



NorthEastern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Newsletter

April, 2004

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2004 HOOSIER STATE FAIR WINNERS!

On Saturday, April 3, 2004, Indiana University at Kokomo hosted the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair. Eight students from our regional fair competed with students from the 11 other regional science and engineering fairs in Indiana. Congratulations goes out to all of the students who advanced to State!

In the junior division, **Thaddeus Morken** from St. Vincent de Paul School brought home the Outstanding Science and Engineering Project sponsored by the United States Air Force. **Joy Hines** from Orchard Day School won the Best Pharmacy Related Project sponsored by the Indiana Pharmacists Alliance, 2nd Place, Best Microbiology Project sponsored by SCA-Clinical Microbiology, and 1st Place overall Physical Science for the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair.

In the senior division, **Zafar Sayed** from Homestead High School took home 1st Place for the Best Project Involving Human Life Sciences sponsored by the Indiana Osteopathic Association. **Jason Leung**, also from Homestead High School won a \$1000 four-year renewable scholarship to the University of Evansville, an award for Awareness in Controlling and Preventing Corrosion sponsored by NACE International; the Best Overall Project award sponsored by the United States Army, the Best 11th grade Computer, Engineering, Physics or Chemistry Project award sponsored by the Yale Science and Engineering Association, and 3rd Place overall Physical Science for the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair.

Congratulations to these fine students! Also, we wish **Abigail Hines** of Orchard Day School and **Jonathon Bell** of Snider High School, who will represent northeast Indiana at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Portland, Oregon, May 9 through the 14, all the best. Have a great trip!

A Changing of the Guard: **Introducing the New NEIRSEF Director and Program Assistant**

As many of you know, this was my last fair season as NEIRSEF Director. It has been a pleasure to work with you all for the past 3½ years— your commitment to your students has been inspiring. However, it is time for me to turn to other projects. In the Fall 2004 semester, I will be on sabbatical leave, and will be collecting data on a study examining self-concept and identity development processes in middle and high school students attending residential arts and math-science oriented academies. (You should see the paperwork I have to do in order to be able to do my study!) ☺

I am very pleased to introduce two individuals who have come on board in the last month to take over the helm. Many of you already know **Carol Dostal**. Carol has been the Director of Outreach Programs for the School of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science (ETCS) at IPFW since Fall 2002. Carol's aptitude overseeing events that foster local school students' interest and education has been well-demonstrated and duly noted. IPFW's Math and

Science Camp, FIRST LEGO League State Tournament, and Indiana Future City Competition are just a few of the high quality events that have taken off thanks to Carol's talent. Prior to coming to IPFW Carol was the Educational Relations Manager at Science Central for nearly four years. She has a Master's degree in Organizational Communications and a bachelors degree in Middle and Secondary Education. Carol has also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the IPFW Communications Department for 6 years. We are delighted to have Carol on board as the new NEIRSEF Director!

We are also fortunate to have **Kimberly Wagner** join the team as the *first-ever* designated support person for the Fair. Kim joined the IPFW staff on March 1 as Program Assistant for NEIRSEF and ETCS's Outreach Programs Office. Prior to joining our staff, she worked in a communications/education capacity in both the non-profit and government sectors. Kim's responsibilities for NEIRSEF will include acting as the central communication link between school fair coordinators and the NEIRSEF Director and the Scientific Review Committee. Kim will play a key role in

managing the administrative/clerical aspects of the eligibility process for junior and senior division students, and she will also help to manage the myriad of details regarding the March Regional Fair event. "I'm really excited to be a part of this long-standing, educational tradition in northeast Indiana and I look forward to working with area educators," she says. Kim is a Fort Wayne native and alumna of Northrop High School and IPFW (Bachelor of Arts degree in Media and Public Communication). She is currently pursuing her Master of Public Affairs degree at IPFW.

I plan to continue to serve on the NEIRSEF Committee and be a part of the Fair "behind the scenes," and of course will be working with Carol and Kim through the summer as they transition into their new roles. Thus, I bid you farewell, and thanks for the collegiality over the last 3 years. I know with Carol and Kim, you will be in excellent hands!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! PLAN AHEAD!!

NEIRSEF DATES/DEADLINES FOR 2004-2005

The 50th Northeastern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be held at the Gates Center on the IPFW campus on Saturday, March 19th, 2005.

