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Smyrna High Student Attends International Science Fair

Amy Coffey, graduating senior at Smyrna High School, recently returned from a week long trip to the 55th Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), held this year in Portland, Oregon. Amy earned the right to attend and exhibit her project, "Synthesis & Analysis of Metal-Chloride-Silicon Ethoxide Sol-Gel Materials", by winning one of the Grand Prize Awards at the regional Middle TN Science and Engineering Fair (MTSEF), held at and sponsored by Austin Peay State University. While at the ISEF, Britany enjoyed scientific and cultural tours of the Portland area as well as meeting some of the over 1,200 students present at the fair from 40 different countries. She also was questioned about her research for several hours by some of the over 1,000 judges present at the fair.

Amy's awards at the regional MTSEF included a 1st award from the U.S. Navy and a 1st award from the American Chemical Society. She also received a 1st award from Chi Epsilon Mu - the APSU student chapter of the American Chemical Society and a 3rd award from the Dupont Corporation. These special awards were in addition to her 1st place award in the Chemistry category itself. Prize money from these awards totaled over four hundred dollars in addition to the expense paid trip to the ISEF.

Amy was accompanied to the ISEF by her mother, Suanne Coffey, as well as the MTSEF fair director, Dr. Ron Robertson, Associate Professor at APSU. The other grand prize winner attending from the MTSEF was Bethany Cartwright, graduating senior at Rossvie High School in Clarksville. Amy plans to attend Texas A&M this fall. Her sponsoring teacher at Smyrna High was Craig Tilton. The research was done at Middle TN State University under the direction of Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross.

The ISEF is the largest pre-college science research competition in the world and is sponsored by the Intel Corporation and administrated by Science Service, which started the competition in 1950 to increase public awareness and appreciation of science.

Submitted by: Ron Robertson, Director Middle TN Science and Engineering Fair and Associate Professor of Chemistry, APSU

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