



## Louisville Regional Science Fairs News Update: Fall 2009

Janine R. Mura, Newsletter Editor

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**46th Annual Louisville Regional Science Fairs**  
**Saturday, March 13, 2010**  
**University of Louisville Student Activities Center**  
**Project entry deadline: Friday, February 5, 2010 at 6:00 pm**

Inside This Issue			
<i>Change in Fair Directorship</i>	1	<i>Application Process</i>	3
<i>LRSF Fair Co-Directors</i>	2	<b><i>P.R.E.P.A.R.E. for New Teachers</i></b>	4
<i>Fair Participant Information</i>	3	<i>Our 2009 Intel ISEF Finalists</i>	5
<i>Science Fair Rules</i>	3	<i>Awards and Scholarships</i>	5
<i>Tips for Selecting a Project Subject</i>	3		

### Announcement: Change in Fair Directorship

The 46<sup>th</sup> edition of the Louisville Regional Science Fairs (LRSF) will be held Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Swain Student Activities Center complex, on the Belknap Campus of the University of Louisville.

Students from the 12-county region will again have the opportunity to show off their projects and compete for cash and scholarship prizes.

We announce for this year a major staffing change within our organization. **Joel Gittelson will no longer serve as Fair Director of LRSF.** Joel would like all students and teachers to know that he has greatly enjoyed working with everyone to continuously improve the experience for students and teachers.

Joel remains a part of the LRSF organization, and will continue to support our mission.

For 2010, the LRSF Board has elected **two Fair Co-Directors: Tina Gibson and Matt Kittell.** You can meet them and obtain their contact information on page 2 of this newsletter issue. Both of them are looking forward to working with our project entrants and schools.

Please visit [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org) frequently and check out what is available on-line. The site features Fair information as well as links to other informative website sources.

Best wishes to all for a great 2010 Science Fair season!

**Are you considering entering LRSF for the first time in 2010?**  
**See page 4 for some hints on how to P.R.E.P.A.R.E.**

## LRSF Fair Co-Directors

### Tina Gibson

Tina has been a member of the LRSF board of directors since 2003, serving in such roles as 2nd Vice President and Volunteer Staffing. One of her goals as LRSF Fair Co-Director is to encourage more high school teachers to get involved with LRSF.

Tina taught science at Christian Academy of Louisville (CAL) from 1996 to 2008, serving as Science Department Chair from 1999 to 2007. Since 2002, her CAL student entrants won approximately \$350,000 in cash and scholarships at LRSF, KY-SEF, and ISEF.

Tina is currently a Chemistry teacher at Whitefield Academy and an Adjunct Instructor at Campbellsville University, while pursuing her EDD degree at Spalding University.

Contact Tina:

931-6391, [tgibson@whitefield.org](mailto:tgibson@whitefield.org).

### Matt Kittell

Matt Kittell has been involved with the LRSF for 3 years. His duties during that time were as Special Awards Chairman and serving on the Judging Committee.

Matt began a career as a Financial Advisor in 1998 and is currently with Ameriprise Financial. He is also a member of the Greater Louisville Business Alliance, which is one of the largest supporters of Junior Achievement in the country through their local scholarship program.

Matt is married to Courtney Kittell and has two children, Caroline and Mason.

Contact Matt:

394-3951, [matthew.s.kittell@ampf.com](mailto:matthew.s.kittell@ampf.com)  
767-3973, or [m.kittell@insightbb.com](mailto:m.kittell@insightbb.com)

Please welcome Tina and Matt!

## Fair Participant Information

The Louisville Regional Science Fairs are open to students in **grades 6 through 12** in all public, private, parochial, and home schools in **12 Kentucky counties:**

Anderson, Boyle, Bullitt, Hardin, Jefferson, Marion, Mercer, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Washington.

### Competitive Divisions

**Junior:** Grades 6, 7, 8.

**Senior:** Grades 9, 10, 11, 12.

### Categories

LRSF and ISEF categories are unchanged for 2010. Each school may enter *three* exhibits in the following categories:

- Animal Sciences
- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth and Planetary Science
- Energy and Transportation
- Engineering: Electrical & Mechanical
- Engineering: Materials & Bioengineering
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Medicine and Health Sciences
- Microbiology
- Physics and Astronomy
- Plant Sciences

### Team Projects

A team project is defined as a study conducted by *two* or *three* students in any discipline. As in 2009, two team projects from each school may enter.

Please refer to the ***International Rules for Precollege Science Research*** (described on page 3 of this newsletter) for special team project rules.

## Science Fair Rules

A booklet entitled *International Rules for Precollege Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs, 2009/2010* is available at:  
[www.societyforscience.org/isef/document/completerules2010.pdf](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/document/completerules2010.pdf)

Links to **individual topics** in this booklet are listed at the bottom of the [ISEF Rules Page](#).

Use the [Rules Wizard](#) on the ISEF website to help with required forms.

There are some **minor rule changes** for 2010. It is very important that every teacher and student follow the **current 2009/2010 rules** which apply to his or her area(s) of research - do not use rules from a previous year. Our Regional Fairs are affiliated with ISEF, so we must operate accordingly.

**Note: Obtain all required project approvals BEFORE experimental work begins.**

Each school is encouraged to set up a **Scientific Review Committee (SRC)** and an **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** to review all proposed student research plans. Click [here](#) and scroll down to "SRC and IRB Review Boards" for detailed guidance.

**If your school does not have a SRC or IRB**, the LRSF SRC can review proposed student research that may require approval before experimental research begins.

Use the Rules Wizard to identify what forms will apply to your project. If the Wizard indicates that one or more of form(s) 1C through 6B may be required, and your school does not have its own SRC or IRB, contact Tina Gibson or Matt Kittell to **arrange for the LRSF SRC** to review the research plan.

