

WASHINGTON STATE
Academy of Sciences

Science in the Service of Washington State



WSAS Newsletter: Winter 2023

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Pinniped Study Makes News, Transportation Resiliency Roundtable Planned, New Member Nominations

INSIDE

[President's Letter, *John Roll, Board President*](#)

[Note from Executive Director, *Donna Gerardi Riordan, Executive Director*](#)

[WSAS Call for New Member Nominations](#)

[Project Updates](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[WSAS in the News](#)

President's Letter

Dear Members,

I am writing this on the first sunny Sunday afternoon we've had in NE Washington in months. We received over 10 inches of snow in the last week and, although I enjoy winter, I am ready for spring. The waning of winter seems more salient to me this year. Perhaps that is because I associate this winter with daunting challenges such as sociopolitical upheaval across the globe, learning to live with endemic covid (and avoiding new pandemics), evident signs of human-caused climate change and environmental degradation and consequent threats to biodiversity, tragic rates of substance use, a stretched-too-thin healthcare system, economic uncertainty and racial, gender, religious and geographic discrimination...the list is not exhaustive. Yet, as the radiometer on my windowsill begins to spin more frequently and the juncos at my birdfeeder make way for the goldfinches, I am optimistic that the members of the Washington State Academy of Sciences are poised to make real differences in addressing the above litany of worries not only for the benefit of the citizens of Washington State but for all citizens of the world. Our membership list contains the names of some of the brightest scholars of any time,

and working together with others, I am confident that we will help make the world better for those who follow.

During the next year you will learn about how we hope to expand our outreach, not only to respond to issues that are brought to our attention but to rely on our membership to help us highlight important areas that require immediate focus. Pursuant to that goal, you will soon be hearing about additional lectures and symposia we will be hosting. I invite each of you to reach out to me (johnroll@wsu.edu) with ideas for topics on which you would like to see the academy focus.

One area of particular importance to me is to continue to support the academy in promoting diversity at all levels. As we recognize Black History month this past February and Women's history month this March, I invite us all to consider what we can do in our own lives to continue the removal of structural barriers that inhibit the progress of anyone, especially in science and engineering fields. Many deserving individuals who can make significant contributions to our work have not enjoyed the opportunities some of us have had that supported us in publishing hundreds of papers, attending the best schools, having great mentors, and having the economic leeway to pursue our aspirations. How do we ensure that these individuals have a seat at the academy table? As we consider them for membership, how do we measure their impact in meaningful ways that acknowledge that the playing field is far from even? Finally, how do we partner with relevant stakeholders to continue efforts to level that playing field? I struggle with finding the answers to these questions and commit to continuing to struggle along with your board of Directors. Confronting the list of woes I laid out above demands nothing less from us than that we diversify the approaches we take to address them. We owe it to tomorrow to gather a diversity of perspectives as we tackle these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Roll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending from the bottom of the "J".

John Roll

President, WSAS

Note from the Executive Director

Dear Members,

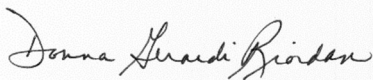
Winter is the time in the Academy's annual cycle of events when we seek nominations for new members. All active and emeritus members may nominate candidates. The deadline is March 31, and nominations materials may be found [here](#).

As noted in Membership Committee Chair Don Baer's call for nominations,

Electing new members is essential to the growth and vitality of the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) and to ensure that it includes outstanding individuals who can provide leadership in meeting the Academy's goals and responsibilities. The Board of Directors is committed to increasing the diversity of the Academy members in keeping with the guiding principle for the election procedures is to **identify individuals with outstanding scientific knowledge and a record of achievement who will commit to work on behalf of the Academy in bringing the best available science to bear on the diversity of challenges and opportunities within the State of Washington**. The Academy has a goal of representing the broadest possible range of scientific expertise in order to serve the needs of the State of Washington. All nominees will be evaluated on their scientific achievements, merits, and impact within their given field.

We encourage your participation in this process, as either a primary nominator or a secondary supporter of the nomination. If you have any questions, please contact me, donna.riordan@washacad.org.

Sincerely,



Donna Gerardi Riordan

Executive Director, WSAS

WSAS Call for New Member Nominations

Deadline March 31, 2023

Friday, March 31 at 5 PM is the deadline for nominations of new WSAS members. With the approval of the Academy's Board of Directors, we commit to facilitating distinguished scientific and technical representation in WSAS across many axes, including but not

limited to, geography, discipline, race and ethnicity, sex and gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and institutional affiliation.

Details about how to nominate can be found [here](#).

Ongoing and Upcoming Project Updates

Upcoming Projects

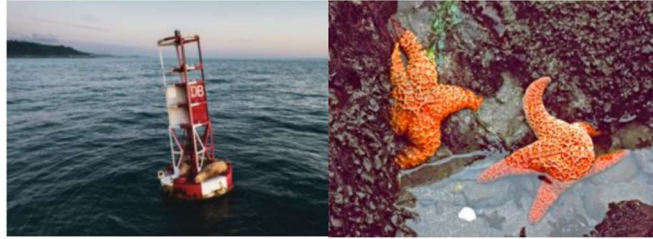
Transportation Resilience Roundtable

WSAS is organizing, with the assistance of UW's Mobility Innovation Center, a roundtable discussion on transportation resiliency that will be held in Seattle on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. The afternoon event, co-chaired by **François Baneyx, UW**, and Paula Hammond, former Secretary of the Washington Department of Transportation, will focus primarily on how to make our transportation system more resilient, with issues such as climate change and the energy transition that is underway.

