Greetings American Name Society Members,

I step down as President of the American Name Society in January 2021 when our President-Elect, Laurel Sutton, will be inaugurated. Laurel and I have worked well together as EC officers and we anticipate a smooth transition. Laurel is one of the best Vice Presidents the ANS has known in my two decades of affiliation with this society. Laurel Sutton’s admirable qualities are too many to list here; suffice it to say that our society will benefit from Laurel’s informed, compassionate, and capable leadership as our next President of the American Name Society.

As an ANS member for twenty years and an officer for the past six, I have met scholars and fellow names enthusiasts from across the United States and from around the world at our annual conferences. Our shared interest in names and naming practices helped us form bonds over the years, and I am grateful for the many friendships that developed and opportunities that arose. Both my friends list and my knowledge of onomastics have expanded as a result.
Attending ANS meetings has been the highlight of my membership in the ANS. Scenes from ANS conferences in New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Washington DC, Austin, TX, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Portland, and other cities where we have convened are etched in my memory. I look forward to attending the 2021 ANS Meeting scheduled for January 22-24. As likely you know, we moved to an online platform. This change allows us to connect during a time when travel is fraught with difficulty and when safety is a priority.

If you have not previewed the schedule for our forthcoming conference, I recommend you do so, and I encourage you to register. This year you may attend ANS sessions from the comfort of your own home. No hotel bookings to make! No flights to catch! A minimal fee covers registration. Admittedly, I look forward to a time when we may convene again in person, but I am excited to experience this year’s new online platform and to attend the various sessions with you.

I cannot conclude my letter without acknowledging how challenging 2020 has been for us as an organization and, more importantly, for us as individuals. I know the anxiety, disruption, and loss we have experienced in our professional and personal lives. Certainly, COVID-19 is a name that looms large over the past year (capital letters, indeed) and it seemingly dwarfs the names of those individuals who have died as a result of this pandemic.

The list of the names of the dead is lengthy and names continue to be added at an increasing rate. Like many of you, I recognize some names on that list, and I recall the people who bore them in life. Two names, in particular, mark moments in time for me this year. The first name, Bill Reece, belonged to my uncle, who died in a Minneapolis nursing home in mid-March. He was the first person I knew who died from this virus.

The second name, Mike McAuliffe, belonged to a high school classmate. He died in an Oklahoma City hospital in December. Mike is the latest (and I hope the last) casualty of the pandemic whom I knew. Their names conjure memories that offer me some consolation. I would welcome the opportunity to learn the names, and hear the stories, of those for whom you may grieve.

But I don’t want to end on a somber note. Between vaccinations and increased compliance with guidelines, I am optimistic that a healthier future is on the world’s horizon. As members of the American Name Society, we have much to anticipate in 2021: our forthcoming virtual conference, a new publisher for our esteemed journal, and the incomparable Laurel Sutton as our next President of the ANS. I wish for each of you peace, comfort, and health in the New Year.

Best wishes,
Dorothy Dodge Robbins

ANS 2021 Annual Meeting

The American Name Society Annual Meeting for 2021 will be held online using the Crowdcast platform. It is accessible via Mac or PC; the Google Chrome browser will give best results. You do not need to install any special software to attend the meeting.

Each paper will be presented by the author, with time for Q&A after the presentation. The Name of the Year discussion and vote will be held on Sunday. We have been working hard to set up a schedule that will work globally, and this means that some presenters will be scheduled at times outside of normal working hours.
The schedule is subject to change depending on speaker availability and is available here: https://www.americannamesociety.org/conferences/pastconferences/ans-2021-2/

There is a sharable Google doc showing global times in a table format. You can view that document here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kvH7ip8YLJzDjJdux-f8yZNTj1eXtqUb1poFaIOlcj20/edit?usp=sharing

Conference registration is at this link: https://www.crowdcast.io/e/american-name-society/registerThe cost is US $20 for registration and can be paid with a credit card.

Names of the Year 2020
Call for Nominations

The American Name Society requests nominations for the “Names of the Year for 2020.” The names selected will be ones that best illustrate, through their creation and/or use during the past 12 months, important trends in the culture of the United States. It is not necessary, however, for a nominated name to have originated in the US. Any name can be nominated as long as it has been prominent in North American cultural discourse during the past year.

