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YOUNG ISLAND SCIENTIST

Newsletter of the
Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists

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2013 SCIENCE FAIR: Sunday April 14 – Monday April 15

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Shadow a UVic Researcher!

For the 2nd year, The University of Victoria Faculties of Science and Engineering are offering ALL SENIOR PARTICIPANTS (grades 10, 11 and 12) an individual day of "lab shadowing" at the University of Victoria to experience a working research laboratory.

By Katherine Silversides

At last year's Science Fair, the senior students had the opportunity to connect with a professor in an area related to their project. Once connected, the student and professor could arrange a day for the student to visit.

My project last year studied different plastics, so I requested to be matched with a Chemistry professor. I was linked with Dr. Moffitt, who does research in the field of polymer chemistry.

We arranged to meet on a summer morning

The President's Lab Bench

It's Science Fair season again. We are almost ready for the 52nd Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. It will be the biggest ever with more than 200 students registered! (We thank the University of Victoria for providing the fair more space.) I can't wait to see the exciting innovative ideas these kids will present.

Along with more participants, we are also in need of more judges. One of the best things we offer our students is a series of at least three competent, respectful, one-on-one judging interviews. This is the very heart of the science fair, and it depends on the generosity of a large number of competent, respectful volunteers. We are especially in need of francophone judges for the ~1/4 of the projects which will be presented by French or French-Immersion students.

Please contact John Garrett (johngarrett@shaw.ca) for information on how to volunteer as a judge.

We also are in need of sponsorships. We are proud to have helped launch the science and engineering careers of so many students, but this doesn't happen for free. We give prizes to as many students as possible to help recognize their hard work and strong presentations. The most expensive element of our program is sending our top students to the Canada-Wide Science Fair, this year in Lethbridge Alberta, May 11-18. We are allowed to send up to 7 students, but we are limited by our available funding. Please consider supporting the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair!

Sponsors

for a visit to Dr. Moffitt's labs and have lunch with him. At first we talked about his research with polymers and my future plans.

After talking with Dr. Moffitt, he showed me the labs where his grad students were working. A visiting student was evaporating a liquid as one step in the process. Another student was preparing slides. It involved everything measuring a chemical, to shooting a laser, and creating a small explosion all to create slides.

My time with Dr. Moffitt let me see what really happens in research and inside some of the labs at the university. From talking with the students, I got to find out what it's like being a researcher and different fields of study. If you are in Grade 10 or higher, take up this opportunity! You never know what you're going to see or get to do.

Katherine Silversides is a Home-School / Esquimalt High School Grade 12 student, curling and robotics champion, and was on team Vancouver Island at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in 2011.

Science Fair Schedule

[Elliott Lecture Wing, UVic](#)

Sunday, April 14, 2013

8:00 - 9:30 Exhibit Setup. Judges gather in Room 167

9:45 - 10:00 Student Orientation to Parents and Students - Bob Wright Centre B150

10:00 - 12:00 Judging - Round I

12:00 - 1:00 Break. **Bring lunch and drink!**

1:00 - 3:00 Judging - Round II, and PUBLIC VIEWING

3:00 - 3:30 Break

3:30 - 4:30 Judging - Round III, and PUBLIC VIEWING

Monday, April 15, 2013

9:00 - 10:00 Chemistry Show, Bob Wright Centre B150

10:00 - 12:30 SCHOOL TOURS AND PUBLIC VIEWING

12:30 - 1:15 Break. **Bring lunch and drink!**

1:30 - 3:00 Awards ceremony, MacLaurin building A144

4:00 Exhibits dismantled by 4pm

School Tours

Teachers: Organize a field trip to the



SAYS wants to extend a heartfelt thanks to the people, companies and organizations that support the Vancouver

Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair and get your students to see what it's all about.

In order to even out the crowd, please do book your entry time on Monday morning, April 15, by contacting the Fair Chair, Rossi Marx (rmmarx@uvic.ca). She can also provide a "treasure hunt" sheet to help structure your students' visit.

Web Resources

Local:

Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair:
web.uvic.ca/~virsf

Provincial:

Science Fair Foundation BC:
www.sciencefairs.ca/Resources/Students.aspx

National:

Youth Science Canada: sf.youthscience.ca/
Canada-Wide Science Fair:
cwsf.youthscience.ca/fairs/current

Contact Information

President: Randy Enkin
RandyEnkinScienceFair@gmail.com

WebMaster: Gordon Greeniaus
GordonGreeniausScienceFair@gmail.com

Share this email

Island Regional Science Fair (VIRSF). Their support allows us to hold the fair each year.

Would you like to support the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair? Get more information here: <http://web.uvic.ca/~virsf/SupportSAYS.php>

FIX IT Robot Team



By Christine Nicholls

Where do you get to mix designing robots, tic-tack-toe strategy, funny costumes, and lots of cheering? FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)!

The FIX IT team is a group of local high school students who compete in FTC. They work together to figure out a game strategy, then design, build and program a robot. For this year's game, they have to build a robot that can score rings on a 3 by 3 rack similar to tic-tack-toe. There's more points for rings on the top row, and for getting three rings in a row.

Each team plays in six matches, with three other robots on the same playing field. One robot is your partner while the other two robots are your opponents. Strategy discussions can be very interesting when your partner in an early match, could be part of the opposition in a later match!

Over the last few years, the FIX IT team's robot has been entered in the VIRSF, with the project being selected twice to go to the Canada-wide Science Fair.

The FIX IT team competes in Washington State during the fall. Their robot did well, and they were able to make a number of improvements to their strategy and their robot.

In January, the team competed in the Nevada State Championship held in Las Vegas. Their robot won most of it's matches, and the team was interviewed by many of the judges. They were surprised and delighted to win the top award.

At the FTC World Championships in St. Louis, the FIX IT team will be competing with 128 teams from as far away as Australia.

Their long term goal is to help more teams get started in Victoria and BC so that we can hold our own championship. For more information about the team or FTC, please contact them at FIXIT3491@gmail.com.

Christine Nicholls is an active member of SAYS and the coach of the [Victoria Robotics Club](#). She runs the home-schooling resource web-site [CreativeKidsAtHome](#).

You received this email because you have been a supporter or a participant of the [Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair](#).

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Website: web.uvic.ca/~virsf/