

High School Students Awarded College Scholarships at Intel International Science & Engineering Fair

Two 17 year old high school students, Lisa Doreen Glukhovsky and Jonathan Nicholas Sick, were presented with the 2003 Priscilla and Bart Bok Awards by the AAS and ASP. Their outstanding astronomical research projects were exhibited at the 54th annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Glukhovsky, a student at New Milford High School in New Milford, Connecticut, won the AAS-ASP Bok First Place Award and a \$5000 scholarship for her project "A Rapid, Accurate Method of Determining the Distance to Near-Earth Asteroids." Glukhovsky determined the distances of over a dozen Near-Earth Asteroids using simultaneous two-site parallax observations. Her project involved an international collaboration with several other student and amateur observatories in the U.S. and Europe. Measurements made in the course of her project agree with those obtained by NASA JPL observers to within one percent.

Sick, a student at Queen Elizabeth High School in Calgary, Alberta, won the AAS-ASP Bok Second Place Award and a \$3000 scholarship for his project "Development of an Adaptively Controlled Telescope." Sick designed and developed a 32-cm automated telescope with software that can automatically orient the telescope, identify star fields around the sky, and track observer-selected objects.

The AAS-ASP judging team consisted of Drs. Terry Oswalt of the Florida Institute of Technology, Dr. Jeanne Bishop, Director of Westlake Schools Planetarium, and Dr. Earle Luck of Case Western Reserve University.

Oswalt, Bishop and Luck also served as judges for the Richard D. Lines Special Award in Astronomy, presented annually at the ISEF by the International Amateur-Professional Photoelectric Photometry (IAPPP). Oswalt presented the Lines Award and a

\$5000 scholarship to Ved Chirayath, a 16-year-old sophomore from California Academy of Math and Sciences in Carson, California. Chirayath's winning project was "Photometric Detection of an Extra-Solar Planetary Transit Across the Sun-Like Star HD 209458." Using data collected with a small telescope and CCD camera, Chirayath detected two full transit events of the star's super-Jupiter planet. He used this data to determine the planet's size and orbital inclination.

All three students have been invited to publish papers describing their projects in the IAPPP Communications, an international journal specializing in collaborative astronomy research projects involving students, amateurs and professional astronomers. In addition, the high school science departments of each student will receive \$1000. The scholarships and science department contributions are provided by a grant from the National Science Foundation, administered by the AAS on behalf of the three participating professional organizations.

Science Service publishes the weekly Science News, and hosts the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Each year three to five million students complete science research projects. This year over 1,200 students earned the right to compete at the Intel ISEF. The fair brought together students from nearly 50 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize: a trip to attend the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden. Science Service founded the ISEF in 1950. The AAS, ASP and IAPPP have co-sponsored special awards in astronomy at the annual ISEF since 1991. The NSF provided additional substantial support for the Bok and Lines astronomy award programs in 2000.



Lisa Doreen Glukhovsky, Terry Oswalt and Jonathan Nicholas Sick



Ved Chirayath and Terry Oswalt



Exhibit Hall