

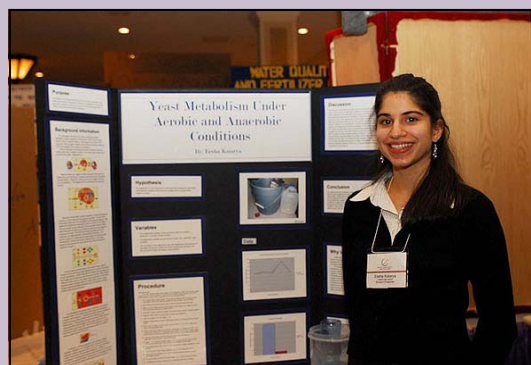
State Science Fair

The Academy's State Science Fair is an annual event that showcases Minnesota's best and brightest students in all fields of science. It is the culmination of regional Minnesota Fairs occurring throughout the state. Participants in the State Science Fair are in Junior or Senior High and compete by presenting projects and/or papers to a group of judges from various disciplines.

From approximately 2,500 regional participants, more than 450 students were selected to present at the Fair. Competition was intense with prizes including cash awards, trophies and medals, and national trips, as well as access to academic scholarships, internships, and other unique learning opportunities.

Congratulations to the students whose scholarship won them a place at the **International Science & Engineering Fair**:

- **Brandon Law**, Wayzata Senior High School
- **Emily Nimmer**, Breck School
- **Katie Baker & Emily Bodensteiner**, John Marshall High School
- **Marie Tate** (1st Alternate), Jackson County Central Senior High School
- **Atma Persaud** (2nd Alternate), Champlin Park High School
- **Brianna Droubie & Jill Hallin** (Team Alternate), Coon Rapids High School



For a complete list of Science Fair awards and recipients, visit our website at www.fair.mnmas.org

Congratulations also go to the **Seagate Rising Star** winners:

- **Riya Madan** (Junior High), Kellogg Middle School
- **Ari Klages-Mundt** (Senior High), Winona High School

The **Seagate Mentor Awards** this year went to two outstanding teachers:

- **Leila Youakim**, Coon Rapids Middle School
- **Roger Larsen**, Kellogg Middle School

Thank you to our committee volunteers: **Dr. Jennifer Bankers-Fulbright, Garrett Bitker, Gayle Bitker, Jim Fairman, Rosemary Fangel, Ruth Golda, Dr. Mary Beth Henderson, Dr. Jenny Hugstad-Vaa, Nancy Kolb, Mike Lohman, Penny Lohman, Karin Ostrand, Dr. Connie Pries, Gale Reller, Larry Schoenthaler, Mary Schoenthaler, Marie Storhaug, David Underbakke, Timara Underbakke, Celia Waldock, Mary Van Duynhoven, and Dale Weegman.** Their tireless hours and dedication to the State Science Fair have made this a successful event for all of our students and have inspired past participants to get involved in next year's planning events.

Thank you to our keynote speakers **Dr. John Najarian, Jane Casto** and our very special guest **Senator Amy Klobuchar.**

A very special thank you to all of the volunteer judges who gave so much time and energy to work with these amazing students.



Junior Science & Humanities Symposium

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS), held in conjunction with the State Science Fair, provides an opportunity for more than fifty students to present outstanding research papers to their peers and professional scientists. The event this year was expanded to provide a callback round for the top presentations. The callback judges had a very difficult time ranking the amazing presentations these students gave. At long last, they decided on the following top ten placements:

Advancing to National JSHS

- 1st place - **Kate Weegman**
- 2nd place - **Steve Trettel**
- 3rd place - **Daniel Mokhtari & Stephen Trusheim**
- 4th place - **Nicholas Derrico**
- 5th place - **Melody Hu**

Advancing to AJAS

- 1st place - **Michael Zaiken**
- 2nd place - **Madelaine Taft-Ferguson**
- 3rd place - **Brandon Law**
- 4th place - **Catherine Ishitani**
- 5th place - **Elaine Ayers**

Thank you to **Dr. John Najarian** for a very engaging keynote speech and for all his support throughout the event.

Thanks also go to all of our Breakfast with Scientist participants, our excellent judges, and our devoted volunteers who gave so much of their time and energy to provide our students with a first class educational event. And special thanks to **Garret Bitker** for stepping in to take over managing JSHS judges this year. The Academy could not offer the events we offer without volunteers like Garret.



News from Nationals

Out of 97 papers presented at the National Symposium, 18 winners are chosen in 6 categories.

- Congratulations to New Prague's **Stephen Trettel** who won 1st place and a \$16,000 scholarship!
- Congratulations to Winona's **Kate Weegman** who won 3rd place and a \$2,000 scholarship.
- Congratulations also go to Breck School's **Daniel Mokhtari and Stephen Trusheim** who won gift certificates for their poster presentation.

Lisè Weegman joins the MN Academy of Science

In the fall of 2007, Lisè Weegman joined the Academy as the director of the State Science Fair and Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Lisè has been working on multiple aspects of the Southeastern Minnesota Regional Science Fair for many years. She joined the State Science Fair six years ago and has become an invaluable member, overseeing all aspects of the Display and Safety committee, as well as helping out in the State Science Fair office. She brings a great deal of experience from being both a parent of State Fair participants (Matt and Mitch 2007, Kate 2008), and a volunteer organizer of fair events.

Lisè is currently a faculty member at Dakota County Technical College and teaches in the Management Program, Business Division. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration/Marketing and is working on her Masters in Educational Leadership.

Thanks to Lisè (and her husband Dale) for their tireless work on this year's events!

