

Austin Peay State University

2007-08 Middle TN Science and Engineering Fair

From the MTSEF Director...

Holly Jordan and Chris King, grand prize winners from last year's fair, represented us well in New Mexico. It was one of my most enjoyable fairs in a section of the country I had not traveled in before.

The recent big news is that Nashville middle school student Shalom Rottman-Yang has been selected as a finalist in the Discovery Channel Youth Science Challenge. This means that his project is one of the top 40 middle school projects in the country! He has been awarded an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the finalist competition. Read all about it on the MTSEF site (www.apsu.edu/mtsef).

There will not be many changes this year. We will try to maintain the increased level of category awards in grades 6-8 if the number of projects allows it. I (and the special award sponsors) would like to see more schools represented in both the middle and high school areas.

We will not have the training event this fall, but we will try to offer it next year on an every-other-year schedule. I may be able to give a few special training sessions to teachers and students in the evenings. Just drop me an e-mail or call, and I will try to work something out.

Happy experimenting – great things can happen when the chemistry's right!

Ron Robertson
Department of Chemistry, APSU

Let your students know that –

The grand prize winners at the MTSEF receive one year full tuition scholarships to APSU and free expense paid trips to the week long ISEF (this year in Atlanta, Georgia – May 11-16)

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 2008 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 56th Middle Tennessee Science & Engineering Fair

Looking for Ideas for Science Fair Projects in Mathematics?

Check out these sites:

<http://www.mathmodels.org/>

<http://www.comap.com/highschool/contests/himcm/index.html>

(See the "previous contests" link.)

Need info for an energy education unit or science project?

Madison Street United Methodist Church (Clarksville, TN) will host a screening and discussion of the film "*Kilowatt Ours*" on October 14th at 6 PM. The public is invited. (You can learn more about this film made by Nashville filmmaker, Jeff Barrie at www.kilowattours.org. Jeff's film shows the consequences of our coal powered economy and discusses solutions to our energy related problems.)

The Kilowatt Ours team has developed a companion curriculum to the film that is available free of charge to educators. The curriculum companion for grades 4-12 can be downloaded at: www.KilowattOurs.org/curriculum. This guide shows students and teachers how to measure and reduce energy usage at home and at school, while helping the environment and saving money. It includes twelve different activities that can be easily modified to fit different skill levels and time limitations and has useful websites and materials, energy-saving tips, and much more!

For more energy info the Chemistry Club at APSU (XEM) is putting on a series of "Green Lectures" this fall. The next one is Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. on *Solar Cells* in the Sundquist Science Building on campus. On December 5th at 6 p.m. there will be a lecture on *Compact Fluorescents*. For more info contact Dr. Carrie Brennan at brennanc@apsu.edu.

56th Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair

Austin Peay State University
March 13-15, 2008

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. 20, 2008 is the FINAL DEADLINE for the receipt of the MTSEF application form and all required ISEF forms.*

For projects requiring special documentation:

Required Forms: the forms above plus -

See the web site for specific forms and procedures

Important! 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 IRB will review prior approvals as they are submitted. The SRC will be meeting once a month and has set the following due dates: Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 14, and January 11. *January 11 is the FINAL DEADLINE for the IRB and SRC to give pre-approval to a project.*

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.