

**UBC Let's Talk Science Partnership Program
E-Newsletter**

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==Announcements==

++(drum roll please)...And the finalists are....

Congratulations to all volunteers for another outstanding year in promoting science outreach! This year, LTS saw many incredible nominees and applicants across the country for the Volunteer of the Year and Site Coordinator Awards. We are pleased to announce that Rena Tabata and Janny Ke (both of UBC), and Laurens Bakker (from SFU) are among the 5 finalists for the award! Also, outgoing coordinator, Lars Rose, is a finalist for the Site Coordinator Award. Best of luck to all finalists!

++Important survey for Postdocs!

The Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars, a national professional organization formed to advocate on behalf of postdocs, has prepared a position paper and survey on postdoctoral status, available at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/cdn-pdf-status>.

A national meeting is planned for the end of April that will bring together funding agencies, government regulators, academic institutions and CAPS representatives. At this meeting, the topic of status and other important issues for postdocs will be discussed with the hope of improving postdoctoral training in Canada. In advance of this important meeting, CAPS has prepared this position paper and a brief 34 question survey that we hope to get as many individual postdocs as possible to respond to. The survey will help to properly represent the national postdoctoral opinion on this topic and provide critical data we can use to support our arguments, helping to define the direction this organization takes on this issue.

Please take the time to fill out this survey and provide your say into this important topic, and please inform your postdoctoral colleagues of this initiative. Survey responses are completely anonymous, and all responses will be tabulated and analyzed to reflect national, regional and discipline-specific preferences that will be provided to individual postdoctoral associations for help in advocacy efforts. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important initiative.

Thank you for your help, and feel free to contact us should you wish to be involved at CanadianPostdoc@gmail.com , or via our website at <http://tinyurl.com/canadapostdoc>

== Volunteering Opportunities ==

++ All Science Challenge 2009

The 4th annual All Science Challenge will take place on Friday May 22nd, and this year we're expecting 8-10 schools to be present so it will be even bigger than last year!! As such, we will be needing a lot of volunteers to help out during the day to help with registration, act as judges, and act as chaperons. So, if you can help us out on May 22nd, please email us! You don't need to stick around for the entire event, even if you're only available in the morning/afternoon you can still help out, just let us know. Thanks!

++ Fraser Valley Home Learning Expo (May 22)

The Fraser Valley Home Learning Expo will happen on Friday May 22nd from 9:30-5:30 at the Abbotsford Recreation Centre. LTS and Genome BC will co-host an information booth as well as provide hands-on activities for children and parents there. Please email us if you're interested in helping out!

++ Brain Awareness activities

We are looking for some "brainy" graduate student volunteers to participate in Brain Awareness Week (BAW). BAW is an annual neuroscience and brain literacy promotion program, sponsored by the North American Society for Neuroscience (www.sfn.org/baw). Due to an overwhelming response from elementary and secondary school teachers, we have extended BAW activities until the end of April! We are looking for additional volunteers to meet the demand. Volunteers are asked to go into a class and do a hands-on neuroscience-related activity for an hour or so. Lesson plans with exciting activities are already written up and ready to go, so we just need you to volunteer your time!

We have scheduled a training session on:

Tuesday April 7th, 2:30pm
Suedfeld Lounge, Kenny Building (Psychology Dept, room 2510)

We'll be going over some of these activities as well as schedule a classroom visit for you. RSVP for the session is required! Please email Fiona <fzeeb@psych.ubc.ca> for the RSVP of if you have further questions.

++ Pacific Spirit School Science Fair

The Pacific Spirit School (www.pacificspiritschool.org) in Jericho is looking for judges for their Science Fair. The event will be held on Thursday, April 16th from 1-3pm. Projects cover multiple fields including nerves and pressure points, plants, airplanes and rockets. If you are interested in judging this science fair, please contact Ingrid Price at iprice@interchange.ubc.ca.

