this should not be an issue.

9. Archivist report – **Lenny Vincent** – see report and see action item regarding our non-profit status document.

10. Committee Reports

- a. Common names committee report – **Sarah Rose**: Congrats to this committee for all the work they have accomplished.
- b. DEI Committee – **Mercedes Burns**:
 - BioLeaps proposal (NSF) was not funded.
 - But are still proceeding with survey of members' information (have pertinent paperwork for this survey) to capture demography and other data for members to learn more about self-identity; non-professionals; research expertise; interests; etc. Partly to integrate Hobbyist/non-professional community into professional community. Andy and Mercedes will meet soon in order to deploy the survey as soon after the meeting as possible.
 - Committee made updates to Host Meeting Document. These changes

- were incorporated.
 - DEI committee is hosting three events at this meeting: LGBTQ event, a version of casual night (Story Teller night), and Wed is the DEI lunch (Lunch of the Future) with 6 topic areas with a moderator from the DEI committee to discuss (one is Code of Conduct).
 - Hopes to use comments from this topic area (Code of Conduct) to incorporate into changes into that document. Mercedes has sent a Code of Conduct reminder for attendees.
 - Mercedes often gets one or two comments per meeting (e.g., concerns about wording or terminology or sometimes behavior).
 - DEI committee membership came up with ELRAW – English Language Review for Arachnologists Worldwide. Offers help to non-native English speakers who would like someone to look at manuscript prior to submission to JoA. Mercedes is getting information about this ready to post on the website and what the process looks like.
 - Would like to announce existence of ELRAW at the business meeting.
 - Congratulations were given to this committee for all the good work they have done.
 - Greta had made a draft update to Code of Conduct. Greta provided the URL where this information can be found in Google Docs (see saved Chat).
- c. Engagement and Outreach Committee – **Eileen Hebets:**
- Only Linda was present from this committee. See the report.
 - Largely the E&O committee is at a standstill until EC makes decisions about requests from last year.
- d. Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research – **Sean Walker:**
- 11 applications. Wanted more money than was available. Had apps from variety of stages of life and from different universities and institutions.
 - Thanks to this committee for their work.
- e. Norm Platnick Award – **Mark Harvey**
- Brent and Hannah were present. Committee consisted of Mark Harvey (chair), Christine Rheims, Xhi Sho from China, and Brent and Hannah. Four nominations and Jeremy Wilson won the award.
 - Brent will make announcement at this year’s meeting.
 - Mark Harvey will receive news that it has been announced so he can let winner know.
 - Hannah said that committee discussed eligibility. This is up to committee. Committee suggested that winner do early career talk at the following meeting.
 - Motion made: At the time of nomination both nominator and nominee should be members. Motion made to eliminate this criterion. The majority of the EC agreed that this criterion should be eliminated. Suggestion was made to reduce the amount of the award by the cost of membership so membership is part of the award.
 - Hannah will move these suggestions to the committee and EC said that they are free to create the criteria – they don’t need EC approval for changes.
 - Paula asked for the committee to also consider acarology-focused taxonomy work.

- f. Student Research Grants – **Brent Hendrixson**:
 - See report. Thanks to this committee for their work.
- 11. Other reports
 - a. Online arachno-answer service – **Jerry Rovner**:
 - Thanks to Jerry Rovner for his service work for the society.

Old Business:

1. President/VP/Secretary:
 - Status of Future of Meetings project: Andy joined as small society representative. Discussed thru various forums throughout the year about best practices. Will present these suggestions at a later date. But they suggested maybe adding additional meetings throughout the year.
 - Status of code of conduct and ethics; how to report incidents: Still working on developing way to accept and deal with reports of incidents or other behavior. We need to decide what the jurisdiction of the society is. Should we police behavior that happened in the past? That happened at a different institution? Or should we limit to behavior/conduct that happens during society-sponsored events?
 - a. Andy has been working with his wife who is an expert in this arena and working with her lawyer to address some of these issues. But does not yet have a final report to present. What Kelly Andrews has asked is some definition of what our jurisdiction should be. Deb suggested policing ourselves at our own events. Paula added and our products (like JoA).
 - b. Document Greta shared included a document that the Animal Behavior Society developed that we might be able to co-opt. Does not think this should be top-down from the EC. Was happy to hear from Mercedes that the DEI is soliciting feedback from the members. Ryan Jones asked what if no one gives feedback during the DEI event about Code of Conduct? She will crash other discussion tables to bring some of these issues to other topic areas.
 - c. We need reporting scheme.
 - d. Suggests that we come up w/ a motion to work on this issue further.
 - e. Sean Walker said that this is a lot of responsibility to stack on the shoulders of a few people like the members of the EC. And it feels like it lacks a bit of transparency – depending on who you talk about, you might get different outcomes. Should not fall on the shoulders of 4 or 5 people.
 - f. Deb said that rather than a punitive outcome, we should aim for a conversation with the “perpetrator” to help them understand their actions and why they might be problematic. I.e. try to correct the situation.
 - g. Mercedes thinks this issue should be tackled by the DEI committee and the EC together – not just the DEI.
 - h. We need reporting scheme for professional ethics issues and reporting scheme for behavioral issues. The latter would require someone being present.
 - i. Sean Walker asked if we should provide bystander intervention training for folks who are engaged in this? Do we have a way to recognize these folks on their name tags?
 - j. Sean also said that the way we are talking about this – it should not be the EC’s

responsibility to make sure the meeting is a safe space. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure the meeting is a safe environment.

- k. Mercedes just wants to make sure that the reporting mechanisms are clearly outlined.
 - l. Brian suggested that some group develop document about best practices. This conversation has run its course. We need better reporting scheme.
 - m. Andy and small group, including his wife, Kelly, are interested in continuing developing these mechanisms.
- Status of committee on Advancement/Development. This committee would be tasked with revise/refine donations page on website; develop guidelines regarding society expenditures; establish and conduct annual giving campaign to coincide w/ membership drive; establish estate planning process (for monetary and material donations); reorganize annual auction(s) to better align w/ shifting interests and DEI; evaluate membership fee structure to accommodate members from developing nations and non-professionals; consider small surcharge on future meeting registrations to ensure AAS makes a profit; consider alternative payment methods for international members where PayPal is challenging; coordinate with Treasurer to send "giving summary" and "thank you" letters to all donors to include nonprofit # for donor tax purposes. Andy is tabling this committee until other membership-related issues become resolved.
 - n. Proposed by-law changes from last year; constitution say membership must approve these. We will make these proposals via ElectionBuddy in order to meet our own constitutional requirements.
 - o. Languages allowed at annual meetings (oral and on slides): Hannah, Paula, Mercedes, and Brian brought forward the concerns by non-native speakers in Uruguay were very offended when speakers talked in either Portuguese or Spanish. Sean Walker asked if there is a way to craft a statement where it is a recommendation about considering your audience and how they might best understand you? Edmundo thought presentation should be in English. Need to have a common access language. Daniel Gloor said that presenting in English should be part of professional development. Maybe if someone is truly struggling, can make an exception. And if you re-think your arguments in English (when not native speaker), can provide different perspective.
 - p. Hannah said that ISA said there was a suggestion of providing help for those who struggle. Maybe provide translator.
 - q. Paula made the following motion: For the purposes of professional development and because English is a standard language most commonly in use in academics and in scientific publications, we encourage all meeting presenters to give presentations (oral and poster) in English. If this is a serious barrier to a presenter, they should reach out to ELRAW or to the meeting host for assistance or guidance. Motion made and seconded by Brian. Passed unanimously.
2. JOA
- a. Update on re-couping taxes charged to society by Allen Press since 2018.
 - b. Establish online system for authors to pay page charges?
 - c. Meetings w/ Editorial Board and editors regarding proposal to deal with any continuing financial issues.

3. Membership:

- a. Sending letters to lifetime members to get them back to active membership so they can create profile and continue to receive JoA.
 - b. Status of Membership drive/ Committee to tackled membership recruitment. This has not progressed. Alex and Brian will work on this with Greta and Daniel.
- 4. Common Names Committee:
 - a. Update on coordinating efforts w/ Entomological Society of America, BugGuide, and iNaturalist.
- 5. DEI:
 - a. BioLEAPs program/proposal?
 - b. Membership Survey
- 6. Norm Platnick Award:
 - a. Did the committee eliminate society membership as a criterion? It is still listed on the website as a criterion for nominators and nominees.
- 7. Student Research Grants
 - a. Donation of \$5,000 from Cameron estate to Vince Roth Fund? Was this money used for this year's awards?

New Business:

President (Andy)

1. Establish a policy of two EC meetings per year – June (in person) and December (virtual). Andy made motion that we have one in person meeting and a follow up virtual meeting later in the year. Moved to adopt two executive meetings: one during the in-person meeting and one virtually in December. Brian seconded motion. Approved unanimously.
2. Rethink approach to annual meetings
 - a. In addition to annual in-person meeting, add annual virtual meeting? Adopt distributed/regional meeting model? Paula and Daniel suggested a mid-point virtual meeting that could present popular talks aimed at more of a general audience that could be open only to members as way to broaden membership into hobbyist and non-professional audience. Pass ideas to Andy.
3. Establish a Conduct and Professional Ethics Review Board
 - a. Need to establish jurisdiction of Society
 - b. Individual to receive and screen reports

Treasurer (Cara)

1. Expenses continue to outpace income – suggestions? Don Cameron's donation will be acknowledged in the next newsletter. Cara will write this paragraph.
1. Election (Paula): How to maintain security/secretcy of election results? Paula will deal with this.
2. Resolve tie for President Elect. Suggestion made that the two candidates (Jason and Anne) can decide who is President Elect and then the other person would be the next President Elect (they would be alone on the next ballot. Andy made motion and Paula seconded. Passed unanimously. Jason and Anne will determine who wants to be on the next ballot and who will begin as President Elect in September. The person on the next ballot will run uncontested.
 1. SNAIM (Paula): We will need to do a 2nd printing of the 2nd edition. There will be a cost (TBD) but this should be re-cooped via sales. Plan to do a short print run (@ 500 copies). Asked EC approval for 2nd short printing of 2nd edition. Approved.