Fair Registration Deadlines:

- **Jr/Sr Division Fair Registration* Deadline** **5 PM, Friday, March 4th, 2005**
**only eligible Jr/Sr students may register;
ALL registrants must submit their ISEF paperwork
(including project abstract) at this time.*
- **Elementary Division Fair Registration Deadline** **5 PM, Friday, March 11th, 2005**

Jr/Sr Division Eligibility Deadlines: (for students in grades 6-12 ONLY)

- **Deadline to File an SRC Pre-Review Exemption Form** **5 PM, Friday, February 18th, 2005**
- **Deadline to Submit* Projects for SRC Pre-Review** **5 PM, Monday, January 24th, 2005**
**all project submissions are due at this time
(i.e., 1st and/or resubmissions)*

PLEASE NOTE: These are FIXED deadlines. PLEASE mark your calendars and plan ahead. A number of additional steps and a significant amount of work follows each deadline. We simply cannot accommodate late submissions, late registrations, etc.

NEIRSEF WEB RESOURCES

For 2004-05 we are going to use the same (or, very similar) web pages that were used during the 2003-04 Fair season (e.g., on-line Pre-Review Questionnaire and Exemption Form or SRC Pre-Review Cover Sheet [for grades 6-12], Fair Registration pages). Development of the kind of interactive system we tried to launch last year continues, but we think you will agree, sticking with a proven system for now seems best!

<http://www.ipfw.edu/scifair> – This is the NEIRSEF homepage—just about everything you need to know about the Regional Fair can be found on this site.

<http://www.sciserv.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp> – This is the Intel ISEF 'Rules Wizard' – this is a fantastic tool for your students to find out *which* ISEF Forms their projects will require. The 'Wizard' asks a series of questions about the proposed project, and then will recommend which forms should be completed.

<http://www.sciserv.org/isef> – This is the homepage for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair—it contains numerous links to helpful resources for students and teachers.

VISIT THE NEIRSEF HOMEPAGE OFTEN—CHECK FOR UPDATES!

Q. "Will My Students Need To Have Their Projects Pre-Reviewed?"

A. Some will, but some won't. Each of your 6th-12th grade students/teams must complete the on-line SRC Pre-Review Questionnaire to determine how to get eligible for the Regional Fair. Here are the questions they need to answer:

1. Does this project make use of people as research participants? (e.g., will people be observed, surveyed, tested, etc.?)
 2. Does the project place this student or any other individuals at risk from harm as they collect data or perform other procedures for this project?
 3. Does this project involve live animals in any way?
 4. Does this project involve pathogenic agents or potentially pathogenic agents? (e.g., Working with bread or other food molds? Taking dirt or water from the environment? Culturing bacteria from people's hands, kitchen countertops, etc.)?
 5. Does this project involve or make use of heavy machinery or other hazardous equipment? (e.g., Electric or gas-powered tools? Heat-generating lamps, ovens, etc.?)
 6. Does this project involve the use of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials? (e.g., household or laboratory chemicals, cleaners, combustible/falmmable materials?)
 7. Does this project involve the use of human or animal tissue?
 8. Does this project involve the use of recombinant DNA?
 9. Does this project involve the use of controlled substances? (e.g., over-the-counter or prescription medications, nicotine, alcohol, etc.?)
- Students who answer "NO" to all 9 questions will file an Exemption Form—they will NOT need to have a pre-review of their projects. Of course, it is critical that you, as their teacher, make sure they are answering the questions accurately/correctly. Once we receive the signed Exemption Form, the student is considered "eligible to register."
 - Students who answer "YES" to one or more questions must have their projects pre-reviewed before they can work on them. Again, teachers **MUST** make sure their students are answering the questions appropriately. When in doubt as to how a particular question should be answered for a particular project, **CONTACT THE SRC CHAIR.**
 - **NOTE: ALL Jr/Sr division students who register for the Regional Fair need to complete the ISEF Forms that are required for their particular projects. The Exemption Form simply postpones the need to complete forms...**

"How Many Students Can Schools Send to the Regional Fair?"

Grades K-5	5 projects
Grades 6-8	5 projects**
Grade 9 (Junior High only)	3 projects**
Grades 9-12	15 projects**

**** Only eligible students who conducted their eligible projects in full accordance with the ISEF Rules are eligible for participation in the Regional Fair.**

ALL students who intend to participate at the Regional Fair must register by the appropriate deadline!! Becoming eligible (for 6th-12th graders) is NOT the same as registering.

NEIRSEF CONTACT INFO

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