



# Florida Academy of Sciences

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Where Science Happens

*E news* Edward A. Haddad, Executive Director : Julie Regier, Office Manager February 2009

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Preparations are continuing for our upcoming Annual Meeting at St. Leo University, St. Leo, FL on March 20-21 2009. The Tampa Bay Area chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) will be joining us at this meeting. We are very proud to have this ACS chapter as one of our meeting sponsors. The office has been busy processing meeting registrations for some time now. If you have not yet processed your meeting registration, please do so as soon as possible by utilizing our website <http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/>. Registering from our website prior to the meeting will save you time when you arrive at St. Leo University. Please also note that **NO** registrations received from the website or on-line **AFTER Friday, March 13** will be able to be processed by the office. You will then have to register on-site for the meeting. All members of record should receive an Advance Program for the Annual Meeting in the near future. If you are planning to stay overnight near St. Leo, it is important for you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible! You can find information about recommended hotels on the FAS website. St. Leo University has a beautiful campus with excellent meeting facilities. We are confident you will enjoy your time there.

## 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/>. There are two regional COPUS hubs in Florida: one in the Tampa Bay Region and the other in Central Florida, Orlando. FAS is the head of the Orlando COPUS regional hub. Orlando Science Center and the University of Central Florida are other key members of the Orlando area COPUS Hub. There are many other such hubs throughout the USA. One of the major COPUS efforts has been to designate 2009 as the Year of Science 2009 (YOS 2009). We are now several weeks into YOS 2009 and a variety of activities and events around the U.S. are underway to celebrate this special year and with the specific objective of increasing the public understanding of science. Florida's Governor Crist has issued a proclamation designating 2009 as the Year of Science in Florida. You can stay informed of YOS 2009 events in your area by consulting the COPUS website listed above. Also, if you have any ideas for events in your area, please let us know about them and perhaps we can be of assistance. In particular, if you would like to speak at an event that would inform the public about what you are doing in research and other programs, let us know that and we can perhaps assist you in finding a venue for your presentations.

## SCIENCE CAFES

FAS has three monthly cafes operating here in the Orlando area. One of them has more than 100 names on its contact list. If you want to organize and set-up a science café in your area, please contact the FAS Office and we will provide assistance to get you started. These are excellent venues for educating the public in science matters!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my two year term as President winds down there is still plenty of work that needs to be done for the Academy. In this time of economic downturn the Trustees of the FAS Endowment have been busy watching our financial resources. The Local Arrangements Committee has, as usual been very busy making sure that the logistics for our Annual Meeting are in order. This is an annual challenge because both the venue and the committee changes. The Executive staff provides 'corporate memory' and oversight for meeting logistics. The Executive Director has also been very busy and very successful in raising funds to support the annual meeting. Suggestions for funding sources are always welcome from the membership. The annual meeting also keeps the Program Chair busy processing abstracts for the program. When you see these and other Council members at the annual meeting be sure to thank them for all of the work they have done for the Academy in the past year.

Annual membership dues are the key element that keeps the Academy alive. I encourage all members to renew in a timely fashion and to encourage their colleagues and students to join the Academy. Membership in the Academy remains a bargain in today's economic landscape and members are reminded that they are entitled to ten pages of waived page charges (a \$600 value!) per volume when they publish in the *Florida Scientist*. Your support is critical to the success of the Academy.

Calendar Year 2009 is not only the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species*, it is also the Year of Science. The Academy is an active participant in COPUS and the Executive Director has been busy helping to organize Science Cafes in the Orlando area and I encourage FAS members to participate in this project.

See you at St. Leo University in March!  
Dr. Daniel K. Odell

## NEW TELESCOPE!

A new telescope has been installed at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne, FL. The telescope was dedicated at a reception at FIT in April 2008. The telescope is significant in many ways, not the least of which is its size. At 0.8 meters, it is the largest research telescope in the state of Florida. It will provide a major new venue for astronomical observations and research. For more information, contact Dr. Stephane Vennes, Asst. Prof., Physics and Space Sciences, FIT, at 321-674-7717

## WET N WILD

FAS has assisted WET N WILD Theme park in Orlando in developing a new Science Challenge Program for visiting student groups. This is our first effort at working with a popular attraction to develop a science component and we expect it to be very successful. You will find FAS listed on Wet N Wild's website and we are proud to be associated with them in this new outreach of science.