



Florida Academy of Sciences

Where Science Happens®

E news Edward A. Haddad, Executive Director : Julie Regier, Office Manager November 2007

From the Executive Director

We are approximately 160 days away from our historic joint Annual Meeting with the Georgia Academy of Science. That may still seem like a long way off, but they will pass more quickly than we might imagine!

As many of you may know, there is currently a great deal of concern at the regional, state, and national levels with regard to enhancing the state and effectiveness of STEM education and on attracting more young people to study and plan careers in the STEM areas. STEM stands for Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics and it is an important objective of the Academy to encourage, support, and recognize students at all levels. It is also an objective of the Academy to contribute to the level of scientific understanding and scientific literacy of the general public.

During the past month, I attended and presented at annual meetings of the Florida Association of Science Teachers, Sigma Xi, and the National Academies of Sciences. All of these meetings had a focus of concern for science and science education. It is important for us all to remember that we, as a state Academy of Sciences, are an important resource in many fields of science. A good deal of science that our scientists perform and document in the *Florida Scientist* pertains to unique aspects of our Florida environment and biosphere.

For those of you who may not know, there are 44 State Academies of Sciences in the U.S. FAS ranks 16th in size and it is my goal to expand until we are at least 4th in size, commensurate with the population size of Florida. Like most Academies, we rely on the work of many volunteers both among our members and our Council to conduct the work of the Academy. The same is true of the Florida Junior Academy of Sciences which is an adjunct of the Academy. In order to conduct our missions and develop new programs, we need to grow in membership and in available funding

To accomplish our missions of increasing the level of public scientific literacy in Florida, supporting and mentoring students at all levels pursuing STEM studies, and to be a key player in policy and legislative development relating to scientific interests in Florida, we first have to put our name before the public more prominently than we have done before. People, and especially our legislators, need to know who the Florida Academy of Sciences is and what we do. One of our largest assets is being located in the Orlando Science Center. Very few state Academies of Science have this advantage with a ready access to the general public and school teachers and students who come to the Center as a resource. In view of this, we at FAS make every effort to support OSC in its program developments and presentations. FAS Scientists have participated and advised at several OSC events.

We are also investigating television shows, podcasting, and releasing science videos on the web. We are finalizing the design of a bumper sticker which we plan to sell and use the proceeds to help fund our outreach programs. We are working on modernizing and increasing the visual appeal of our website. And I am presenting the Academy as a place "Where Science Happens". We are grateful for your support of our efforts to make the Academy grow and prosper. And of course, we welcome your suggestions and input at any time!

From the President

Our President, Dr. Dan Odell, is touring South Africa during the month of November and planning to attend meetings there. During his absence this month, Dr. Richard Turner, President-Elect of FAS will assume the President's responsibilities.

FAS at Work

Below is a picture of President Odell displaying a skull he used in his presentation to attendees at the Sigma Xi National Meeting in Orlando recently



Above, and to the right, is a picture of scientists, Drs. Kenna Noone-Kirkpatrick and Elayne Zorn. FAS invited them to appear on the Daily Buzz TV show, broadcast nationwide live from Orlando daily, to speak on aspects of the Maya civilization. Below, FAS Graduate Students along with FAS Past-President Dr. Cherie Geiger, "teach" chemistry to future scientists at OSC.



You can see from these pictures that FAS members are actively involved in sharing their expertise and knowledge on a regular basis. Send us your photos and stories about what you are doing!

Richard Lockey, M.D., 2000 Florida Medalist, was named Distinguished University Health Professor at the University of South Florida. He is a member of the Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, USF College of Medicine. He is also Director of the Division of Allergy and Clinical Pharmacology. Dr. Lockey is a past-president and fellow of the American College of Physicians, and currently treasurer of the World Allergy Organization.

Julie reminds you all to renew your membership for 2008 as soon as possible! If you have any questions with regard to your membership, check the website <http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/> e-mail or call the office. And thanks to you who have already renewed!