Nominations are called for in the following categories:

- **Personal Names:** Names or nicknames of individual real people or individual animals.
- **Place Names:** Names or nicknames of any real geographical location, including all natural features, political subdivisions, streets, and buildings. Names of national or ethnic groups based on place names could be included here.
- **Trade Names:** Names of commercial products, as well as names of both for-profit and non-profit incorporated companies and organizations, including businesses and universities.
- **Artistic & Literary Names:** Names of fictional persons, places, or institutions, in any written, oral, or visual medium, as well as titles of art works, books, plays, television programs, or movies. Such names are deliberately given by the creator of the work.
- **E-Names:** Names of persons, figures, places, products, businesses, institutions, operations, organizations, platforms, and movements that exist in the virtual world.
- **Miscellaneous Names:** Any name which does not fit in the above five categories, such as names created by linguistic errors, names of inanimate objects, unorganized political movements, or languages, etc. In most cases, such items would be capitalized in everyday English orthography.

Winners will be chosen in each category, and then a final vote will determine the overall Name of the Year for 2020. Anyone may nominate a name. All members of the American Name Society attending the meeting will select the winner from among the nominees at the annual ANS meeting on January 24, 2021.

To nominate names, complete the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LVGCQRZ by January 21, 2021.

We look forward to your submissions!
Names: A Journal of Onomastics

Journal Changes in 2021

Beginning in 2021, the American Name Society’s journal Names is moving to a new publisher, University of Pittsburgh. This means that we will now be an open-access journal: all the content of Names will be available for free through the journal’s new website at UPitt. The journal will continue to be published four times a year. The transition to UPitt will take place on January 1, 2021. Content will no longer be available through the Taylor & Francis website but instead be accessible through our new journal portal, at http://ans-names.pitt.edu/. To this end, the ANS will proceed with two tiers of annual membership fees: 1) $50 for those who want print copies of the journal and 2) $20 for those who do not want to receive print copies. Membership in the ANS allows access to a community of scholars and its communications, as well as eligibility to present at the ANS annual conferences.

ANS News

The ANS is Looking for a New Information Officer (2021-23)

The person elected to this position will be responsible for maintaining the ANS social media presence via our website as well as Facebook and Twitter. The main duties for this position include the following: updating the news page of the ANS website on a weekly basis; posting special alerts (e.g., conference announcements, calls for papers, ANS newsletters); responding to requests made via the Facebook and Twitter accounts; and adding books that are reviewed in Names to the ANS Amazon Wishlist. The person chosen for this position must not only be highly computer literate, but also an avid user of social media. Experience in using WordPress is desirable but not mandatory. Training will be provided.

The new Information Officer must also have excellent writing and time-management skills as well as a high level of creativity. The Information Officer will work very closely with the ANS President and Vice President throughout the year. If interested, you can apply at https://www.americannamesociety.org/about/apply-to-be-an-ec-officer/.

2200-Article Collection to be Given Away

The time has come for me to dispose of my papers. Most of these articles have abstracts online at my website at NewBibDance. Space is approx. 5 file drawers. The papers date from my last published bibliography (1995) until now. You may email me at edlawson@netsync.net if interested.

-Edward Lawson
2021 Slate of Nominees for ANS Officers

Vice President, Dr. Luisa Caiazzo

Luisa Caiazzo is Associate Professor of English Linguistics and Translation Studies at the University of Basilicata (Italy). Her areas of research include corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, onomastics, and translation studies. As far as onomastics is concerned, she has given presentations at several conferences, organized two international conferences (University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’ 2015; University of Basilicata 2018), proposed the panel “Names and Tourism” at the 2019 ANS conference and the ANS panel “Toponyms and Literarvscapes” at the 2021 MLA conference. Her publications include the book British and Indian University Websites: A Corpus-based Study of the About Page (2013), the volume Shifting Toponymies (2020) edited with I. M.Nick, the volume Naming, Identity, and Tourism (2020) edited with Richard Coates and Maoz Azaryahu, as well as several journal articles and contributions to edited volumes. Beside serving as a reviewer for the ANS annual conferences and the ANS Emerging Scholar Award, she has served as a blind reviewer for articles submitted to the following journals: Names, AION, Applied Linguistics, Ibérica, Dominiós de Ling@gem, Il Nome nel Testo, and Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis across Disciplines. Since 2016, she has served as a member of the Executive Council of the American Name Society, as Secretary and as Allied Conference Coordinator.

