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For Immediate Release

2008 Science and Engineering Fair Regional Competition Winners

AIKEN, S.C. (March 20) – The Washington Savannah River Company, University of South Carolina Aiken and The South Carolina Academy of Science recently sponsored a successful Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition for the benefit of students from area schools.

The competition was held for schools in 20 counties located throughout the Central Savannah River Area. Over 200 students qualified for and attended the competition, which was held on Saturday, March 15, at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

“For a couple of years now, students had to attend the regional science fair in Columbia,” said Barbara Smoak, Manager, WSRC Education Outreach Program. “It’s gratifying for everyone involved that we were able to pull together a regional competition for participating students that could be held in Aiken. We had an impressive array of entrants across all three divisions.”

The Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SEF) gives young people from the area the opportunity to explore the world of science and technology and develop their scientific investigation skills and knowledge by planning, constructing and exhibiting their own "hands-on" science projects. The projects were judged for scientific reasoning, creative ability, thoroughness, technical skill and clarity. Volunteers from the Savannah River Site, Savannah River National Laboratory and University of South Carolina Aiken acted as judges for the event.

Each year, millions of students worldwide compete in local and school-sponsored science fairs; the winners of these events go on to participate in SEF-affiliated regional and state fairs from which the best win the opportunity to attend at the international level of the Science and Engineering Fair competition. The international competition will be held May 11-17 in Atlanta, Ga.

This year’s first place winner in the High School Division, Jenny Mi, Lakeside High School, will be provided an all-expense paid trip to the international competition. Her project focused on microRNAs and their role in psoriasis susceptibility.

(more)

The WSRC Team:

Washington Savannah River Company LLC • Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. • BNG America Savannah River Corporation
BWXT Savannah River Company • CH2 Savannah River Company

The SEF unites top young scientific minds, showcasing their talent on an international stage, enabling them to submit their work to judging by doctoral level scientists—and providing the opportunity to compete for nearly \$4 million in prizes and scholarships.

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“Best of Show” Winning Projects for 2008

High School Division

1st Place Overall:	Jenny Mi	Lakeside High School
2nd Place Overall:	Wood Dennis	Academy of Richmond County
3rd Place Overall:	Melanie B. Aldred	North Augusta High School

Middle School Division

1st Place Overall:	Erik Brown	Saint Mary Help of Christians School
2nd Place Overall:	Eric Sherburne	Saint Mary Help of Christians School
3rd Place Overall:	Joseph Guay	Tutt Middle School

Elementary School Division

1st Place Overall:	Caleb DiPrete	Riverside Elementary School
2nd Place Overall:	Cameron Carlton	Garrett Elementary School
3rd Place Overall:	Sabrina Birkett	Riverside Elementary School

Picture caption: The Best of Show winners in the High School Division for the 2008 Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition recently held in Aiken, S.C., were (from left), first place, Jenny Mi, Lakeside High School; second place, Wood Dennis, Academy of Richmond County; and third place, Melanie B. Aldred, North Augusta High School.

Note: Wood Dennis is the correct sequence for his name.