



Florida Academy of Sciences

Where Science Happens®

E news Edward A. Haddad, Executive Director : Julie Regier, Office Manager June 2008

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First of all, many apologies for the long delay in issuing a newsletter. It was certainly NOT due to the fact that no newsworthy items have occurred! On the contrary, there is a great deal going on at FAS and with the state of science in general.

Our historic joint Annual Meeting with the Georgia Academy of Sciences held at Jacksonville University in March was a great success. To all of you who attended, we appreciate your presence and contributions to the success of the meeting.

Please check out the updated look of our website floridaacademyofsciences.org. Note the picture of our new bumper sticker there and click on it to order one or several. They proclaim our support of science and publicize the academy. Proceeds from the sale of the bumper sticker go to support our important outreach programs.

Also note on our website the link called **Science Daily** on the left hand side of the website. This is an exciting new addition to our website which provides national and international science news in all fields and is new everyday! An important feature of these news articles is that at the end of each article references are shown that allow students who want to use an article in a report or project to properly cite references. An effort is underway to reference the daily news articles (and those in the archives) directly to science teaching standards which will result in an invaluable resource for science teachers. FAS is in touch with the staff that is conducting this reference effort. The newly revised Florida Science Teaching Standards are being used as a template for the effort.

You should find these improvements and additions to our website valuable to you and we hope you will consult the FAS website frequently and also recommend your colleagues and friends to check our website. In addition to the improvements already made to our website, an effort is underway to completely restructure the website in a much more modern and visually appealing format. We will keep you posted on this.

COPUS

We have mentioned to you before the efforts underway with the COPUS (Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science) network. Their website is <http://www.copusproject.org/>. FAS was the first State Academy to become part of the COPUS network. Our host, Orlando Science Center, has recently joined COPUS as well. Preparations are underway for the Year of Science 2009. During 2009, events will be held nationwide. The COPUS network has designated a science topic for each month during 2009. Members are encouraged to host or conduct events open to the public that are related to these monthly topics during 2009. If you are a member of an organization that has an interest in bringing science to the public, you should register with the COPUS network. There is no cost to do so and the network allows publicizing events and programs and provides a source of finding out what is happening in your area.

SCIENCE CAFES

Many of you may have heard about the science café movement. It has been active in Europe for some years and is gaining significant growth here in the U.S. FAS is taking a leading role in the science café movement here in Central Florida. We are planning some innovative types of science cafes and will let you know as these develop. The first Café Scientifique Orlando will be held at the Stardust in Winter Park July 2, 7 PM. Derek Demeter, Director of the Seminole Community College Planetarium, will present a program entitled "Phoenix on the Red Planet". Dr. Leslie Lieberman, FAS Council Member, has provided support from Sigma Xi for the Cafe Scientifique.

The FAS Executive Director recently attended a National Science Cafe forum at WGBH/NOVA in Boston to exchange insights, plans and best practices for science cafes. If you are interested in starting a science cafe in your area, please contact the FAS office for information and assistance.

MEMBERSHIP

Increasing our membership is a constant goal of FAS. We are planning to launch an aggressive membership campaign early this fall. We are planning to institute some incentives for members to recruit new members and will be developing membership materials to assist in this effort. Every one of us should be an ambassador for the Academy and make a continual effort to attract our colleagues and associates to membership in the Academy. We are underrepresented in several of our member universities and colleges. This is something we would like to correct. In the meantime, be thinking about people you can talk to about joining FAS!

HELP WANTED!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Academy's work through membership on one of our committees, participating in one of our outreach programs, serving as a Resident Expert for the ask-A-Scientist program, speaking at a Science Cafe or here at Orlando Science Center or becoming an officer of the Academy, please contact us at the office!

CONGRATULATIONS

FAS Member Dr. John Lawrence, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of South Florida, and the FAS 2008 Medalist, is being honored with a celebration of his distinguished career at the Fifth North American Echinoderm Conference at Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, July 20-25 2008.