

Elements

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EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Promoting the Importance of the Industry/Community Equation

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A Challenging Success!

Deductive reasoning and the General Conference of Weights and Measurements, these are the answers correctly guessed by Karen Luo, a 7th grader from Peru-Washington Junior High School in Peru, IL, to win her the title of National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge (YBTCC) Champion!

On June 9, Karen and six other nervous, yet excited contestants gathered at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) in Philadelphia, PA, geared up for a challenge! The other contestants were Aidan Blum, 6th grade, L'Anse Creuse Middle School East, Chesterfield, MI; Dan Clausen, 8th grade, Friendship Junior High School, Des Plaines, IL; Sarah Ellison, 8th grade, St. Mary's Elementary School, Mt. Clemens, MI; Jasmine Hamilton, 8th grade, Apollo Middle School, Rochester, NY; Elena Ray, 6th grade, Cypress Christian School, Houston, TX; and Rachel Sutterley, Stuart Pepper Middle School, Brandenburg, KY.

This year's national competition was sponsored by AIG Environmental of New York, NY, a division of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). "The Challenge is a great community outreach tool. AIG Environmental is excited to be part of an event that can so positively impact our chemical industry clients and the communities in which they operate," stated Darin Winick, Association Program Manager, AIG Environmental. Mr. Winick also served as a one of three competition judges.

The shared responsibility of moderating the event fell on Nandini Mouli, Dupont Research & Development of Wilmington, DE, and Jennifer Shepler, Dupont Engineering, also of Wilmington. In addition to Mr. Winick, Lynn Solorio, Carus Chemical Company of Peru, IL, and Laurel Brent, CEF, also served as competition judges.

The audience, which consisted of more than thirty family members and chemical industry representatives, were on the edge of their seats as the impressive group of seven battled their way through almost 200 questions before a winner was declared. Karen Luo and the first and second runner-ups, Rachel Sutterley and Jasmine Hamilton, respectively, all received educational savings bonds from CEF. All of the participants received a CHEMC1000 chemistry set, a gift certificate to the Discovery Channel Store, a gift subscription to National Geographic Kids magazine, and YBTCC lab coats, t-shirts, note pads and pencils!

The historical charm of downtown Philadelphia was the back drop for the two-day event. In addition to the academics of the competition, students, parents, and local level Challenge organizers were also able to participate in different activities around the city. They were led on a tour of the historical artifacts of CHF, spent an afternoon exploring the wonders of science on display at the Franklin Institute, and treated to dinners at the Hard Rock Café and Philadelphia's historic City Tavern.

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Thank You!

CEF would like to thank AIG Environmental of New York, NY, a division of American International Group, Inc., (AIG) for sponsoring the 2006 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge competition!



CEF would also like to thank the companies that sponsored local-level *You Be The Chemist* Challenges during the 2005-2006 school year:

Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.

Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry

Arch Chemicals

Aux Sable Liquids

Carus Chemical Co.

Expo Chemical Co.

Huntsman Chemical

Orica Nitrogen

PQ Corporation

PVS Nolwood Chemicals, Inc.

UOP, LLC

YBTC Challenge Community Connection

"Carus Chemical Company, along with the members of the LaSalle/Peru/Utica Community Advisory Panel, is proud to have helped develop the pilot program for the first You Be The Chemist Challenge. Our Illinois Valley regional competition continues to grow, with more schools wanting to compete and additional chemical companies offering support. We at Carus offer extensive chemical education in our community, and the You Be The Chemist Challenge is one of our most popular and effective outreach programs."

Lynn Solorio
Manager, Stakeholder Communications
Carus Chemical Company

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Outstanding Educators Recognized by CEF

In early April, nine innovative educators were honored by CEF as the winners of the 2005 *You Be The Chemist* Lesson Plan Competition. Each year the Lesson Plan Competition seeks creative lesson plans from educators that are appropriate for K-8 grade audiences, in one of three chemistry related categories: Scientific Inquiry, Structure of Matter, and Safety and Recycling.