Senior Director (Hannah)

1. Challenges to finding candidates
2. Fundraising for travel grants? Need a tool to increase funding for travel awards.
3. How to increase diversity of the society through the travel grant awards? – maybe consider gathering background info as part of the application process to promote diversity.

Membership (Brian)

1. Need a way to get life members to make profiles on website: James Berry, Dennis Blanchet, Jerry Bowen, Brendan Bower, Michael Brewer, Debbie Folkerts, Barry Nichols, Robert Raven, Peter Stoddard, Mark Stowe, Jan Weaver.

Student Rep (Ryan)

1. Stepping down, need to appoint replacement. Has provided suggestion (Jillian Kurovski-Legrís). [Note: Ryan thought he had to step down; when he found out this was not a term-limited position he decided to continue as student rep.]

JOA (Deb)

1. Proposes adding question to online manuscript submission process asking if authors are members of AAS
2. Will draw up “best practices” list for reviewers
3. How to deal with Royalties vs expenditures disconnect? Shortfall was \$1,758.16.

OE Committee (Eileen)

1. Requests a team of 6 (sub-committee chair and 5 members) to form a Social Media team who would receive free membership for 1 yr and free registration to the next annual mtg. If approved, would like to make announcement advertising this at current meeting. Deb asked what this team do? Brian said no on the registrations. He was not opposed to free memberships but was reserved. There are a lot of AAS members who contribute significantly to the society and do not ask for free memberships. Greta said that supporting the O&E committee will help with membership. They can positively influence the public face of the society. Sean said this request is a slippery slope (to hand out free memberships for service activities). Greta pointed out that the team did articulate clear goals for social media group. Greta pointed out that members of EC were gainfully employed and maybe had more leeway to not require free membership or other payments. Brian said that the work that has currently been done in that space is lackluster. But this may be because of the lackluster response from the EC. Andy asked if we are willing to take a risk to provide this support when we don't really know what we will get. Paula suggested providing some level of support – maybe one registration fee waiver and one free membership. Andy suggested providing more support than that minimal support. Nina said that for this kind of work that they propose to be effective, it has to be done by someone who already has a following. You can't just assign someone and expect it to have immediate traction when that person may have very few followers. Rather than assemble a team of eager people, find people who already have a following. Greta and Sean pointed out that Sebastian and Catherine and Eileen all have a few thousand to over 32,000 followers (Sebastian). Daniel said that he would be willing to donate \$500. Greta and Paula and Andy suggested just indicating that we can provide \$1000 for this team and they can distribute this as free memberships, free registrations, or stipends – however they feel is the best way to invest in these activities. Sean is torn because he sees the current team doing some good work. But is it sustainable. He sees these kinds of activities dying a horrible death

because people who are initially very enthused either lose enthusiasm or lose time to invest in these activities. Andy is concerned that if we provide a sum of money, like a \$1000, to invest however the team wants will be drawn down from our investment fund and is not sustainable. It would be a one-off payment. Cara said that what if we pulled \$500 from our research awards or existing awards that would be better than adding another expense for the O&E team. Paula said that if we don't offer anything, the team will likely disband. Andy said that green memberships cost us nothing. EC member willing to provide a \$1000 donation to provide to them. We are comfortable in addition to providing 6 free memberships. But we should outline our expectations. Motion: Paula makes a motion to accept the anonymous donation of \$1000 to be provided to the E&O committee to support their activities at their discretion. In addition the EC approves providing six green memberships to be distributed at the discretion of the E&O committee (and names provided to the membership secretary). The expectation is that the E&O committee will use this support to promote the society and society activities via social media. Brian seconded motion. Hannah was concerned that the tweets might be political. Brent suggested that we add the word restricted to society activities. Motion so changed to: The AAS Exec. Comm. accepts an anonymous donation of \$1000 to be provided to the E&O committee to be distributed at their discretion to support activities promoting the society. In addition the EC approves providing six green memberships to be distributed at the discretion of the E&O committee (and names provided to the membership secretary). The expectation is that the E&O committee will use this support to promote the society and society activities via social media. This support is for one year. Motion passed unanimously.

2. See E&O committee report for additional requests to the EC. The EC determined that the \$1000 donation plus free green memberships could be used as the committee saw fit to meet some of their goals.

Platnick Award (Mark)

1. AAS membership secretary asked to organize the production and shipping of the Award plaque to the recipient.
2. AAS treasurer should contact the winner of the award and organize the cash prize.
3. Committee seeks approval to change wording for nomination guidelines to "Nominations must be received from a nominator and not directly from the nominee. Nominators and nominees must be current members of the American Arachnological Society to be eligible. Nominators should have thorough knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments and nominations must address all of the selection criteria listed below. Relevant career interruptions such as illness or caring responsibilities should be outlined clearly."
4. Panel seeks approval of EC to: Amend the nomination guidelines by the inclusion of a new sentence. The panel discussed the relatively small number of applications that have been received from the arachnological community over the first three years of the award. The panel felt that opening the selection criteria to all arachnologists and not just financial members of the American Arachnological Society would generate a broader pool of applicants. However, "all arachnologists" could be construed as opening the award to acarologists, so we recommend that it be opened to financial members of the American Arachnological Society or financial members of the International Society

of Arachnology. The panel seeks the approval of Council to: Approach Will Platnick to assess his views on altering the AAS selection criterion; If Will is amenable, to alter the webpage accordingly.

Andy made motion to adjourn meeting; Brian seconded.

ACTION ITEMS:

Andy Roberts:

- Communicate to Eileen Hebets that the following motion passed the AAS Executive Committee to support activities of the Engagement and Outreach Committee: “The AAS Executive Committee (EC) accepts an anonymous donation of \$1000 to be provided to the Education & Outreach committee to be distributed at their discretion to support activities promoting the society. In addition the EC approves providing six green memberships to be distributed at the discretion of the E&O committee (and names provided to the membership secretary by chair of that committee). The expectation is that the E&O committee will use this support to promote the society and society activities via social media. This support is for one year.
- Resolve tie for President Elect. The EC suggested made that the two candidates (Jason and Anne) can decide who is President Elect and then the other person would be the next President Elect candidate on the next ballot (they would run uncontested on the next ballot. Andy made motion and Paula seconded. Passed unanimously. Jason and Anne will determine who wants to be on the next ballot and who will begin as President Elect in September. The person on the next ballot will run uncontested.
- Andy and small group, including his wife, Kelly, are interested in continuing developing mechanisms for reporting code of conduct and ethics concerns from members.
- Status of Future of Meetings project: Andy joined as small society representative. Discussed thru various forums throughout the year about best practices. Will present these suggestions at a later date. But they suggested maybe adding additional meetings throughout the year.

Linda Rayor:

- Consider discussing following at next EC meeting: Creating a Treasurer-elect position so that there is some overlap between old and new since there is a substantial learning curve. This would require a constitutional change. And also change Treasurer to a longer term (maybe a five year term).

Cara Shillington or Nina Sandlin:

- Meet to coordinate change-over of Treasurer position.
- Have to change our agent in California because that person (that name) is no longer associated w/ society and is likely deceased.
- We may have to add an agent depending on where the meeting will be held for that year (an agent in addition to the primary agent for the society) in order to maintain non-profit status during that annual meeting.
- AAS treasurer should contact the winner of the Platnick award and organize the cash prize

(Jeremy Wilson winner).

- Arrange acceptance of \$1000 donation in support of Education and Outreach Committee from anonymous donor and transfer money to Eileen Hebets (chair of that committee).
- Cara will write article for the next newsletter acknowledging the donation of \$5000 from Don Cameron's estate. And will also acknowledge the generous transfer of royalties from the sale of the Levi & Levi Golden Guide to Spiders and Their Kin to support the AAS. Frances Levi arranged this. Deadline is October 1st. Articles to be sent to Paula Cushing.

Deb Smith:

- Send detailed breakdown of publication costs to Nina Sandlin – this should be a line item detailing cost of page production, cost of shipping, cost of printing, etc. And please adjust for reduced printing costs from increased green memberships.
- Develop a checklist for authors that will alleviate whatever problems exist that slow processing of manuscripts. There is already a pdf called "Checklist of common formatting errors" at <https://www.americanarachnology.org/journal-joa/author-instructions/>. Just revise this and turn it into a checklist that authors must fill out before submission.
- Determine what else is slowing manuscript processing time and fix it.

Paula Cushing:

- Contact Lenny to try to find document or letter we received indicating our original non-profit status as established when AAS was founded.
- Election results are available for viewing to all voters immediately upon the stated end of the election. This allows election results to be communicated prior to the Business Meeting at the annual meeting. To prevent this, the Secretary will either adjust viewing options through ElectionBuddy or will end the voting period on the day of the Business meeting in the future.
- Arrange for 2nd printing of 2nd edition of SNAIM.

