

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Volume 03, Issue 24

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CEAS leads the way at WMU's first Science Olympiad

CEAS faculty, administrators, students, alumni, and emeriti supervised events, organized results, and contributed to the success of the **Region 10 Science Olympiad**. Many of the activities were held at the CEAS Parkview Campus. Contributions were also made by faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Health and Human Services.

Student teams from about 400 area middle and high school students competed in activities focused on science and technology concepts, processes, and applications.

Scot Conant, CEAS student outreach and recruitment coordinator, directed the event. "It was our first time hosting this event, and it has been exciting," he said. "It's gone well, and I'm very happy with feedback I've received from parents, students, and Science Olympiad officials."

Among those from CEAS who participated were **Drs. Don Nelson, Karlis Kaugars, and Bob Boughner**, who directed *Trajectory*, for which teams design, construct, calibrate, and operate a device capable of launching a projectile into a target.

Dr. Peter Parker directed *Science Word*, a timed word-definition event, and **Dr. Raja Aravamuthan** and **Annette Cummins** coordinated *Scrambler*, for which teams build light, wheeled devices without motors or fuel. **Dr. Murali Ghantasala** supervised *Metric Mastery*, a test of the ability to estimate and measure in metric units.

Both *Robocross*, supervised by **Dr. Bade Shrestha**, and *Robot Ramble*, supervised by **Fred Sitkins, Dr. Sam Ramrattan, Dr. Pavel Ikononov**, and **Robert Mercier** involved designing and building robots.

Robot

Ramble:

IME faculty **Fred Sitkins** (left) and **Pavel Ikononov** (right - with clipboard) assess the performance of a robot designed and built by a student team.



Drs. Steven Butt and Jorge Rodriguez and Janet Liebendorfer directed *Experimental Design*, for which teams design, conduct, analyze, and write-up an experiment.

Drs. Frank Severance and Liang Dong and several students directed *Electrical Circuits*, a competition of both theoretical and hands-on knowledge of direct current electrical circuits.

Student members of WMU's **American Society of Civil Engineers** directed three events that required designing and building: *Tower Builders* [a wood tower], *Boommilever* [a type of cantilevered boom], and *Mystery Architecture* [a free standing device from materials provided to them]. **Dr. Haluk Aktan** led a team of CEAS students that included **Matt Czachowski, Bryce DeQuoy, Nick Francis, Josh Glowski, Paul Pagano, Phil Reitenour, Britney Richmond, Dan Robinson, Mike Romkema, Tim VanStraten, and Kim Warners**.

Providing tech support was **Peter Thanhauser**. **Drs. Tim Greene, Edmund Tsang, and Said Abubakr** greeted and directed the morning crowd.

Many CEAS students contributed to the event, including **Andrew Hyder, Eric Jones, Tierra Graves, Thomas Tran, Ashley Zwiers, Nick Tenney, Melissa Wagner** and **Kate Johnson**. Other alumni contributors included **Carol Kubota** and **Dr. Charlie Heller**.

"Overall it was a great day for WMU and for CEAS," said Conant, who is already making plans for next year's Science Olympiad event.

"I anticipate WMU's continued involvement in the Science Olympiad," Conant said. "As the hub of science and engineering in West Michigan, we are a natural host."

For more information, contact Conant at scot.conant@wmich.edu



Write it Do it: IME faculty **Tom Swartz** oversees writing directions to build the item on the desk in front of the student in the foreground



Electric Circuits: ECE student **Eric Jones** watches two students complete a test on direct electrical circuits

Drs. Ajay Gupta and Don Nelson, Kristie Sturmoski, and Sheryl Todd supervised *Electric Vehicle*, the construction of an electrically-powered vehicle.

Tom Swartz, Jerrie Fiala, Laura Decker, and Sandra Blanchard directed two levels of *Write it Do it*, which tests students' ability to write and to follow instructions.

Send your thoughts or suggestions for future topics to the editor at jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu Thank you.