

# MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006



*Promoting Excellence in Science Since 1873*

*Through educational programs  
and professional development opportunities  
— from elementary school through professional life —  
the Minnesota Academy of Science supports Minnesota  
scientists at every stage of their development, providing a  
vital forum for scientific inquiry and discussion that reaches  
more than 25,000 Minnesotans annually.*

[www.mnacadsci.org](http://www.mnacadsci.org)

## Message from the President

This year completes a two year term as president and I will turn over the office of the Academy to a new president and executive committee in both a sound financial condition and with exciting programs and excited program directors. The Academy completed all of its programs this year within the budget and had some of the best programs in recent memory.



My heart-warm thanks go out to those who made this a great year. To Barb Billington for the Science Bowl, to Mike Huberty and Bob Schumacher for Science Olympiad, to Wayne Wolsey for a renewed annual meeting and Journal edition, to Karen Newell for Scholars of Distinction and most assuredly to Gary Alexander for the Science Fair, REAP and JSHS. None of these individuals could have succeeded were it not for the phenomenal assistance they received from Pat Strandberg, Joe Duca and Max Hubbard holding the organization together and making sure all the bills are paid and everyone was registered correctly. Without all of these individuals there could be no functioning Academy, but with them, the Academy and its programs has been a major success this year. Next year promises to be even more exciting.

This report will detail the extent of impact the Academy has had on science education at all levels, from junior high school through professional science/research programs. We have many corporate sponsors to thank as well, for their continued, renewed and in some cases new support for science education in the state of Minnesota. The list of those sponsors is included in this annual report and with summaries of the programs each supports. Among other things, this year saw the first student from Minnesota competing in the international science fair held in London, England in July of 2006. Our own Gary Alexander was chosen to accompany the students as a mentor and representative of the Minnesota Academy of Science.

It has been a fun filled two years at the helm of the Academy. I look forward to another year as past-president and member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. I will remember these past two years as among the best in my career. Working with the gifted people above and many not mentioned has made it an easy task. Watching the development of students in pursuit of science makes all of the work worthwhile.

Here's to many more years of Academy activities,

**Bill Heidcamp**  
*President*

## State Science Fair & Jr. Science & Humanities Symposium



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

From approximately 2,500 regional participants, 452 students are selected to present at the Minnesota Academy of Science State Fair. At the fair, 45 organizations and businesses presented over 100 awards to students with outstanding projects.

For a complete list of Science Fair awards and recipients, visit our website at [www.mnacadsci.org](http://www.mnacadsci.org)

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSBS), held in conjunction with the State Science Fair, provides an opportunity for 50 students to present outstanding research papers to their peers and professional scientists. Winners of the regional JSBS competition this year were **James Hanson, Amy Tierney, Steve Trettel, Carl Turner, and Mitch & Matt Weegman.**

Thank you to Gary Alexander for organizing and running this year's amazing events.

Also thank you to Jim Waddell, Jennifer Banker's Fulbright, Jennifer Hugstaad-Vaa, Cheryl Moertel, Lise & Dale Weegman, Mike & Penny Lohman, and keynote speakers Mike Schaefer and Diane Rucker. Special thanks to all of the volunteer judges who gave so much time and energy to help their incredible students.

This year's generous sponsors included Seagate, Ecolab, 3M, Medtronic, General Mills, Pentair, Toro, American Medical Systems, the Science Museum of MN, and the Academy of Applied Science.

### 2006 Seagate Mentor Awards

Long before the recent push to close science and math achievement gaps for students, two Minnesota science teachers were reaching above and beyond to leave no child behind — especially in math and science. **Rachel Peterson** from St. Helena's in Minneapolis and **David Bosma** from Alden, were recently honored with the Seagate Mentor award for their efforts in promoting science education by encouraging and supporting students' hands-on experience outside of the classroom.

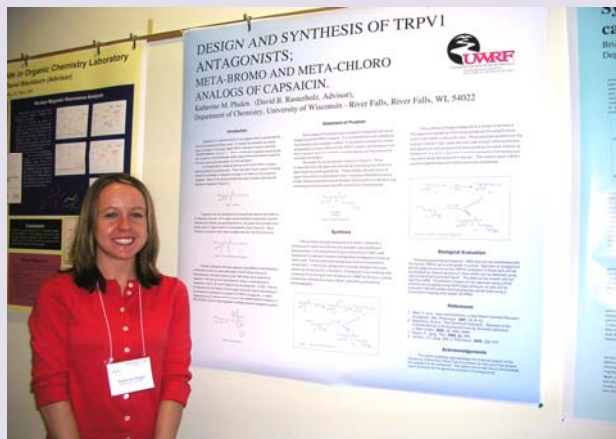
Peterson has been mentoring science students at St. Helena Catholic School. This year, as the middle school's only science teacher, she supervised more than 60 projects for the school's science fair. She sent seven first place winners to the regional science fair level, where three of them were selected to compete at state. According to Program Manager Gary Alexander, it was obvious to the Seagate Mentor award committee that St. Helena has a gem of a science teacher with Peterson.

