



VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

The Nominations and Election Committee has recommended
this Slate of Officers for 2010 – 2011

President	Arun Verma	Arun.verma@hamptonu.edu
President Elect	Michael Renfroe	renfromh@jmu.edu
Vice President	Ralph P. Eckerlin	reckerlin@nvcc.edu
Secretary	Deborah A. O'Dell	dodell@umw.edu.edu
Treasurer	David Crosby	dcrosby@vsu.edu

PRESIDENT – Dr. Arun Verma

Dr. Arun Verma has served as Vice President and President Elect. He has been teaching mathematics at the undergraduate and graduate level for twenty-four years. In 2001, Dr. Harvey, the University president appointed him as an Endowed University professor of Mathematics. Dr. Verma earned his Ph.D. from the premier Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India in Mathematics. He has several refereed publications in the fields of fluid mechanics, controlled thermo-nuclear fusion, and instruction technology in the journals of international repute. He is dedicated to promote interest in mathematics among students, teachers, and professors through his funded projects from the US Department of Education, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Virginia Department of Education, and other personal initiatives. He is an advocate of using meaningful technology in instruction. His name has been listed in Who's Who in America, in World, in Science and Engineering, in American Education, and in American Teachers several times. Recipient of William C. Lowry Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award, Dr. Verma has won E. L. Hamm, Sr., Distinguished Teaching Award, Provost Innovative Teaching Award, and Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Award from Quality Education for Minority Network, Washington, D.C. Dr. Verma coordinates the MathCounts Competition for middle school students of the Peninsula Region, administers annual math contests for the Hampton Roads Chapter of the National Technical Association, hosts *Who Wants to be a Mathematician*, and serves as a Faculty Associate of Technology for the Center for Teaching Excellence at Hampton University. Dr. Verma has served on numerous committees at the University, school, and department levels. He has served the Academy as Vice President, secretary and a treasurer. He has assisted the Junior Academy for the past several years. An active member of executive board of Peninsula Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Dr. Verma is also a member of Sigma Xi.



PRESIDENT ELECT – Dr. Michael H. Renfroe

Michael H. Renfroe is a professor of Biology at James Madison University. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University, and following a post-doctoral position at Texas A&M University, he has been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at JMU since 1986. Dr. Renfroe is involved in not only teaching biology majors, but also non-science majors and students studying to become public school teachers with an emphasis in science and mathematics. Dr. Renfroe also continues to be involved in teaching in a regional Governor's School program. Dr. Renfroe conducts research on tissue culture propagation of rare and endangered plant species, and on antioxidant content in foods and beverages of plant origin. He has involved many undergraduate and graduate students in his research and has mentored numerous high school students in research. Dr. Renfroe has been active in the Virginia Academy of Science since arriving in the state and has served as Academy Secretary, and Vice Chair and Chair of the Botany Section. He serves on the Flora Committee and is on the Flora of Virginia Advisory Board. He has also served as Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President.



VICE PRESIDENT – Dr. Ralph P. Eckerlin

Ralph P. Eckerlin is Professor of Biology at Northern Virginia Community College. He received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Connecticut. Since 1971 he has been teaching undergraduate courses in General Biology, Invertebrate Zoology, and Human Anatomy and Physiology at NVCC. He also taught a Parasitology course at George Washington University for 25 years. Dr. Eckerlin has won a number of teaching awards at NVCC and was the recipient of the 2009 SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Eckerlin maintains a research interest despite being at a teaching institution. His interests are in the distribution, biogeography, and taxonomy of parasites, particularly fleas. He has published more than 35 peer reviewed papers and book chapters. He is a member of 14 scientific societies and has served a number of them in some official capacity. Dr. Eckerlin has been a member of the Virginia Academy of Science for more than 30 years and has served as Academy Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair. He has been Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Biology Section. Dr. Eckerlin has given 25 presentations of his research at VAS annual meetings. He organized a symposium and edited the manuscripts of the symposium on Land Use and Effects on the Biota which was published as a special issue of the Virginia Journal of Science. He is listed in American Men and Women in Science and is a Research Associate of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.



SECRETARY – Deborah A. O'Dell, PhD (University of Mary Washington)

I received my PhD in Cellular and Developmental Biology from SUNY Stony Brook, and completed a post-doc in Neurophysiology from the Cambridge University, UK. I am currently Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Mary Washington. My research examines the cellular basis of behavior, as well as growth and function in the nervous system. In particular I am interested in the neural basis of magnetic navigation, and dimorphism in the nervous systems of honey bees. I teach a number of courses, including neurobiology, developmental biology, cellular biology, comparative anatomy, human anatomy for majors, and human biology for non-majors. I mentor undergraduate research students in research projects ranging from neurochemistry, neuronal development, and neurodegeneration, to the cellular basis of learning and behavior. My students have presented their findings at meetings of the Society for Neuroscience, (including the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience session), Virginia Academy of Science and SYNAPSE (Society of Young Neuroscientists and Professors in the South East). I am also a member of the International Brain Research Organization and the International Society for Neuroethology, and am currently section Chair for the "Biology with Microbiology" section of the Virginia Academy of Science after having served as Vice Chair and secretary of the same section. I have had students participate in the VAS Fall Undergraduate meeting. I have been a member of VAS since 1993, and have served as session moderator and judge for the senior VAS meeting, and as judge for the Fall Undergraduate Research Awards. Dr. O'Dell has served as Treasurer.



TREASURER – Dr. David Crosby

Dr. Martin David Crosby received his PhD in Fisheries Biology from Auburn University in 1987. He earned a MS in biology from West Georgia College (University) in 1980. Dr. Crosby also attended the University of Georgia receiving a BSA in Biological Science in 1974. Since 1993, Dr. Crosby has been the Fish Health Specialist with the Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University. He also worked for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension service, MSU in Stoneville, Mississippi as an Area Fisheries Specialist.



Since 1998, Dr. Crosby has served as secretary, editor and chair for the VAS Section Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture. Dr. Crosby is currently serving as councilor for this section. For many years, Dr. Crosby has participated in the judging of student papers in the JVAS. Dr. Crosby's current duties and responsibilities as fish health specialist include: managing the fish health program at VSU which includes the fish health diagnostic laboratory for identifying and recommending solutions to disease outbreaks, disease prevention by educating fish producers on fish health management through workshops, newsletters, and fact sheets, and

fish health research on current disease problems in Virginia. Other duties include the operation of the catfish hatchery and conducting catfish production research. He has published numerous extension publications in aquaculture, water quality and fish health. As an Extension Specialist, he is interested in: the Ecology and Taxonomy of Fish Parasites; high Intensive Catfish Production Methods; and Microbial Ecology of Fish Ponds. Dr. Crosby organized a Symposium for the 5th International Conference on Recirculating Aquaculture on "Streptococcus, An Emerging Pathogen of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems.

Dr. Crosby is a member of the following professional organizations: American Fisheries Society (Fish Health Section & Fish Culture Section), American Society of Parasitologist, American Microscopical Society, and Helminthological Society of Washington.

He has been married to Gail F. Crosby for over 24 years and has a daughter Martha J. Crosby that is in her second year in the community college system.