Brian Patrick:

- AAS membership secretary asked to organize the production and shipping of the Platnick Award plaque to the recipient (Jeremy Wilson).

Hannah Wood:

- Executive Committee discussed Platnick Committee's concerns about the criterion for nominee and nominator for Platnick award being AAS members. EC pointed out that decisions regarding this award can be entirely up to the committee – not necessary to request approval from Platnick's son or from the EC.
- However, the EC made the following motion to assist the Platnick committee in reassessing the particular criterion that at the time of nomination both nominator and nominee should be members. A motion was made to eliminate this criterion. The majority of the EC agreed that this criterion should be eliminated.
- A further suggestion was made to reduce the amount of the award by the cost of membership so that membership to the AAS would be included as part of the award.

Mark Harvey:

- The EC was supportive of the idea that the winner of the Platnick award be invited to do an early career talk at the following meeting. Mark should communicate with the AAS Host to request that they include an invitation to this award winner to be a keynote or early career speaker.
- The EC was also generally supportive for the Platnick committee to also consider acarology-focused taxonomy work (up to the Platnick committee whether to do so or not).

Daniel Gloor, Peter Michalik, Greta Binford:

- Provide EC with proposal and estimate for development of joint ISA-AAS membership module(s) as well as media aggregator.
- Continue development ideas for meeting registration site that will alleviate burden from hosts – particularly for registration, etc. This will be of particular help for hosts without institutional support for online meeting sites.

Jason Bond:

- The following members may be interested/willing to run for open positions in the future: Daniel Proud, Nadia Ayoub, and Eileen Hebets.
- Submit report by October 15, 2023 about 2022 AAS meeting in Davis, CA. Include names of student winners of presentation awards (contact Linda or Cara to get this information).

3. Treasurer Report

To: AAS Executive Committee

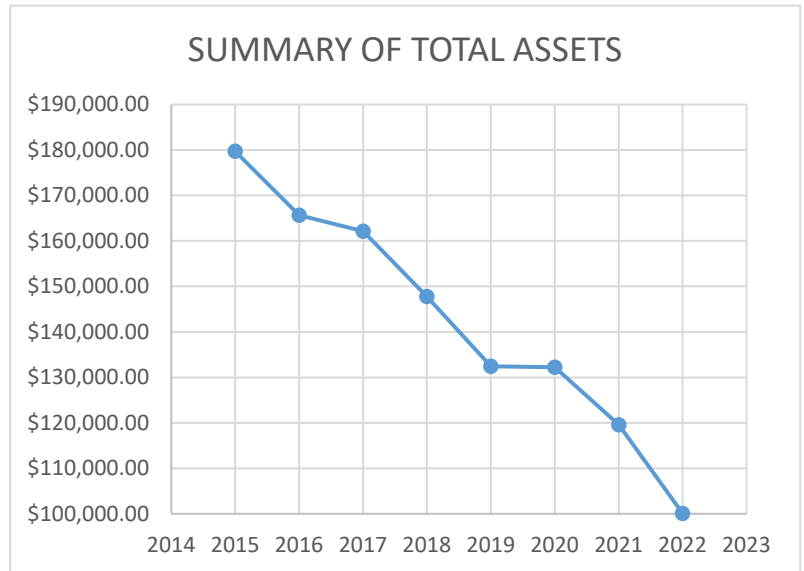
From: Cara Shillington, Treasurer

Date: June 2023

RE: Financial Report for January-December 2022

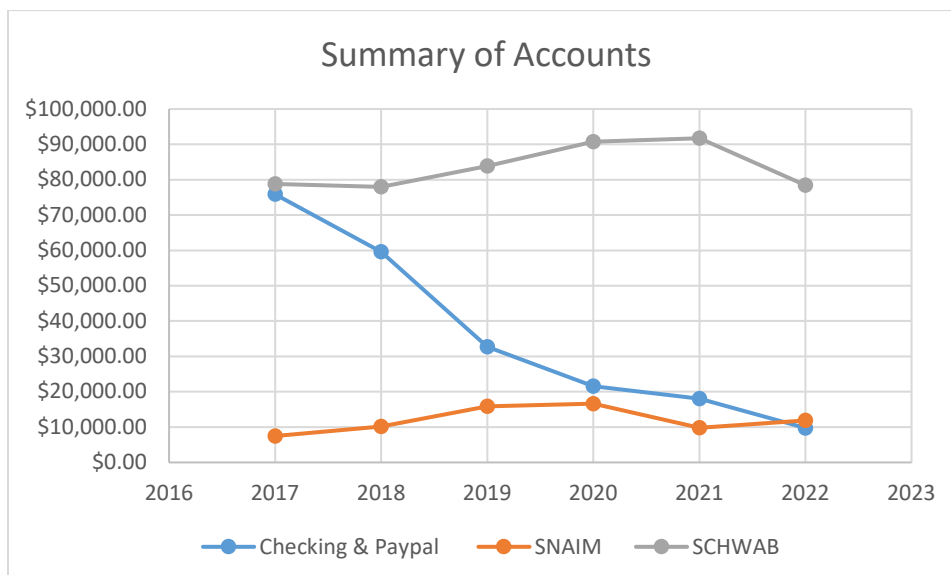
Quarterly Reports and annual financial reports are available on request.

1. Received \$5000 donation from Don Cameron Estate
2. Frances Levi transferred royalties from the Herb Levi Spider Book to AAS. Set up direct transfer from MacMillan to AAS bank; \$549 received in 2022.
3. \$5861 reimbursement from 2019 meeting (Nadia Ayoub)
4. \$5000 donation in support of 2023 meeting (Chris Malloy)
5. Transferred money (\$5,000) from Charles Schwab account to pay society expenses.
6. Total assets continue to decline.



Summary of Individual Accounts

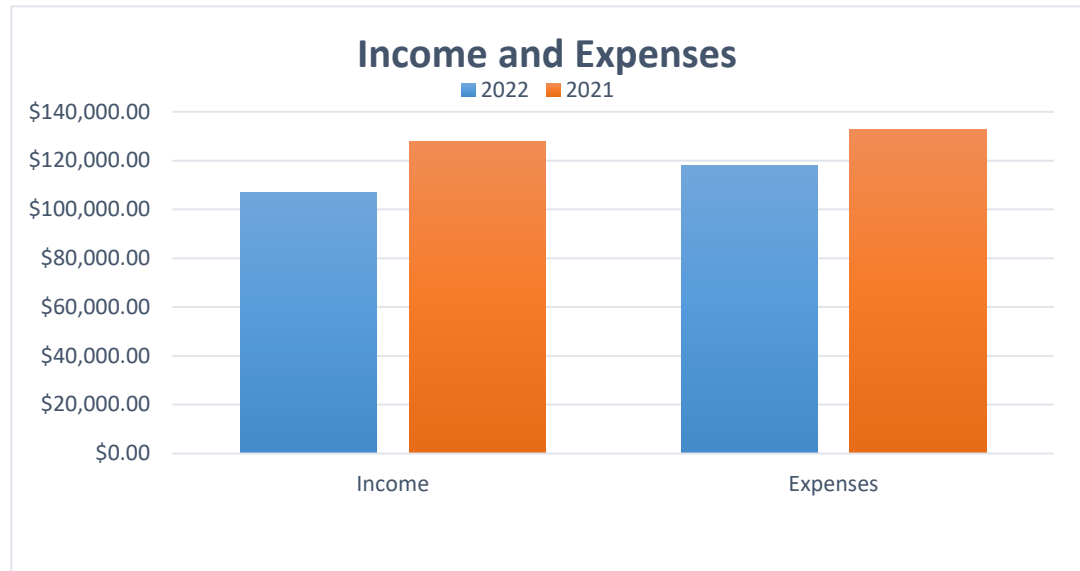
1. SNAIM account contains to gain money. The SNAIM account in the graph does not reflect the money that was transferred to Schwab i.e., an additional \$12,550 in Schwab belongs to the SNAIM account. This is from an original \$15,000 that was transferred. The loss reflects losses due to the stock market.
2. Checking and Paypal probably appear lower than usual due to a late membership drive.
3. Schwab account decreased by ~\$13,000 which includes a \$5,000 transfer to SBW and stock market losses.



3. Treasurer Report

Comparison of Expenses and Income based on Checking and Paypal accounts:

1. Both income and expenses are lower compared to last year and the deficit between the two is ~\$11,000. See additional details about major expenses and income at the end.
2. Some of the decrease in income is likely due to a late membership drive; membership dues increased this year so income for 2022 is (currently) looking a bit more robust.
3. Our expenses continue to be larger than our income and the society as a whole is continuing to lose money. I am cautiously optimistic that some of the changes this year (increased dues, lower journal costs, reduced website costs) will lead to a level of sustainability.



Taxes

1. I switched to online submission for the 2022 federal taxes using Tax990 software. This cost was \$100 for the efile, but we received notification of acceptance of the taxes within a week.
 - i. With the efile, it is clear that some things need to be updated; from now on all AAS awardees must be listed with their award amount and a permanent address. I updated the award form that is required for all awardees to collect this data.
 - ii. It might be helpful to work through the taxes with a tax preparer at some point
2. The California 199 form continues to be completed and sent via regular mail; all other tax documentation is completed via online portals.
3. Changes/updates needed: New CA agent is required.
4. Our status as a non-profit filing in California can be accessed from <https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business>

Type in American Arachnological Society in the query box to view our details and status. This shows that our status is "Active" and we are in "Good" standing.

3. Treasurer Report

The American Arachnological Society Financial Report Summary

31-Dec-22

Total Assets, Year End	\$100,084.07
Savings Bank of Walpole, Main Society Account	\$1,749.97
Bank of America	\$707.39
Savings Bank of Walpole, SNAIM	\$11,895.85
Charles Schwab Account	\$78,439.37
MAJOR SOURCES OF INCOME	
Royalties (Cengage, BioOne, JSTOR, Macmillan)	\$50,186.91
Misc Income (interest both SBW accounts))	\$8.93
Membership	\$19,799.42
Donations	\$11,322.40
Donation - Don Cameron Estate	\$5,000.00
JOA Payments (page charges, open access etc)	\$1,130.00
SNAIM Sales	\$200.00
Meeting Reimbursement	\$5,861.09
Schwab Transfers	\$5,000.00
Baker & Taylor	\$6,698.97
MAJOR EXPENSES	
Allen Press	\$57,371.99
Editor & Webmaster Honoraria	\$6,970.64
Awards	\$27,046.28
World Spider Catalog	\$5,000.00
Website	\$5,478.97
Misc Meeting Expenses	\$4,946.00
Misc Business Expenses (fees, taxes, reimbursements etc)	\$1,649.80

4. Secretary Report

2023 AAS Secretary Report

Submitted by Paula Cushing

- Election Results:
 - 50% of AAS members participated in the election – this is the greatest participation ever.
 - Anne Danielson-Francois and Jason Bond were exactly tied at 109 votes each!
 - Nina Sandlin was elected (uncontested) as the new AAS Treasurer.
 - Thanks to Sarah Stellwagen and Daniel Proud for agreeing to run as the new AAS Director. Sarah won with 65% of the vote.
- PR Report: Rix MG, Wilson JD, Oliver PM. 2023. A new species of Endangered giant trapdoor spider (Mygalomorphae: Idiopidae: *Euoplos*) from the Brigalow Belt of inland Queensland, Australia. *Journal of Arachnology* 51(1): 27-36. This article received excellent and extensive press coverage no thanks to the AAS Secretary. Rix's university promoted this article and it was picked up by 20 or more news outlets including CNN, BBC, The Guardian, CBS, NPR, USA Today, Fox, NBC, The Independent, etc.
- *American Arachnology* newsletter:
 - The newsletter is being produced twice a year – article submission deadlines (April 15 and Oct 15) are posted on the AAS website.
 - We are using the newsletter to promote the annual meeting, report on the annual meeting (but no such report was ever received from the 2022 meeting hosts despite reminders), report on student recipients of awards and grants, and publish various natural history articles.
 - I am also soliciting interviews from retired arachnologists and have published interviews with Jack Brookhart, Norman Horner, and Jerry Rovner thus far. I plan to continue to solicit such interviews.
 - Finally, articles published in the AA are now being picked up via Google Scholar searches!
- *Spiders of North America: an identification manual*: We are finally down to 246 copies of the 2nd edition, 1st printing.
 - We have been making corrections to the manual pointed out by users. Now that we are down to about 200 copies of the 1st printing, I have reached out to the other editors to find out their thoughts about doing a 2nd printing of the 2nd edition. This edition will incorporate corrections and will have family names in the top margin (as the 1st edition did).
 - Despite the initial and early clamor for an electronic edition of SNAIM – which was completed and made available during the pandemic – the e-version, as far as I can tell, has not been a huge seller.

5. Director Report

American Arachnological Society – Director’s Annual Report June 2023.

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

a. Elections.

This year the following positions were open: President-Elect, Treasurer and Jr. Director.

For President-Elect two people agreed to run:

Jason Bond

Anne Danielson-Francois

For Jr. Director two people agreed to run:

Daniel Proud

Sarah Stellwagen

It was challenging to find someone to run for the Treasurer position, but Nina Sandlin agreed to run! She is aware that she is the only candidate running for this position.

For future elections, Directors might want to reach out to Nadia Ayoub and Eileen Hebets for the President-Elect position. Both of them seemed willing to serve, but couldn’t take on this commitment this year, but may be willing in the future.

b. Student travel awards. The second responsibility of the Director is to organize the student travel grants. Sarah Stellwagon generously agreed to serve on the travel grant committee with the two Directors. The application this year was left unchanged from last year with the exception of noting that accommodation would only be reimbursed up to the cost of the conference dorm rooms. Compared to last year, we had more than twice as many students apply (24 this year versus 11 in 2022). Unfortunately, we had far less funding this year (\$4,000 versus \$6,570 in 2022). Of the \$4,000, we started with \$3,000 from Cara Shillington and the last \$1,000 came as a generous donation from Paula Cushing. Because of limited funds and a large applicant pool, the committee decided to try to stretch the funds out to as many applicants as possible.

The travel committee came up with a rubric to determine who would get funded. The rubric awarded points for students who were in the last year of their degree, who were from an underserved country, who were giving an oral presentation, and who did a good job articulating how they would benefit from the meeting. We had two tiers of awards - \$366 for the highest tier, and \$200 for the second tier. This year we awarded 6 applicants in the highest tier, and 7 applicants in the second tier, and we additionally awarded the student representative \$400. In total, we provided partial funding to 14 students.

We suggest fundraising as well as a standardized rubric for future travel awards. We also discussed how to increase diversity of the society through these awards. Future travel award committees might want to consider gathering background information as part of the application in order to use this to promote diversity.

6. Membership Report

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

June 20, 2023

1. Overall membership numbers for 2023 are comparable to 2022.
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 during 2022 with instructions from two different email addresses (membership@americanarachnology.org and brian.patrick@dwu.edu) and a letter sent February 2023. 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 increased back to levels previous to the creation of the new AAS website and profiles used to collect member information.
4. 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.
5. Starting January 2023, the Student category was expanded to include individuals who are Retired. Using the membership database as it exists through the AAS website, one cannot differentiate between “student” and “retired” individuals, so these two categories are reported as a single number in the below table.

Respectfully submitted,



L. Brian Patrick
Membership Secretary

6. Membership Report

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total for calendar year	522	524	494	512	498	482	456	492	478	460	488	551	505	457	N/A
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total*	491	495	476	494	491	471	425	471	463	437	480	530	504	448	458
Total Regular	342	325	317	315	313	283	271	240	255	238	267	293	278	240	207
Total Student/Retired (*2023)	100	97	82	97	90	103	72	135	100	91	110	124	94	83	130
Total Sponsored	15	19	22	28	32	29	28	39	48	46	40	45	60	45	59
Total Life/Gratis	49	51	54	54	56	56	54	57	60	62	63	68	69	64	62
Electronic Regular	na	na	na	49	44	38	53	58	69	60	87	110	109	81	129
Electronic Student	na	na	na	22	22	20	22	49	33	42	45	61	40	36	94
Electronic Life/Gratis	na	na	na	6	7	7	7	7	11	10	10	15	16	19	21
Domestic (USA)	299	312	286	305	309	298	272	280	279	264	311	348	314	291	300
International	192	183	190	189	185	173	153	191	184	173	169	182	190	157	158

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total for calendar year	91	71	63	65	57	54	46	40	35	26	26	23	20	21	N/A
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total*	89	65	62	63	57	51	43	39	35	25	26	23	20	20	20
Total Domestic (USA)	66	43	42	40	35	35	29	26	24	16	16	13	12	11	12
Total International	23	22	21	23	22	16	14	13	11	9	10	10	8	9	8

* indicates total at the time the membership report is produced

AAS Student Representative Report

I am pleased to inform you of the following relevant developments since the 2022 AAS meeting in Davis:

1. The student member Discord server that was previously established has nearly doubled in size since the last report and includes members from over about a dozen countries and four continents (to my knowledge). The server has been an improvement in connectivity in the student community and continues to grow and develop.
2. I have fielded countless emails from current and prospective student members on a variety of topics, such as career advice or finding prospective mentors in specific subdisciplines.
3. I organized a pre-meeting virtual hangout on June 16, 2023 that was lightly attended (~12) but the majority of those attendees were new members that will be traveling to the upcoming meeting in Ithaca alone and would not have known anyone else in attendance.
4. As of the writing of this report, I am coordinating with members of RAEL to have a virtual event immediately following the meeting in Ithaca.

I would like to note that this is my last meeting as the student representative, so I understand that a process will begin to select a new representative. I would like to put forward Jillian Kurovski-Legrís as a candidate for this position. Jillian has been instrumental in running the Discord server (and has been more active there than myself), is prominent on arachno-social media, and has a variety of experiences that would make her a fantastic student representative. She also has shared some ideas with me that I believe will be a great service to the AAS community. She has demonstrated interest and I have encouraged her to apply for the position when it becomes available.

Sincerely,

R. Ryan Jones

Journal of Arachnology – Overview of events

The biggest news: In January 2023 our contacts at Allen Press announced, “the business, assets, and employees of Allen Press have...been acquired by CJK Group and we’ve now become part of their Sheridan print services and KnowledgeWorks Global, Ltd. (KGL) content services divisions. ...aside from a forthcoming change to our email addresses and a necessary change for invoicing, it will be business as usual for the production of your publications.”

The CJK Group announcement is attached.

The invoicing for issue 51(1) seems to follow the Allen Press charges. The company is making changes in procedure gradually. In the upcoming issue, we will have different procedures for authors to make changes to their page proofs, but I haven’t seen the details yet.

Mentioned in report for 2021, implemented in 2022:

Mark Harvey stepped down as subject editor for non-spider systematics and Sarah Boyer from Macalester College 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 – In 2022 we produced our 50th volume using a gold-colored cover with a special “50th” AAS logo. In 2023 we’ll go back to our blue cover but keep the AAS logo.

Continuous publishing – Beginning with volume 50 we began a continuous publication model. Papers are posted on BioOne as soon as the manuscripts are print-ready. 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.

COVERS - We are now including the 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. We do have a complete run of issues that can be scanned.

Noted in last year’s report as needed for the future:

An easy way to PAY page charges.

- >Cara Shillington and Daniel Gloor have arranged for payment via Paypal
- >\$75 pr page for non-members
- >\$10 per page for members

A consistent plan for billing authors for page charges.

- >We are still writing to authors and/or the Membership Secretary to confirm whether member or non-member charges are appropriate. This is tedious and slows down invoicing.
- >I propose we add a question to the manuscript submission process, asking if any of the authors are members of the AAS. Having that information early in the process would be very helpful.

Practical guidance for reviewers.

- >I haven’t drawn up a “best practices” list for reviewers but will do so. This will include a check list of common problems to watch out for.
- >Do the figure legends accurately describe the figure (a surprising number of times, they are not even describing the correct figure)
- >Are there spelling errors in the figures?

8. JOA Report

- >Do figures conform to the guidelines in Instructions for Authors? (Will the figure fit on a printed page? Tall, skinny figures are the biggest problem)
- >Could a figure using color convey information equally well using shading, patterns, or dashed lines?
- >Are abbreviations in figures and tables adequately explained?

Taking care of these items like these early in the review process—rather than waiting until the manuscripts are being prepared for page proofs—would speed up manuscript processing quite a bit.

Journal of Arachnology – Summary of 2022 submissions and finances

How are we doing?

Manuscripts submitted: In 2022 we received 63 manuscripts for review. This fewer than in 2021 (79) and fewer than our norm ~ 95 to 100 papers.

Of these, 31 (49%) were accepted, 18 rejected (29%) and an additional 7 are in revision, 5 in review process, and once indecision making process. If the 7 in review were accepted, the acceptance rate would be 60%.

Our BioOne Impact factor is 1.38, up from the previous ranking of 1.01.

We published a total of 385 pages (417 in 2021, 345 in 2020, 400 in 2019) comprising 1 review article, 24 feature articles, and 11 short communications.

How much is this costing us?

Cost per page was \$135.14, compared to \$127.91 in 2021, \$142.02 in 2020.

Can we afford this on our revenue from BioOne and JStor

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

Our income from BioOne for Volume 50 was \$45,842, plus \$4,697.66 from JStor

Total income from royalties: \$50,539.66

Total expenditures: \$52,297.82

Shortfall: \$ 1,758.16

What are we doing about it?

We have made changes to page charges that took effect in May of 2022; charges for non-members remain at \$75 per printed page, but members will be charged \$10 per printed page. Papers submitted from May 2022 onwards are starting to be published and generating (a little) revenue.

Also required are a more efficient system for billing and a more user-friendly method for payment. As noted above, the online payment of page charges is now active. A small addition to the paper submission site—Are any authors of this manuscript members of the American Arachnological Society (please indicate by name)—will make invoicing simpler and faster.

8. JOA Report

Top 10 papers accessed by BioOne users in 2022

Rank	Article Title	Volume	Hits
	SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN AMBLYPYGIDS, AND A REASSESSMENT OF ARACHNID SOCIAL PATTERNS	Vol.34	60,287
2	An identification key for eggs and egg sacs of spiders of potential agro-economic importance: a feasibility study	Vol. 41	23,512
3	Parasites of spiders: Their impacts on host behavior and ecology	Vol.49	14,420
4	Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) feeding on snakes (Reptilia: Squamata)	Vol.49	5,786
5	Asexual reproduction in a sexual population of the Brazilian yellow scorpion (<i>Tityus serrulatus</i> , Buthidae) as evidence of facultative parthenogenesis	Vol.49	4,003
6	UNDER THE INFLUENCE: WEBS AND BUILDING BEHAVIOR OF PLESIOMETA ARGYRA (ARANEAE, TETRAGNATHIDAE) WHEN PARASITIZED BY HYMENOPEMPECIS ARGYRAPHAGA (HYMENOPTERA, ICHNEUMONIDAE)	Vol. 29	3,342
7	A phylogenetic classification of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae)	Vol.43	3,126
8	Plant eating by spiders	Vol.44	2,787
9	Reflections on the tapetum lucidum and eyeshine in lycosoid spiders	Vol. 41	2,645
10	Spiders feeding on earthworms revisited: consumption of giant earthworms in the tropics	Vol.45	2,639

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

Rank	Institution	Hits	Rank	Country	Hits
	Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP)	521		United States	6,423
2	Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg (WIB6262)	321	2	Brazil	2,278
3	University of Florida	263	3	Germany	1,750
4	University of Winnipeg	250	4	China	1,045
5	Washington University in St Louis	235	5	Canada	957
6	Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro Brasileira (UNILAB)	197	6	Australia	760
7	Loyola University New Orleans	189	7	Mexico	665
8	University of Queensland	185	8	United Kingdom	662
9	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)	179	9	Czech Republic	453
10	Museum national d'Histoire naturelle	166	10	Japan	368

Respectfully,
Deborah Smith
Editor-in-Chief

NEWS RELEASE**CJK Group Acquires Allen Press, Adding a Printing Facility to the Sheridan Family as well as Key Editorial Capabilities to KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd.**

Media Contact: Susan Parente, CJK Group Publications Marketing Manager, susan.parente@cjkgroup.com

BRAINERD, MN – January 9, 2023 – CJK Group, Inc. is pleased to announce that it has completed an agreement to acquire the assets of venerable print and publishing services company Allen Press, located in Lawrence, Kansas. This acquisition is unique for CJK Group in that it will supplement and expand services and capabilities to both the Sheridan print operations in addition to its KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. (KGL) content solutions company.

Allen Press originated in 1935 as a family-owned company serving a local print market and grew to incorporate a wide variety of editorial, production, marketing, and digital services tailored to the needs of independent society and association publishers.

The print facility will be renamed Sheridan Kansas, bringing the number of Sheridan's print locations across the country to a total of ten. Work is produced offset and digitally, with a full complement of finishing equipment; back issue fulfillment, warehousing, and ancillary graphics services also offered. The plant's central US location affords Sheridan a strategic production option for both Midwest and West Coast publishing communities with more efficient mailing and distribution. The addition of this location further broadens Sheridan's job-share abilities and raw material procurement strength.

On the content side, Allen Press's extensive suite of publishing services and technology solutions will be incorporated into the KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. operation, further bolstering KGL's one-stop content proposition, which includes peer review and editorial office management, business consulting, AI-powered language analysis and copyediting, XML composition and proofing, digital and print production, and online hosting. The addition of Allen Press to the KGL portfolio will add marketing services, advertising sales, and association management to the spectrum of specialized services for scholarly publishers.

CEO of CJK Group Chris Kurtzman remarked, "Allen Press has long held a unique and highly respected place in the print and publishing market, offering exceptional front-end capabilities as well as creative and marketing solutions, in addition to high-quality print and distribution. We see this as a perfect fit for both our Sheridan and KGL families. The entrepreneurial customer-centric culture at Allen Press is a mirror reflection of our own, something we look for and place a very high value on when we bring companies such as Allen Press into the fold. We are looking forward to bringing streamlined performance and additional capabilities to both our existing and new customers."

CJK Group, Inc. represents one of the largest printing and publishing services organizations in the country, continuing to grow both organically and through acquisitions. At the core of the CJK Group



strategy is investment in employees, equipment, technologies, and thoughtful acquisitions that mirror the same principles and values that all CJK Group companies possess.

About CJK Group, Inc.

Headquartered in Brainerd, MN, CJK Group, Inc. is an international portfolio of print, publishing service, and technology/information solutions companies.

The Sheridan family of print companies provides a wide array of full-service solutions for books, magazines, journals, catalogs, and commercial print. Sheridan print facilities are located in Brainerd, MN, Brimfield, OH, Chelsea, MI, Grand Rapids, MI, Hanover, NH, Hanover, PA, Lawrence, KS, Madison, WI, Random Lake, WI, and Versailles, KY.

KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. offers content services such as editorial, peer review, management consulting, learning solutions, and online hosting to the journal, educational publishing, and eLearning markets. KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. content service facilities are located in Lawrence, KS and Richmond, VA in the US; Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, and New Delhi in India; and London in the United Kingdom.

Tweddle Group serves the OEM industry with custom support solutions and is headquartered in Clinton Township, MI, with European and Asian headquarters in Italy, Belgium, and China. For more information, visit www.cjkgroup.com

American Arachnological Society - Website Report

June 17, 2023

Website Content Management System Upgrade

The current version of our content management system (CMS) for the AAS website is end-of-life and won't receive any crucial security fixes for known vulnerabilities from the maintainers. In addition, the server-side programming language on which the CMS currently runs is end-of-life too and needs to be upgraded.

The AAS Executive Committee received a quote from Psbrands GmbH outlining the costs for:

- Upgrade the Typo3 core to version 11.5 LTS, including the upgrade of ~20 modules
- Upgrade to PHP 8.2 (the underlying programming language), including the upgrade of the custom website theme templates

If the Society decides to upgrade now, it will be facing the same situation in October 2024, as the long-term supported version Psbrands GmbH is planning to upgrade to will be end-of-life at that point. So, the Society would need to allocate financial resources again for the next Typo3 core upgrade in 2024.