Bosma has been mentoring for 12 years. His science students at Alden-Conger High School received hands-on attention from a teacher whose passion for teaching science and desire for student's success is profoundly evident to both the students and community. Bosma's work includes mentoring students involved in physical science, chemistry, physics and applied science.

The Seagate Mentor award, sponsored by Seagate Technology, provides an annual, statewide recognition for teachers who have mentored student participants in the Minnesota Academy of Science State Fairs.

*- excerpted from a press release from Seagate Technology Inc.*

## Annual Meeting and Winchell Undergraduate Symposium



2006 saw the return of the MN Academy of Science's Annual Meeting, Winchell Undergraduate Symposium and Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science. This year's Winchell Symposium was held at Macalester College. Over 100 undergraduate papers and posters were presented.

Macalester Alum **Dr. Maura Donovan** (Senior Director of Biosciences R&D, Medtronic and Program Director-Research, MG Biotherapeutics) gave the keynote address, discussing the future of science and medicine, combining aspects of research, clinical application and marketing.

Thank you to Wayne Wolsey and his volunteer group who put together a great event.

And special thanks to Macalester for all of their support before and during the symposium. Next year's location and data will be announced soon - watch the MAS website for details.

## Science Olympiad

The Minnesota Science Olympiad is a program devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement.

Team competition is patterned after track tournaments with challenging and motivational events ranging from earth science through physics. Events range from hands-on labs to student-built machines; from outdoor events to paper and pencil tests. There is also a balance between events requiring scientific knowledge and understanding, and others requiring process and application skills. Although some events require an individual from one team to compete against other individuals from other schools, most events require teamwork, group planning, and cooperation. The emphasis is on learning, participation, interaction, having fun and team spirit.

Congratulations to **Delano** for their grand performance at the 2006 National Science Olympiad at Indiana University. Delano (representing all Minnesota) topped Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas! The team scored in the top twenty nationally in Water Quality, Science of Fitness, Food Science, Experimental Design, Disease Detectives, Balloon Race, and Awesome Aquifer. Great job Delano!

## Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program

Each year the Academy supports two high school students in research settings, giving them an opportunity to work with professional scientists on original research. The Research Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP) provides an opportunity to work in a research environment. These apprenticeships are designed to expand the students' background and understanding of scientific research, while motivating them toward a research career in science mathematics or technology. The REAP scholars present their research at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium the following year. The 2006 REAP awards were given to **Darcy Mundahl** from Winona and **Xin Zhang** from Rochester.

## Science Bowl

An historic 31 teams competed in this year's expanded event. The weather was clear, the volunteers were plenty, and the competition was exciting! Two new Schools joined the game this year - Al Almal School and St. Thomas Academy. St. Thomas joined eleven other teams in the Double Elimination game after dinner.

After a fiercely close competition, and an extra round of play, **Chaska High School Team 1**, coached by **Jim Lund**, won 1st Place. They expect to compete in the National Competition in Washington DC this spring. (That's six 1st place wins in the last eight years for Chaska!) At Nationals, Chaska won second place in the King of the Hill Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car Challenge.

**St. Paul Academy-Summit School Team 1**, coached by **Janice Gepner**, won 2nd Place. Among their awards was a sponsored trip to the Bakken museum.

**Blake Upper School Team 1**, coached by **Deb Weiss**, won 3rd Place.



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all of our events  
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**Waconia Team 2**, coached by **Mel Berg**, won the Civility Award. Congratulations!

Thank you to Wayne Wolsey and Macalester College for providing a great space for this competition. Thanks also to Program Manager Barb Billington and a dedicated group of volunteer judges who kept the event flowing smoothly. And congratulations to all of the incredible students who train so hard for this exciting event!

## Scholars of Distinction

Eleven Minnesota high school students were awarded the 2006 Minnesota Scholars of Distinction in Science award. The Scholars of Distinction in Science recognizes students who have acquired a substantive base of scientific knowledge that reflects a broad and effective integration of scientific content and principles across several disciplines. In addition, this designation identifies students who can place science and technology within the contexts of society and history. Scholars were chosen by a panel of citizen-scientists representing industry, government and academia.

The 2006 Scholars of Distinction in Science are Breck students **Meredith Blank, Michael Blazar, Michelle Hackner, Richie and Ryan Huynh, Brandon Lew, Dana Lindberg, Lillian Nordahl, Katherine Shaeffer** and **Mathew Weiss**, and Maranatha Christian Academy **Kyrstin Underbakke**.

