



## President's Message

Thank you for your active participation during 2016! Whether you are an elected leader or a behind-the-scenes worker, your contributions to the Section(s) and Academy are significant and appreciated. Your input helps create learning and teaching opportunities at section meetings, workshops, field trips, and the Academy's Spring Lecture and Fall Scientific Paper Session. These occasions fulfill our quest for knowledge, allow us to share our interests, and make friends. Your zest for teaching the public and engaging them in scientific activities is also noteworthy. This includes taking part in community events at Mendon Ponds Park, Science Exploration Days, the state science teachers' conference, Strassenburgh Planetarium telescope observations, RMSC Science Days, quarry open houses, and public star parties.

Best wishes for a productive and happy 2017!

Jutta Siefert Dudley,  
President RAS

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## RAS Board of Directors Nominations Wanted

Each year the Academy elects officers and directors at the Spring Meeting to the Board of

Directors to oversee the operations of the Academy. We are looking for members who will participate in the monthly Board meetings and help guide Section and Academy activities. The following positions have no candidates:

**Membership chair:** Provides information about the academy at public events that we participate in. Develops strategies to find and keep members. Helps the Treasurer maintain an updated membership list. Participates in BOD meetings and Academy events. Elected for one year.

**Director:** Participates in BOD meetings and Academy events. Elected for a 3-year term.

A slate is presented at the January 18, 2017 BOD meeting by the Nominations Committee. If you are interested in serving in one of the open positions indicated above, contact Nominations Chair Larry Hirsch (lph710@yahoo.com) **before December ends** so the nominations committee can consider your request.

Positions held by officers and directors at the end of their terms are contestable and will be listed in the next Bulletin. For those positions, Academy by-laws allow a member with a petition signed by ten other members, to be placed on the ballot. Secretary

Helen Haller must receive this petition, along with a brief sketch of the candidate's qualifications, by **February 1, 2017**.

Members will receive ballots in the RAS Bulletin a month prior to the annual General Meeting when ballots are tabulated and the results are announced.

## PAPER SESSION SYNOPSIS

We had a great turnout of students, faculty, academy members and others from across western NYS for our 43rd Scientific Paper Session on November 12. We are indebted to our hosts from the School of Natural and Social Sciences at Roberts Wesleyan College. Special thanks go to Dr. Emily Smithers who orchestrated the many tasks needed to pull off the successful program.

Attendees were actively engaged in discussions over research projects enthusiastically shared by the presenters. This productive



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interaction is the goal of the Scientific Paper Session! We can be proud we are continuing a program first envisioned many years ago by professors Melvin Wentland and Larry King.

The Larry King Memorial Lecture was presented by Cornell University Ph.D. candidate Jacob Berv on *Surviving the Mass Extinction: The Amazing Story of Bird Recovery and Radiation after the End-Cretaceous Catastrophe*. His cutting-edge research is enabling remarkable insights into the evolution of modern birds!

Ornithologist Jacob Berv



*Happy Winter Solstice!  
Best Wishes for the New Year!*



# 2017 Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.

**Membership Form**

Mail to:  
**R.A.S. c/o**  
**William L. Hallahan**  
**6658 North Avon Rd.**  
**Honeoye Falls, NY 14472**

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 [ ] Renewal

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For your convenience, please pay your dues to the R.A.S. and its sections with a single check. **Make check payable to: Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.**  
 CIRCLE the amount you are paying for an Academy category (shaded column) and for the Section(s) in which you wish membership.

<b>Membership Categories</b> <i>R.A.S. dues are a prerequisite for section membership</i>	Rochester Academy of Science	Anthropology Section	Astronomy Section	Life Sciences Section	Fossil Section	Mineral Section	<b>Total</b>
<b>Member</b> (Individual over age 18)	<b>\$10.00</b>	\$2.00	\$17.00	\$2.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	
<b>Family</b> (Including students to age 18)	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$3.00	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	
<b>Student</b> (age 18 to full-time undergrad.)	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.00	
<b>Supporting</b> (Individual or family)	\$20.00	*****	\$30.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	
<b>Patron</b> (Individual or family)	\$30.00	*****	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	
<b>Life</b> (Individual only)	\$200.00	*****	\$300.00	\$40.00	*****	*****	
<b>Gift (Thank you!)</b> Fill in amount ⇨							
Check box(es) if you are interested in volunteering ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨							

# Events for December, 2017

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

## **RAS BOARD MEETING**

There is no RAS board meeting for the month of December.

## **MINERAL MEETING**

There is no meeting in December.

## **ASTRONOMY SECTION**

There is no scheduled Farash Center Open House, no scheduled Start Party and no scheduled Equipment Training in December.

## **Fri 2 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING AND GALA HOLIDAY PARTY**

7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Strasenburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave, Rochester. Do not go to RIT. Annual holiday party, planetarium show, and Outstanding Astronomer Award. Please bring a dish to pass. For more information, contact Joel Schmid at (585) 533-2097.

## **Mon 5 ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING**

7 p.m. University of Rochester, Bausch & Lomb Hall, 4th floor, Chart Room. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097

## **Tues 6 FOSSIL SECTION MEETING**

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall Community Meeting Room, 2300 Elmwood Ave. It's Fossil Show and Tell time! Bring in your finds, favorite species, and any specimens that need identifying. Pizza will be served. For more information contact Dan Krisher at 698-3147.

## **Wed 14 LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). At RMSC go to the front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. We will continue work on replacing torn and damaged genus folders. It is a great way to see interesting plants from the Rochester region and around the world! No experience needed! Please RSVP the Herbarium curator, Elizabeth Pixley at 334-0977 or [eypixley@gmail.com](mailto:eypixley@gmail.com)

## **ONGOING EVENT**

ASRAS will operate the telescope, or one on the sidewalk, at Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

## **JANUARY 2017 UPCOMING EVENT**

## **Fri 6 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING**

7 p.m. - 10 p.m. RIT Gosnell Hall Room A 300. Speaker: Dr. Craig McMurtry, University of Rochester. Topic: "NEOCAM – A New Satellite to Search for Near Earth Orbit Objects." Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.



## **LOOKING FOR A GIFT ONLINE?**

Make someone happy and help raise funds for RAS!

Buy through **Amazon Smile** and Amazon will donate to RAS! It's simple. Find out how at <http://smile.amazon.com/c/h/16-6043765>.



Keep RAS smiling!

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**CHANGING ADDRESS?**

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**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. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings.

For information, contact President Jutta Dudley at (585) 385-2368 or by e-mail: [pres@rasny.org](mailto:pres@rasny.org).

The Academy Internet website is <http://www.rasny.org>  
Or see us on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAcademyofScience>.

This "BULLETIN" is produced monthly, except July and September, by the Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science. Submissions are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and may be emailed to: [editor@rasny.org](mailto:editor@rasny.org).

**The Academy postal address is P.O. Box 92642,  
Rochester, N.Y.**

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONTACTS**

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Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977	
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William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628	
Paul Dudley	Website	385-2368	
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