In planning the project presentation for the Fair, keep in mind that students must complete their formal project presentations within **5 minutes**. This is to ensure all students and projects have equal time "at bat," given the limits on judging time.

## Tips for Selecting a Project Subject

Two helpful suggestions...

(1) As your student thinks about her/his science project subject selection, they should consider that projects involving animals, tissues, human subjects, possibly dangerous materials, etc. will potentially require **more forms to fill out** for regional science fair entry, greater adult project **supervision**, and more work to be done in regulated research facilities under qualified scientist supervision.

The **Rules and Guidelines** booklet (see above) will provide the necessary detailed information. The ISEF "Rules Wizard" at [www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp) is another helpful source.

(2) The **Research Plan** should be the first document completed. This, along with the required pre-approval forms, should be submitted to the approving body/persons and returned with approving signature/s and dates **BEFORE** any actual project work is started.

Without the details in your Research Plan, the approving persons will not have enough information on which to base their decisions.

## Application Process

**February 5, 2010 – Deadline for entry into Louisville Regional Science Fairs.**

This year we will again have the online entry process, accessible from [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org). The Signature Page and other completed Student Entry Forms are to be delivered to Amy Sprinkle, Assistant Fair Director, by **Friday, February 5, 2010, at 6:00 pm.**

To submit your forms, or ask any questions about application procedures, please contact Assistant Fair Director **Amy Sprinkle** at:

1042 Franelm Road  
Louisville, KY 40214-4627  
Phone: (502) 213-7312  
E-mail: [amy.sprinkle@kctcs.edu](mailto:amy.sprinkle@kctcs.edu)

**New Teachers:  
P.R.E.P.A.R.E. for the 2010 LRSF**

Are you considering entering student projects in the 2010 LRSF? Have you thought about it in the past, but had concerns that the entry process would be difficult or involve too much paperwork?

The LRSF has drawn a consistently strong field of projects each year from several of the excellent schools in our Kentucky region. **We welcome all schools who would like to be a part of this experience.** There are plenty of awards and learning experiences to go around!

In 2008, five (5) schools participated in the LRSF for the first time, plus one who had joined LRSF in 2007 with only a single project entry. [Students from these “newcomer” schools earned these awards at LRSF:](#)

- A First Place Best of Fair
- Three (3) Second Place category awards
- Two (2) Third Place category awards
- Two of these schools also tied for 3rd Place in the Overall School Awards for their division.

**Plan now to join our event in March 2010!**

Here are some ideas and hints to help you **P.R.E.P.A.R.E.:**

**Project Selection.** Some projects typically require more forms, more adult project supervision, and more work to be done in regulated research facilities supervised by a qualified scientist.

Such projects often involve microorganisms, animals, tissues, human subjects, or hazardous materials. Simpler may be better.

**Rules Wizard.** This online guide at [www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp) walks you through questions about a student's proposed project, then tells you what forms and approvals you will need before beginning work on that project.

You'll print the output to include in the LRSF application packet.

**Early Start.** Begin considering project ideas and science fair logistics during summer or early fall – especially if you are planning a school science fair – so there is time to complete forms, obtain any pre-approvals, and make plans.

Typically the LRSF application deadline is in early February.

**Plan the Research.** The Research Plan is the first document to be created and approved, before starting any project work.

It's straightforward, consisting of: 1) the question being addressed, 2) hypothesis, problem, or engineering goals, 3) detailed description of procedures and data analysis, and 4) bibliography.

**Approvals.** Three (3) LRSF forms, plus a Teacher Tally sheet, and three (3) ISEF forms are the basics for all projects.

The Rules Wizard will list other approval forms if a project needs additional scientific review (see “Project Selection” above).

**Important:** Obtain any required pre-approvals before the project work begins.

**Resources.** Tina Gibson and Matt Kittell, LRSF Fair Co-Directors, are available to answer any questions you may have.

Visit [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org) throughout the school year for forms, information, and links to useful Web sites.

**Embark on the Project.** Employ the scientific method, Enlighten the students, and Everyone Enjoy the scientific inquiry process!

Special note about **Project Categories:** The 17 categories listed on page 2 are described in more detail on the ISEF Web site at [http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/research\\_categories.asp](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/research_categories.asp).

At LRSF, projects are not divided further into the **sub-categories** shown, but you can get an idea of the types of projects in each category.

## **Intel ISEF Finalists**

Two students from the life sciences, two from the physical sciences, and two teams will be selected as Finalists to represent the Louisville Regional Science Fairs at the **61st International Science and Engineering Fair** to be held in [San Jose, California, May 9-14, 2010](#). Travel expenses of the students and their teachers will be provided by LRSF.

We congratulate our **2009 ISEF finalists** who competed in Reno, Nevada this May:

- Christine Hoyle, Ballard HS
- Amy Bischoff, Ballard HS
- John Bolander, St. Xavier HS
- Christine Gilbert-Crawford, Ballard HS
- Allison Dixon and Ashley Fields (team), Ballard HS
- Hannah Maddox and Megan Seldon (team), Ballard HS

## **Awards & Scholarships**

The Science Fair gives first, second, and third place **cash awards** to winners in each category, in Junior and Senior Divisions.

There are also government agencies, professional organizations, and corporate sponsors that give **Special Awards**.

The University of Louisville has made full tuition, renewable, four-year **scholarships** available to winners in the Fairs: Two in the Life Sciences, two in the Physical Sciences, and one for each of the students who have the winning Team Projects.

To qualify for the scholarships, students must:

- 1) Meet UofL eligibility criteria, be admitted to the university, and attend UofL beginning with their freshman year.
- 2) Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA for renewal.
- 3) Be selected as an ISEF Finalist from the Fairs.