

## Annual Meeting / Winchell Symposium Hosts Hundreds

Upon entering the room where presentations are occurring at the MN Academy of Science's Annual Meeting/Winchell Symposium, one quickly realizes the importance of the meeting by the simple fact that the participating college students have transformed themselves from flip-flop, sweat-pant, sweatshirt wearing individuals, to studious looking, serious lecturers. During Friday night's poster session, the walls are lined with students and their projects; there is a quiet buzz of questioning by curious onlookers and explanations by presenters. Regardless if the presentations are held in a gym or ballroom, the energy in the room is palpable. On Saturday morning, the energy is much the same. There is usually a smaller crowd of presenters, students who have come prepared to give 15-20 minute oral presentations to students and judges in a similar discipline. Students are then judged for their oral presentation; one winner is picked in each session. At Saturday's luncheon there is an awards ceremony for Best in Session winners.

Each year, the MN Academy of Science's Annual Meeting/Winchell Symposium is host to hundreds of undergraduate students. The two-day meeting gives students the opportunity to present their research to other science students, professors, and professionals in science. Participants gain experience in public presentation, which is something they will encounter again regardless of their chosen field. In addition to the presentation experience, meeting participants and attendees attend dinner Friday night, which includes an address by a keynote speaker.

This year's speaker was Dr. Michelle Biros, Attending Emergency Physician at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of MN and HCMC. She is currently the Associate Research Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at HCMC and Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Emergency Medicine at the U of M. Her primary research interests have been neurological emergencies, biomedical ethics, and the psychosocial aspects of emergency care. Dr. Biros' address focused on the changes that have occurred in emergency medicine over the last 20 years.

The Annual Meeting/Winchell Symposium has occurred annually for more than 75 years and continues to be a success. The meeting has included various components, including professional symposia, informational tables for graduate programs, graduate student luncheons, to name a few, but each year one thing remains the same — a high quality experience for undergraduate students.

*By Megan Buchanan, Annual Meeting Coordinator*



Pictured at right is Winchell Symposium entrant Michelle S. Nyamusharrya, a student at the College of St Catherine, St Paul.

St. Kate's hosted this year's Annual Meeting and Undergrad Symposium.