The Collegiate Inventors Competition:

Encouraging Innovation and Graduate Education through Awards and Recognition

Joyce Ward, Director of Program Support and Intellectual Property, National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation

COLLEGIATE INVENTORS COMPETITION®

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® Foundation

In its 17th Year of Honoring Student Inventors

www.invent.org/collegiate

In 2007, Ian Cheong of Johns Hopkins University (pictured above with representatives from the presenting sponsors, Kathy Pickus, Abbott Fund and Richard Maulsby, United States Patent and Trademark Office) was selected as the Grand Prize Winner and recipient of the $25,000 cash prize for his invention of a novel way to target cancerous cells using liposomase for drug delivery. Since winning the Competition, Cheong has continued his postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins, still pursuing research on cancer drug delivery. He is also working on other experimental ideas for cancer therapy in hopes that they will find practical applications. Cheong's intention is to remain in academia, believing it will allow him to pursue ideas that industry would normally view as risky, but which have the potential to change the medical world's approach to treating cancer.

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Overview

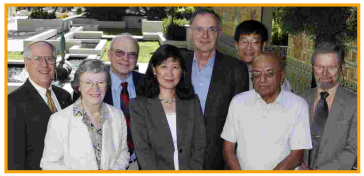
The Collegiate Inventors Competition is designed to encourage college and university students active in science, engineering, mathematics, technology, and creative invention, while stimulating their problem-solving abilities. The Competition recognizes creative individuals whose research, discoveries, and inventions are original and have the potential to receive patent protection. The Competition focus is clearly on students; however, we also seek to encourage and recognize the working relationship between students and their advisors.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition is a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation and was introduced in May 1990. The National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation is a 501 (c) not for profit corporation. It was founded in 1973 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations. Over the years, the Foundation has expanded that core mission – through the development of programs and activities such as the Collegiate Inventors Competition – to recognize, encourage, and inspire future generations of inventors.

In 2008, students who enter and advance to the final judging round will walk away with anywhere from $2000 to $25,000 in unrestricted cash prizes. In addition, finalists of the CIC will have the experience of presenting to a renowned panel of judges, including Inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame and representatives from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Judging

Three first round judges review each entry submitted to the Collegiate Inventors Competition. The judges, all volunteers, include representatives from the National Science Foundation, various research institutions, associations and private industry. These judges are experts in the fields of mathematics, engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, materials science, computer science, medicine, pharmacology, nanotechnology, and other disciplines related to invention and technology development. To ensure blind scoring, the judges do not meet or collaborate with each other in scoring the entries. Their collective scores and rankings along with data collected by an independent researcher are used by the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation to determine the finalists.



2007 Collegiate Inventors Competition Final Judges Panel: (l-r) Donald Keck; Edith Flanigen; Robert Bower; Jasemine Chambers; Ted Hoff; Rangaswamy Srinivasan; Jeffrey Pan; and George Smith.

The final judging panel consists of Inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Special guest judges selected by the presenting sponsors, the Abbott Fund and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, also participate in the final phase of judging. All finalists meet with the final panel of judges for formal presentation of their inventions and to answer questions. After the finalists have made their presentations, the panel deliberates and selects the Undergraduate Winner, Graduate Winner, and Grand Prize Winner.

Past Hall of Fame Inductee Judges:

Robert Bower, Ph.D., (Self-Aligned Gate MOSFET); Edith Flanigen, M.S., D.Sc., (Molecular Sieves); Tom Fogarty, M.D., (Embolectomy Catheter); Jim Hillier, Ph.D., (Electron Microscope); Marcian "Ted" Hoff, Ph.D., (Microprocessor); Donald Keck, Ph.D., (Optical Fiber for Communications); Gerhard Sessler, Ph.D., (Electret Microphone); George Smith, Ph.D., (Charge-Coupled Device); Rangaswamy Srinivasan, Ph.D., (Excimer Laser Surgery); and James West, D.Sc., (Electret Microphone).

Daniel Fletcher from Stanford University engages in a conversation with National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee Jim Hillier, inventor of the electron microscope. Fletcher's invention of a Pulsed Liquid Microjet for use in precision surgery earned him top honors in the 2001 competition.

Why Encourage Participation?

