



PRESS RELEASE

BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES HOLDS 150th ANNUAL MEETING

2011-12 Officers of the Board and newly elected Board Member announced

BUFFALO, NY (March 29, 2011) -- The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences held its 150th Annual Meeting at the Buffalo Museum of Science yesterday, March 28. The meeting's presentations summarized the museum's progress toward its five-year Strategic Plan.

Unveiled at last year's Annual Meeting, the Strategic Plan focuses on improving public interest and engagement in the museum in order to increase earned income and reduce the Society's financial dependence on its endowment.

"We have made tremendous strides during the past physical year," said the Board's Chairman, Randy Burkard. "We have held true to our strategic plan initiatives to continue to positively move the Museum of Science and Tiff Nature Preserve forward."

Burkard said the museum has seen increased attendance and income with traveling exhibits and has made a re-commitment to offer them regularly in future years. Burkard also announced that the museum's 3D Cinema, which opened in June 2010, has yielded a 34% capture rate and increased earned income.

Museum president and CEO, Mark Mortenson, continued with an overview of the museum's Exhibit Master Plan. Utilizing a grant awarded from the Community Foundation's 21st Century Fund, Museum leadership engaged the services of Roto Studios (Dublin, Ohio) to complete the Museum's exhibit master plan. Input received from the Museum's board, leadership team, regional science partners and community focus groups was used to ensure relevance to the community and the region. It is the goal of the Museum to have two studios in planning or installation in each of the next five years.

Mortenson also announced future plans to build around Tiff Nature Preserve's current structure and create an Environmental and Sustainability Center, which will help generate revenue through increased programming space and eventually implement the first nature preschool format in the region.

A new member to the Society's 2011-12 Board of Managers was also announced. **Raymond Vaughan**, environmental scientist for the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office, will begin his first three-year term.

Members re-elected to continue their Board terms are **Darren King**, **Mary Ann Kresse**, and **Laurence K. Rubin**, all of which are beginning their second three-year terms.

Returning and newly elected **Officers of the Board of Managers** for the year 2011-12 are:

CHAIRMAN
Randall E. Burkard
Business Entrepreneur

VICE CHAIRMAN
Jay Hennig
President, Moog Space and Defense Group

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VICE CHAIRMAN

Darren King

Senior Vice President of Business & Professional Banking at M&T Bank Corporation

SECRETARY

Laurie Dann

Community Volunteer Leader

TREASURER

Chris Hogan

Partner, R&P Oak Hill Development, LLC

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ronald A. Krukowski

Operations Manager and Senior Project Executive, Turner Construction Company

Retiring from the Board were Gregory Cherr, MD, serving a three-year term, and Morgan L. Jones, Jr., serving a 12-year term. Burkard thanked both for their dedicated service and additionally thanked Mr. Jones for service as Board Secretary from 2007-2011 and also as Collections Committee Chair.

About Raymond C. Vaughan

Raymond C. Vaughan works in Buffalo as an environmental scientist for the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office. He has a Ph.D. in geology from the University at Buffalo and has worked for the Attorney General's Office on a variety of environmental issues and cases involving hydrogeology, public policy, Great Lakes protection, toxics reduction and control strategies, aquatic invasive species policy and ballast water management technology, chemical emissions identification, chemical fate and transport processes, bioassay and analytical methods, numerical methods and programming, environmental testing, site remediation, wetlands protection, and climate change.

Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office in 1999, he worked in research and development for many years at Graphic Controls Corporation in Buffalo and the Carborundum Company in Niagara Falls. He has five U.S. patents. Dr. Vaughan also has extensive volunteer experience in the technical and regulatory aspects of nuclear waste management, and he has served since 1997 on the West Valley Citizen Task Force. He has a wide range of interests, including Western New York history, and enjoys canoeing, hiking, sailing, and other outdoor activities.

About the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is an AAM accredited organization operating the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tiff Nature Preserve. The Buffalo Museum of Science is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 700,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. The Museum also operates Tiff Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land. For further information on the museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit www.sciencebuff.org.

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