



## The Year of Science 2009 - a National Celebration of Science

### Steering Committee of the COPUS and Year of Science 2009 Projects

- Lee Allison, Director, Arizona Geological Survey
- Jack Hehn, Director of Education, American Institute of Physics
- Jack Hess, Executive Director, Geological Society of America
- Jay Labov, Senior Advisor for Education and Communications, National Academy of Sciences
- Richard O'Grady, Executive Director, American Institute of Biological Sciences
- Judy Scotchmoor, Assistant Director, University of California, Museum of Paleontology, Education and Public Programs

### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Year of Science Kicks Off in Boston

The Year of Science 2009 official launch will take place in Boston on January 3-6, 2009, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology.

#### [www.YearofScience2009.org](http://www.YearofScience2009.org)

On January 1, 2009 COPUS celebrates the launch of the Year of Science 2009 Web site with theme-related content and activities for the general public to explore.

#### [www.UnderstandingScience.org](http://www.UnderstandingScience.org)

COPUS also celebrates the launch of Understanding Science -- a freely accessible web-based resource that provides a new approach for teaching the nature of science. Highlights include: a dynamic representation of the real process of science, science stories, scientist profiles, and friendly images to illustrate key concepts.

**The Year of Science 2009 (YoS09)** is a national, year-long, grassroots celebration of science shining the spotlight on "How We Know What We Know." Activities and events are led by a wide variety of scientific organizations under the umbrella of the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS). The organizations are uniting in response to growing concerns about increased antievolution activities, apparent public confusion about stem cell research and climate change, and reports from the National Science Board that "most Americans do not understand the scientific process." The scientific community is leveraging the opportunity to increase promotion and engagement of their activities that will improve public understanding of how science works, who scientists are, and why science matters. The 12-month event is organized along the following scientific themes:

- January - The Process and Nature of Science
- February - Evolution
- March - Physics and Technology
- April - Energy Resources
- May - Sustainability and the Environment
- June - Ocean and Water
- July - Astronomy
- August - Weather and Climate
- September - Biodiversity and Conservation
- October - Geosciences and Planet Earth
- November - Chemistry
- December - Science and Health

The Year of Science 2009 is an initiative of the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS [www.copusproject.org](http://www.copusproject.org)). COPUS is a growing, grassroots effort whose goal is to engage sectors of the public in science to increase their understanding of the nature of science and its value to society. A key objective of COPUS is to create new forums for communication and to develop new opportunities for engaging the public with science. The coalition is made up of a network of more than 430 universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, government agencies, advocacy groups, media, schools, educators, businesses, and industry -- basically, anyone who cares about science and is concerned about national scientific literacy.