Florida Science Talent Search
Sixteen seniors competed in the 2006 Florida Science Talent Search. Cindy Perrella, Talent Search Coordinator, reviewed the students’ GPA’s, SAT or ACT scores, resumes, results of the FJAS competition and interviewed each student. She and the FJAS judges were very impressed with the students.

The Awards of Excellence went to: (listed in alphabetical order)
- Nkemka Esiobu - Cooper City
- Brock Hankins - Spruce Creek
- Christopher Hernandez - Spruce Creek
- Sarah McKenzie - Spruce Creek
- Sarah Nam - Saint Petersburg
- Alexander Robel - MAST

Merit Awards were presented to: (listed in alphabetical order)
- Lauren Lesser - Pine Crest
- Chelsea Rence - Sarasota
- Kalie Sanders - Spruce Creek

Cindy Perrella also announced additional awards, only available through the Florida Talent Search Competition. AAAS memberships were awarded to Alexander Robel and Chelsea Rence. Two hundred dollar scholarships were awarded to Sarah McKenzie and Kalie Sanders. The two trips to the National Youth Science Camp were awarded to Nkemka Esiobu and Sarah Nam. Alternates for the camp are Sarah McKenzie and Brock Hankins. FJAS scholarships are only given to students attending a college or university in Florida.
2006 FJAS Annual Meeting

One hundred twenty FJAS members submitted research papers to the preliminary competition. The team of judges selected 81 papers for the March 11th competition. Sixty-seven students presented their research at Florida Institute of Technology. The state competition could not have been possible without the assistance of:

- **John Trefry and Hamid Rassoul** for local arrangements and assistance
- **Florida Institute of Technology** for opening their facilities to FJAS
- **John Trefry** FAS president, Welcoming remarks
- **Crystal Lake Middle** Chapter (Presidential) for the snacks, drinks and cd cases
- **American Heritage** Chapter (Vice Presidential) for the assistance at registration and moderators
- **Manatee High** Chapter (Secretarial) for help at registration, videography and mailings
- **Cindy Perrella** for coordinating Talent Search
- **Patricia Zalo** for coordinating FJAS
- **FJAS sponsors and teachers** 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, Barry University and FIT for their time and expertise
- **Rich Regan** for helping with the plaques

During the Business meeting **American Heritage** was elected the Presidential Chapter while **Spruce Creek** was elected Vice Presidential Chapter. Alexander Robel gave a brief report on his trip to AJAS. Shoshana Tell was recognized, in absentia, for being a finalist at Intel Science Talent Search. Students who will compete at SSEF and ISEF were recognized and applauded.

**Winners at the 2006 Florida Junior Academy of Science Competition**

**J1 - Junior Session 1**

1st Karah Gerhke of Stone  
2nd Marie Draper of Stone  
3rd Jason Yontef of Crystal Lake  
4th Melissa Smith of Stone  

**J2 - Junior Session 2**

1st Muna Oli of Lincoln  
2nd Alexander Ronay of Burne  
3rd Natalie Borrego or Bell  
4th Chelsea Townsend of Crystal Lake  

**J3 - Junior Session 3**

1st Mason White of Stone  
2nd Steve Gofer of Crystal Lake  
3rd John McLaughlin of Crystal Lake  
4th Kathryn Moschouris of St Thomas Aquinas  

**S1 - Senior Session 1**

1st Rohit Thummalapalli of American Heritage  
2nd Andrew Jansen of Spruce Creek  
3rd Chloe Golden of American Heritage  
4th Nina Wong of Krop
S2 - Senior Session 2
1st Kimberly Sparling of Fort Lauderdale
2nd Gene Rodrick of Oak Hall
3rd David Mariutto of American Heritage
4th Emily Sutherlund of Edgewood

S3 - Senior Session 3
1st Francisco Alvarez of Pine Crest
2nd Melissa Stone of Pine Crest
3rd Kelly Chacon of American Heritage
4th Gabriel Seidner of Pine Crest

T1 - Talent Search Session 1
1st Sarah McKenzie of Spruce Creek
2nd Nkemka Esiobu of Cooper City
3rd Chelsea Rence of Sarasota
4th Christopher Hernandez of Spruce Creek

T2 - Talent Search Session 2
1st Sarah Nam of Saint Petersburg
2nd Brock Hankins of Spruce Creek
3rd Alexander Robel of MAST
4th Kalie Sanders of Spruce Creek

Special Awards for Outstanding Presentations were awarded to
Emily Bliven of Saint Thomas Aquinas
Aaron Enten of American Heritage
Jeremy Fowers of MAST
Eric Holshouser of Episcopal
Jason Miles of Spruce Creek
Daniel Murphy of Episcopal
Gaytri Patel of Blanche Ely
Kayla Paulk of Blanche Ely
Sufian Sorathia of Spruce Creek

Opportunities for 2007 Graduates
Juniors in high school who placed in an experimental session of the 2006 FJAS competition may be eligible for two additional awards as high school seniors. These are only available through FJAS:
AAAS Membership
AJAS/AAAS conference
Applications are due to Pat Zalo by September 1, 2006 and must include:
Resume not exceeding 2 pages
Plans for 2006/7 research to present at FJAS
Information sheets were available at FJAS
**FJAS** was started to prepare students to compete in the Intel Science Talent Search and other competitions. Check out the FJAS pages at: [www.floridaacademyofsciences.org](http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org) for more competitions, their websites and deadlines.

**Congratulations to all of the winners**

We hope to see you at the St Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida in March 2007

**Change in Bylaws**

During the business meeting the proposal to change the number of mailings was approved. A discussion followed concerning the Chapter dues. The membership voted and the new chapter dues will be $20 per year. In addition those members wanting to receive all newsletters mailed will pay $10 dues and members can join as late as February 1st with $10 dues. Only 1 mailing, a calendar for posting items on the website, will be sent to all members with club cards and receipt.
March 22, 2006

Dear FJAS Sponsor,

Thanks for your help this past year. For those who came to the competition, I certainly appreciate your dedication to your students. I know, first hand, how challenging it is to get students to compete. If you have any suggestions to improve the organization and competition, please contact me.

I was certainly pleased with the number of students at FJAS that will be competing at SSEF and ISEF, WOW!!! I expect the statistics to once again show that FJAS competitors win more awards at SSEF as it has in the last 8 years.

I spoke with a sponsor on March 17 that did not come to FJAS this year. She had a conflict with the date and also some problems with the electronic submission of the papers. If you had difficulty with the process this year, please let me know. I can take the papers, but some things were easier electronically, some were worse. As with all changes the first year can be challenging. I personally can't read most Word documents so PDF is easier for me. I will need to limit the size of the papers. Many filters do not allow large documents. The graphics make the document much larger and do not aid the paper selection. Please look for more guidelines for next year. I received many papers from the sponsors. This is great but I can receive the papers from the students, so it is not so much work for the sponsors. Next year I would appreciate one paper per email with the student's name in the subject and the title of the document the important words of the title. Thanks for your help this year. Please get back to me with any suggestions you might have to make this process easier.

Thanks again for your help in disseminating information to your members and encouraging them in their research and competitions. We could not have an organization and competition without your help.

Sincerely,

Patricia L Zalo    FJAS Coordinator