



San Diego Section Special Science Fair Newsletter 2011



Presented by the PECG San Diego Section Science Fair Committee 2011 and Section Officers



The 57th Annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair was held March 22 -27 at the Balboa Park Activity Center. The PECG San Diego Section helped judge projects on March 23rd along with other professional organizations.

As President Obama speaks on the national level about America’s need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-hustle the world, the Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair is working to spark kids’ interest in science and technology that will hopefully lead to a bright future for America.

To help in this endeavor the PECG San Diego Section, through generous support from the PECG Corporate Science and Engineering Fair Committee, has become a major sponsor of the Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair.

Section Science Fair Committee Chair and Section Director Naser Ghaderi and Phil Gay, Corporation President of the Greater San Diego Science Fair (pictured below) have been working closely with PECG Corporate for the past two years in promoting the fair.



Also supported by industry, education, friends of science in San Diego and Imperial counties and nationwide.

March 23rd Judging

The PECG San Diego Section Science Fair Committee provided lunch for and organized PECG member volunteers who graciously stepped forth to judge at this year's event. The Section would like to thank the following members who helped judge this year (pictured from left to right):

Kneeling:

Mehrdad Nabizadeh
Pedro Aguilar
Scott Ketcham
Jeff Baluyut
Steven W Threlkeld
Kevin Baluyut

Standing:

Julie Ann Jacinto
Javad Rhezaii
Chris Semaan
Abu-Bakr H Al-Jafri
Robert Lumahan
Fred Abdipour
Sridhar Kidambi
Sunil Repaka
Azar Habibafshar
Lou Melendez
Benjamin Guerrero
Thomas Larson



Students anxiously await judges to explain their projects.



The PECG San Diego Section banner was prominently displayed at the front of the exhibit hall.



Chris and Julie Ann listen intently as a promising future engineer explains her project to them.



Judge Ben Guerrero surveying the projects.



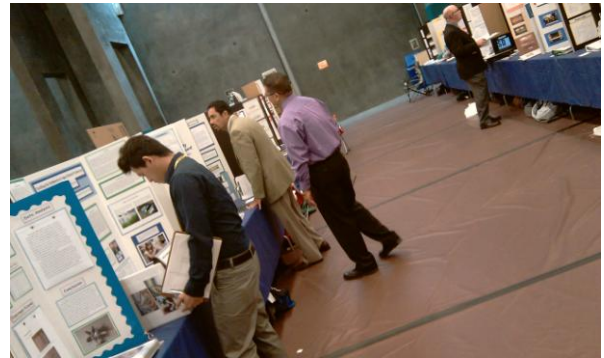
Steve Threlkeld deep in thought.



President Pedro Aguilar, Past Director Fred Abdipour and Director Naser Ghaderi take time out of their busy judging schedule to take a photo with a student.



Julie Ann and Tom Larson assess a promising project.



Judges Jeff Baluyut, Lou Melendez and Vice President (Rank and File) Robert Lumahan work hard to choose the PECG Scholarship award winners.



Vito Tarantino, Sunil Repaka and Sridhar Kidambi proudly represent the PECG San Diego Section.

March 24th Awards Ceremonies



Awards Ceremonies were held at the Viejas Arena on the campus of San Diego State University. Thousands of students, parents and volunteers attended the event. President Pedro Aguilar, Member Judge Lou Melendez, Member Judge Benjamin Guerrero, Director Naser Ghaderi and Past Director Fred Abdipour (pictured above with scholarship winners Brian Hie and Sarina Katzanelson) represented PECG in awarding the PECG San Diego Section Scholarships.

Section Major Scholarship Award Winners



Two \$600 major PECG scholarship awards went to a team project by Vivek Vishwanath and Brian Hie (pictured with Member Judge Azar Habibafshar and Section Director Naser

Ghaderi), 11th graders from Scripps Ranch High.

Their project studied the use of non-destructive piezoelectric sensors to assess the stability of structural materials. Their project won a total of \$1,200, from PECG and others, overall.



One \$300 major PECG scholarship award went to 7th grader Sarina Katznelson (pictured here with Section Director Naser Ghaderi and President Pedro Aguilar) from The Rhoades School.

Sarina's project detailed the process of separating different species of algae from water during the purification and treatment processes.

It was difficult for all to choose only two projects for the major awards out of the wonderful selection presented.

Section Minor Award Winners

The Section also awarded eight minor awards in the amount of \$50 each to the following great projects:

Project # 802 - Aerodynamics
Brent Avery, Eastlake Middle, Gr 7

Project # 851 - Bridge Strength
Natalie Fernandez, City Tree Christian, Gr 8

Project # 702 - Have No Fear Robo is Here
Zacaria Alahma, Islamic School of S.D., Gr 7

Project # 885 - Hair Strength
Mary Cozy, (School and Grade unavailable)

Project # 875 - Bridge Load vs Earthquake Sway
Vishnu Santhosh, Marshall Middle, Gr 8

Project # 604 - How Does a Cell Phone Conversation Affect Reaction Time?
Arlene Skrzynski, Wangenheim Middle, Gr 8

Project # 510 - Correlation of Owl Limpet Population to Algae Species Distribution
Katherine Houk, The Rhoades School Gr 8

Project # 920 - Shake It 'til You Break It!
Annika Hillier, Pershing Middle, Gr 8

THE SECTION WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF THE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S FAIR AND WISHES THEM THE BEST OF LUCK IN THE FUTURE!

PECG San Diego Section Officers

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San Diego Section would like to especially thank PECG President Matt Hanson and Coproate Science Fair Chair Terry Escarda for helping San Diego Section make this event possible!

