

# FSD

(a nonprofit  
organization,  
founded in 1978)  
<http://stemd.org>

# Foundation for Science and Disability Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/360413492800/>

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4116054&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4116054&trk=hb_side_g)

## Student Grant Awardees since 1990

1990	Wendy Pava, Birgit Wolz, Elaine Hall
1991	Kevin Wilkins, Shan Ming Lee
1992	Meghal Antani, Lynn Hanninen, Mara Frohlinger
1993	David Fass, William Hylton
1995	Chris Tromborg
1996	Anne-Michelle Singleton
1997	Leslie Harper
1998	Maura O'Modhrain
1999	Joseph Barbera, Byunggyoo Kim
2000	Jennifer Last
2001	Cassandra Quave
2002	My Lien Nguyen
2003	Mark Woods
2004	Jessica Mahood
2005	Cheryl Fogle
2007	Melodi King
2008	Ryan McKindles
2009	Emma Sacks
2010	Shaun Kane
2011	Lisa Dunning
2012	Kim Yeoman
2013	Naomi Delventhal
2014	Amy Nichols
2015	Rosemarie Figueroa
2016	Heather Page
2017	Rachel Wiley
2018	Cynthia Bennett

## President's Corner

-Richard Mankin

A consistent focus of the Foundation for Science and Disability has been the support of careers and encouragement of personal development of students and scientists with disabilities. In 2017 and 2018, as noted in the 2018 FSD Newsletter (<http://stemd.org>), there was considerable activity internationally to highlight the needs and improve the prospects of disabled persons worldwide. We joined this effort by helping develop policy documents and supporting initiatives. We sent letters to support grant proposals and served as a forum for exchange of information about disability and important needs of students and scientists with disabilities. Also, we awarded a research grant to Cynthia Bennet, who reports on her research in this newsletter (see p. 2). In addition, Laureen Summers at AAAS has been involved in a media campaign to increase visibility of scientists with disabilities across AAAS and other science venues. (Continued on p. 2)

## February 2019

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An affiliate of  
the American  
Association for  
Advancement  
of Science

**The next annual  
meeting of FSD is 10:00  
AM-12:00 PM, Saturday,  
February 16, 2019 in the  
Governors room of the  
Omni Shoreham Hotel,  
Washington DC**

President's Corner continued:

At the local level, however, there remain many issues of concern. Nolan Trowe, a documentary photographer in New York City reported recently that only a quarter of the subways there are accessible to an estimated 100,000 wheelchair users. He learned this quickly after an injury that left him unable to walk. Nolan observed in his article, "My experience has woken me up to the fact that rights for people with disabilities are far behind where they should be. It has given me a new vantage point, and a new appreciation for the many people with disabilities who must struggle to conduct their daily lives in a world that has not taken the steps to accommodate them."

Well said, Nolan! I'm sure many readers agree. Politics and disability are both global and local concerns, and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. The embarrassing flub of Walmart in deciding to eliminate its greeters, for example.

Indeed, it may be worthwhile to reconsider the relative importance of global and local initiatives in a national organization like ours. Could the members of FSD benefit significant numbers of students and scientists with disabilities if we focused advocacy on one or two local projects where we had potential to increase public awareness and interest? After all, many baby boomers are getting old and finding it harder to get onto subways, buses, and other public transportation. Even with airplanes, it's getting more difficult for a user of crutches, like me, to move down the narrow aisles of the newest planes. It's probably harder for everybody except the Millennials and 20-somethings. Nevertheless, it's not so clear how much more we can do with our limited resources beyond what we are doing now.

If you have an idea for something needed in your local community, send me an email. Maybe FSD could help! We could at least discuss potential avenues of advocacy.

*Richard Marklin*

2/15/19.

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### Notes from students and colleagues

A note from Cynthia Bennett, a doctoral candidate at the University of Washington, who was the 2018 Foundation for Science and Disability Science Student Grant recipient.