Educators from all over the country submitted lesson plans. This year CEF even received its first international submission - and winner - from Hong Kong, China!

The submissions are judged by a panel of experts on their creativity, grade level appropriateness, content, and objectives.

Outstanding educators are awarded with \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 in cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, respectively. The winners are also recognized on the CEF Web site, www.chemed.org, and are sent a letter and certificate of congratulations from CEF.

For more information on the winning lesson plans, please visit the CEF Web site at www.chemed.org.

2006 - 2007 Award Schedule

We encourage you to get members of your community involved and win some awards! Below is an update of the Award schedule for 2006 – 2007. Call Cori Bradley at 703/527-6223 ext. 116 for more details. (*Tentative)

Award Schedule:

You Be The Chemist Challenge

September 1, 2006 – May 1 – Local- and State-Level

You Be The Chemist Challenges

June 15, 2007 – National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge
Philadelphia, PA

You Be The Chemist Lesson Plan Competition

Currently Accepting Nominations

December 21, 2006 – Deadline for Submissions

February 1, 2007 – Winners Announced

Community Awards for Chemical Safety

Currently Accepting Nominations

January 31, 2007 – Deadline for Submissions

March 1, 2007 – Winners Announced

Vanguard Award

Currently Accepting Nominations

January 31, 2007 – Deadline for Submissions

March 1, 2007 – Winner Announced

*May 14, 2007 – Award Ceremony, Washington, DC

Please e-mail us if you would like information on any of our Award programs at comments@chemed.org or visit our Web site at www.chemed.org.

Congratulations to the 2005 Lesson Plan Competition Winners!

Category: Scientific Inquiry

1st Place: Bill Nixon

Renbrook School

West Hartford, CT

You Light Up My Life

2nd Place: LuAnn Messer

Falcon Ridge Middle School

Apple Valley, MN

Separating Salt and Pepper

3rd Place: Beth Williamson

Pecan Park Elementary

Jackson, MS

What is the Best Solution to Dye Easter Eggs?

Category: Structure of Matter

1st Place: John Nesbitt

Sidwell Friends School

Washington, DC

Liquid Logic: Experiments in Viscosity

2nd Place: Sheryl Schickedanz

Indian Springs Middle School

Keller, TX

Boy Meets Chemistry...and has a Reaction!

3rd Place: Sue Hasenbank

Ludington Area Catholic School

Ludington, MI

Discovering the Properties of Matter

Category: Safety and Recycling

1st Place: Karen Skophammer

Manson NW Webster School

Fort Dodge, IA

*You are the Product: How to Handle
and Dispose of Household Products*

2nd Place: Chan Kam Yeun

Wu York Yu Memorial College

Kwai Chung, Hong Kong

Recycling Plastics

3rd Place: Stacie Wolbert

Immaculate Conception School

Clarion, PA

Snapping Your Way to Safety

Prestigious Vanguard Award Presented to Head of Dow Corning

On April 24, CEF presented Dr. Stephanie Burns, Chairman, President, and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation of Midland, MI, with the prestigious Vanguard Award.

For over a decade, CEF has presented the Vanguard Award to an individual in the chemical industry whose leadership, commitment, and outreach efforts have helped advance the Foundation's mission of fostering a greater understanding of chemistry, the benefits of chemicals, and the importance of chemical safety awareness.

Under Dr. Burns' leadership, Dow Corning has actively promoted teacher training in chemistry, sponsored chemistry related scholarships, and created SciFest - an event held one day each year during National Chemistry Week that brings students, family members, and educators together to participate in hands-on science activities.

Dow Corning has also collaborated with two community colleges to develop chemical process training courses and worked with two vocational high schools and two universities to train students on equipment that they would use in chemical industry professions.

