

HOT TOPICS:

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SCIENCE OLYMPIAD / (630) 792-1251

NATIONAL HQ MOVES TO ILLINOIS

It's official! After 23 years of sharing a "home" with Gerard and Sharon on Little Pine Lane, the National Science Olympiad office has moved from Rochester, Michigan, to Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. We are getting settled in, discovering the joys of T-1 lines, used office furniture and obtaining an Illinois business license.

This change of address was spurred by a desire to have a formal office so we can bring more staff members into the national organization. We have a Five-Year Plan that addresses multiple needs for Science Olympiad, including help with membership, academic content, the Advisory Committee, fundraising, marketing, and the general operations of Science

Olympiad. We will be calling on members of Science Olympiad across the nation, from State Directors and Event Supervisor to team coaches and our alumni, to help us carry out these goals.

We would like to thank all of you for your support of Science Olympiad and all of your hard work during this busy competition season. New ideas are always welcome, so please call or email us anytime at the new digs.

Gerard, gjputz@sbcglobal.net

Sharon, smputz@sbcglobal.net

Jenny, jrkopach@comcast.net



2006 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT UPDATE

The team at Indiana University is busy planning what is sure to be an incredible National Tournament for the 1,800 students who make it to the finals, even asking Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan to have May 20, 2006 declared "Science Olympiad Day" in Bloomington.

The IU Office of Media Relations has put together a media plan, complete with a scoring web page that will update every minute during both awards ceremonies, for the benefit of news media around the nation who will follow their local or state team's progress.

The Kelley School of Business and IU's newest undergraduate unit, the School of Informatics, are hosting Dinner On Us Thursday evening for

all participants who want to tour the facilities and find out about exciting educational and career options.

The Thursday and Friday master schedules are filling up with tours, talks and open houses, as every unit on campus throws open its doors to make certain students receive a warm welcome and a terrific impression of all IU has to offer. The Sallie Mae Fund will give a \$500 scholarship to one lucky student at the Paying For College session on Friday afternoon in addition to a scholarship to the 2006 Science Olympiad Summer Fun Camp.

Look for some surprises at the Opening Ceremony and Swap Meet, to be held at the Mellencamp Pavilion. See you there!

IMPORTANT DATES:**APRIL 5, 2006****EXECUTIVE BOARD
AND ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ANNUAL
MEETING, ANAHEIM,
CALIFORNIA****MAY 19-20, 2006****NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT,
INDIANA UNIVERSITY,
BLOOMINGTON,
INDIANA****JULY 17-21, 2006****SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
SUMMER INSTITUTE,
PHOENIX, ARIZONA****LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

In the past few weeks, you have likely seen science education climb to the top of the national agenda. From the President's State of the Union Address to the cover of TIME magazine, this country's pool of science workers is being hotly discussed.

As a vital member of the Science Olympiad community, you need to voice your opinions and share your success stories with politicians, community leaders, education administrators and the national media.

For the past 23 years, Science

Olympiad has stayed true to its grassroots nature while growing from a handful of schools to nearly 5,000 Division B and Division C teams today.

We are by all accounts the largest team science competition in the United States, and people outside of Science Olympiad need to know this fact. Make it your mission to spread the news, reaching out beyond your network to include more colleagues, more students and ultimately, more members in the Science Olympiad family.

Dr. Gerard Putz

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY COMPLETES
MANAGEMENT STUDY OF SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

In September of 2005, Science Olympiad embarked on a project with the Kellogg School of Management's Neighborhood Business Initiative (NBI), affiliated with Northwestern University, to evaluate our non-profit management structure and performance. A team of six MBA candidates with varied work experience (consulting, finance, human resources and law) spent 10 weeks immersed into the world of Science Olympiad, interviewing board and committee members, state directors and national event supervisors while reviewing reams of documentation.

The outcome was a three-hour, 40-page presentation outlining a course of action for Science Olympiad over the next 12 months and beyond which included objectives to expand the national office and better utilize our advisory committees. This pro-bono project was recognized as the best out of 22 proposals submitted by NBI groups in a case competition judged by Chicago management firm Deloitte & Touche. We are currently working with The Chronicle of Philanthropy on an article about low- or no-cost advice options for other non-profits.

SCIENCE EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Two major pieces of legislation have arrived in the halls of Washington that will impact science education on a large scale: the Protect America's Competitive Edge (PACE) Act and President Bush's American

Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). The PACE Act bills were introduced in February by Senators Mikulski (D-MD), Bingaman (D-NM), Domenici (R-NM) and Alexander (R-TN). *Continued on Page 4



ELEMENTARY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD WEB REGISTRY

Educators, politicians and corporations are buzzing about elementary science education, even at the Pre-K level. We are currently working on a national strategy for the Elementary Science Olympiad that will incorporate the successful competitive program, the teacher- or building-based Fun Day and the parent-teacher-based Fun Night.

