



President's Message

I was thrilled to be at the annual Fall Scientific Paper Session all day Saturday, November 9th, where I saw many of our members visiting or helping. The leading purpose of this society is and always has been to promote scientific study and research. We provide opportunities for our members to do science and promote the sciences through public lectures, field trips, and outreach programs. I believe that our greatest contribution to the advancement of science is in nurturing young scientists and encourage them to continue their careers in the sciences.

The Fall Scientific Paper Session is our flagship program in this area. This was the 46th consecutive year that we have held this event. In this we provide a low-cost opportunity for students and other scientists to present their research in a friendly and appreciative environment. For many students, this is their first time presenting a poster or oral report on their research. Next time they do it, as I expect most will do so at a regional or national scientific conference in their field, it should be easy, since they have already done it once with us.



Best wishes for an active and happy 2020!

Michael Grenier,
President RAS

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Partnering with the New York State Museum

As noted in the last issue, we held an RAS-sponsored educational program for children featuring Dr. Lisa Amati, the New York State paleontologist on October 4. It was advertised in free listings in all local papers and event websites. Fourteen families registered with twenty children.



Dr. Amati provided a short age-appropriate presentation, after which the children were given boxes filled with fossils to apply their knowledge in identifying them and answering questions about the animals. Everyone enjoyed the program.



Paper Session Synopsis

Despite the early onset of winter, we saw an excellent turnout of academy members as well as students and faculty from 17 colleges and universities across central and western NYS for our Scientific Paper Session on November 9 at Monroe Community College.

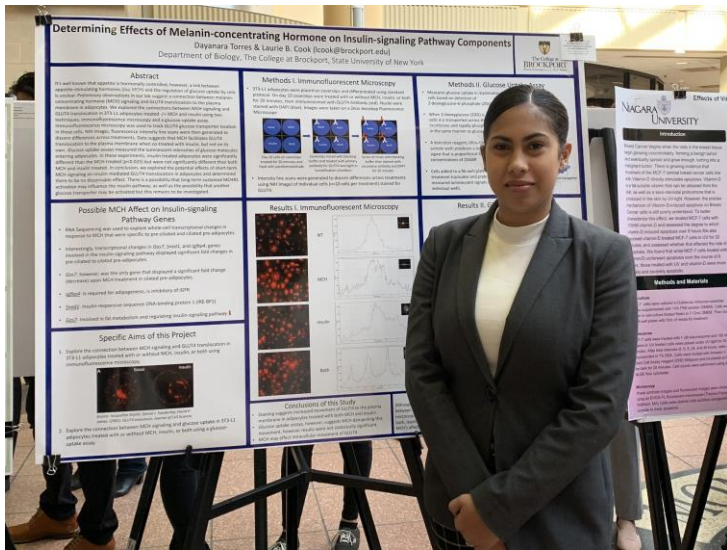
The 105 poster presentations and 37 oral reports kept attendees engaged discussing their research. Productive interaction is a goal of the event and we can be proud to continue a program envisioned many years ago by its founders, professors Larry King and Melvin Wentland!

The Larry King Memorial Lecture was presented by Paleontological Research Institution Director Dr. Warren Allmon. He discussed the use of paleontological techniques to aid in understanding the environmental changes that are occurring today, of which climate change is only one aspect. Another is water use. For example, before the 20th Century the Colorado River delta in the Gulf of California was a rich green land with teeming life in the offshore waters. Diverting water flow to make gardens in the deserts of the south-west results in no water reaching the gulf and the delta becoming a desert. Paleontological techniques are being used to establish accurate baselines of pre-Columbian shellfish populations in the Colorado river delta and to determine the needed environmental engineering efforts to restore the Colorado river flow to the Gulf of California. We will cover more of Dr. Allmon's ideas in future issues

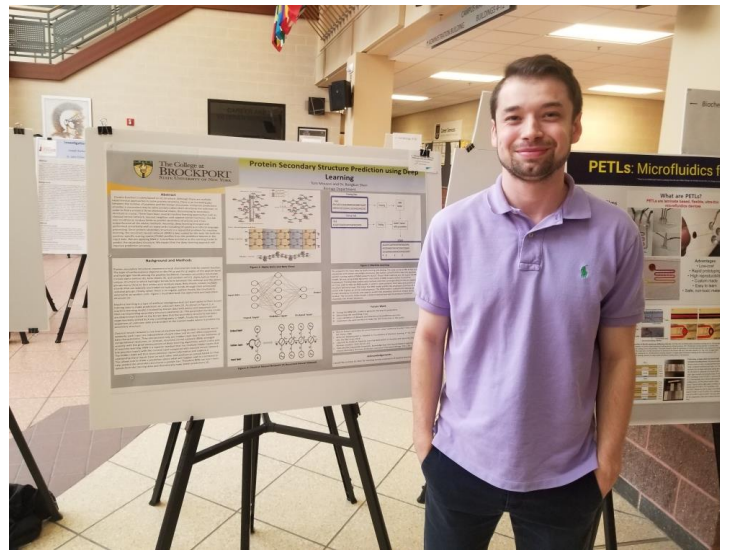


Colorado River Delta seen from space, 2004. Wikipedia

* * *



Dayanara Torres, SUNY Brockport



Tom Mouso, SUNY Brockport

Above are just 2 of 105 poster presenters at our annual Paper Session. Please note that the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Research Grant Awards will be announced in early January as well as in the February 2020 RAS Bulletin.