Dr. Burns also oversees Dow Corning's Teacher Innovation Awards. The Awards encourage educators in the Midland area to submit grant applications to fund their innovative math and science related teaching projects. In its third year, the program has awarded more than fifty elementary, middle, and high school educators with \$1,000 grants.

Beginning her Dow Corning career as a researcher in 1983, Dr. Burns subsequently became product development manager for the Electronics Industry, and in 1994 she became Director of Women's Health. In 1997 she began her first assignment outside the U.S. in Brussels and later became industry director for Life Sciences Europe, and then European Electronics Industry director. In February 2003 she was named Dow Corning's President and Chief Operating Officer and in January 2004 she was named Chief Executive Officer.

Dr. Burns holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, with an organosilicon specialty, from Iowa State University and has completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Languedoc-Rousillon in France. She is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Chemical and Engineering News Advisory Board. She is also a Board member of the American Chemistry Council. In November 2003, Burns was also named Michigan Woman Executive of the Year, an award sponsored by several Michigan companies.

The ceremony honoring Dr. Burns kicked off NACD's 2006 Washington Fly-In activities and was held at the prestigious Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1878, the Cosmos Club has served the advancement of science, literature and art. It served as an impressive venue for the ceremony which consisted of a reception, dinner, and Award presentation.

In addition to honoring the valuable work of Dr. Burns, the event also provided an excellent opportunity for different members of the chemical industry to interact with one another. Attendees included chemical distributors and manufacturers as well as affiliated organizations.

For more information on and to view pictures of the reception, dinner and Award ceremony, please visit the Foundation Web site, www.chemed.org.

Nominate An Industry Colleague for the 2007 Vanguard Award

Let us know of a chemical industry colleague who you think deserves the 2007 Vanguard Award! The Award honors an individual whose leadership, commitment, and efforts help advance the Foundation's mission of fostering a greater understanding of chemistry, the benefits of chemicals, and the importance of chemical safety awareness.

For a submission form, please visit http://www.chemed.org/Vanguard_Award.htm

Previous Vanguard Award Winners

1995- John Johnstone, (ret.) CEO and Chairman of the Board, Olin Corporation

1996- John R. Hess, III, Chairman, John R. Hess & Co. Inc., and Jean Bélanger, (ret.) President, Canadian Chemical Producer's Association

1997- Robert A. Roland, (ret.) President, Chemical Manufacturers Association

1998- Earnest W. Deavenport, Chairman & CEO, Eastman Chemical Company

1999- A. Wayne Tamarelli, Chairman & CEO, Dock Resins Corporation, and G. Stephen Robins, President, G.S. Robins and Company

2000- J. Roger Hirl, President & CEO, Occidental Chemical Corporation

2001- Mark Kramer, Senior Vice President - Industrial Chemicals East, Vopak USA

2002- M. Blouke Carus, (ret.) Chairman, Carus Corp., and Audley C. Harlow, (ret.) Executive Director, Canadian Association of Chemical Distributors

2003-Laura Dornbusch, President, Expo Chemical Company

2004-Michael Campbell, President, Chairman, & CEO, Arch Chemicals Inc.

Educators Can Submit a Lesson Plan and Win \$1000!

CEF is offering educators in your community the chance to win \$1,000 for doing what they do every day! The 2006 Lesson Plan Competition is well underway and CEF is seeking innovative lesson plan submissions from educators in your community!

Grade K-8 educators are encouraged to enter lesson plans that highlight creative investigations and exciting experiments on the subject of chemistry!

Educators can submit lesson plans in these categories: Scientific Inquiry, Structure of Matter, and Safety and Recycling. Each category will have a...

- Winner - \$1,000
- 1st Runner-up - \$500
- 2nd Runner-up - \$250

The first 50 entrants will also receive a free *You Be The Chemist* kit! AND it gets better - this year a school in your community can win too! Each Winner's school will receive \$200 for science education materials.

Deadline for Submissions: December 21, 2006

For complete guidelines and a submission form, visit http://www.chemed.org/Lesson_Plan.html or contact Cori Bradley at 703/527-6223 ext. 116.