Allied Conference Coordinator: Dr. Maggie Scott

Dr. Maggie Scott is an Associate Dean Academic in the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology at the University of Salford, supporting the development of new degree programmes and academic standards in Learning and Teaching. Her key areas of research include Lexicography, Onomastics, the Scots Language, and Scottish Literature. She worked as a historical lexicographer from 1998-2008, originally for the Historical Thesaurus of English at the University of Glasgow, then the Oxford English Dictionary at Oxford University Press, and latterly for Scottish Language Dictionaries (SLD) in Edinburgh. She has taught at several academic institutions including the University of Glasgow, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and the University of Edinburgh. Her PhD analysed place-names of Old English, Norse and Scots origin in southern Scotland, and she is a former Editor of Nomina, the Journal of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (2008-2013).
Member-at-Large: Dr. Wang Feng

Wang Feng is a full professor in the School of Foreign Studies, Yangtze University, P. R. China. He received his PhD degree from Sichuan University and worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Nanjing Normal University. His research interests include translation studies, intercultural communication, and onomastics. In addition to over 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals such as A&HCI/SSCI indexed Meta: Translators’ Journal, Orbis Litterarum, and Names: A Journal of Onomastics, he has published a monograph, A Comprehensive Study on the English Translation of Classical Tang Poetry (Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2015), co-authored three books: A Critical Anthology of Tang Poems and Their English Translations (Xi’an: Shaanxi People’s Publishing Press, 2011), Translation and Culture (Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2017), and A New Concise Introduction to Linguistics for English Learners (Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, 2014), co-translated two books: Fifty Selected Children’s Poems in Ancient China (Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2015) and The Control Theory and Application for Well Pattern Optimization of Heterogeneous Sandstone Reservoirs (Berlin: Springer, 2017), and co-edited two textbooks. His research findings, supported by national or ministerial funds, have won provincial or municipal academic awards.

Member-at-Large: Dr. Sara Louise Wheeler

Sara is a visiting research fellow at Glyndŵr University in her hometown of Wrecsam/ Wrexham in North East Wales, UK. She writes the column "Synfyfyrion llenyddol" (literary musings) for local community newspaper Y Clawdd and her poetry, essays and artwork have been widely published in Welsh and English. In 2020 she established Gwasg y Gororau (Borderland Press) to encourage and promote creative endeavours in the borderlands, an area currently underrepresented in the Welsh literary scene. Sara also established and curates the bilingual blog Yr Onomastegydd (The Onomastician), publishing articles and essays on all kinds of onomastics related topics. Sara is a member of the editorial board for Names: A Journal of Onomastics and has published articles about Welsh names in a variety of publications. Her current research interests include literary onomastics and medical eponyms. Sara lives on the Wirral peninsula with her husband Peter and tortoise Kahless.
Since then, I continue to correspond with presenters, addressing their questions and concerns when possible or directing them to someone who can, frequently VP Laurel Sutton, who has done the heavy lifting as we prepare for the 2021 conference.

Most recently, I solicited and assigned moderators for the various sessions that will comprise our 2021 meeting. I continue to work with fellow officers to ensure a successful conference, our first ever online. I commend all my fellow officers for their exceptional dedication to the ANS in a challenging year.

Vice President
Ms. Laurel Sutton

This has been a tremendously busy 6 months for the ANS. In addition to the worries and challenges of the global pandemic, we have been dealing with our own “new normal” – moving to a new publisher for *Names* and setting up our Annual Meeting online. I have worked closely with our esteemed Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Iman Nick, to tie up our relationship with our former publisher, Taylor & Francis. Simultaneously, we are setting up the structure of publishing as an Open Access journal with our new publisher, the University of Pittsburgh. This has required legal assistance, in addition to contracting with a new printer to provide print copies of the journal to those who still wish to receive them. We are confident that UPitt is the right home for our journal!

The pandemic has also meant that our Annual Meeting, which is usually held with the Linguistic Society of America’s meeting, had to be moved to an online platform.

ANS Officers

President
Dr. Dorothy Dodge Robbins

The year began promisingly with ANS officers and members meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana from January 2-5, 2020. Fifty presenters and attendees, representing many countries and numerous states, attended. In my role as ANS president, I helped manage events, introduce speakers, and moderate sessions. I presented my own research on names in graphic literature. As a resident of Louisiana for twenty plus years, presiding over this meeting was a special pleasure.

Plans for the 2021 meeting, originally scheduled to be held in San Francisco, initially were delayed due to uncertainties about the growing pandemic, questions about the viability of travel, and concerns about the health of our membership were we to gather in person. After much discussion among the officers, and a vote, we made the decision to move to an online platform for the 2021 ANS Meeting.