Website updates

- The Google translate widget has been successfully integrated.
- Journal of Arachnology covers and ToCs in PDF format are now available for volume 30 (2002) onwards. The work will continue for earlier volumes.
- The PayPal donation button has been significantly improved. The donation button now opens a single form where donors can select the fund (currently 7 funds) they wish to support.

Planned or ongoing website improvements:

- Offering an online payment option for Journal of Arachnology page charges: a PayPal button for non-members has been implemented. The PayPal button for members will be implemented soon.
- Create a web presence for the English Language Review for Arachnologists Worldwide (ELRAW) service on the AAS website.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel Gloor
AAS Webmaster

10.a. Archivist Report

Archives Division

April 27, 2023

Lenny Vincent
31526 Monterey Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Mr. Vincent:

This letter is to acknowledge that the Smithsonian Institution Archives received one box from the American Arachnological Society on June 22, 2022. These materials consist of **Records**, with dates 1973-2010. When requesting information about this transfer, please refer to accession **23-093**. The materials were rehoused into acid-free folders and placed into one acid-free document box. A finding aid is enclosed for your information.

These records are restricted for fifteen years, beginning with the most recent date of the material (2010), to you and others who receive permission from the American Arachnological Society. The restriction will be lifted at the beginning of calendar year 2026.

Many of the archives holdings are located off-site, and therefore we request advance notice if you wish to consult an accession. Please contact our Reference Team at osiaref@si.edu to retrieve records.

Thank you for your help transferring these records to SIA. If you have any questions, or if there is any other way in which I can be of service, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 633-5923.

Sincerely,

Mitch Toda
Archivist

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Capital Gallery Building Suite 3000
MRC 507 PO Box 37012
Washington DC 20013-7012
202.633.5923 Telephone
202.633.5927 Fax
todam@si.edu E-mail

**American Arachnological Society,
Records,
1973-2010**

Accession 23-093

This accession consists of records that document the activities, history, membership, and publications of the American Arachnological Society (AAS). People represented include Vincent D. Roth, Christopher K. Starr, Robert Ray Jackson, Max Vachon, Robin Leech. B. J. Kaston, Leonard S. Vincent, H. Don Cameron, Paula Elizabeth Cushing, Norman I. Platnik, and Herbert W. Levi. The collection also includes the AAS newsletter, *American Arachnology*. Materials include correspondence, memoranda, articles of incorporation, and newsletters.

Box 1

Articles of Incorporation - State of California, 1973

Vincent D. Roth - Correspondence and notes, 1967, 1974 and undated

Correspondence of Christopher K. Starr to Robert Ray Jackson, Max Vachon and Robin Leech, 1973, 1980, and 2005

B. J. Kaston and Leonard S. Vincent - Correspondence, 1976-1988

H. Don Cameron - Correspondence, 2000-2002

H. Don Cameron comments to Norman I. Platnick regarding nomenclature, 2000

Paula Elizabeth Cushing's early recollection of Herbert W. Levi, undated

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 22, October 1980

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 23 and 24, 1981

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 26, November 1982

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 27 and 28, 1983

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 29 and 30, 1984

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 31 and 32, 1985

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 33 and 34, 1986

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 35 and 36, 1987

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 37 and 38, 1988

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 39 and 40, 1989

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 41 and 42, 1990

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 43 and 44, 1991

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 45 and 46, 1992

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 47 and 48, 1993

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 49 and 50, 1994

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 51 and 52, 1995

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 53 and 54, 1996

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 55 and 56, 1997

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 57 and 58, 1998

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 59 and 60, 1999

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 61, May 2000

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 62 and 63, 2001

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 64 and 65, 2002

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 66 and 67, 2003

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 68 and Supplement, Number 69, 2004

10.b Archivist Report

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 70, 71, and 72, 2005

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 73, Number 74 and Supplement, and Number 75, 2007

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 76 and 77, 2008

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 78 and 79, 2009

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 80, April 2010

2023 Common Names Committee Annual Report

The current members of the common names committee are:

Sarah J. Rose PhD (Chair)
Lecturer
The Ohio State University
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

The committee has been working on revising the rules and a document are hoping to have them 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.

Sarah Rose has worked through the current listing and has made over 60 updates based on taxonomic changes that have occurred. There are still a few issues to be worked out before the new listing will be ready to publish.

The committee is working in conjunction with the Entomological Society of America in order to have consistent usage of common names. Sarah Rose has sent emails to Bugguide and iNaturalist in the hopes of also having consistent use of common names. Bugguide has a link to our 2003 common name

11.a. Common Names Committee Report

listing, but has not responded to the question of updating their site to reflect the approved common names. Sarah Rose is in communication with iNaturalist; once we have the completed updated file we will send them a listing of our common names. They will add our common name to any species in their database that are lacking a common name, if they currently have a common name and it does not match our listing they are unsure of what they will do.

We continue to process common name requests as they are submitted, and have approved two requests in the last year. 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

11.b. DEI Committee Report

DEI committee status report:

Chair: Dr. Mercedes Burns

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

Grad student members: Alix Coonfield, Emma Jochim, Goran Shikak, Iris Bright, Jackie Billotte, Jilian Kurovski, Laura Gatch, Megan Ma, Ryan Jones

Mission: 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.

Activities: Unfortunately, the BIOLeaps proposal submitted by Mercedes Burns and Andy Roberts in 2022 was not funded. However, Mercedes received an NSF CAREER award in 2023, with funds committed to some DEI programs. Mercedes Burns has collaborated with Andy Roberts (AAS president) and a colleague to prepare a Qualtrics survey of 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. All DEI committee members provided input on survey questions in Fall 2022.

All DEI committee members furthermore reviewed and suggested inclusive updates to the AAS Host meeting document in 2022 and 2023. This document is provided to meeting hosts for organization of annual meetings and includes best practices for supporting the diversity of AAS membership. It is found on the AAS website.

The DEI committee has proposed and will run three events at the AAS 2023 meeting: the Lunch of the Future (DEI lunch), the LGBTQ+ breakfast, and Arachnology Storytellers. We will implement sign-in sheets at these events to get a sense of the attendance and general fields/interests represented.

Lastly, the DEI committee supported the creation of the English Language Review for Arachnologists Worldwide, an initiative started to assist arachnologists for whom English is not a primary language with preparing their manuscripts for publication in the Journal of Arachnology. The committee has requested information about ELRAW be added to the AAS website and it should be up by the 2023 meeting. To submit a manuscript for review or to volunteer, please contact elraw.aas@gmail.com.

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Dr. Mercedes Burns (she/her/hers)

Assistant Professor

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

1000 Hilltop Circle

Baltimore, MD 21250

Office: +1 (410) 455-2147

burnslab.umbc.edu

AAS ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Below, we have updated a summary of each subcommittee. We have left most of the requests from last year, as I don't believe the EC had an opportunity to discuss them. All new updates/requests will be in blue and last year's comments and request remain in black.

The following are requests from the 2022 report:

- (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

11.c. E&O Committee Report

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.

(6) We are aware that AAS is not in a strong financial situation at the moment and may be focused on foundational society challenges/concerns. Given this, we are unsure that now is a good time for trying to develop and expand O&A committees and associated work. We request that the EC review the O&A mission statement and each subcommittees vision to see if it aligns with the EC's priorities. If not, we request that the EC respond with how they envision the O&A subcommittees supporting their priorities. We suspect that there may not be a place at the moment for some of our subcommittees and so we may want to re-structure/revise this committee and its leadership, as well as subcommittees following an EC's thorough and thoughtful discussion.

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

Outreach and Education Subcommittee – Karen Cangialosi & Linda Rayor

(i) Brief summary of activities

- Eileen Hebets sought applications 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 was June 17th and then there was 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.
 - ELE was hosted at UC Davis Bohart Museum June 25th 2022 from 1-4pm.

11.c. E&O Committee Report

1. We had 44 student/faculty volunteers
2. 250-300 public participants attended the event

(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:

- Nothing new to report

(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.
- 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.

11.c. E&O Committee Report

- 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.

11.d. HLMFAR Report

June 19, 2023

For 2023, the NLMFAR committee received 11 applications totaling \$20,787 (see table on next page). The committee members Paul Seldon, Sean Walker, and Petra Sierwald evaluated each proposal. Many thanks to Paul and Petra for lending their time, expertise and for answering emails and questions quickly!

The applications came from post-doctoral scholars/fellows, faculty in research positions, and Assistant and Associate professors. There was an application from a PhD student which was not eligible. Applications came from Argentina, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Mexico, and the USA.

The committee made three awards totaling \$4,999.66.