In contrast to the Division B and Division C membership structure, elementary Science Olympiad participants do not have a formal way to register with the state or national SO, thereby making it virtually impossible for us to track what is working well and in what regions of the country. To remedy this, we are considering a National Science Olympiad Elementary Web

Registry, where schools or groups can input information about their program. As of now, we quantify the elementary program by the number of manuals we sell. We would like to begin counting buildings and sites, and this registry would help us do that.

By getting an idea of what's going on, we can more accurately develop a strategy to build the elementary program. We are seeking input on this idea, so please let us know what you think by sending an email or calling. We would also appreciate any information you have on successful elementary Science Olympiad programs in your state or region.

STATE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD FUNDING IDEAS

Many Science Olympiad State Directors have asked in the last year about developing a standardized way to obtain sponsorship funds for localized events. While many state organizations have had great success obtaining grants and funds, other states are struggling to "invent the wheel."

We would like to begin offering a plan for states to solicit funds, with levels and materials much like the ones used at the national tournament and for national sponsors. We realize that every state has specific needs, whether it is to expand into urban or rural areas, begin an elementary program or maintain or increase membership.

Here are a few tips for getting started:

- Quantify your reach. Use a state map to identify the locations of your membership. Multiply your membership by the number of students, coaches and parents involved with SO.
- Set funding levels and funding goals so you have a specific program to offer a funding source. If you would like to expand membership by 25 schools, what will that cost in materials, training, administration?
- Tell your story. Use press articles, video clips, printed materials to form a funding packet. Try to put things in PDF format for easy e-mail use.

For more information and a detailed plan of attack, contact Jenny Kopach directly at jrkopach@comcast.net.

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**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD:
ACCEPT THE
CHALLENGE!**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

WWW.SOINC.ORG

The Society of Women Engineers is sponsoring an essay contest for middle and high school girls - due 4/19/06. Check out this link for more info and prizes:

WWW.DEVELOPD
ESIGNDISCOVER.
ORG



College Alumni Clubs Take Off!

Over the past two years, we have been asking Science Olympiad Alumni from across the nation to complete our Alumni Survey on the www.soinc.org web site. The results have been amazing, with more than 450 responses to date. One by-product of collecting the surveys was the discovery of a Science Olympiad Alumni Club at Indiana University.

Led by Patrick O'Neill and Martin Horne, this club has been a pioneer, serving as a source of volunteers at local and state tournament and as reputable event supervisors and mentors. We would like to encourage the formation of Science Olympiad Alumni Clubs at other universities, so please let us know if you have any ideas on how to get this going.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Those of you who have a good memory will recall that Science Olympiad met with then-Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander while visiting President Bush Sr. in 1992. Now that Senator Alexander is working on the PACE bill, we have been in contact with his office to offer our support and counsel, as well as to remind him of our previous

acquaintance. Our 2008 Tournament Committee at The George Washington University is planning some excellent outreach opportunities for Science Olympiad while in DC, such as a "Capitol Hill Day," where teams would visit the offices of their local congressmen. Check out the NSTA Express for more legislative news.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS NEWS - HAMMOND, INDIANA

Great news from Indiana State Director Michael Kobe! The School City of Hammond recently received a \$28,000 grant from the Hammond Education Foundation to purchase CBLs, calculators and associated probes. On March 21st, the science teachers from all four Hammond high schools will participate in an in-service where they will engage in data gathering and analysis activities in Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science and Physics. Professor Linda Wozniowski of Indiana University Northwest and Randy Miller of Texas Instruments will conduct the sessions.

As Michael Kobe points out, "The Science Olympiad is a leader in spearheading a change in how

science is taught by encouraging the utilization of CBLs into Science Olympiad tournament events."

The Science Olympiad partnership with Texas Instruments has provided workshops at our 2005 summer institute in Phoenix, the Coaches' Clinic, NSTA Chicago and the upcoming National Tournament at IU in May. Texas Instruments has also branched out to work directly with a few states they identified, such as Texas, Florida, New York and California, where TI will be holding independent regional workshops. For more information, call Michael Osborne of Texas Instruments at (972) 917-1688 in Dallas, TX.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD MISSION STATEMENT

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD IS A NATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS IN PREK-12 SCIENCE EDUCATION NATIONWIDE VIA TOURNAMENTS, HANDS-ON SCIENCE EVENTS AND TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS.