

Austin Peay State University

2006-07 Middle TN Science and Engineering Fair

From the MTSEF Director...

It was another great MTSEF last spring! One of our grand prize winners, Lucas Hofmeister from Martin Luther King Magnet High School, received a second place category award in Engineering at the ISEF for the 2nd straight year. One of our 7th grade student winners, Jennifer Oakes from MLK Magnet, placed in the semi-finalist group in the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge program (open to grades 6-8). Only four students from TN placed in this group. Many thanks to all the teachers who supervised student work!

There will be few changes in the fair itself this year, but we will add some more awards for grades 6-8. The projects are very high quality in those grades. Many times it puts the high school division to shame. These students deserve more recognition.

My emphasis once again for this year is to strengthen the high school area. As a former high school chemistry and physics teacher of 14 years, I know it is difficult to find time to work with students on research projects, but the rewards are awesome for you and the students. Start small with a few select students and work your way up in the years ahead. It was great to see Greenbrier High School participate at such a high level last year.

We will try to help by resuming the science fair training session here at APSU this fall. Since the ISEF rules have changed somewhat once again, it is vital that teachers attend this workshop as well as students. See the back of this letter for additional information. We hope to see you on campus before, during, and after the MTSEF!

My son Kenneth is now in Wisconsin at the Institute for Chemical Education. Many of his science fair duties will be taken over by Donna Liverett, our chem dept. office manager. Donna is one of the nicest people I know on this campus, and I know you will enjoy working with her.

Ron Robertson
Department of Chemistry, APSU

The SRC and IRB

There are many faculty here at APSU that work countless hours on our SRC and IRB committees for the MTSEF. The Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and Institutional Review Board (IRB) review and approve special projects before the fair that deal with human subjects, vertebrate animals, and many areas of hazardous substances. Their job is to make sure that the experimentation is done safely and is well supervised. The SRC also has the task of reviewing every project application before official entry in the fair. It is a tremendous task. The chair of the SRC is Dr. Sarah Schiller, 931-221-6335, schillers@apsu.edu. The chair of the IRB is Dr. Nanci Woods, 931-221-7236, woodsn@apsu.edu.

Did you know –

Not all areas of study are best served by scientific method research. Projects in engineering, mathematics, and computer science as well as theoretical projects and inventions sometimes don't fit the scientific method mold. See the ISEF 2007 Student Handbook for a description of these projects as well as many other helps on paper and abstract writing and project startup.

Communication

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Discussion Board: MTSEF Board pauling.apsu.edu/discus

Note – the Discussion Board is a great place to share ideas and get answers to your questions. Try it out! I have been putting some project ideas on it.

Science Fair

Resources, Helps, and the 55th Middle Tennessee Science & Engineering Fair

Are you clueless for a good project idea? Do SRC and IRB sound like government agencies? Is experimental design more mysterious than the Big Bang theory? Don't know how to present your cure for cancer?

Then come to the. . . .

MTSEF Training and Information Workshop

Time: Saturday, Nov. 4th from 9 am to noon

Place: Sundquist Science Building on the Austin Peay State University campus

Events:

- 9:00 Group meeting in E106
- Tentative sessions on project design, project presentation, rule changes, SRC and IRB paperwork, statistics in science, and projects by scientific discipline.
- Refreshments provided

More information about individual sessions will be posted soon on our website:

www.apsu.edu/mtsef.

Since we need to plan for handouts and refreshments, please let me know how many are coming from your school. This includes the number of teachers.

This is a great opportunity for you and your students – please take advantage of it!

Did you know –

The grand prize winners at the MTSEF receive one year full tuition scholarships to APSU and a free expense paid trip to the week long ISEF (this year in Albuquerque, New Mexico – May 13-18)

55th Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair

Austin Peay State University

March 22-24, 2007

For ALL projects:

Required Forms:

Entry Form (front & back), Forms 1, 1A, 1B

Notes: Several signatures on these forms must be signed before experimentation begins. Please note this and plan accordingly.

Due Date: *Feb. 26, 2007 (FINAL DEADLINE)*

For projects requiring special documentation:

Required Forms: the forms above plus -

See the web site for specific forms and procedures

Notes: Several of these additional forms must be completed before the project begins AND sent to the MTSEF IRB/SRC for prior approval. Please plan accordingly. The SRC will be meeting once a month and has set the following due dates: Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 8,

January 5 (FINAL DEADLINE)

General information:

*The schedule for this year's fair and award ceremony can be found on the enclosed entry form.

*Please note that by signing the entry form, the student is committed to attending the award ceremony if he/she receives an award.

*Middle schools are limited to sending 3 projects per grade unless awards were won in previous years. Go to <http://www.apsu.edu/mtsef> for information regarding your school. Also, please remember to complete the middle school project certification form found at the website.

SEE YOU THERE!