DATE: March 12, 2003

TO: Judge Teams - see attached list

FROM: Dr. Joel Kuszmaul, and Dr. Maurice Eftink
Science Fair Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Best of Fair - Judge Teams

1. Thank you for serving as Best-Of-Fair or Best-Of-Class judges for the Regional Science Fair, Monday, March 24 or Wednesday, March 26 at the Coliseum. Please see the list at the end of the letter for the class you are being asked to judge.

2. Best-Of-Class and Best-Of-Fair judging will be carried out from 12:30 - 3:15 p.m. on Monday, March 24 for Classes I and II and from 12:30 - 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26 for Classes III, IV and V. A sandwich lunch will be available for the Best of Fair judges at noon each day.

   The first hour and a half is an optional time for you to be able to look at the projects without the students being there. You will not have to talk to the students at that point. However, you may wish to report at 1:30 and receive a list of the projects that have won their respective categories as to significantly decrease the number of projects you will have to judge.

   After considerable controversy in previous years, we are asking that only projects placing 1st through 3rd be placed in contention for further judging for a Best-Of-Class and Best-Of-Fair award. It is further requested that strong consideration be given to only those projects that have placed first to receive a Best-Of-Class and Best-Of-Fair award.

   The Fair director also asks that the Best of Fair judges (for classes IV and V) make a strong effort to include a contender from each of the 5 eligible high schools represented this year (Bruce, Coffeeville, Grenada, Independence, Lafayette, and Oxford). We have seen our science fair participation on the decline in recent years, especially at the high school level, and it has been suggested that some schools have dropped out because the Best of Fair winners are always from 1 or 2 schools. While this is true and will likely remain so, by having a representative from each school in contention for the top award will give them tremendous encouragement. (REGION VII FAIR ONLY)

   Each judge team may work out its own procedures, although we suggest you take individual looks and then compare notes within each team. By 2:00 for Classes I and II and 2:30 for Classes III, IV and V you should have narrowed the choices down to a list of perhaps 5-10 "contenders" for each prize.
At that point we shall put a "green tag" on the projects of these "contenders". These students alone will then stand by their projects so you can speak with them and determine the final winners. By 3:15 for Classes I and II and 3:45 for Classes III, IV and V you should decide on the final winners.

3. Please see the important letter attached. The President of M SEF, Dr. Joe Sumrall, is asking for 1 BOF project selected from Biological Sciences and 1 BOF project selected from Physical Sciences.

4. For Classes I, II and III, you are charged with selecting the "best" project from among all the entries in your assigned class. There are no criteria other than the general judging criteria, which are attached. The awardee will receive a trophy. There will be a single Best-Of-Class winner in each of Classes I-III.

5. For Classes IV and V, you are charged with selecting two "best" projects among all the entries in classes IV and V. There is no requirement that one winner be from Class IV and one from Class V. These two winners will (1) receive a Best-Of-Fair trophy and (2) will be the representatives to the International Science Fair from our Regional Science Fair (i.e., expenses paid for their trip to Cleveland, OH, May 11-17).

Since these two Best-Of-Fair projects will be going on to the International Fair, you should select those projects which you believe will be most competitive according to the judging criteria (see attached sheets).

You are also charged with designating two Best-Of-Fair alternates. Designate a First-Alterante and a Second-Alterante. These students are eligible to take the place of the two winners, in the event that the winners do not go to the International Fair. The First-Alterante serves as alterante to both of the two Best-Of-Fair winners.

6. As stated under number 2, each judging team should use the scores of the regular judging process (available by about 1:30 p.m. each day) to aid in the selection. You are limited to selecting among the 1st to 3rd place entries in each category. Finally, you should question the students about their projects.

7. For Best-Of-Fair IV and V judging, you should return to us the top two winners (unranked) and the 3rd and 4th place projects.

8. You will be wearing a badge which will identify you as a Best-Of-Class or Best-Of-Fair Judge.
2002 BOF Judges

Best of Class I

1. Bonnie Avery, Pharmaceutics
2. Ms. Tamika Roddy, Exercise Science

Best of Class II

1. Dr. Jordan Zjawiony, Pharmacognosy
2. Dr. Randel Price, Chemical Engineering
3. Don Schillinger, Education
4. Thomas Jamerson, Physics

Best of Class III

1. Deb Gochfeld, Natural Products Center
2. Dr. Scott Knight, USDA, Sedimentation Lab
3. Dr. John Matthews, Pharmacology
4. Colonel Robert Cox, Army Rep

Best of Classes IV and V

1. Christy Willet, Pharmacology-Environmental Toxicology
2. Dr. Mark Slattery, Pharmacognosy
3. Thomas Jamerson, Physics
4. Dr. Ken Sufka, Psychology
5. Dr. James Vaughn, Mechanical Engineering
6. Walt Cleland, Chemistry
7.

State Fair
Best of Classes IV and V, and VI

1. Dr. Pam Lawhead (I asked her on 3/8/02 and she agreed - RC)
2.
3.
4. TBA
5.
6.
7.
8.

Enclosure:
General Judging Criteria
Fair Schedule and Fair Brochure
Dr. Sumrall’s letter to Fair Directors

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