

Science takes center stage during 64th annual fair



Pictured, from left, Aaditya Gupte, John Jay High School, 3rd place Senior Division; Naflah Mohammed, John Jay High School, 2nd Place Senior division; Aksat Shah, Roy C Ketcham High School, 1st Place Senior Division; Dr. Rachel Mead, Acting Associate Dean of Instruction and Learning, Dutchess Community College; Dr. Maung Htoo, Director DC Regional Science Fair

-Courtesy photo by Melissa Hetzer, Mid-Hudson Photography Club



Pictured from left, Marcus Auton-Smith, Pawling Middle School, 3rd Place 6th Grade; Philip Cohen, Dutchess Day School, 2nd Place; Lion Ogino, Brinkerhoff Elementary School, 1st Place; Commander Daniel Sweatman, Office of Naval Research.

-Courtesy photo by Gillian Rinaldo, Science Research & AP Biology Teacher, Pawling High School

The 64th Annual Dutchess County Regional Science Fair was held March 25, at Falcon Hall on the Dutchess Community College campus. One hundred students representing 28 schools from 11 districts participated.

Dr. Maung S. Htoo, director of the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair, remarked, "You see all these young scientists this afternoon. They are amazing with what they come up with in their experiments. They have this boundless energy and creativity in them."

Students ranged from 5th to 12th graders, with projects in biology, chem-

istry, physics, engineering, earth/space science, computer science, environmental & behavioral sciences. Biology, chemistry and engineering accounted for the majority of the projects.

At the awards ceremony 200 awards, valued at nearly \$9,000 were presented. Overall, 1st and 2nd place overall winners, Aksat Shah, Roy C Ketcham High School and Naflah Mohammed, John Jay High School, were invited to compete at the Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair, <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/>, in Dallas, TX this May. Magnolia Garbarino, Pawling High

School, 2022's 1st Place Senior Division and this year's winner of the Loretta Anne Htoo Memorial Science Award told Dr Htoo "The opportunities the Fair has provided last year, and this year have really shaped me as a person and a student."

Judges are critical to the fair and the Society of Women Engineers Mid-Hudson Chapter is a great example. Here is their feedback, "The Society of Women Engineers were pleased to assist with Competitive Judging, in addition to our Special Judging of exhibits entered by female students. The students impressed us with their projects and passion for STEM topics. Thanks to the organizers for hosting an outstanding event benefiting our community. As Angelina Jolie said, 'There is no greater pillar of stability than a strong, free & educated woman.'"

Special awards were provided by the

following local organizations; Dutchess County Regional Science Fair, American Chemical Society-Mid Hudson Chapter, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, CHG&E, Htoo family, IEEE Mid-Hudson, Mid - Hudson Astronomical Society, Mid-Hudson Gem & Mineral Society, Mid-Hudson Photography Club, Mid-Hudson Valley Black Network, National Association of Biology Teachers, Pfirman family, Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, and Society of Women Engineers Mid-Hudson Chapter.

Dr. Htoo thanked parents, teachers, Dutchess Community College, suppliers, numerous donors, organizations and staff for their support.

A list of Competitive and Special Awards can be found on the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair website <https://www.dcscefair.org/>.

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Pictured from left, Rayan Shaikh, St. Martin de Porres, 3rd Place 5th Grade; Serena Mazzuto, Hagan Elementary School, 2nd Place, Rhianna Ortiz-Luis, St Mary's School Fishkill, 1st Place; NY State Senator Robert Rolison.

-Courtesy photo by Melissa Hetzer, Mid-Hudson Photography Club