- Prestige of being named as a finalist to the Competition
- Opportunity to meet, interact, and have work judged by an esteemed panel of judges
- Opportunity to network with other students engaged in interesting areas of research
- Recognition of students' work by the media and general public
- Major cash awards

Awards

Grand Prize: $25,000
Graduate Prize: $15,000
Undergraduate Prize: $15,000

All finalists receive an all-expense paid trip to the final judging round and a **$2,000** cash prize per team. Past locations for the final judging round have included Pasadena, CA; New York, NY; Akron, OH; and Washington, DC.

Eligibility

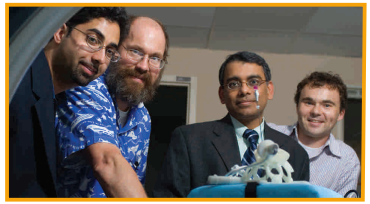
- To be eligible for the Competition, a student must be enrolled or have been enrolled full-time in any college or university in the United States or Canada for at least a portion of the 12-month period prior to submission of entry.
- In the case of a team, at least one member of the team must meet the full-time eligibility criteria. The other team members must have been enrolled, at a minimum, on a part-time basis for some period during the 24-month period prior to entry.

2007 Graduate Winner John Dolan from the University of California, San Francisco pictured with his invention The Dolagnawmeter: An Instrument to Quantify Pain-Induced Oral Dysfunction.

Requirements

(see www.invent.org/collegiate for more detailed information)

- The invention must be "reduced to practice." That is, the invention has to be more than a mere idea. It must be complete, operable, and the inventor must present some evidence of successful application. The invention must be capable of being reproduced.
- The invention must be primarily the work of a student or team of students with a faculty advisor.



2007 Finalists Nevan Hanumara (far left) and Conor Walsh (far right) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, inventors of Robopsy – A Disposable Medical Robot for Lung Biopsies, pictured with their advisor Alexander Slocum and Dr. Rajiv Gupta.

Criteria

- Originality and inventiveness
- Level of completeness or development of the invention
- Potential impact or benefit of invention to society – economically, environmentally, and socially
- Level of student initiative

2007 Undergraduate Sadia Bartholomew from Otterbein College presents her invention, Cost-effective Engineering of a Small-scale Bioreactor, to the final judging panel.

Application Process

The official application and a list of frequently asked questions are available at **www.invent.org/collegiate.** All entries must be submitted on the official application form. The application consists of general student information; an essay including a brief description or abstract of the invention; information on the faculty advisor; a literature/patent search and summary; and any relevant supporting or supplemental materials the student/team wishes to submit (examples: charts, graphs, CDs or DVDs, slides, samples, etc.). Four copies of the complete application package must be mailed to:

Collegiate Inventors Competition
221 South Broadway Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

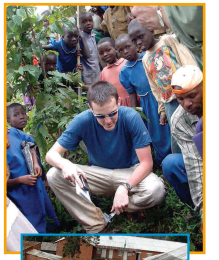
Electronic submissions will not be accepted.
Deadline for submission: **All applications must be postmarked by May 16, 2008.**

2000 Collegiate Inventors Competition Winner Emilie Porter from the University of Wisconsin, inventor of Beta-Amino Acid Oligomers for Use as an Antibiotic, pictured in her lab.

Protecting Intellectual Property

All staff and judges for the Collegiate Inventors Competition sign non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements prior to reviewing your materials. The Collegiate Inventors Competition will only use brief titles and general descriptions of the inventions in print.

While it is not a requirement to enter the Competition, we do recommend students begin the patent process prior to submitting their entries. For information on patents and protecting intellectual property, visit the United States Patent and Trademark Office web site at **www.uspto.gov.** Students can find information on navigating the USPTO web site in the Resources section of the CIC web site located at www.invent.org/collegiate. The technology transfer office at your university may also be able to assist students in this process.



Evan Thomas, on location in Rwanda, demonstrates the "Bring Your Own Water" Treatment System which was co-invented with Max Gold (below, left). Both were students at the University of Colorado.

2003 Grand Prize Winner Jamie Link from the University of California, San Diego, gives her acceptance speech at the CIC Awards Ceremony for her invention, Optically Encoded Porous Silicon Particles.

Questions?

Web site:
www.invent.org/collegiate

E-mail to:
collegiate@invent.org

Call:
800.968.4332, option 5

2007 Undergraduate Winners Corey Centen (r) and Nilesh Patel (l) from McMaster University are pictured here with their invention, CPRGlove: A Wearable CPR Training, Testing, and Assist Device.