

Message from the President

The 2007-2008 year was a time of transition and growth for the MN Academy of Science. The year began with the hiring of three exciting new staff members.

After years of diligent work by staff members, the Board felt that the Academy's financial status was stabilized and that the Academy could begin expanding our services. The first step in this process was to hire an Executive Director to focus on the mission and growth of the MN Academy of Science. Celia Waldock is an excellent choice for this position. Her background in non-profit management coupled with her ability to effectively grow organizations has already been an invaluable asset to our organization.



Lisè Weegman, a long-time volunteer with the State Science Fair and the Southeast Minnesota Regional Fair, took over as our Science Fair/Junior Science & Humanities Symposium program director. Lisè's professionalism made this transition smooth and very successful. The entire Board is excited about the excellent new ideas Lisè is bringing to these treasured programs.

Megan Buchanan joined the Academy as our first program coordinator for the Annual Meeting and Winchell Undergraduate Symposium. An event that has always had a strong annual volunteer committee will now have a new, long-term focus. We expect the Annual Meeting will undergo innovative changes in the upcoming year and are confident Megan will continue her excellent job coordinating this event. The Board and I wish to thank this year's planning committee and the faculty at Bethel College for their hard work on this year's 75th Annual Meeting of the MN Academy of Science held in conjunction with the 20th Winchell Undergraduate Symposium.

This year also saw the growth of the Science Quiz Bowl program. For the first time in our history, we were able to expand the program to include Middle School teams. Program director Barb Billington did a wonderful job initiating this new event and recruiting teams. After five years running the program, Barb has returned to school to pursue her doctorate degree. We will miss her very much and thank her for her superb service.

Finally, it has been my great pleasure to serve as the President of the MN Academy of Science for the past two years. I have been so pleased with the service and dedication of all of our volunteers, staff, teachers and parents. But most of all, I have been impressed with the scholarship provided by our students. The innovation and ingenuity I have witnessed from these students fills me with confidence that Minnesota will continue to be a world leader in science research and innovation.

The following pages share photos and information about all of our programs. Additional photos are available on our website at www.mnmas.org.

We look forward to seeing you at our events in 2009!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William C. Bessler". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. William Bessler
President

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Celia Waldock named as new Executive Director

Celia Waldock has joined the Academy as the new **Executive Director**. Her role will be working with the Academy Board and overseeing all of our programs, as well as helping to lead the Academy forward in improving and expanding science education opportunities in Minnesota.

Celia has a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a long history in non-profit management and a successful track record growing organizations. She also teaches business classes at the MN School of Business.

With energetic new leadership, we anticipate you will be excited to see how the Academy progresses in the next few years.



Staff

Celia Waldock, *Executive Director*

Barbara Billington, *Program Director, Science Quiz Bowl*

Megan Buchanan, *Program Coordinator, Annual Meeting & Winchell Undergraduate Symposium*

Lisè Weegman, *Program Director, State Science Fair and Junior Science & Humanities Symposium.*

Pat Strandberg, *Office Manager*

Joe Duca, *Website and Database Manager*

Transitions

The following Board Members completed their terms on the Board this year:

Clark Erickson **Patrick Hamilton** **Dr. Kathryn Hanna**

The MN Academy of Science wishes to thank them for their service to science education in Minnesota.