"Thank you so much for validating my life's work through your Foundation's programs, and for supplying those of us who teach young people with exciting experiments and activities through your publications. Winning a prize was an honor. Our work is fundamental to developing and encouraging young scientists who may then go on to win the bigger prizes later in life, and who advance chemical technologies to improve life for all of us. We are all in this together."

Bill Nixon
1st Place Winner - Scientific Inquiry
Renbrook School Science Teacher
West Hartford, CT

Community Awards for Chemical Safety

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are producing innovative chemical education and safety programs, and CEF wants to hear about the outstanding work that emergency personnel are doing in your community! Show your community first response organization the appreciation they deserve – nominate your LEPC for the Community Awards for Chemical Safety!

Those LEPCs who best display a commitment to public safety, industry partnerships, and chemical safety awareness will be honored. Award submissions are evaluated on programmatic and outreach efforts that have taken place during the previous calendar year.

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2007.

Past winners have included: Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee of Deer Park, Texas; Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee of Corpus Christi, Texas; Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee of Buffalo, New York; and North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee of Gainesville, Florida.

For more information or to obtain a submission form, please visit our Web site at http://www.chemed.org/Community_Award.htm or contact Cori Bradley at 703/527-6223 ext. 116.

CEF Displays at National Science Teachers Conference

In early April, CEF Managing Director John Rice exhibited and presented at the National Science Teacher's Association's (NSTA) 54th Annual Conference on Science Education. Held in Anaheim, CA and open to all science educators, the NSTA conference offered the latest in science content, teaching strategies, professional development, and additional resources for educators.

For more information about NSTA events and conferences, visit <http://www.nsta.org>.

CEF Intern Participates in New Jersey State Triathlon

On July 23, CEF's summer intern, Bethany Rees, and her father competed in the New Jersey State Triathlon. Held at Mercer County Park, halfway between Philadelphia and New York City, the race was a success.

Bethany finished 6th in her age group (F20-24) with a time of 1:22:15 and 29th out of 233 total females competing in the Sprint distance. Her father finished 1st in his age group (M55-59) with a time of 2:26:36 and 90th out of 415 total males competing in the Olympic distance. Bethany is a junior biochemistry major at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY.

You Be The Chemist Kits In the Community

The *You Be The Chemist* (YBTC) kit continues to be the Foundation's flagship program. The following list highlights chemical companies and a chemical organization who have distributed hundreds of kits in the communities in which their company operates.

Arch Chemicals, Inc.: Arch continues to promote the YBTC kit throughout their company's sites nationwide. Most recently Arch donated kits to four schools near their Norwalk, CT headquarters, for use in their newly formed after school chemistry clubs! The chemistry clubs were organized, in part, by Arch employees. Originally expecting 10 students per school the organizers were pleasantly surprised that average student participation per school was much higher – around 30!

Arch has also worked to create several teacher workshops designed to familiarize and engage educators in the experiments included in the YBTC kit. One such workshop: Cool Chemistry for 4th and 5th graders was carried out in the Hamilton County, New York school system and also sponsored by Veliscol Chemicals.

In addition to support of the YBTC kit, Arch also sponsored two local level YBTC Challenges for the 2006 competition. Their sites were located in Brandenburg, KY and Rochester, NY.

Brenntag North America, Inc.: Hundreds of YBTC kits have been distributed to communities nationwide by the company's headquarters location in Reading, PA and the Pacific, Great Lakes, Southwest and Northeast sites company locations. The kits have been distributed to local educators to encourage the teaching of chemistry and the study of chemistry by students. In some sites, distribution of the kit has also been used in an effort to create interest in CEF's YBTC Challenge for the 2006-2007 school year.

Canadian Association of Chemical Distributors (CACD): CACD recently organized the distribution of almost 200 YBTC kits! Their Board agreed to offer the kits as CACD's first outreach program and will distribute the kits through their membership to communities across the country. The organization is also considering the possibility of translating the kits into French!

