



# OREGON ACADEMY OF SCIENCE *Newsletter*

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## **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, PORTLAND** is pleased to host the February 27, 2010 Annual OAS Meeting

Concordia University will host the Oregon Academy of Science's 69<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on February 27, 2010. The annual meeting of the OAS provides an opportunity for natural scientists, social scientists, science educators, and mathematicians to meet, exchange ideas, and network with colleagues in both related and dissimilar fields. Please plan on attending the upcoming meeting and bringing students with you. We particularly encourage students, both undergraduate and graduate, to present their research, because the meeting, with its casual and supportive atmosphere, represents an ideal venue for student presentations. Costs for membership in OAS and meeting attendance are kept as low as possible in order to encourage student participation.

Concordia University is located in Northeast Portland in a quiet residential neighborhood. Concordia is easily accessible from both Hwy 5 and 205 and is located only 10 minutes drive from Portland International Airport (PDX). Travel information, maps to campus and other resources are available on-line at <http://www.cu-portland.edu/aboutcu/visit.cfm>. Given the early starting time for most sessions on Saturday morning, those traveling from greater distances may wish to make hotel arrangements. A partial listing of accommodations is included in this newsletter. Enclosed you will also find a map showing the location of the Concordia campus.

Presentations can be made in either oral or poster formats. Discussion is encouraged in both presentation options. There will be concurrent sessions throughout the day by all sections of the Oregon Academy of Science – Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, Geology, Health Science, History/Philosophy/Social Study of Science, Mathematics/Computer Science, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Science Education, and Sociology/Anthropology. Each section has a chair responsible for organizing the program for that section. If you are interested in presenting please contact the appropriate section chair. Section chairs and contact information are listed on the last page.

### **OAS MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING REGISTRATION**

To register for OAS membership and to register to attend the meeting on February 27, 2010, please complete the registration form enclosed with this newsletter and mail it to Liz Atkinson, Treasurer of OAS. (Liz Atkinson, Chemistry Department, Linfield College, 800 S.E. Baker, McMinnville, OR 97128-6894) **The deadline for advance registration is February 12, 2010** with registration at the door available at a slight additional cost. Additional copies of the registration form may be downloaded from the OAS web site. On-site registration, pick-up of meeting packets for those who are pre-registered, as well as a continental breakfast will be available beginning at 7:30 AM on the day of the meeting.

### **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

To submit an abstract for the February 27, 2010 meeting please obtain the Guidelines for Submission of an Abstract from the OAS website or from the appropriate section chair. All presenters must be members of the Oregon Academy of Science; it's easy to join OAS at the time you submit your abstract. The e-mail address for each section chair is listed on the last page. Electronic submission of abstracts is preferred; please submit your abstract as an attachment to an email. **The deadline for submission of abstracts to the section chair is February 5, 2010.**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS SESSION ON URBAN AGRICULTURE**

The Geography Section of the OAS seeks papers for a Special Session on Urban Agriculture. The local production of food is an emerging focus across the

social and physical sciences, in government and in the popular media. Oregon, and Portland and Eugene in particular, are often cited as national leaders in urban agriculture initiatives. The 2010 Annual Meeting presents a great opportunity for scholars to discuss the successes as well as the challenges that cities face in producing food.

As many social, economic, political, cultural and environmental benefits and challenges are associated with Urban Agriculture, research must necessarily draw from diverse perspectives and approaches. This Special Session will provide an opportunity to foster a dialogue across academic disciplines. Abstracts are due to Joe Poracsky [poracskyj@pdx.edu](mailto:poracskyj@pdx.edu) or Hunter Shobe [hshobe@pdx.edu](mailto:hshobe@pdx.edu) by February 5, 2010.

### 2009 CONFERENCE ATTRACTS A DIVERSE CROWD

The Annual Meeting held February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 on the Western Oregon University campus brought together scientists, educators, and students to report on and explore novel research across a wide variety of disciplines. Researchers shared their discoveries in more than 80 presentations and 18 posters. Topics ranged from the extraction of taxol from greenhouse soil to storing wind power to assessment of depression in the Latino community. Keynote speaker Dr. Greg Hill, from the University of Portland, exemplified the multi-disciplinary nature of the meeting in his presentation entitled "Uncertainty, Society and Resilience: A Case Study in the Columbia River Basin." Dr. Hill spoke about the social, economic, and environmental factors which relate to the planning process for salmon recovery in the basin and ways in which uncertainty in these realms is managed.

At the meeting the OAS presented three awards to recognize excellence in scholarship and teaching. Dr. Reinhold Rasmussen received the Outstanding Research Scholar Award for his pioneering work on air chemistry. His career has focused on the measurement of trace gases in Earth's atmosphere. He has investigated detection of ambient air volatile organic compounds (VOCs), examined historic atmospheric methane levels by analyzing ice core samples, and discovered trees are a significant contributor of isoprene to the atmosphere. In addition to his work at the Oregon Graduate Institute, Dr. Rasmussen served on multiple advisory committees to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Outstanding Teacher in Higher Education award was presented to Dr. Charles Kunert, Dean of the College of Theology Arts and Sciences at Concordia University. Dr. Kunert has served as biology faculty at Concordia since 1969 and is a favorite among students,



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Dr. Charles Kunert, Concordia University, presents "Teaching Evolution to Skeptics"

known for his dynamic teaching, commitment to fostering critical thinking skills and expanding opportunities for hands-on experiences. His areas of expertise include genetics, molecular biology, and evolution. At Concordia Dr. Kunert helped the university obtain funding used to update laboratory facilities for teaching biotechnology and molecular biology.

