



Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair

2006 Annual Report

General Information

The 26th annual Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held March 20 at the Omar Shrine Center, Mt. Pleasant, SC. The Lowcountry Science Fair is open to students in grades 5-12 in Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Georgetown counties. There were 147 students presenting 119 projects, representing five high schools and seven elementary/middle schools. The student demographics are shown in Tables 1 and 2. At the 2005 Lowcountry Science Fair, 147 students presented 134 projects and represented four high schools and eight middle schools.

Caucasian	119
African-American	20
Asian	3
Hispanic	2
Middle Eastern	1
Not Provided	2
TOTAL STUDENTS	147

Table 1 - Ethnicity of Students

Female	75
Male	72
TOTAL STUDENTS	147

Table 2 - Gender of Students

The Lowcountry Science Fair is an affiliate of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and abides by their rules and regulations.

This year, projects are divided into the following categories, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biological Sciences (includes botany, microbiology, and zoology), Chemistry and Biochemistry, Engineering, Geology and Environmental Science (includes earth and environmental science), Mathematics and Computer Science, Medicine and Health, Physics and Astronomy (includes physics and space science), and Team Projects. All categories were represented with projects. First, second and third place awards were given in each category for Senior and Junior Divisions (if applicable) as well as numerous special awards. There were approximately 60 judges from various organizations, College of Charleston, MUSC, The Citadel, and local businesses.

Awards Ceremony and Overall Winners

The Awards Ceremony was held Wednesday, March 22 at the College of Charleston's Physicians Auditorium. Approximately 75 students received awards.

Overall first, second and third place winners in each division were awarded \$100, \$75 and \$50 savings bonds respectively. The teachers of the first place overall winners in each division were awarded a \$100 savings bond as well. The first and second place overall winners in the senior division, as well as the teacher of the first place winner, were provided an all-expenses paid trip to the ISEF in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Junior Division first place winner was Helen Olmi, a seventh grade student from Porter Gaud. Her project in the Physics and Astronomy category was titled "Dive In." Her teacher is Ms. Gretchen Hay.

The Senior Division first place winner was Benjamin Hamner with his project in the Mathematics and Computer Science category, "The Evolution of Operant Conditioning and Cooperation in Delayed Gratification Games." The Senior Division second place winner was Nicolas Wiles with his project in the Engineering category, entitled "Designing an Aircraft for the Future of Air Travel." Benjamin and Nicolas are seniors at Academic Magnet High School and students of Mr. Bruce Newton.

At the 2006 ISEF, held May 8-12, Benjamin Hamner won one of 14 first awards given by the US Air Force. His award included a \$3000 cash prize. Almost 1,500 students from 47 countries competed for nearly \$4 million in scholarships and prizes at the 57th ISEF.

Sponsors

Sponsors of the LSF include the College of Charleston School of Sciences and Mathematics and Lowcountry Hall of Science and Math, Patriots Point Foundation Cold War Submarine Memorial Fund, Omar Shrine Center, and Hamby Catering.