

49th Annual Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair March 25-28, 2009



Big ideas. Infinite Possibilities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students demonstrate ingenuity and creativity at regional science fair

Hamilton, ON (March 25-28, 2009) – The hard work paid off in a big way for participants of the 49th Annual Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair where 278 student exhibitors competed for cash, prizes and scholarships amounting to more than \$120,000. The fair, hosted this year by Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology, came to a close earlier today (Saturday, March 28, 2009) after three days of monumental effort by participants, organizers, judges and volunteers.

“This year’s fair had 205 projects in the categories of Health Sciences, Physical Sciences and Math, Earth and Environment, Life Sciences, Engineering and Computing Science, and Biotechnology,” said BASEF Judge in Chief Tom Crawford. “The number of student projects was lower than in previous years, but what the fair lacked in numbers, it more than made up for in quality.”

“The general feeling among the judges was that the calibre of the projects was much higher this year,” he notes. “It meant that we started off with much higher scores.”

Top honours went to Rachael Smith, a Grade 8 student at Hillfield-Strathallan College whose project “Wii r XBOX surgeons ... P/S u can be 2” won the Dofasco Pinnacle Best-in-Fair Award. Cardinal Newman students Andrew Rossignol and Alexandru Stan took home a 2nd place Pinnacle Award for their project on alternative lighting solutions. Third place Best-in-Fair went to Hillfield-Strathallan College’s Romita Sur who was recognized for her research on cancer treatment. Romita, Andrew Rossignol, Alexandru Stan and Jacob Weaver from Highland Secondary School won all-expense paid trips to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (IISEF) in Reno, Nevada, May 10-16, 2009, where they will compete against 1500 high school students from 40 countries. Rachael Smith and 15 other students will be heading west to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Winnipeg May 9-17, 2009.

Another 119 students won Merit Awards which recognize the tremendous thought and effort that went into their projects. Each of the gold, silver and bronze medalists received a \$500 entrance scholarship toward first year tuition in any full-time program at either Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology or Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning.

More important than the prizes, says BASEF Chair Ray Kranyak, is the opportunity to meet new friends, participate in a unique experience and capture the passion that will lead to new research and tomorrow's discoveries.

“This small planet, Earth, which we call home, is counting on you.”

The Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair is open to students in grades 7 to 12 from Hamilton, Halton and Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk County, making it the largest fair of its kind in Canada. Its mission is to promote project-based science and student research through an annual science competition that provides students with an opportunity to showcase their work on a regional, national and international scale.

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