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Academy honors two ASU professors

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Academy honors two ASU professors

BY ALDEMARO ROMERO
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Dr. Stanley Trauth and his wife Dr. Joy Trauth were recently honored by the Arkansas Academy of Science dedicating the latest issue of the Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science to both of them.

Stanley Trauth took the helm of the journal in 1992, and since then he has been either the solo editor or the editor-in-chief of the publication. He also served as president of the academy in 2006. Joy Trauth worked as his editorial assistant and edited the initial copy of every manuscript (more than 500 in total) for format, style and content.

"I could not have managed all of those years without her help" Stan Trauth said.

Initial copies of manuscripts were then returned to authors for revision following Joy Trauth's editorial changes and suggestions of peer reviewers. After manuscripts were revised by their authors, Stan Trauth examined each manuscript in its final format and worked closely with the publisher to ensure a quality product.

Stan Trauth's duties included securing other willing scientists to review the articles submitted to the journal and mailing copies of articles to these reviewers and then returning reviewed articles back to the authors. He was also the final authority on whether an article was accepted for publication or rejected. Sometimes he had to tell unhappy authors to try again the next year or that their work was not appropriate for publication in the journal.

During all these years Stan and Joy Trauth made significant editorial changes to the journal re-

sulting in this publication being considered today as one of the top journals of state academies of science. They assembled an instruction guide for authors, which included ways to avoid common grammatical mistakes and rules for citing other scientific literature.

One of the most significant changes that took place under Stan Trauth's tenure as editor was transforming the journal from being a proceeding of the annual meeting to a journal scrutinized by other scientists for scientific accuracy and rigor. In other words, it became what in academic circles is known as a "peer-reviewed publication," the gold standard for dissemination of scientific ideas.

The format of the journal was also changed under Stan Trauth's leadership to give the journal the professional appearance of other full-fledged scientific publications.

Both Trauths are faculty members of the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University, he as a professor of zoology and she as an instructor. He received the university award for scholarship and research in 2004, and she is considered one of the best teachers at ASU. She and this author also edited the book "Adventures in the Wild: Tales of Biologists from the Natural State," a collection of stories about the work of biologists written by ASU biology department faculty. And Stan Trauth is senior author of "The Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas."

For more information contact the ASU Department of Biological Sciences at biology@astate.edu.

Dr. Romero is chairman of biological sciences at Arkansas State University.



Sarah Webb | Special to The Sun

Drs. Joy and Stan Trauth pose with awards they received from the Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science.