++Earth Day

Students at Hugh McRoberts are holding their annual Earth Day celebrations on April 22nd. If you want

to educate and inspire youth to take action to help the environment, you can help out with the following:

Display: If you have a static display or an interactive educational demo that can be carried out in a school gym on April 22 (special request for a model of the Olympic Oval)

Workshop/Fieldtrip: If you can conduct a workshop/fieldtrip for students at an elementary or high school level on hydrogen fuel cells or sustainability on April 21st or 22nd

Interested volunteers can contact Rishma at the school at 604-668-6600, at home 604-241-1523, or by email rswali@sd38.bc.ca. See attached for registration forms and to confirm your participation.

++ Rural Trips

These are the Rural Trips in store for 2009:

- 1) Nelson – volunteer positions filled
- 2) Kamloops and surrounding area – ~ May 19-22
- 3) Yukon – ~ May 10-16 (positions already filled unless we extend)

If you are interested in volunteering for rural trips or would like more information, please contact Lisa at lts.rsvp@gmail.com.

++ Kidsafe Project Society

KidSafe was created in 1993 in response to a growing need for safe havens for elementary school aged children during break times and after school in Vancouver's inner city. As dictated by their mission to provide these safe havens, KidSafe keeps five elementary schools open between the hours of 8am and 3pm during break times when schools are traditionally closed, offering developmental programming, fun out-trips and perhaps most importantly, a full day of nutrition through our breakfast, lunch and snack program. The program is offered to children and families deemed at risk with approximately 400 young people being reached annually; all this at no charge to the families.

If you are interesting in helping as a cook, nutrition, or gardening leader, Kidsafe would love to hear from you. Contact Kristi Laing at Kristi@kidsafe.ca or 604.713.4467 for details or to apply!

== Upcoming events ==

++ Spring Training Session

For those who have recently signed up with LTS, welcome to our program. Our Spring training session will be held on April 6th from 6-7PM in the Neville Scarfe Building, room 200. The training session will give an overview of the program and the necessary tools to plan fun scientific activities. Please RSVP to lts@ubclts.com if you are planning to attend if you have not done so already. Light refreshments will be served.

++ VSB Science Internships Commencing

Linnette Ocariza, Salman Ali, Derek Van Pel and Elizabeth Du will be starting the VSB Internships in the upcoming month at various schools around Vancouver. This after-school program will reach primary and elementary kids and engage them in fun, hands-on science experiments for 8 weeks! Thank you to Linnette, Salman, Derek and Elizabeth for participating!

++ Trip to Nelson

LTS volunteers will be heading to Nelson, BC from April 26-29 to visit schools and present hands-on science demonstrations. This trip will help to extend LTS's presence in BC and reach kids in rural BC. Thank you to those who are participating!

== Recently completed events ==

++ Vancouver's First Brain Bee

Vancouver's first Brain Bee saw 18 competitors across the Lower Mainland battle head to head for the regional title. The event which was sponsored by LTS, Brain Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine, and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute was a huge success. Special thanks goes to the wonderful Judges, Drs. Adele Diamond, Jane Roskams, Kurt Haas, and Shernaz Bamji and all the volunteers: Andrea Goldson, Andrew King, Blair Duncan, Charlie Zhang, Claire Edgcumbe, Dhananjay Namjoshi, Emilie Mackie, Grace Lee, Heidi Erb, Kaiyun Yang, Nicole Vittoz, Oliver Ayling, Regina Lam, Simon Chen, Sunny Wang, Tamara Bodnar, Vesta Ghanavati, Victoria Zhang, Wilson Luong, and Yu Deng. You guys all did an outstanding job!

++GVRSF

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair was held at UBC from April 2nd to April 4th. Thanks to all the LTS PP volunteers, judges and tour guides, who contributed to make this event a success.

++Vancouver District Science Fair

UBC LTS-PP had a remarkable presence at the Vancouver District Science Fair held on March 7th. We had 17 members of UBC LTS PP who volunteered as judges to select the very best of 181 science projects. Top projects moved on to the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair.

++ Prince of Wales Science Week Presentations

LTS Grad students gave research presentations to Grade 10-12 students at Prince of Whales Secondary School as part of their Science Week. Students were exposed to the different areas of research that grads are involved in at UBC. Thanks to all those who participated!

++ UBC International House International Week Fair

UBC LTS PP presented in the Destination Career/volunteering Opportunity Fair during International Week. Now we are welcoming a number of new volunteers joining our program and looking forward to seeing them soon in our other events!

