

NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

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MEDIA ADVISORY

TO News directors, education and science reporters
FROM University Relations
SUBJECT High School Science Symposium marks its 20th year
DATE March 5-6, 2005
LOCATION Natural Sciences Facility on the UAF campus

High school students from around the state who have conducted research will present their findings March 5-6, 2005 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Students in grades 9-12 will participate in the Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium now into its 20th year.

"Students have the opportunity to work with some of the best scientists in their field of interest, conduct valid research experiments and present their results in a scientific setting," said program Director Dr. Gary Laursen, professor and senior research scientist with UAF's Institute of Arctic Biology. "The experience is as close to participating in a bona fide academic science symposium as one can achieve at this level of competition."

The research, writing and oral intensive program helps students develop their science research, writing, and oral presentation skills. Students complete their research, submit written papers of their projects for technical review and revision and then present to separate panels of judges in one of six categories. From a group of 14 finalists, five young Alaskans will be selected to represent the state at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, for which Laursen serves as a national director and Chair to 47 other Regional Directors through its Regional Director's Executive Council. The national symposium takes place April 28-May 1 in San Diego, CA. Alaska's top three presenters receive \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 scholarships respectively. Two will compete nationally for \$2K, \$6K and \$16K scholarships. Three additional student finalists will also attend the national meeting and the top seven Alaska participants receive a one-year tuition scholarship to UAF.

Past participants have been published in scientific journals, gone on to work toward advanced science degrees, and one has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. Four JSBS participants from other states have come to UAF to seek degrees. Mr. John Rowley of Montana, and a graduating UAF senior, was just selected as the Outstanding

Undergraduate Student in Chemistry for the 2004-5 academic year. The ASHSSS program is one of 48 regional affiliates to the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

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