

# The COPUS Clarion

A Monthly Newsletter of the COPUS Network Volume 1 Issue 3 November 2007

*The Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) is a grassroots effort linking universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, advocacy groups, media, educators, government agencies, businesses, and industry in a peer network having as its goal a greater public understanding of the nature of science and its value to society.*

## Join COPUS group on Facebook

COPUS recently established a “group” in the social networking community, Facebook. We welcome science lovers to join, post photos, and share ideas with others — supporting the growth of the COPUS community. Several network participants already have well-established groups on Facebook, including Student Pugwash USA, the Society of Physics Students (SPS), National Science Teachers Association, and the National Center for Science Education. This is a great opportunity for coalition members to get better acquainted with their peers in science outreach. Messages sent to group members through the Facebook messaging system support communication and collaboration within the community. In a recent COPUS blog posting, Kendra Rand of SPS and Kirsten Sanford of This Week in Science both commented about how social networking has been a valuable asset to their science outreach. Said Kirsten, “Networks help people feel more connected and involved than they do through standard email.”

Joining the Facebook community is free and quickly achieved through completion of the online sign-up form at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). To find the COPUS group page, search for COPUS upon completion of sign up.

### Welcome New Members!

California Sea Grant  
California State Parks Foundation  
Coalition for Science After School  
Diversity in the Biological Sciences  
Forum on Science Ethics and Policy  
Heartland Area Education Agency  
The Herpetologists' League  
Kennesaw State University, College of Science and Mathematics  
Institute of Biological Engineering  
Light in Winter Festival  
Montgomery County Public Schools DNA Resource Center  
Open Knowledge and the Public Interest  
National Earth Science Teachers Association  
Science Center of Pinellas County  
Science Education for Students with Disabilities  
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles  
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology  
South Dakota State University  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
This Week in Science  
University of Florida, Center for Precollegiate Education and Training  
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Comm., Div. of Science & Research  
Willow Canyon High School  
WGBH Educational Foundation

## Celebrating the Year of Science

With less than 14 months until we ring in Year of Science 2009, many coalition participants are planning to make YoS'09 a theme for their annual conferences and meetings. Professional societies, teacher organizations, and state science academies are all looking for ways to incorporate this year-long celebration of the process and wonder of science.



For example, the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), is laying plans for their 2009 conference in New Orleans titled “Celebrating the Year of Science: *Laissez les bons temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!)” The Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) joins NSTA in organizing this event, where a central theme will be celebration and hope for the people of the Gulf Coast who continue to rebuild and recover from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Considering lessons learned from their recent storm experiences and the importance of science in our everyday lives, organizers have selected four strands of special significance for the meeting: Science and the Human Spirit; Research to Practice: The Science Teacher Professional Continuum; Energy and the Environment: The Natural and Human-designed World; and ISTE: Meeting the Needs of the Digital Student.

NSTA and LSTA invite colleagues to join them in the celebration of the Year of Science in 2009 and to join the thousands of science educators who attend NSTA Conferences on Science Education each year. The 2009 event will take place March 19-22. More information will be available online in the spring at: [www.nsta.org/conferences](http://www.nsta.org/conferences). Science teachers, supervisors, administrators, researchers, and professional development providers who wish to share in this celebration are invited to submit a session proposal at: [www.nsta.org/conferences/sessions.aspx](http://www.nsta.org/conferences/sessions.aspx).

*There is strength in numbers, and by working with other like-minded organizations and individuals, we hope to be able to more effectively reach our goals and those of COPUS. Science is facing an uphill battle in the United States, and it needs all the help it can get.*

**Kirsten Sanford** – This Week in Science

# Featured Programs:

## Light in Winter Festival, Ithaca, NY

Come explore "Identity"!



*"I have heard the love songs of whales, seen the edges of the universe, and felt the wonder of what it means to be a human in an awesome web of creation."*

—Light in Winter participant

Mark your calendars now for Light in Winter 2008, an opportunity to explore the many meanings of Identity through the prisms of science and art. The festival welcomes internationally known South African musician Hugh Masekela and his Chissa Allstars, an opening night extravaganza starring NPR's Neil Conan and Ensemble Galilei on the history of world exploration; the physics of superheroes, government secrecy, the biology of B-movie monsters, what robots dream of, the Garden of Cosmic Speculation, a musical dim sum with the Ying Quartet, and much more. This year the festival will be in downtown Ithaca on Friday, at Cornell on Saturday, and finish on the Discovery Trail and at Ithaca College Sunday.

Light in Winter allows participants and audiences alike to experience familiar concepts in new ways through the excitement of collaborating across disciplines. Long-time Ithaca resident Carl

Sagan once said: "Somewhere something incredible is waiting to be known." That somewhere is Ithaca every January, where Light in Winter stretches your thought and imagination as it educates and entertains.

Light in Winter is your world... illuminated!

[www.lightinwinter.com](http://www.lightinwinter.com)

## Warming up for 2009 in February 2008...

### COPUS participants prepare to celebrate science!

Many COPUS participants are actively engaged in building bridges between the general public and the scientific community through the celebration of the scientific study of evolution and honoring the research of Charles Darwin. Many of these groups are gearing up for activities in February and would enjoy additional participation and support. Perhaps your organization would be interested in learning more:

- The **Clergy Letter Project** has created a database of scientists willing to work with clergy members to answer questions about all aspects of evolution. You can learn more or sign up at [www.evolutionsunday.org](http://www.evolutionsunday.org). In addition, project director Michael Zimmerman, has been hugely successful in promoting and organizing the celebration of "Evolution Weekend" each February. This event effectively builds bridges of understanding between the theistic public by sharing the scientific evidence which supports the evolution of life.
- **Darwin Day Celebration** promotes public education about Charles Darwin, evolution, and science by organizing annual events on the anniversary of Darwin's birthday, February 12 – with special emphasis on Darwin Day 2009, Darwin's 200th birthday, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of the Origin of Species. Be sure and register your organizations Darwin Day celebration on the Darwin Day Web site [www.darwinday.org](http://www.darwinday.org) and in the COPUS Registry [www.copusproject.org/listings](http://www.copusproject.org/listings).



More great stuff will be coming on this topic as other COPUS participants rev up for the Darwin bicentennial celebration in 2009!

**Questions? Comments? Ideas?** Contact Sheri Potter at [spotter@copusproject.org](mailto:spotter@copusproject.org).

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