

Suggested Titles:
New Strides for Global Science

Article for IYPN- Nina Sen-New York Academy of Sciences

In 1817, a group of New York City Scientists noted the lack of network and communication in their field and started a small organization. Now named the New York Academy of Sciences the non-profit aims "to advance the understanding of science, technology, and medicine, and to stimulate new ways to think about how their research is applied in society and the world". The Academy, as it is lovingly called, recently moved from their Upper East Side address to the newly built 7 World Trade Center. With a membership of 20,000 from 150 countries, this now allows them to hold even more local & international events on cutting-edge topics. One such initiative is the "New Vistas" lecture series which focuses on a discussion with young scientists developing fresh ideas and approaches to research. The audience is allowed to ask questions and really delve into the theories behind the science. After most events wine & cheese receptions are provided to encourage networking among the group. The Academy also works with different organizations around the world, most recently in Shanghai with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. With the success of that group, which brought together eminent scientists from Europe, China and the US, the Academy is now reaching out to The Royal Society in London. As part of the continuing role of the Academy to promote science, members of the board initiated the Scientists Without Borders program to address problems in the developing world by bringing together innovators and visionaries in the field. A collaboration between the Academy and the United Nations Millenium Project, the new program plays an overarching role in global health, energy needs, agricultural processes and environmental issues. It aims to do so in two ways: by providing the intellectual and material resources to complimentary projects and aligning volunteers with projects of their interest. As a scientist, there is little relief to provide in times of disaster but the program aims to forward the long-term goals of the UN Millenium Project. This project will remind the world that bringing together the talents and research of leading scientists will impact not only immediate needs in the developing world but also stabilize the conditions that create such needs. Initial outreach is towards Africa and fosters connections between local, international and governmental organizations to build research and capacity based programs. With continuing success Scientists Without Borders hopes to expand to the entire developing world. Here at home, the professional or amateur science enthusiast can attend any lecture or view a summary of the proceedings online. Responding to feedback from its members, the Academy has also established Physical Sciences, Science Alliance and the Science of Food series. Inaugural events held this year had massive success and introduced the Academy to different groups. Science of Food, which focuses on the base makeup of everyday foods such as wine, beer, and cheese encourages scientists and laymen to question why things taste the way they do. Of course, all the featured foods are available to help form better opinions. These events hope to make science relevant in the ordinary persons life and showcase the flexibility of ideas in the scientific community. The recent Science of Wine event features one of the world's foremost tannin chemists, James Kennedy, who has spent

most of his research on the subtle flavors and textures in red wine. The upcoming programs in this five-part series will focus on beer, cheese and the science of flavor. The premier event which featured Shirley Corriher in the Science of Cooking, drew close to 300 attendees. At the old but beloved Italian Neo-Renaissance building on the Upper East Side, the main halls could not accommodate more than 170 and attendees had to sit in different rooms. The new auditorium at 7WTC alone seats 300, and the smallest room seats 80 comfortably. Since the Academy's new home is in an eco-friendly green building, Physical Sciences has launched the "Mixed Greens" lecture series. Featuring leading architects, engineers, and environmental consultants these focus on sustainable design and skyscraper urbanism. The series builds on the Skyscraper museums lectures on "Green Teams" and their 2006 exhibition of Green Towers. Starting in January of 2007, this series will continue to approach new ideas and directions in Green Science and environmental systems all over the world. (The Academy also strives to include and extend science to New York City Grade schools. Their science education department focuses on this with an annual science fair, lectures & conferences, and the Nobel Essay contest. In recent years, the latter has responded to astounding success with three lucky winners getting an all-expense paid trip to attend the world-famous Nobel Prize Award Ceremony, Nobel Banquet and related activities in Stockholm. The competition is open to all juniors attending New York City high schools, and looks to inspire budding scientists as well as give them recognition for their work. Student may submit essays in Physics, Chemistry or Medicine and must demonstrate literacy as well as their understanding of the above topics.) Much of the Academy's outreach is within the States, and many Science Alliance events, have been held at universities and labs across the country. Science Alliance builds connections for students and postdocs armed with advice from publishing papers to career development. Working with different universities across the nation, this program will further build relationships between established scientists and the younger crop of talent. The Academy strives to include any level of interest in science, from introducing cutting-edge researchers in specialized fields to the Annual Meeting where members can directly stress their outlook to the future. With these bold new initiatives, The New York Academy of Sciences has taken steps to build & follow the goals of its founding members.

Nina Sen moved to the United States at the age of 12 from her home of Kolkatta, India. She attended high school in several states, and received her Bachelors in Business from Washington State University. She currently works at the New York Academy of Sciences in their programs department. In the fall she will be attending Middlesex University to study Politics & Policy for her Masters degree. She hopes to plan & work with new initiatives in the developing world integrating science, public policy and education. To contact her please email nsen@nyas.org