



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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**

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

### **J2 - Junior Physical**

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

### **S1 - Senior Biological**

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

### **S2 - Senior Medical**

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

### **S3 - Senior Physical**

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

### **S4 - Senior Literary**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wendi Oppenheim of Pine Crest
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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**