News on High School Activities

Spring is a busy time for high school students and our Section is involved with several activities. We participate in the Chemistry Olympiad. This year, 22 schools participated in March in the Local exam which is prepared by ACS. The Local exam consists of 60 multiple choice questions and the results are used to select the top students who can participate in the National exam. Each participating high school can nominate up to two students. This year, 16 students participated in the exam in April which was given at Santa Clara University along with students from the Silicon Valley Section. The National Exam consists of a 60-question multiple choice exam, an 8-question written problem exam, and a lab practical.

This year, two students, Anugraph Chemparathy and Michael Han, who attend Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon are among the top 20 students in the United States that qualified to attend the Olympiad Study Camp at the University of Maryland. Four of those students will be selected to participate in the International Olympiad with two additional students who will be alternates. We have awarded Anugraph and Michael with checks for $100 for qualifying for Study Camp and an additional $50 check for their High Honor performance in the National exam. We also awarded their teacher, Ethan Schnell, with a check for $100 and a check for $100 to the school’s chemistry department. Three other students, Ian Chem of California High School in San Ramon, Zachary Deng of Lowell High School in San Francisco, and Jeffry Liu of American High School in Fremont, are among the top 150 students who took the National exam and were rewarded with checks for $25.

In addition, Connor Harris at Enterprise High School in Redding was selected as an Exceptional High School Chemistry Student by his teacher. We initiated this program to award up to ten students to connect to parts of our Section beyond the Bay Area as they are less likely to participate in the Olympiad. He was nominated by his teacher, Susan Hanfil, and plans to pursue a career in the sciences.

Finally, we selected Brian Hopper of Hoopa Valley High School in Humboldt County. He sparks interest in his students through exciting experiments, puzzles and competition between students. He uses a variety of technology to present lessons. He keeps up to date by attending conferences for teachers and is developing a Chemistry of Cooking class. We have set him a check for $500 and a check for $500 to the Hoppa’s Chemistry Department.