In addition, three students received Meritorious Performance awards. These students include **Daniel Geoffrion** and **Andrew Mc Cullough** of Breck and **Paul Mueller** of Cloquet High School.

Special recognition is given to Breck School which offers a Science Research class for its top students, and many participants entered the Scholars program based on science mentorships through this class.

**The Minnesota Academy of Science gratefully acknowledges the contributions that made our work possible this year. The following donors made contributions between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.**

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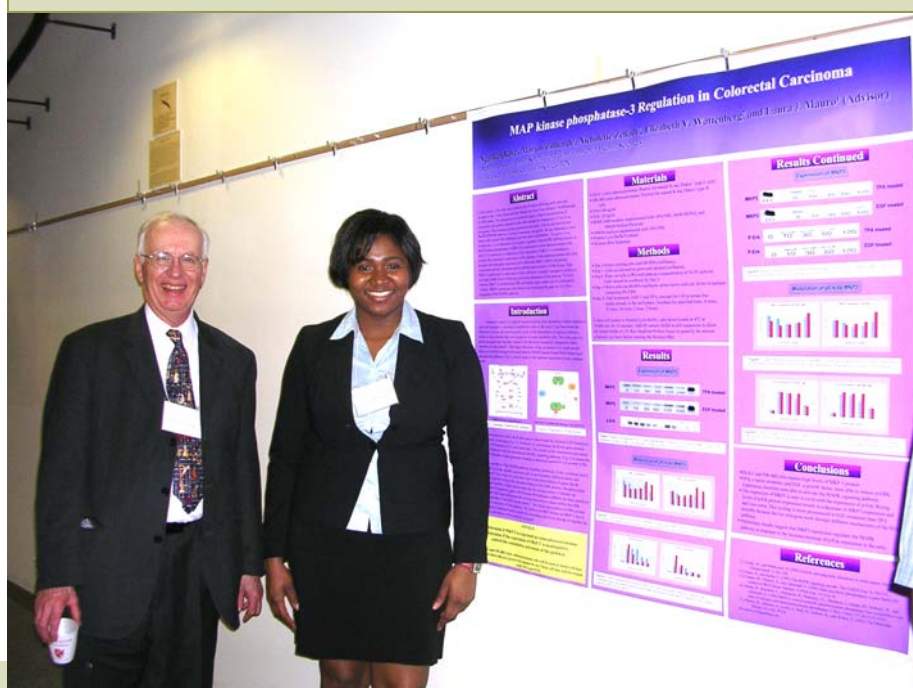
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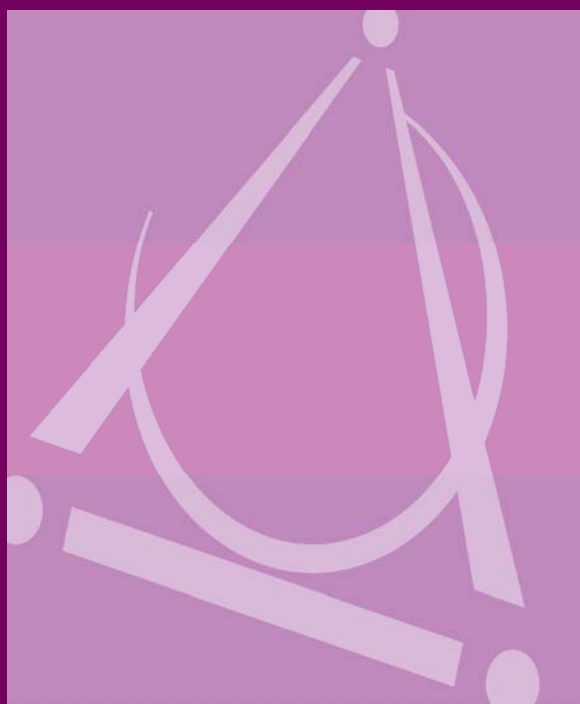
## Transitions

Raechelle Rainey of 3M and Nicole Morris left the board this year. Raechelle Rainey completed her term and Nicole Morris relocated. The Minnesota Academy of Science wishes to thank them for their service to science education in Minnesota.



**Minnesota Academy of Science  
Revenue & Expense  
July 2005 through June 2006**

<b>Income</b>		
Awards Revenues	4,000	
Contributions Income	10,610	
Grants	118,010	
Interest Income	23	
Membership	3,253	
Miscellaneous Income	118	
Other Income	1,971	
Publications Revenue	132	
Registrations	<u>88,805</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>226,922</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Administration	46,975	
Program	151,022	
Other Expense	<u>341</u>	
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>198,338</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>		<b>28,584</b>



**The Minnesota Academy of Science  
is committed to promoting interest in,  
and appreciation of, science among  
the citizens of Minnesota,  
encouraging and facilitating excellence  
in science and science education  
at all levels and fostering active and  
integrated participation  
in scientific inquiry.**