Since receiving the 2018 FSD grant for students with disabilities in graduate science degree programs, I have completed most of my dissertation research on making design activities more accessible for people with disabilities. Many activities professional designers do like brainstorming and prototyping assume the designers have certain capabilities, like the ability to hand draw sketches and see 2D images. These activities tacitly assume that people with disabilities may be people to design for, but may not be designers themselves. My research seeks to foreground people with disabilities as meaningful contributors to design by evaluating assumptions communicated by design activities, demonstrating how people with disabilities design in their everyday lives, and offer new activities and orientations to design that might be more accessible. As part of this research, I have interviewed and observed several people with disabilities on how they make things work for them in their daily life. This work demonstrates people with disabilities are constantly adapting and designing their environments to be more accessible which contrasts with the way inaccessible design activities may presume them to primarily be recipients of assistive technologies. The FSD grant specifically supported me on one project by funding travel for me to observe a group of blind makers in the Bay Area who are making Arduino documentation more accessible. Arduino microcontrollers allow hobbyists to build electronics without much expertise. With Arduino toolkits they could for example adapt their home appliances to do things automatically or they can monitor and/or set home appliances from their smartphones. Since much Arduino documentation and hardware relies on visual schematics and color-coded wires to communicate information, it presents access barriers for blind makers. By observing this community and helping facilitate two workshops introducing Arduino to a small group of blind people, I have documented the ways they adapt Arduino instructions and hardware components to be nonvisually accessible. I am working on publishing this research in hopes designers can use similar strategies to make physical prototyping more accessible for visually impaired participants and designers.

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Thanks for the update, Cindy!

Here are the minutes of the FSD 2018 Annual meeting in Austin:

## **FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISABILITY (FSD)**

### **Annual Meeting Minutes**

9:00 AM -10:30 AM, Saturday, February 17, 2018

Room 602 Hilton, Austin

Austin, TX

#### Call to Order/Introductions:

President Richard Mankin called the meeting to order. Yoshiko Miwa and Laureen Summers (by phone) were present.

#### Old Business:

For introduction, there was discussion about member activities during 2017. Yoshiko Miwa described her recent publications, including:

<http://www.arsvi.com/2010/20151130my.htm>

<http://www.ritsumei-arsvi.org/en/news/read/id/323>

<http://www.ritsumei-arsvi.org/en/news/read/id/291>

<http://www.ritsumei-arsvi.org/en/news/read/id/318>

Yoshiko reported that she has entered graduate school to do a dissertation on Japanese governmental policy for persons with mental disabilities. She noted also that the percentage of young persons obtaining bachelor's degrees in Japan is declining recently because it is getting more difficult for them to find employment after they graduate and the economic benefit of greater education is decreasing. Yoshiko also presented a poster at the AAAS annual meeting.

Laureen Summers discussed her searches this year to find new hiring partners and sources of funding for EntryPoint student internship positions. She is considering the possibility of setting up a email server for EntryPoint engineering students who could be recruited through some of the AAAS-affiliated engineering societies. Laureen also has been in contact periodically with AAAS staff about ensuring that the AAAS Trellis and other AAAS websites are functionally accessible to persons with disabilities. Progress has been slow. In addition, she has been teaching a class on disability. Implicit bias has been a major topic of interest in class discussions.

Richard Mankin presented information about magazines that have been including articles about scientists with disabilities, for example an article in Wildlife Australia Magazine, <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/3559/publications/Mankin-augmentedawarenessWAM-17-2-33.pdf> . Also, he has been in discussions with several organizations about the methods they use to ensure that websites are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Discussion continued on networking and on how to provide greater value to young persons interested in FSD membership. Much of FSD's activity currently takes place on <http://stemd.org> or FaceBook

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/360413492800/>). Any additional suggestions that increase the capability of members to network and develop their careers are welcome.

For example, is it of interest to members to discuss items associated with the recent events, Valentine's Day, at the high school in Parkland, FL? What is the best course of action for persons in a "red alert" environment, where there is urgent need to take rapid evasive action? As a physically disabled person who is one of the slower movers of this world and as a father who would never want their child to be in such an environment, I suspect that, long term, we need to focus some effort to encourage lawmakers to provide improved mental health care to students and adults in need to avoid the occurrence of such events. In addition, as Laureen noted, we may need to encourage training in how to overcome implicit bias to lower some of the barriers facing persons with disabilities entering the scientific work force. Any comments?

Minutes - February 18, 2017 (Boston, MA):

The minutes from the Boston meeting were approved as posted on the FSD web site (<http://stemd.org>). If anyone finds an error, please alert president Richard Mankin ([rmankin1@ufl.edu](mailto:rmankin1@ufl.edu)) and it will be corrected.