11.d. HLMFAR Report

Name	Institution	Title	Requested Amount	Outcome
Guilherme H. F. Azevedo	San Diego State University	Testing the efficiency of RTA ultraconserved elements probe set in resolving recalcitrant nodes in the two-clawed spiders clade	\$2,040	Not Awarded
Emmanuel Franco Campuzano	Universidad Tecnológica del Valle de Toluca (UTVT)	Agronomic management effect on the spiders and insect communities in avocado orchards from Mexico	\$1,990	Not Awarded
Franco Cargnelutti	Laboratorio de Biología Reproductiva y Evolución, Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal, UNC-CONICET	The challenge of mating in polluted environments: An integrated approach in a spider model	\$1,999.66	Not Awarded
Angela Chuang	University of Florida	Estimating the range expansion and impacts of jorō spiders on native orbweavers	\$2,000	Awarded
Rafael Fonseca-Ferreira	Universidade Estadual Paulista, Instituto de Biociências, Departamento de Biodiversidade, Laboratório de Aracnologia	Phylogenomics analysis of Idiops Perty, 1833 and Idiopinae Simon, 1889, based in Ultraconserved Elements (UCA): a sample update	\$1,960	Not Awarded
Matías Andrés Izquierdo	Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal (IDEA-UNC-CONICET), Laboratorio de Biología Reproductiva y Evolución. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Físicas y Naturales. Universidad Nacional de Córdoba.	A comparative study of the copulatory behavior in Ninetinae pholcid spiders (Araneae, Pholcidae)	\$2,000	Not Awarded
Jithin Johnson (PhD Student)	Dept. of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara	Pseudoscorpions of the Sky Islands of the Western Ghats of India and Sri Lanka	\$2,000	Not Awarded
Bilal Saeed Khan	Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (38000) Pakistan.	Improvement and addition of laboratory equipment's to facilitate the preliminary study of spiders and outreach activities.	\$1,799	Not Awarded
Marc A. Milne	University of Indianapolis	100 years on: Replicating Bishop and Crosby's eastern US spider collection trip	\$1,000	Awarded
Mariela Oviedo Diego	Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal	Rub or Sting To Match?: Functional Morphology and Possible Constraints Between Caudal and Venom Glands In Bothriurid Scorpion	\$1,998	Awarded
Pompozzi Gabriel	Instituto de Investigaciones en Zonas Áridas (IADIZA-CONICET), Mendoza, Argentina	Eating ants for dinner: exploring the potential of a myrmecophagous spider for biological control of leaf-cutting ants.	\$2,000	Not Awarded

**American Arachnological Society
Norman Platnick Award 2023**

The Selection Panel for the Norman Platnick Award met on 3 June 2023 (Australian Western Standard Time) to consider the four applications received by the closing date:

- Dr He Zhang
- Dr Pradeep Sankaran
- Dr Miguel Medrano
- 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).

Eligibility:

All four nominees and the nominators of Dr Zhang, Dr Sankaran, Dr Medrano and Dr Wilson are current members of the American Arachnological Society. Dr Zhang was self-nominated.

Discussion:

The Panel then discussed the applicants:

Dr He Zhang: Dr Zhang is only one year post-PhD and yet has made a significant taxonomic contributions to Arachnology through the description of 100 new species of huntsman spiders, including 99 in a single publication. This comprehensive revision is a major under-taking and the panel was impressed by her research profile.

Dr Pradeep Sankaran: Dr Sankaran has made numerous taxonomic contributions to Arachnology, with a total of 56 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 Miguel Medrano: Dr Medrano's PhD was conferred in 2020, and he has published 15 papers and two book chapters, including nine as first author, with numerous new species. Several of these publications represent taxonomic treatments of individual genera. He is publishing high-quality research on harvestmen.

Dr Jeremy Wilson: Dr Wilson's PhD was conferred in 2019. He has published 22 papers, including 11 as first author, which range from descriptive taxonomic papers to multi-gene phylogenies. His taxonomic outputs include the description of numerous new species and a new genus, all of which are meticulously documented with numerous high-quality images. Dr Wilson has made an impressive start to his career and was unanimously regarded as the highest ranked applicant for the Award.

Recommendation:

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

Award presentation:

The Panel Chair is unable to attend the AAS Banquet and is therefore unable to participate in the award presentation. However, Dr Brent Opell is planning to be in attendance and has offered to

11.e. Platnick Award Committee Report

make the Award. If Dr Opell is unable to attend, Dr Hannah Wood will be available to make the Award.

Award:

After the Award is announced, we request the following:

- The AAS Membership Secretary to organize the production and shipping of the plaque to the recipient.
- The AAS Treasurer to contact the winner and organize the cash prize.

Awardee, keynote address:

The Panel recommends that each winner of the Award be invited to give a keynote address at the AAS meeting in the year after the Award. This will help to raise the profile of the Award and to help promote the career of an early-career researcher.

Nomination guidelines:

An application was received this year directly from the nominee, rather than from a nominator. The current wording implies that it should be received from a nominator but is not particularly explicit. The Panel seeks approval to change the wording as follows (highlighted in yellow):

Nominations must be received from a nominator and not directly from the nominee.

Nominators and nominees must be current members of the American Arachnological Society to be eligible. Nominators should have thorough knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments and nominations must address all of the selection criteria listed below. Relevant career interruptions such as illness or caring responsibilities should be outlined clearly.

The panel seeks the approval of Council to:

- Amend the nomination guidelines by the inclusion of a new sentence.

Eligibility:

The panel discussed the relatively small number of applications that have been received from the arachnological community over the first three years of the award. The panel felt that opening the selection criteria to all arachnologists and not just financial members of the American Arachnological Society would generate a broader pool of applicants. However, "all arachnologists" could be construed as opening the award to acarologists, so we recommend that it be opened to financial members of the American Arachnological Society or financial members of the International Society of Arachnology.

The panel seeks the approval of Council to:

- Approach Will Platnick to assess his views on altering the AAS selection criterion.
- If Will is amenable, to alter the webpage accordingly.

Respectfully submitted

Dr Mark Harvey (Chair)
Dr Brent Opell
Dr Cristina Rheims
Dr Hannah Wood
Dr Xin Xu

2023 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, 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 this year consists of Marc Milne and Dan Proud (the subcommittee generally consists of three members, but one member recently retired and requested to be relieved of their duties—I was unable to solicit a replacement in time for reviewing proposals).

Total number of submitted proposals:	18*
• Arachnological Research Fund (ARF) Proposals:	10** (55.6%)
• Vincent Roth Fund (VRF) Proposals:	8** (44.4%)
<p>• NOTES: * The number of proposals has dropped from 46 in 2020, 36 in 2021, and 23 in 2022. ** There were originally 14 ARF applications (and only 4 VRF applications), but 4 were transferred to VRF.</p>	

Demographics:

- Total number of applicants: 18
- Applicants by educational level:
 - PhD: 12 (66.7%)
 - MS: 3 (16.7%)
 - Undergrad: 3 (16.7%)
- Nationality of applicants:
 - United States: 10 (55.6%)
 - Other: 8 (44.4%)
 - Argentina (1)
 - Brazil (2)
 - India (3)
 - Lithuania (1)
 - Pakistan (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: \$8,200 (\$8,196.63)
 - VRF: \$6,800
 - **NOTE:** All but one proposal was funded.
- Total funding requested: \$17,405.63
 - ARF: \$9,521.63
 - VRF: \$7,884.00
- Total Awarded ($n = 10$), Arachnological Research Fund: **\$8,196.63**
 - **Bradley Allendorfer**, MS student, Eastern Michigan University. \$900. *Title:* Daily activity and site selection of Texas brown tarantulas (*Aphonopelma hentzi*) providing maternal care
 - **Tyler Brown**, PhD student, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. \$771.63. *Title:* Phenology of Mid-Atlantic leiobunine Opiliones
 - **Patrick Casto**, PhD student, Bowling Green State University. \$1000. *Title:* Analysis of cuticular compounds in the family Phrynidae (Arachnida: Amblypygi): implications for communication and navigation
 - **Jorjia Elmore**, UG student, University of South Alabama. \$1000. *Title:* An exploration into sex-based venom variation in the Texas brown tarantula (*Aphonopelma hentzi*)
 - **Carolina Guerra**, PhD student, Centro de Recursos Naturales Renovables de la Zona Semiárida (CONICET-UNS), ARGENTINA. \$1000. *Title:* Testing the effects of anthropization on *Allocosa alticeps*, a coastal wolf spider with atypical sexual strategies
 - **Asha Joy**, PhD student, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, INDIA. \$500. *Title:* Diversity and ecology of spiders associated with human habitations in the Western Ghats region of Kerala, India
 - **Nancy Lo Man Hung**, PhD student, Universidade de Sao Paulo, BRAZIL. \$500. *Title:* Breaking unconscious gender biases: lessons from 26 years of Latin Arachnology Congresses
 - **Gia Ramos**, UG student, Pennsylvania State University. \$1000. *Title:* Development of DIPA-CRISPR for reverse genetics studies in spiders
 - **Madison Rittinger**, PhD student, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. \$1000. *Title:* Could smaller brains be better? The association between prey capture efficiency and relative brain size
 - **Muhammad Shahzad**, MS student, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Punjab, PAKISTAN. \$525. *Title:* Collection and population dynamics of some predatory spiders of cotton crop from district Faisalabad, Pakistan

- Total Awarded ($n = 7$), Vincent Roth Fund: **\$6,800.00**
 - **Ryan Bacon**, PhD student, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. \$1000. *Title: UNAM collaboration for identification and description of tropical *Leiobunum**
 - **Nicolas Cazzaniga**, PhD student, City University of New York & American Museum of Natural History. \$1000. *Title: Blind to diversity: uncovering phylogeographic and climatic relationships in troglobite evolution*
 - **Fabián García Oviedo**, PhD student, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Universidade Federal do Pará, BRAZIL. \$1000. *Title: The identity of *Falconina gracilis* (Keyserling, 1891) (Araneae: Corinnidae: Corinninae): is there a hidden cryptic diversity in this species?*
 - **Tobias Hays**, MS student, San Diego State University. \$800. *Title: Systematics of the *Aliatypus erebus* group (Mygalomorphae, F. Antrodiaetidae)*
 - **Emma Jochim**, PhD student, University of California, Davis. \$1000. *Title: Reevaluation of species boundaries in coastal dune trapdoor spider *Aptostichus simus* (Euctenizidae)*
 - **Milda Riepšaitė**, PhD student, Vilnius University, LITHUANIA. \$1000. *Title: Improving knowledge gaps in Lithuania's spider diversity and distribution through focused sampling*
 - **Kongarampilly Shilpa**, PhD student, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, INDIA. \$1000. *Title: Molecular taxonomy and phylogeny of the genus *Araneus* Clerck, 1757 and *Neoscona* Simon, 1864 (Araneae: Araneidae) in Western Ghats, India*

Respectfully submitted,

Brent E. Hendrixson
Chair, AAS Student Research Grants Committee

MY WORK ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Jerry Rovner

May 2023

Requests for spider identification are the most common inquiries, constituting about 70% of the questions that I receive. In answering these, I usually include a link to a very good photo from BugGuide or another online source and, when possible, a link to reading material about the species (or at least about the family to which the species belongs). Being based only on photos, my IDs are a service for the public, not researchers. Relatively few questions about arachnids other than spiders tend to be submitted.