ANS Vice President Laurel Sutton, who collected abstract submissions, created a database for their storage. Once the deadline for submissions had passed, I organized the abstracts by category (personal names, place names, brand names, literary names) and sent them to knowledgeable scholars in these areas for their blind review. After the review process was complete, I notified individuals of their acceptance status and provided them with the reviewers’ comments.
I researched our options and chose Crowdcast, as it seemed easiest to use and replicates many of the functions of an in-person meeting, while maintaining security and accessibility to those outside the US. With the Executive Council’s backing, I have also contracted with a technical support company to guide us through this new experience. I helped evaluate some of the many fine abstracts that we received, and I (along with our Allied Conference Coordinator, Luisa Caiazzo) have been coordinating with our presenters. Finally, I designed a schedule which (hopefully) accommodates as many of our members as possible globally.

Throughout the year I have responded to press inquiries, dealt with subscription problems, reviewed submissions to Names, and made updates and corrections to the ANS website. I have continued to send updates to the membership via email, and worked with our Membership Officer, Sharon Obasi, to keep our membership up to date. I look forward to serving as President in the coming year.

Secretary
Dr. Star Medzerian Vanguri

I am enjoying my involvement in the ANS. In my first term as Secretary, I have edited two ANS Bulletins (2020:1 and 2020:2) and collected and tallied ballots for several executive council votes. Much of my time the past year has been spent learning more about the ANS organization and procedures, "meeting" members through email correspondences, and asking a lot of questions! While 2020 was a challenging year, I’m impressed with how resilient the organization has been and excited about the changes that are forthcoming.

Allied Conference Coordinator
Dr. Luisa Caiazzo

The ANS participates in the 2021 MLA Convention with the panel “Toponyms and Literaryscapes.” The Call for Papers was issued last January and published on the ANS website, in the ANS Newsletter, and sent out to several e-mail lists of researchers in Linguistics and Literature. We received high quality proposals, and after careful review by volunteers with an interest and experience in the field, four papers were selected. Namely (in random order): "Names and Places in All’s Well That Ends Well," Grant W. Smith (Eastern Washington University); "Activating the Ancestral Archive: Reading Indigenous Place-Name Maps as Narratives of Respect," Respo, Marcel Brousseau (University of Oregon); 3. "From Wordsworth’s Lakes to Wonderland: Mapping Literary Spaces through Chronotopic Connections," James Butler (Lancaster University); "Between Strategy and Tactics: The Pleasure of Place-Names in Nautical Voyage Literature," Alexander Sherman (Stanford University). I will preside the ANS panel at the MLA Annual Conference that will take place online from 7 to 10 January 2021. Further information about the panel can be found at the link <https://mla.confex.com/mla/2021/meetingapp.cgi/Session/9936>. I also served as blind reviewer for the ANS Annual Conference and contacted some of the presenters to provide information about their schedule at the conference.

Treasurer
Dr. Saundra Wright

Our budget is very healthy, and our expenses have been fairly consistent with previous years. So far we have spent approximately $6,500 in 2020.

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This includes conference-related costs, payments to our web hosting company, legal fees for our journal transfer, and gifts and donations to acknowledge our gratitude for the dedication of our former officers. As of now, the balance in our CHASE account stands at $48,500.

In addition to issuing payments and sending reimbursements, I have assisted with purchases, tax forms, answering questions about budget-related expenses, and advising on society expenditures. I have also been processing mail-in renewals and mail-in conference fees. Though the majority of these funds are now coming electronically directly through our site, we still are receiving some by personal check/mail.

In sum, our budget remains solid, and our expenses have been consistent with previous years. We anticipate some larger expenditures in 2021 (in particular, payment to Crowdcast, the technology company assisting us with our 2021 conference). However, I am confident we have sufficient funds to cover these expenses.

Membership Officer, SIG Coordinator-Place Names
Dr. Sharon Obasi

As Membership Officer I have assisted Vice President Laurel Sutton in personally contacting ANS members to encourage renewal of membership as well as reaching out to recruit new members. These efforts have led to a roster of 167 members from 35 countries. I have also served on the editorial board of Names and reviewed several submissions to that publication.

As coordinator of the Facebook Special Interest Group on place names I have continued to post information regarding toponymic research, policies, as well as “fun facts” about place names from around the globe. The Facebook group now has 98 members and I thank everyone for contributing to the growth of this group. I look forward to continuing to increase group membership and to stimulate conversation regarding place names.