Legislative Training Workshop

WSAS will host its third Legislative Training Workshop in Seattle on Tuesday, May 9. The half-day session will be conducted by Mark Bayer, a former congressional chief of staff. The focus of the training is on strategies to improve communications with policy makers from the perspective of scientific and technical leaders who have valuable, objective information to share. Space is limited; members who are interested in participating in this or future workshops should contact donna.riordan@washacad.org.

Completed Projects and Publications



Pinniped Predation Project

A WSAS panel reviewed the science of pinniped predation on salmonids, with an emphasis on Washington's portion of the Salish Sea and Washington's outer coast. The panel engaged with salmon co-managers, stakeholders, and scientists. Its report, available [here](#), describes the science of pinniped predation, including assessment of scientific and technical aspects of potential management actions.

15th Annual Symposium - Mitigation of Pandemic Impacts on Children

Proceedings of the 15th Annual Symposium on "Mitigation of Pandemic Impacts of Children" were released in December and can be found [here](#).

FY 2022 Annual Report

WSAS's Annual report to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee summarizing FY 2022 can be found [here](#).

AJAS Students in Washington DC

WSAS sponsored 10 high-school students to attend as Washington State's [AJAS Delegates](#) to the AAAS Meeting in Washington DC March 1-5. They had a great time!

AJAS Delegates visit the American Museum of Natural History



AJAS Delegates enjoy the annual "Breakfast with Scientists" in Washington DC.



Upcoming WSAS Events

April 4, Seattle: Transportation Resilience Roundtable

May 9, Seattle: Third Legislative Training Workshop. Members interested in attending should contact donna.riordan@washacad.org.

May 10, Seattle: Board of Directors Meeting

August 17, Museum of Flight, Seattle: [Hold the Date for WSAS's 16th Annual Symposium - Sustainable Aviation: Opportunities for the Washington State Aerospace Ecosystem](#)

WSAS Members in the News

Two WSAS members have been promoted to the rank of Regents Professor at WSU: **Brian French**, Department of Kinesiology and Educational Psychology, College of Education, and **Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson**, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences.

E. Virginia Armbrust, University of Washington, has been elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.

Pat Hunt has been awarded the 2022 Richard B. Johnston, Jr., MD Prize in Development Biology from the March of Dimes, the leading organization fighting for the health of moms and babies. Dr. Hunt is a Regents Professor at Washington State University who has made instrumental discoveries in how prenatal development is impacted by aging, mistakes in cell division, and environmental exposures. Her service through WSAS includes chairing the Academy's committee for tribal engagement. The Johnston Prize, awarded annually, honors an outstanding scientist who has advanced the science that underlies our understanding of pregnancy, birth and prenatal development. The Prize in Developmental Biology was created as a tribute to Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine, and is named in honor of Dr. Johnston, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado and a former Medical Director at March of Dimes.

Guy Palmer, Washington State University, chaired the NASEM committee that offered recommendations to the US Department of Health and Human Services to strengthen nationwide coordination and ensure a national wastewater surveillance system that is flexible, equitable, and sustainable to inform the public health response to COVID-19 and future infectious diseases.

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2023/01/national-wastewater-surveillance-for-infectious-diseases-worthy-of-further-investment-says-new>

Pinniped Study Makes News

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/sea-lions-seals-might-be-hampering-wa-salmon-recovery-what-can-be-done/>

John Reganold, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, was awarded WSU's L. Lane Rawlins President's Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service.

Daniel Schindler, chair of the Committee on Pinnipeds and Salmon Predation, was interviewed by local and regional media about the committee's report throughout November and December. In addition, the committee's report was the subject of a *Seattle Times* article in mid-January 2023.

Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe, WSU Department of Psychology, was awarded WSU's Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award -- Research, Scholarship & Arts.

Vera Trainer, formerly a supervisory research oceanographer with NOAA, and currently the research lead for the ONRC marine science program and director of the Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB) program in Forks, WA, was awarded the Seattle Aquarium Conservation Research Award this month for her work on understanding harmful algal blooms (HABs), proliferations of algae that cause environmental and economic damage.

Three WSAS members have been elected as 2022 AAAS Fellows

Deborah Gracio, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Kevin M. Rosso, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Wendy J. Shaw, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Are you involved in national or state level policy advising activities? Have you published a book or article in a major media outlet in the last year? Have you won an award or received accolades for your recent work? [Let WSAS know about it so we can share the news.](#)

This newsletter was prepared by **Emma Rogers** with input from the Communications Committee: **Doug Call (chair), Brian Atwater, Don Baer, Shirley Beresford, Roger Myers, Jonathan Yoder, and Donna Gerardi Riordan.**