Information on CEF programs and publications was also presented at CACD's Annual Meeting held at the beginning of June in Jasper, Alberta.

For more information on the kit, visit <http://www.chemed.org/Kit.html> or contact Cori Bradley at 703/527-6223 ext. 116.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

- August 22-23 – YBTC Kit Teacher Workshop, Rochester, NY
- September 13-14 – NACD's OPSEM, Indianapolis, IN
- October 22-28 – National Chemistry Week
- November 10-11 – Maryland Parent Teacher's Conference, Ocean City, MD
- November 27-December 1 – NACD's Annual Meeting, Carlsbad, CA
- December 1 – CEF Board Meeting, Carlsbad, CA
- February 13-16, 2007 – SOCMA's INFORMEX, San Francisco, CA

YBTC National Challenge

(Continued from cover)

Now going into its third year, this academic question and answer competition is steadily growing. New localities are getting involved and all of the localities that have participated in the past two years intend to participate again and involve more schools and companies in their respective areas! The Challenge has the potential to grow in leaps and bounds in the coming years and we want your community involved! Don't be left out of the excitement of the Challenge! For more information on how easy it is to sponsor a local level Challenge in your area, please contact the CEF staff at 703/527-6223.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge competition!

Contributor Spotlight PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc.

Chemical Distributor Promotes CEF... In a Big Way!

A blue face and pink hair - painted larger than life on the side of a chemical distribution truck trailer? Sounds far fetched, right? Not so for PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., of Detroit, MI. They have embarked on several innovative marketing ideas to promote CEF's *You Be The Chemist* programs; including use of the colorful YBTC kit animated chemists Newton and Kelvin as an attention grabber!

This past spring, the company began painting the YBTC kit chemists on the truck trailers of their LTL fleet. Traveling through several states, the trailers create quite a lot of exposure for PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., CEF, and the YBTC Challenge and kit.

In April, PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc. became the first Michigan company to host a local-level YBTC Challenge. Students from four Macomb County middle schools competed in the question and answer competition held at the Macomb County Intermediate School District (MISD) headquarters in Clinton Township, MI.

Sarah Ellison, an 8th grader at St. Mary's Elementary School in Mt. Clemens, and Aidan Blum, a 6th grader at L'Anse Creuse Middle School East in Chesterfield, tied for winner of the Challenge. They both advanced to the National YBTC Challenge, held in Philadelphia, PA on June 9. In addition to the academics of the competition, both students and their chaperones were treated to two days in Philadelphia! They were able to participate in different activities around the city, including a tour of the Chemical Heritage Foundation and an afternoon at the Franklin Institute. They also received several prizes for their scholastic efforts!

"CEF's You Be The Chemist Challenge and kit are great community outreach tools for the chemical industry. They provide an effective and fun way to engage kids in learning more about chemistry and encourage educators to teach it," stated Dick Peacock, President of PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc. "I strongly encourage chemical distributors and manufacturers alike to get involved with these meaningful programs. Our goal is to reach 10,000 kids in the process," he added.

Plans are already underway for the company to expand their local level Challenge for the 2006-2007 school year. These plans include the involvement of two neighboring counties outside of Detroit and creating a site near their Chicago office and a site in Ohio.

In addition to hosting local level Challenges and painting the YBTC kit chemists on their truck trailers, the company has also distributed nearly 250 YBTC kits to educators in the Detroit metropolitan area. They have also hosted an Information Night where four of the YBTC kit lesson plans were demonstrated for teachers.

"It's always exciting when a CEF contributor takes such enthusiastic steps in support of our programs," stated John Rice, Managing Director of CEF. "PVS-Nolwood is a great example of how one company can so greatly impact chemistry awareness through use of CEF programs," he added.

