



Florida Junior Academy of Science

A Division of the Florida Academy of Sciences

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2008 FJAS Annual Meeting

Just over one hundred FJAS members submitted research papers to the preliminary competition.

The team of preliminary judges selected 55 papers for the March 21st competition. Fifty students presented their research at Saint Leo University. The state competition could not have been possible without the assistance of:

Saint Leo University for opening their facilities to FJAS

Patrick Draves for local arrangements

Richard Turner - FAS leadership

American Heritage and **Spruce Creek** Chapters (Co-Presidential) for gifts, snacks, drinks, moderators, and assistance at registration

Pine Crest Chapter (Vice Presidential) for the snacks and moderator

Manatee High Chapter (Secretarial) for preparation of registration packages

Patricia Zalo for coordinating FJAS

FJAS sponsors who encourage, assist, and bring students to the competition

FJAS members who submit and present research

Parents of FJAS members for their support

Judges from Florida Academy of Sciences and St Leo University for their time and expertise.

During the Business meeting **American Heritage** was again elected as Presidential Chapters while **Spruce Creek** was elected for the Vice Presidential Chapter.

Special Awards

FJAS offers some very special awards. Students who compete at FJAS as juniors have the opportunity to present their research at the **American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS)** which is held at the same time at the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**. Students who place at FJAS as juniors can apply for a full paid scholarship while other juniors who competed at FJAS can apply for nomination only where they will pay their own expenses. It is an awesome experience. This past year three students and 2 adults attended AJAS/AAAS in Chicago. During the Business meeting at FJAS **Fedja Kadribasic**, **Sunny Kumar**, and **Sabrina Prabakaran** shared their experiences at AJAS. They all agreed it was a wonderful experience. I know of no other place where high school students can interact with so many scientists from around the country. There is a special breakfast for the students and many of the scientists.

The deadline for the application for both the scholarship and nomination are due **September 1st**. These applications are submitted via email to expedite forwarding the applications to the judges who select the scholarship winner and determine nominations.

AAAS memberships are also available to students who place at FJAS as juniors in high school. The two awards can be on the same application. We can grant 1 high school boy and 1 high school girl this membership each year. We also give these awards to seniors at the FJAS competition for their first year of college.

Winners at the 2009 Florida Junior Academy of Science Competition

J1- Junior Biological

- 1st Faris Wasim of Oak Hall
- 2nd Samantha Prabakaran of Canterbury
- 3rd Tori Given of Oak Hall
- 4th Daniel Rassoul of Stone

J2 - Junior Physical

- 1st Luis O'Donnell of Stone
- 2nd Brittany Wenger of R. Dan Nolan
- 3rd Alejandra Biaggi of Carrollton
- 4th Brandon Molyneaux of Oak Hall

S1 - Senior Biological

- 1st Luizetta Navrazhynkh of FAU High
- 2nd Rohit Thummalapalli of American Heritage
- 3rd Nathaniel Braffman of Pine Crest
- 4th Apurv Suman of Oak Hall

S2 - Senior Medical

- 1st Sabrina Prabakaran of Home
- 2nd Sunny Kumar of Saint Andrews
- 3rd Anna Joykutty of American Heritage
- 4th Samantha Taylor of Pine Crest

S3 - Senior Physical

- 1st Aaron Enten of American Heritage
- 2nd Samantha Bishamber of American Heritage
- 3rd Rohan Ramnarian of American Heritage
- 4th Tylor Whitmer of Spruce Creek

S4 - Senior Literary

- 1st Wendi Oppenheim of Pine Crest
- 2nd Blake Mandel of American Heritage

Special Awards for Outstanding Presentations

were awarded to:

Marissa Boyle of Union County High
Taylor Carter of Stone Middle
Chris Harcourt of Stone Middle
Fedja Kadribasic of West Boca Raton High
Alex Nemeroff of Stone Middle
Paul Ponmatten of American Heritage
Aleksandar Zivkovic of American Heritage

Senior Awards

were awarded to:

FJAS scholarship to **Fedja Kadribasic** and **Sabrina Prabakaran**
AAAS membership to **George Fournier**

Special Recognition

Many FJAS competitors stood when asked if they would be competing at the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida (SSEF) in mid April. We hope that everyone was able to learn something from the FJAS experience that will help at the competition. Four students also were congratulated for being selected to compete at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in Reno in May.

For the past twelve years (every year that the statistics have been calculated) FJAS competitors have consistently outranked the other Florida students at SSEF by winning significantly more First and Second places. We hope to be able to say thirteen years. We will see many of you in Lakeland and a few in Reno.

FJAS was started to prepare students to compete in the Intel Science Talent Search and other competitions. Check out the calendar on the FJAS pages at:

www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/fjas.htm for more competitions, their websites and deadlines.

Judges Comments

Generally the judges were very impressed with the students and their research at FJAS but unfortunately there was one complaint mentioned by a few judges: students texting and playing games on their computers in the session. It is important that all students are attentive to all of the speakers in the room. It is hoped that this problem will not occur again.

We hope to see you at Indian River State College in March 2010