



MIND STRETCHING FUN!

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Exhibit



Fun Stuff



March 2009 Newsletter

It's springtime at Sci-Tech Discovery Center, which means Science Fair results, Pi Day, NanoDays and Einstein's Birthday!

And the Winners Are...

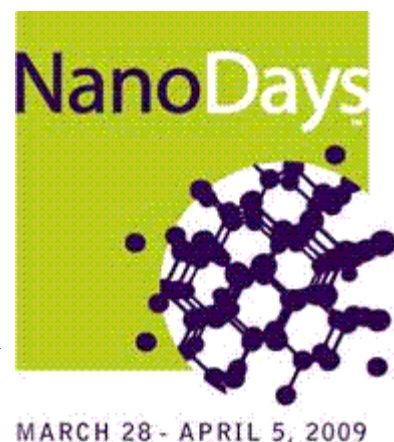
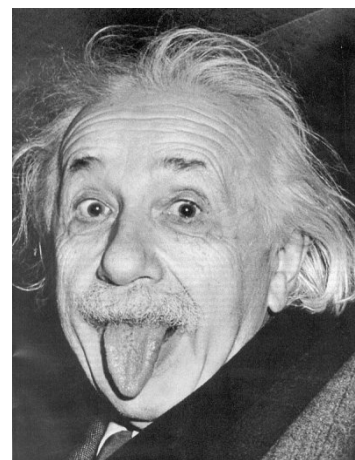
Sci-Tech Discovery Center presented the MindStretching Fun® Award to young scientists at the Dallas Regional Science Fair on February 28. Winners we chose demonstrated intellectual and scientific curiosity, inspired research and an ability to work on their own with limited influence from parents or outside sources. Here's hoping the award will encourage each of them to continue their outstanding work.

Team Physical Science – Junior Division (6-8th grades): Three very curious and enthusiastic young men from Pioneer Heritage Middle School in Frisco for their project: “Reach for the Sky”– a study of aerodynamics and wing shape in paper airplanes.

Team Physical Science – Senior Division (9-12th grades): Ian and Alex from Plano East Sr. High School for their project: “The Optimization of Microbial Fuel Cell Potential”. The study and development of an alternative, renewable fuel source.

A Big Event to Celebrate Small Things

Sci-Tech Discovery Center presents NanoDays™ 2009, part of the second annual nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering and its potential impact on the future. The largest public outreach effort in nanoscale informal science education, NanoDays events, organized by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net), will take place March 28 - April 5, 2009 at more than 200 science museums, research centers, and universities across the country from Maine to



Hawaii.

Sci-Tech is pleased to offer a free event for area teenagers in the Teen Room of at the Frisco Public Library on Saturday, March 28 from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Dr. Elisabeth Marley from SMU’s Lyle School of Engineering will deliver a brief presentation titled *“From Muscles to Lipstick: Seeing What is Too Small to See”* and will assist participants in building their own carbon nanotubes. Teens will then have an opportunity for additional interactive experiences exploring structures, properties, materials and forces. Join us at this big event to celebrate small things!

Is Your Head in the Game?

Join us April 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm for the first annual Sci-Tech Brainiac Bowl at the SMU-in-Legacy campus. Don't be intimidated. You don't have to be a brainiac to enjoy the BBQ buffet, silent auction and lively trivia competition. Founder and CEO of Fanstar Marketing and 2008 Tech Titan winner Kevin Lofgren, will serve as the game show host for the evening, which will generate funds for Sci-Tech Discovery Center's 2009 programming.

Tables can be purchased for \$600 and individual tickets for \$75 by calling 972-567-7593 or by visiting www.mindstretchingfun.org for a registration form.

Hello Joe!

Joe Hastings, current Executive Director of The Don Harrington Discovery Center in Amarillo and formerly of the Exploratorium in San Francisco, explained the effect of the Amarillo museum on the West Texas community on February 24 at a Sci-Tech Advisory Council luncheon at the Sockwell Center. Sci-Tech hosted approximately fifty Board members, Advisory Council members, and local guests, including civic volunteers, governmental officials, business leaders and school board members at a luncheon to discuss the positive impact a science and technology museum would have on Collin County.

The Don Harrington Discovery Center hosts 90,000 guests annually and provides a field trip destination for school districts, summer camps for children in the area, opportunity for family involvement and interaction as well as promoting the importance of science and technology.



PISD Board Members Lloyd "Skip" Jenkins and Missy Bender visit with Joe Hastings

Founding 500

Sci-Tech sincerely thanks those families and businesses that have pledged a minimum of \$500 to support our Founding 500 campaign. Members of the Founding 500 will have their names permanently displayed upon opening of our facility. To learn more or to become a member, please contact Erica Yaeger at 972-567-7593.

Founding 500 Donors as of March 1, 2009:

Advanced Communication Solutions
Ashmore Family
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Diamond Management and Technology Consultants
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Gantt Family
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Watson Family
Yaeger Family



[Pi in the Real World Video](#)

Celebrating π (3.14159)

Pi, the relationship of a circle's circumference to its diameter, is an irrational number whose digits never end, although it has been calculated to billions of places. Sci-Tech Discover Center celebrates Pi each year on March 14, or 3.14, Pi's first three digits.

Put a candle on a slice of pie and celebrate Albert Einstein's birthday too! This year marks Pi's 303 anniversary and Einstein's 130th.

Welsh mathematician William Jones gave Pi its name



in 1606, yet Greek scholar Archimedes proved the concept around 200 B.C. To celebrate Pi, Sci-Tech Discovery Center and the PISD produced a short video to demonstrate its everyday uses. Thanks to Richardson Bike Mart and Alcatel for helping with the project. Also, visit our [Pi Page](#) for more fun and Pi-related activities and challenges.