

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Volume 02, Issue 19

Jerrie Fiala, Editor: [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu)

## CEAS professors volunteer for KAMSC science fair projects

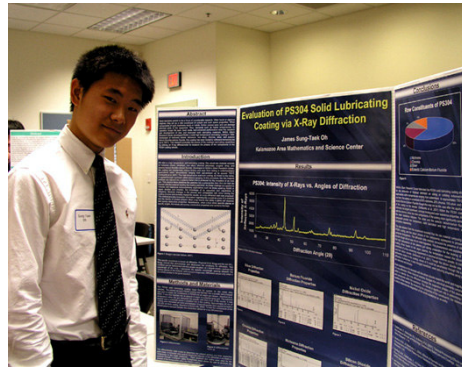
Several WMU professors volunteered to judge 51 projects prepared by area high school students for the Southwest Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Other CEAS professors assisted students on the projects.

The event was organized by the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC) and hosted by WMU's CEAS at Parkview. Students from both KAMSC and the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center competed for the honor of qualifying for the 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) held in Albuquerque, NM.

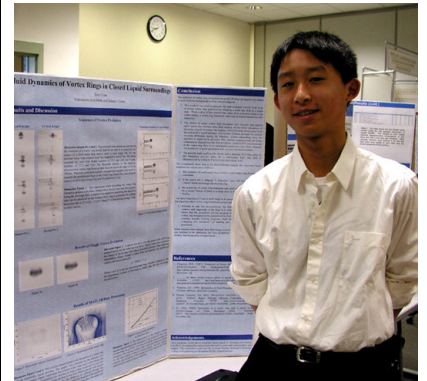


**Eric Mott**, a KAMSC and Parchment High School senior, discusses his science project on determining an optical sensor for monitoring bridge applications with judges **Dr. James Kamman**, associate professor in mechanical engineering, and **Julie Ryan**, a Ph.D. grad assistant in biology. Mott's project was mentored by CEAS professors **Dr. Ikhlas Abdul-Qader**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and **Dr. Sherif Yehia**, assistant professor in civil engineering.

According to KAMSC's **Dr. John Goudie**, who organized the local fair, the Intel ISEF is the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. Nearly 1,500 students from 40 nations



**James Sun-Taek Oh**, a KAMSC and Portage Central High School junior, examined PS 304, a space age lubricant. His CEAS mentor was **Dr. Pnina Ari-Gur**, professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering.



**Tony Liao**, a KAMSC and Portage Northern High School senior, researched the fluid dynamics of vortex rings in closed liquid surroundings. His CEAS mentor was **Dr. Tianshu Liu**, associate professor in aeronautical engineering.

compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and one \$50,000 college scholarship.

WMU professors who served as judges included **Dr. Tycho Fredericks**, associate professor in industrial engineering; **Dr. James Kamman**, associate professor of mechanical engineering; **Dr. Don Kane**, associate professor of biology; and **Dr. Elke Schoffers**, assistant professor of chemistry. Also judging the projects were grad assistants **Hussam Alkhasawneh**, a Ph.D. candidate in paper engineering, chemical engineering, and imaging; and **Julie Ryan**, a Ph.D. candidate in biology.

**Dr. Ikhlas Abdul-Qader**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, **Dr. Sherif Yehia**, assistant professor in civil engineering, and graduate students **Ammar Zalt** and **Vijay Meganathan** assisted a project presented by **Eric Mott**, a senior at KAMSC and Parchment High School senior who, with KAMSC student **Griffin Jackson**, evaluated an optical sensor to monitor the structural health of bridge applications.

**Dr. Pnina Ari-Gur**, professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering, mentored **James Sun-Taek Oh**, a KAMSC and Portage Central High School junior, who examined PS 304, a space age lubricant. "When vital constituents of rockets collide, the frictional wear produces detrimental effects on machinery," Oh said. "NASA developed PS 304 to provide protection from and reduce frictional wear."

**Dr. Tianshu Liu**, an associate professor in aeronautical engineering, and his grad assistant **Sudesh Woodiga** worked with **Tony Liao**, a senior at KAMSC and Portage Northern High School, examining fluid dynamics of vortex rings in closed liquid surroundings.

Send your thoughts / suggestions for topics to the editor at [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu) Thank you.