Treasurer Report- Richard Mankin for Angela Foreman:

The treasurer report was presented. The 2017, \$1000 student grant was awarded to Rachel Wiley of at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Ft. Worth, TX. Dues and contributions of \$586.37 were received, leaving a balance of \$14, 956.07 in the FSD account. The complete treasurer report is posted in the 2018 FSD Newsletter on the FSD Archives page, which can be accessed from <http://stemd.org>.

Science Student Grant Committee Report 2018– Richard Mankin:

The Student Grant Committee (Angela Foreman, Laureen Summers, and Richard Mankin) reviewed 7 applications (4 others were incomplete) for the 2018 Student Grant and selected Cynthia Bennet, a PhD. student in the Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, for "Accessible Design and Making for People with Vision Impairments."

New Business:

Megan Lynch noted last year that- "The Center for Oral History is currently seeking interviewees for a three-year project to document the lives and contributions of people with disabilities who work or are currently obtaining an advanced degree in STEM fields. To participate, please fill out our recruitment form." There was additional contact with the Center for Oral History this year. They carry out the interviews in person, and for financial reasons, they are limited to persons in the Northeast region.

FSD has continued support of multisociety letters from AAAS-affiliated organizations to President Trump, advocating for use of scientific advice, international scientific cooperation, and the value of scientific enterprise for the future of the US

Those of you who are members of AAAS Trellis may have seen the 8 articles by Shirley Malcolm of AAAS EHR on "Reflecting on Our Roots," which considers the origins of AAAS initiatives to support the inclusion of underrepresented minorities in scientific and engineering professions. See the FSD website for more information on "Reflecting on our Roots."

Finally, it was noted that there is no longer a Resource Room for Persons with Disabilities at the AAAS annual meeting, although a room was provided for the FSD Annual Meeting (Thanks Laureen!). The Headquarters office is now in charge of requests. Richard observed only a few persons with disabilities at the meeting, reflecting a gradually declining trend in attendance by disabled scientists. It is not a new trend, and the Foundation seeks suggestions on what remains or what will develop as our best avenue for interaction.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. –Respectfully submitted by Richard Mankin, March 7, 2018.

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Treasurer Report for 2019 Annual meeting:

### Foundation for Science and Disability Treasurer Report

January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

	2017-2018	2018-2019
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash on Hand	\$15,369.70	\$14,956.07
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$15,369.70</b>	<b>\$14,956.07</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Dues	\$ 165.00	\$ 90.00
Contributions	\$ 421.37	\$ 394.95
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 586.37</b>	<b>\$ 484.95</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Student awards, IRS and DC Nonprofit fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,119.95
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,119.95</b>
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$ -413.63</b>	<b>\$ -635.00</b>
<b>Net Balance:</b>	<b>\$14,956.07</b>	<b>\$14,321.07</b>

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Science Student Grant Committee Report, 2019 –  
Angela Foreman and Richard Mankin, Chair

Helen Rottier in the College of Applied Health Sciences, Department of Disability Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, received a student grant for “Mentorship models to empower autistic students and scientists in psychology and medical research.”

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**Foundation for Science  
and Disability**

<http://stemd.org>

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**FSD**

The Foundation for Science and Disability (<http://stemd.org>) was founded in 1978 to promote the integration of persons with disabilities into the mainstream of the scientific community. A major focus of FSD has been the removal of barriers that restrict opportunities to develop careers and conduct scientific research. The Foundation also provides grants to students with disabilities who are conducting research in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics.

President: Richard Mankin ([rmankin1@ufl.edu](mailto:rmankin1@ufl.edu))

Treasurer: Angela Lee Foreman ([angelaleeforeman@yahoo.com](mailto:angelaleeforeman@yahoo.com))

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**Foundation for Science and Disability 2019 Dues Notice  
Membership Application / Renewal Form**

Dues Schedule:

Student        \$5.00

Regular        \$25.00

Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Total         \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to:

Foundation for Science and Disability

and mail to:

Angela Lee Foreman

Foundation for Science and Disability

P. O. Box 3384

San Leandro, CA 94578

Please send a change of address, if any, and / or list any comments to the President or Treasurer. Also, please forward us your email address if you would like to receive pdfs of future Newsletters.

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