Mr. Michael Geisen was the 2009 recipient of the Outstanding Teacher in K-12 Education award. Mr. Geisen is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at Crook County Middle School in Prineville who incorporates hands-on activities, technology, and other active learning strategies to make science exciting for his students. His lessons are filled with humor, and he tailors his entire curriculum to keep information current and engaging and to meet his students' needs. When he's not in the classroom, Mr. Geisen has helped the department identify "critical content" for each grade level and collaboratively developed new student assessments.

### SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 OAS AWARDS

The Oregon Academy of Science annually recognizes outstanding work by giving three awards. Nominations for these awards may be made by any member of the Academy. The award presentations will be made at the annual meeting February 27, 2010. **The deadline for nominations for all three awards is December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.** For a complete list of prior award recipients, consult the 2009 Proceedings of the Oregon Academy of Science.

#### 2010 Outstanding Scientist Award

Nominees should have made significant contributions to basic or applied research in the natural, physical, or social sciences. Nominees must have been Oregon residents during the time that they made their distinguished contributions. The letter of nomination should include a brief discussion of the nominee's

accomplishments, along with supporting letters and documents.

### **2010 Outstanding Educator in Science and Mathematics, Higher Education**

Nominees for this award should have a demonstrated record of outstanding teaching in any of the subject areas encompassed by the Academy. Letters of nomination should clearly describe the unique contributions made by the candidate to teaching excellence in higher education science and/or mathematics classrooms.

### **2010 Outstanding Teacher in Science and Mathematics, K-12 Education**

This award is to recognize outstanding teaching in science or mathematics at the K-12 level. Nominees should have a demonstrated record of outstanding teaching in any of the subject areas encompassed by the Academy. Letters of nomination should clearly describe the unique contributions made by the nominee to teaching excellence in science or mathematics in K-12 classrooms.

Submit all letters of nomination and supporting materials to Rici Hallstrand, President of the Oregon Academy of Science at Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland, OR 97211 or by e-mail at rhallstrand@cu-portland.edu.

## **INFORMATION ON THE CONCORDIA NEIGHBORHOOD AND LOCAL LODGING**

The Concordia neighborhood in Northeast Portland is named for the Concordia campus which has been part of the neighborhood since 1905. The main arterials through the area are NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Killingsworth Avenue. The well-known "Alberta Arts District" with galleries, shops and restaurants is located on the edge of the Concordia neighborhood 7 blocks south of campus. The Concordia area is a vibrant community, and has seen a great deal of revitalization in the last 10 years. Restaurants, galleries and coffee shops abound, and the streets of the neighborhood are very "walkable."

### **Lodging:**

#### **McMenamins Kennedy School**

5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.  
Portland, OR 97211  
1-888-249-3983

<http://www.kennedyschool.com/index.php>

*(A converted elementary school with charming rooms, a restaurant, movie theater and pub; located five blocks from campus)*

#### **Radisson Hotel - Portland Airport**

6233 NE 78th Ct.

Portland, OR 97218  
503-251-2000 or 1-800-395-7046  
[http://www.radisson.com/portlandor\\_airport](http://www.radisson.com/portlandor_airport)  
*(Located 3.5 miles from campus)*

#### **Shilo Inn**

11707 NE Airport Way  
Portland, OR 97220  
1-800-222-2244 <http://www.shiloinns.com>  
*(Located 5.5 miles from campus)*

#### **Residence Inn by Marriott - Lloyd Center**

1710 NE Multnomah St.  
Portland, OR 97232  
503-288-1400 <http://www.marriott.com/>  
*(Located 4.1 miles from campus)*

### **Restaurants:**

#### **Aladdin's Cafe**

6310 NE 33rd Ave.  
<http://www.aladdinscafe.com/>

#### **Autentica Mexican Cuisine**

5507 NE 30th Ave.  
<http://www.autenticaportland.com/>

#### **Beast**

5425 NE 30th Ave.  
<http://www.beastpdx.com/>

#### **Concordia Alehouse**

3276 NE Killingsworth St.  
<http://www.concordia-ale.com/>  
*(pub food with a wide selection of local and imported beers)*

## **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The OAS is seeking energetic individuals to lead the organization in 2010-2011! Please consider running for President and hosting the annual conference at your institution in 2011. Take this opportunity to showcase your organization and facilities to fellow members and conference attendees. Please contact current OAS President, Rici Hallstrand, at rhallstrand@cu-portland.edu or 503-493-6259, if you are interested or would like more information.

## **OAS IS ON FACEBOOK**

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from OAS by becoming a "fan" of the Oregon Academy of Science on Facebook. Search for Oregon Academy of Science and get the latest information on the annual meeting!

## OREGON ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS AND SECTION CHAIRS

**President:** Rici Hallstrand, [rhallstrand@cu-portland.edu](mailto:rhallstrand@cu-portland.edu),  
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**Past-President:** Jeff Myers, [myersj@wou.edu](mailto:myersj@wou.edu)  
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**President Elect:** TBD

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