++ HR McMillan Space Center Sustainability Week

UBC LTS PP participated in its annual outreach event with the HR MacMillan Space Center during the week of March 18th. During Spring Break, we showcased hands-on alternative energy devices developed by Departments from the UBC Applied Science Faculty and the National Research Council Institute for Fuel Cell Innovation.

++ VSB Science Interns

Janny Ke, Wilson Luong, and Chris Olsen are finishing their VSB Science Internships. Feedback for their work has been continuously great, and another set of Internships will be starting up again in April! Refer to the advertisement above (VSB Science Interns) for the details.

++ Newly logged classroom visits

Thank you to all those who participated in LTS activities in March. Due to some technical problems, we were unable to access the activity logs but we will be sure to include them in the next issue!

== LTS in the media ==

UBC Let's Talk Science Partnership Program had a tremendous presence in the media in the past month!

The UBC Let's Talk Science Partnership Program and the UBC Brain Research Center were mentioned in the CBC PSA for the inaugural Vancouver Brain bee on March 28th.
by Laura Palmer | CBC Radio | The Early Edition | March 04 | 2pm | 2009.

The UBC Let's Talk Science Partnership Program and the UBC Brain Research Center were featured on the am stream of Fairchild Radio. the interview with one of our judges was dubbed in Mandarin.
by Fairchild Radio | March 29th | 2009.

The UBC LTS PP inaugural Vancouver Brain Bee was mentioned on national corporate website.
For the download-able PDF [click here](#), or visit the [national website](#).
by Krista Habermehl | Letstalkscience National | March 2009

PR 4 Science Channel mentionned UBC LTS PP
For the download-able PDF [click here](#), or visit the [online channel](#).
by Robyn Quinn | Twitter | March 2009

The Second Annual CIHR Canadian National Brain Bee 2009, first in Vancouver was mentioned in CIHR National
For the download-able PDF [click here](#)
by CIHR National | March 2009

CBC Almanac - 2009 UBC LTS PP Brain Bee mention
For the download-able PDF [click here](#)
by CBC Radio Almanac | Calendar | March 2009

APSC This Month - UBC LTS Partnership Program participates in E-Fest 2009
For the downloadable PDF [click here](#)
by Applied Science Communications | March 2009

UBC LTS Partnership Program present at the UBC International Week Destination: Volunteer exhibition
For the downloadable PDF [click here](#)
by UBC International Week | Event Details | 16-21 March 2009

Vancouver Sun - 2009 UBCLTS-PP Brain Bee article
For the download-able PDF [click here](#)
by Pamela Fayerman | Vancouver Sun | March 3 | 2009

USA Today - 2009 UBCLTS-PP Brain Bee link
For the download-able PDF [click here](#)
by USA Today | March 3 | 2009

== Office Hours ==

Ida will be in the office Mondays from 11am to 12noon, and Cindy will be there Thursdays from 12noon to 1pm. Please note that on April 27th, the office hour will be from 2-3pm instead of the regular time. If you want to stop by the office outside those times, please email us for an appointment.

== Volunteers of the Month ==

Regina Lam did an awesome job helping with the ins and outs of the Vancouver Brain Bee.

As usual, our VOTM receives a \$20 UBC bookstore giftcard. Enjoy!

== Science and Engineering Joke of the Month ==

One day there was a fire in a wastebasket in the office of the Dean of Sciences. In rushed a physicist, a chemist, and a statistician. The physicist immediately starts to work on how much energy would have to be removed from the fire to stop the combustion. The chemist works on which reagent would have to be added to the fire to prevent oxidation. While they are doing this, the statistician is setting fires to all the other wastebaskets in the office. "What are you doing?" the others demand. The statistician replies, "Well, to solve the problem, you obviously need a larger sample size."

Yunbai Li, Xinyan Hao, Lars Rose, Sam Lee, Samantha Benton, Sherri Tran, Véronique Lecault
UBC Let's Talk Science Partnership Program
University of British Columbia
2357B-1874 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Phone: (604) 822-9166
Fax: (604) 822-5945
Email: its@ubclts.com
Web: <http://www.ubclts.com>