Editor-in-Chief, Names: A Journal of Onomastics, Immediate Past President
Dr. I. M. Nick

Since my last official report, I have continued to work on managing the transition from Taylor and Francis (T&F) to our new publisher. This has involved processing the remaining submissions that are within the T&F computer system at the same time that I have been working with UPitt to create a new system for manuscript submission, review, and publishing. This process has required the design and configuration of a new website via UPitt. To bridge this transition period, I have erected an interim manuscript submission system that uses our ANS website as the submission portal. During this process, I revised and updated the Names Style Sheet. I also managed the Best of Article of the Year voting process, which, for the first time, was decided by the entirety of the Names Editorial Board. I published a note on racial ethnonymy in response to the highly publicized murders of several persons of colour during law enforcement incidents. I also published a number of obituaries this year for prominent onomasticians who passed away.

Along with my duties as Journal Editor, I worked closely with our Vice President, Laurel Sutton, particularly where questions of parliamentary procedure were concerned. For example, I put forth the approved proposal to hold a virtual conference to avoid the health risks of a traditional face-to-face convention.  

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Finally, on behalf of the ANS I designed and then had commissioned several awards for ANS members for their outstanding contributions to the ANS.

In the upcoming academic year, I intend to complete the transition to our new journal editor and establish a training protocol for the Editorial Board members for the new journal website. I also plan to continue to expand the Names Editorial Board. In particular, we need more reviewers who have expertise in Asian languages, literature, toponymy, and corpus linguistics.

Information Officer
Dr. Evgeny Shokhenmayer

My two-years-service as Information Officer of ANS is nearing its logical end. I’ve informed our audience about names-related news and events not only from the USA, but around the world. During the current year 2020, while lots of onomastic events were postponed, I posted only about 110 news (In total, I posted over 240 news across the past two years). Many of the posts discussed important onomastic news and events, that were not limited to ANS business, so I was providing valuable information to a much larger audience and, hopefully, will help to attract new members. Even though I became a father 15 months ago, I continued to look for and detect the best suitable content for the ANS news.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Laurel Sutton for her help in providing, finding and publishing information. She was so kind to me.

Book Review Editor of Names: A Journal of Onomastics
Dr. Christine De Vinne

Thanks to suggestions from members and publishers, the book review shelf has seen a number of interesting new titles, and several reviews are in progress. The following titles await reviewers, so if you are interested in them please let me know at cdevinne@ursuline.edu:

- *Dislocating the Orient: British Maps and the Making of the Middle East, 1854-1921*, by Daniel Foliard (U of Chicago P 2017 with new paperback version 2020). Includes interesting “chapters on "labeling"/naming sites on maps, especially in Israel, and is strong in relevant history.
  https://iupress.org/9780253022448/placing-names/
- *The Language of Humor: An Introduction*, by Alleen Pace Nilsen and Don L. F. Nilsen (Cambridge UP 2010), with a thumb drive that provides “a PowerPoint to accompany each of the twenty-five chapters.” Thanks to our past co-presidents for this volume, which presents a wide array of topics, from business and gerontology to music and law, with one chapter on names.

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- Namen und Berufe, by Dieter Kremer, in the series “Onomastica Lipsiensia” (Leipziger Universitätsverlag 2017).

In addition to reviewers for these toponymic resources, we also need reviewers who can address theoretical, philosophical, and more general topics. Anyone interested in becoming a new reviewer, please email to describe your disciplinary areas. Please also continue to email with suggested titles for review so that we can keep up to date with new publications and media in the field.

**Member at Large**

Dr. Jan Tent

I have continued to review articles for Names.

**Member at Large**

Dr. Andreas Gavrielatos

I have continued to contribute as member-at-large.

**SIG Coordinator - Personal Names**

Dr. Maryann Parada

As coordinator of the Facebook special interest group on personal names, I have continued to make regular posts sharing news stories and other pertinent media. I thank the many others who have contributed great content in the group. The group now numbers 71 members. In the coming months, I aim to extend further member invitations, increase the frequency and commentary of my posts, and work to create stimulating discussions among members. At the ANS 2021 meeting, I intend to hold an informal gathering for the exchange of ideas on endeavors related to personal names.

**SIG Coordinator - Literary Names**

Dr. Susan Behrens

I still am coordinator for the Facebook Literary Names SIG, review manuscripts for Names, and just cast my votes (Gold, Silver, Bronze) for 2019 article of the year.
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