At Left: Determining Effects of Melanin-Concentrating Hormone on Insulin-Signaling Pathway Components. Dayanara Torres and Laurie B. Cook, Ph.D., Department of Biology, The College at Brockport, State University of New York.

At Right: Protein Secondary Structure Prediction Using Deep Learning. Tom Mouso and Rongkun Shen, Ph.D., Department of Biology, The College at Brockport, State University of New York, Brockport.

Congratulations to ALL presenters!

2020 Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.

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R.A.S. dues are a prerequisite for section membership

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Life (Individual only)	\$200.00	*****	\$300.00	\$40.00	*****	*****	
Gift (Thank you!) Fill in amount ⇒							
Check box(es) if you are interested in volunteering ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒							

Events for December 2019

For updates to events, check the Academy website, <http://www.rasny.org>, and Section websites.

NOT MEETING IN DECEMBER:

Mineral Section
RAS Board of Directors
Herbarium workshop
Life Sciences Field Trip

3 Tue: FOSSIL SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall. Annual Show-n-Tell and pizza party. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite finds from this year or years past. Contact: Dan Krisher, (585) 698-3147 or DLKFossil@gmail.com.

6 Fri ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Strassenburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave, Rochester. Do not go to RIT. *All RAS members are invited.* Please bring a dish to share. Annual holiday party, Steve Fentress's awesome planetarium show, and Outstanding Astronomer Award. The video "Apollo 11" will be shown in the back theater. For more information, contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042.

8 Sun: ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or later. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14, Ionia NY 14475. Sledding, weather permitting. For weather related cancellations or changes contact Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042 or go to: www.rocheasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

11 Wed: ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. UR, Bausch & Lomb Hall, 4th floor Chart Room. All ASRAS members welcome. Contact: Mark Minarich (585) 257-6042.

21 Sat: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEMBERS OBSERVING

7:00 p.m.-? Weather permitting. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042.

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ONGOING EVENTS EVERY MONTH

STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY

ASRAS will operate the telescope at Strassenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights.

ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

ASRAS also hosts public outdoor star parties once a month on Fridays, either at Mendon Ponds Park or Northampton Park near Brockport. Check on prior Wednesday at ASRAS Facebook page, and www.rocheasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

EARLY JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

3 Fri ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

For details see: www.rocheasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

12 Sun WINTERFEST

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mendon Ponds Park. Join the community at the County's Annual Winterfest at Mendon Ponds Park. Enjoy hiking, racing, geocaching, ride a wagon, watch sled dogs run, meet wild critters, a patrol dog and horse, plus much more! See: <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/parks-winterfest>. Don't forget, we'd like your help at the Astronomy, Fossil, and Mineral booths.

Winter Solstice

Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 11:19 pm in Rochester. The shortest day of the year. This day is 6 hours, 24 minutes shorter than on June Solstice.

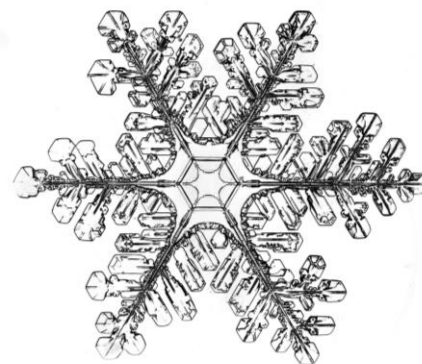


Photo Credit: Nick Lamendola, ASRAS

Don't forget to **Renew your RAS Membership for 2020!**
Form on Page 2.

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P.O. Box 92642
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Notify whallah3@naz.edu.

A returned newsletter costs us 59¢

Please help stop this waste.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY - The Rochester Academy of Science, Inc. is an organization that has been promoting interest in the natural sciences since 1881, with special focus on the western New York state region. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in science. Dues are minimal for the Academy and are listed in the membership application online. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings. We are recognized as a 501(c) 3 organization.

For information, contact President Michael Grenier at (585) 671-8738 or by e-mail: pres@rasny.org.

The Academy Internet website is

<http://www.rasny.org>

Or see us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAcademyofScience>.

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