



Florida Junior Academy of Science

A Division of the Florida Academy of Sciences

Volume 30, No. 1, Fall 2011

Welcome 2011-2012 members!

The Florida Junior Academy of Science (FJAS) welcomes you to our organization. We hope that 2011-2012 will be a good year for both you and FJAS. Many opportunities are available to students conducting scientific research. Below are deadlines of a few of the many competitions and events:

Nov. 1 - first of 4 deadlines for Intel Science Talent Search (12th graders only)

Jan 29-31 - Florida Junior Science Engineering & Humanities Symposium* at University of Florida in Gainesville
- nominations are due in the fall

Jan 31 - research papers due for FJAS preliminary competition

Feb 15-19 - American Junior Academy of Science with AAAS in Vancouver, BC, Canada

Mar 17 - FJAS* competition at University of South Florida in Tampa

Apr. 3-5 - State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida* in Lakeland

May 13-18 - Intel International Science & Engineering Fair* in Pittsburgh, PA

*Students winning at these competitions may win trips to national or international events

Hope to see you at University of South Florida on March 17, 2012

Hotel information is posted in the Call for

Abstracts on the FAS website in the What's New of the Welcome tab

www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/pdf/FAS_CFA_2012_10-7-2011.pdf

FJAS Speakers Win More at SSEF

For the 14th year, FJAS members who competed at both FJAS and SSEF won significantly more awards at SSEF. It is not just the quantity of awards, proportionally, but the quality. FJAS competitors won significantly more place awards.

Help yourself win more by competing in FJAS. This difference is that FJAS offers you another opportunity to compete at the state level with the SAME scientific research, thus allowing more interaction with judges. But FJAS also requires students to improve their papers to make it through the preliminary competition. At the competition students also get to hear some of their competition that they will have at SSEF. This can help you prepare for the later competitions. Even though the format for the competition differs, board with questions and answers at SSEF vs. 10 or 12 minute oral presentation with power point support at FJAS, the students need to focus on the "meat" of the project and communicate with the judges. Another advantage of FJAS is speaking in

front of others, including parents, who might be able to give constructive suggestions for later competitions.

Congratulations to AJAS Scholarship Winner

Each year 11th graders that win at FJAS are offered the opportunity to apply to present their research at the American Junior Academy of Science and the annual AAAS meeting. This year **Luizetta Navrazhnykh** of FAU high school was selected for the full scholarship to share her research with scientists and peers from around the North America.

The Choice is Yours - Experimental or Literary?

Experimental research allows the student to test a hypothesis and draw conclusions using their data while following the Scientific method. Literary research allows the student to thoroughly investigate an area where experimentation is impossible due to costs, regulations, ethics or moral grounds, or the impracticality of experimental design.

Experimental research offers more opportunities to compete. See an extended list of competitions on calendar page on the website: www.floridaacademyofsciences.org

Guidelines for the two types of papers with the preliminary judging criteria are available online on the website - See "Paper Instructions"

A new reference citation format that is similar to the one used in the *Florida Scientist* is now posted. There is **NO required format to be used in the papers**. Just writing the URL is not sufficient. Use this plan or MLA, or APA.

SSEF Judge's Comment

At the Board meeting during the State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida one of the judges expressed his concern regarding the questionable science that was represented on the floor of the competition. He warned about using "quasi science" that is reported on the internet as references and that scientific journals that are peer-reviewed should be used.

For Seniors Only

Once seniors have been notified in February that they have been selected to present their experimental research at the FJAS competition in March they can complete the application for the scholarship that will be awarded to TWO seniors attending a Florida college or university. The applications can be brought to the competition and given to Pat Zalo at registration. The applications will be sent with the written notification to present.

Submission of papers Jan 31st deadline

Submission of papers online went well for most students. Please be sure that papers are sent as attachments in either **doc** or **pdf** and are not too large. Also be sure that all other criteria are met on the instructions. Papers will be accepted by mail also (these will be scanned before forwarding to judges by email). No matter the method the papers **MUST** be received by January 31. More information will be in the winter newsletter regarding the paper submission

Following the "Rules"

Because entries for the preliminary competition are generally submitted online, photocopies of the ISEF forms are not required to be submitted for review with the papers. **It is expected that all experimental research submitted to FJAS was reviewed PRIOR to experimentation and approved following the guidelines of the Intel ISEF** These rules are available at www.societyforscience.org.

The state rules are more restrictive in some areas please see their additional rules at www.floridassef.net. If you have any questions regarding the rules please contact Pat Zalo at pzalo@yahoo.com.

As a member of the "Fire Team" of the Scientific Review Committee for SSEF, I feel that it is inappropriate for FJAS to allow a student to present at FJAS if they fail to qualify for SSEF. If I become aware of students that had been selected to present at FJAS but may potentially fail to qualify at the SSEF SRC review in March, they may be contacted and asked NOT to present. **BE SURE YOUR FORMS ARE COMPLETE WHEN SUBMITTING TO YOUR REGIONAL AND THE STATE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIRS!**

Check the website for the news and more, including a calendar of other competitions with websites www.floridaacademyofsciences.org