

# National Ocean Science Bowl 2009

## **Norman D. Miller, OES Student Activities Coordinator**

The Final Competition for the 12th Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) was held in the Washington, DC area April 25–27, 2009. The NOSB is a nationwide academic competition among teams of high school students. Regional competitions are held around the U.S. in February with the final national competition held in April. The NOSB tested students' math and science skills as applied to topics on ocean biology, chemistry, geology, physics, technology, history, and economics. High school teams of four students, one alternate, and a coach competed in question and answer matches during the day-long competition. The competition format was a 6-minute buzzer round, 2 team challenge questions, and another 6-minute buzzer round. The Team Challenge Questions required analysis of data presented and synthesis of several scientific and mathematical concepts. The students worked as a team to answer questions, with the opportunity to win 20 points. The Oceanic Engineering Society has been a sponsor of the NOSB since its inception and provides the funding for the 5th–8th Place winners. These teams receive a \$500 gift certificate for scientific equipment from Fischer Scientific and \$450 for marine science textbooks for the team's school.

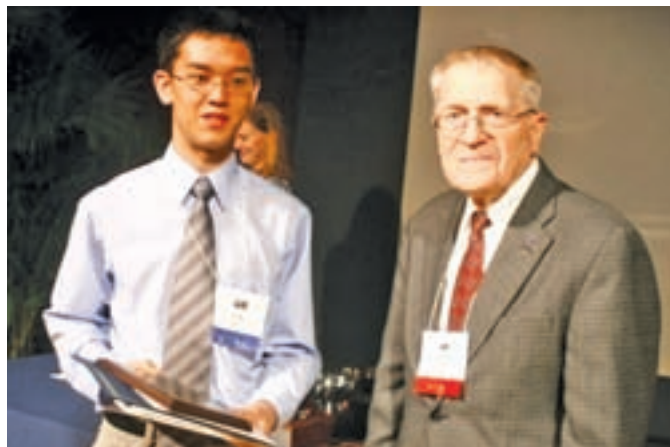
The 25 competing teams gathered in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History for the opening welcome and address. There were eleven teams competing this year that had not previously been in the Finals. This was followed by a tour of the museum and dinner in the Rotunda. Following the dinner more time was available for touring the museum. The students were then loaded on buses and transported to the 4H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland where housing was provided. The competition began Sunday morning following a welcome and review of the rules in the auditorium. Lunch was provided and then the competition continued. At mid afternoon all gathered in the auditorium for an exhibition and a film on the NaGISA Project made by students from Niceville, MS. This proved to be most interesting and excited a lot of the students. The Double Elimination Rounds began at 3:00 PM and continued through Round 4. Following dinner the students assembled once again in the auditorium for a presentation by Dr. Ellen Prager who described her work at the Aquarius Reef Base in Key Largo, FL.

Monday morning all hands assembled in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and in the 4th Floor Conference Room for the Double Elimination Rounds. The final elimination rounds were held in the Baird Auditorium. This became exciting as in the final elimination round the winning team had been beaten in the Round Robin by the losing team. This necessitated a second elimination round. The winning team from the first round soundly beat the losing team. There were huge cheers from the audience for the victory. This was the first time that a second elimination round was necessary and thus a history making event. Following lunch all assembled in Baird Auditorium for the awarding of the prizes.

The Awards Ceremony began with the introduction of distinguished guests by Dr. Robert Gagosian. One guest in particular was recognized and duly honored, ADM James D. Watkins, the founder of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. Following remarks

from some of the distinguished guests, the awards ceremony began. Dr. Gagosian called COL Norman D. Miller, from the Oceanic Engineering Society, to present the awards to the 5th through 8th place teams. Each team Captain came forward and received the award certificate for their respective team.

The following teams were awarded prizes:



8th Place – State College Area High School – State College, PA



7th Place – Raleigh Charter High School – Raleigh, NC



6th Place – La Jolla High School – San Diego, CA



5th Place – North Hollywood High School – North Hollywood, CA



2nd Place – Lexington High School – Lexington, MA

The balance of the awards were then presented in order:



1st Place – Marshfield High School – Marshfield, WI



4th Place – Mission San Jose High School – Fremont, CA

The last award to be given was the Admiral James D. Watkins Award. It was instituted to recognize the team that best exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship during the final competition of NOSB. The recipients of this award have been respectful to their team mates, fellow competitors, and the NOSB Volunteers and Staff. The winner of this award is selected by the student teams. The winner of the 2009 Watkins Award was Canterbury School of Florida. The team was called up on stage and Admiral Watkins came up and congratulated each member of the team. This was a fitting closing to an outstanding NOSB.



3rd Place – Cranston High School West – Cranston, RI



Admiral James D. Watkins Award – Canterbury School of Florida

The roster of teams competing –

- Punahou – Aloha Bowl – Hawaii Regional
- Mount Sinai High School – Bay Scallop Bowl – New York Regional
- Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Blue Crab Bowl – Mid Atlantic
- Raleigh Charter High School – Blue Heron Bowl – North Carolina Reg
- Lexington High – Blue Lobster Bowl – Massachusetts Regional
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology – Chesapeake
- Bay Bowl – Washington DC Regional
- Lee High School – Dolphin Challenge – Texas Regional
- Dexter High School – Great Lakes Bowl – Midwest Regional
- Long Beach High School – Hurricane Bowl – Central Gulf Coast Regional
- La Jolla High School – La Jolla Bowl – Southern California Regional
- Marshfield High School – Lake Sturgeon Bowl – Wisconsin Regional
- Star Charter – Loggerhead Challenge – Texas Regional
- North Hollywood High School – Los Angeles Surf Bowl – Southern California Regional
- Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School – Manatee Bowl – Florida Regional
- Smoky Hill High School – Mountain Mariner Challenge – Colorado Regional
- Contoocook Valley Regional High School – Nor'easter Bowl – Northern New England Regional

- ExCEL Academic League – Orca Bowl – Washington Regional
- State College Area High School – Penguin Bowl – Ohio/Pennsylvania Regional
- Cranston High School West – Quahog Bowl – Connecticut/Rhode Island Regional
- Neah-Kah-Nie High School – Salmon Bowl – Oregon Regional
- Mission San Jose High School – Sea Lion Bowl – Central California Regional
- Marine Academy of Science and Technology – Shore Bowl – New Jersey Regional
- Oconee County High School – Southern Sting Ray Bowl – South Carolina/Georgia Regional
- Canterbury School of Florida – Spoonbill Bowl – West Florida Regional
- Juneau-Douglas High School – Tsunami Bowl – Alaska Regional

### OES Scholarship Program

The OES Scholarship has been increased to \$2,000.00. Scholarship applications can be submitted throughout the year. Please see our website [www.oceanicengineering.org](http://www.oceanicengineering.org) for the details and application form. The application will be acted on as it is received.

### What's the Best Caption?

Can you come up with a good caption for the cartoon below? Send your suggestions to the editor at [j.gant@ieee.org](mailto:j.gant@ieee.org).



Artwork courtesy of Rob Gant  
[www.robertgant.deviantart.com](http://www.robertgant.deviantart.com)