PVS Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., is a wholly owned Subsidiary of the James B. Nicholson family owned PVS Chemicals, Inc. established in Detroit in 1945. The company repackages, blends, warehouses, and stores bulk liquids, and delivers packaged and bulk product in a company owned and operated fleet of vans and bulk trailers. PVS-Nolwood has been a member of NACD since 1987. The company has ISO certified their entire business operation to the standards of Responsible Distribution(R). PVS-Nolwood is also a founding member of the OmniChem 136 alliance of chemical distributors. For more information on PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., visit <http://www.pvschemicals.com>.

CEF Staff Update

CEF staff member Laurel Brent has been promoted to the position of Communications Manager. In addition to continued involvement in program development and implementation, Laurel will focus more of her efforts on publicizing the CEF message and promoting the success of CEF programs. Congratulations Laurel!

Please visit our Web site at www.chemed.org.

CEF in the News: The Washington Times

The *You Be The Chemist* kit was created by the nonprofit Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF). Each kit includes 30 fun experiments you can do safely at school or home.

A DVD also is included, featuring Newton and Kelvin, animated chemists who “work” for CEF. Newton and Kelvin introduce each lesson to you so everything is clear and easy to understand.

My brother Justin and I decided to perform a couple of experiments at home (with the supervision of an adult). We haven't completed all the lessons offered in the kit, but there were two that I thought were pretty interesting.

The first one we attempted was the Original Bubble Chamber. For this lesson, all we needed was a carbonated soft drink, a tall and transparent vessel, salt and tweezers. As the kit describes this lesson

“a carbonated beverage and salt crystals demonstrate how invisible particles can be detected.”

Basically, we were to pour a carbonated drink into the vessel, giving it time for all the foam to fizzle out. Then we added amounts of salt to watch a rising trail of bubbles occur in the liquid.

The second activity we did was more exciting for me: We tried the Calorie Lamp. Here, we used mixed nuts, thumbtacks, matches and a cookie sheet. Everything could be found at home. This experiment was to compare and observe “a variety of nuts burned to demonstrate their caloric content.”

My older cousin set up the cookie sheet, and we decided to use a macadamia nut, a pistachio and a cashew to set on the thumbtacks, which separated the nuts from the cookie sheet. Then we looked up

the calorie content for each nut and set the nuts on fire with matches.

Because the macadamia nut had the most calories, it burned the longest. The flame was pretty big and bright and lasted about five minutes.

To be honest, chemistry is a harder science for me to understand compared to other sciences like biology.

Using the CEF *You Be The Chemist* kit was fun, though – it was a different way of learning chemistry. The kit is even good for home use because a lot of the materials can be found in most homes.

If you enjoy science and hands-on activities, I recommend this chemistry kit. You can find CEF's information online and visit <http://chemed.org/kids> for Newton and Kelvin's laboratory.

Student review of CEF's *You Be The Chemist* kit as it appeared in the kids' section of *The Washington Times* newspaper.

Contact us!

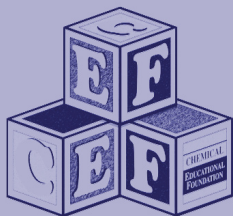
Do you have comments or questions about CEF and its programs? Let us know. Your feedback is essential to the growth of our programs!

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Email: comments@chemed.org



*Dedicated to a greater understanding of the science
and value of chemistry*

Tell Us About It...

CEF is interested in hearing from you! We'd like to hear the great ideas you have on how to educate your community on the benefits of chemicals, chemistry, and chemical safety. We're also here to help – let us know if you have an event that you would like us to help promote in your local area! We are always eager to find new ways to help you utilize CEF programs.

Link Your Community to CEF!

Further improve your community relations by linking CEF's Web site – www.chemed.org – to your Web site! As a contributor to the Foundation, you can easily introduce customers and community members who visit your company's Web site to your involvement in educational outreach initiatives on behalf of the chemical industry.

Information on the benefits of chemistry and chemicals is just a click away! Call Cori Bradley, CEF Programs and Outreach Assistant, at 703/527-6223 ext 116.

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