In addition to diverse questions about various aspects of spider biology, I receive numerous questions about particular categories of spider-human interactions. I deal with inquiries about “spider bites” by discussing the range of possible causes of skin wounds, along with providing links to relevant web pages. Questions about controlling spiders in the home constitute another category. Interestingly, people often want to know how to release a spider rather than kill it. A positive view of spiders also is evident when I am asked if long-observed orbweavers should be brought inside before the onset of winter. Tarantula owners sometimes seek advice through our website. I also have responded to requests from authors for a review of the accuracy of their manuscripts for magazine articles, blogs, and children’s books.

Over the years, my work load has been reasonable. For example, during 2022 a total of 169 questions were submitted, some of these having been sent as groups of questions within single emails.

You can see examples of how I have answered different kinds of questions by viewing my poster from the 2014 AAS meeting (included with this report).

ANSWERING ARACHNO-QUESTIONS

a service provided by AAS

These examples show how questions are answered.

All have been edited for brevity.

Photos submitted by questioners are not saved.

Those shown here resemble the originals and were obtained from online sources.

Arachnid identification by AAS is a service for the public, not for scientists.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Ken Prestwich

developed AAS website, was first webmaster, put all *Journal of Arachnology* issues online.



Jan Weaver

redesigned website and is previous webmaster.



Jon Reiskind

filled in for Jerry Rovner (answer person) when Rovner was abroad.



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – WITH A GOOD PHOTO

Q: Can you please identify this spider? I can't seem to find anything matching it.

A: It's a nursery web spider (*Pisaurina mira*; family Pisauridae). You can read about it at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pisaurina_mira

If you Google its name, you can find additional information and a couple of videos.

You can learn more about the family to which it belongs at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/fishing/pisaurid.htm>



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST → BAD NEWS FOR A PROJECT

Q: Can you provide a name for the wolf spider shown in the five attached examples, all captured in Bond co IL in a short-grass habitat? It is being used in a project by my undergraduate students.

A: Unfortunately there are two *Schizocosa* species with similar patterns and overlapping size ranges in IL. They can be separated based on carapace markings: (1) median light band in *S. avida* ends at the posterior pair of eyes (a thin line runs between the eyes), whereas in *S. mccooki* it remains wide as it passes forward beyond the posterior pair of eyes. (2) submarginal light band is narrow in *S. avida*, wide in *S. mccooki*.

Thus, as to your five examples, 1 and 4 are *S. mccooki*; 2, 3, and 5 are *S. avida*.

PROFESSOR'S RESPONSE TO THE ANSWER: For the poster title the students will use "Schizocosa spp." and within the poster will state that the study involved *S. avida* and *S. mccooki*.



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – WITH A POOR PHOTO

Q: I can't ID this spider with the Internet pictures I found. Do you know what it could be? Also, I couldn't find anything that explained the white dot on the head, but maybe that is a disturbance in the picture.

A: It is a wolf spider (family Lycosidae), but it is too far away for a species identification.

The white dot is a reflection from an eye. In wolf spiders, six of the eight eyes have a reflective

layer (tapetum) behind the retina to improve night vision, as found in many nocturnal animals. This makes it easy to find wolf spiders at night if you wear a headlamp.

You can read about wolf spiders at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/wolf/wolf.htm>



SPIDER + INSECT IDENTIFICATION REQUEST

Q: I got a shot of this encounter in Louisiana and would enjoy knowing both species.

A: It is a female whitebanded crab spider (*Misumenoides formosipes*; family Thomisidae) feeding on a painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*; family Nymphalidae).

This is one of the crab spider species that can slowly change color (white ⇔ yellow) to match the flowers on which they wait for prey. You can read about this and other crab spiders at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/crab/crab.htm>



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – A SPECIES NEW TO NORTH AMERICA

Q: I have not been able to identify this spider that is all over my pool cage in Florida.

A: It is a colonial tentweb orbweaver (*Cyrtophora citricola*; family Araneidae).

You can read about this invasive species, which was first seen in the U.S. in 2000 in your state, in an excellent article by G.B. Edwards:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/SPIDERS/Cyrtophora_citricola.htm

CORRECTING INTERNET MISINFORMATION

Quote and photo from “THE BEST OF SICILY” website:



“Zelotes messinai, the Sicilian Tarantula has a leg span of about five inches.”

Q: I’m writing a book on Norman Sicily and would like to include a photo of a Sicilian tarantula with a story about the Norman army camping on a hill infested with them, causing the men to abandon the camp. Based on “THE BEST OF SICILY,” the photo I want is of *Zelotes messinai*.

A: "THE BEST OF SICILY" is wrong. *Zelotes messinai* is a tiny spider (body length = ¼ inch). The earliest use of the name "tarantula" was for a large wolf spider with an undeserved bad reputation. (Google "tarantism.") It was probably this species, *Lycosa tarantula*, that caused the camp's abandonment. You can find a photo of it at the following link:

http://www.uam.es/personal_pdi/psicologia/spiderjc/

Ask the arachnologist, Dr. Joaquín Ortega Escobar, for permission to use it.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BEHAVIOR

Q: Today I saw hundreds of spiders on cars in a parking lot. I watched some "fly" through the air with their silk caught in the breeze.

What surprised me was how big they were--about the size of a jumping spider--much larger than what I guessed a newly hatched spider to be. Were these newly hatched, or could there be another reason there were so many?

Ballooning behavior is not limited to spiderlings that have recently left the egg sac. Given ideal weather conditions in an area, hundreds of larger juveniles--even adults--of some species will use this means of dispersal.

Indeed, the relatively large size of some silk-borne spiders is remarkable. In the genus *Stegodyphus*, ballooning can involve adults measuring up to over ½ inch in body length and weighing over 100 mg. See the following article to learn more about this behavior

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballooning_%28spider%29

INFORMATION REQUEST INVOLVING BEHAVIOR OF “A SPIDER”

Q: A friend of mine said she saw a spider in Pittsburgh, PA that had decorated itself with moss. Are there species of spiders that are known to do such a thing?

A: There are no spiders that decorate their bodies with moss. But there are some small insects that do so: lacewing larvae (order Neuroptera), which attach debris of all sorts. Because it's hard to see how many legs are present in this situation, your friend may have mistaken such an

insect for a spider. Take a look at the photo at the following link to see what I mean:

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/11659>

EMAIL RESPONSE TO THE ANSWER:

**Yes, I showed the picture of the lacewing larva to my friend, and she said that it was a match!
Thank you for taking the time to clear this up.**

INFORMATION REQUEST FROM AN ARACHNOPHOBE

Q: I just abandoned my car and walked home in the dark because there was a big spider on the inside of my windshield. I know that spiders are an important part of the environment, and I don't want to hurt them. Is there any natural deterrent that I can put in my car? I'm scared that it's going to happen again while I'm driving and that I will have an accident.

**A: The following link is to a page describing what are claimed to be natural spider repellents:
http://www.ehow.com/way_5410696_homemade-spider-repellent.html**

But even if any actually work, there's no guarantee that a spider will not briefly enter your car.

It's important to know that, of the several thousand spider species in North America, big spiders are not among those few spiders that are dangerous.

This video of a very large spider crawling on a hand shows that such spiders do not try to bite:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IXZFqUbFoc>

(If you squeezed it to make it bite, the typical result would be no worse than a bee sting.)

Remember this: our big spiders are not dangerous, but walking alone in the dark is!



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – AN ARACHNID OTHER THAN A SPIDER

Q: Can you please tell me what type of spider this is? It was found in Apache Junction, AZ. Any information would be greatly appreciated, as I cannot seem to find anything online.

12.a.2. Arachnid Questions Report

A: It is not actually a spider, but is another kind of arachnid called a tailless whipscorpion (order Amblypygi). You can read about these non-venomous arachnids at

[http://www.oaklandzoo.org/Tailless Whip Scorpion.php](http://www.oaklandzoo.org/Tailless_Whip_Scorpion.php)

In the U. S., they are limited to some of the southernmost states, such as yours.

You can watch a video about the capture and handling of a large one in a tropical rainforest, showing that they are not dangerous--except that they can pinch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awtMPTI7Cks>