



Science Fair
Foundation^{BC}

1455 Quebec Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6A 3Z7
Tel: [604] 443-7557
Fax: [604] 443-7430
E-mail: scifair@scienceworld.ca

**Science Fair Foundation
of British Columbia**

Founding Patron
Dr. Michael Smith (1932 – 2000)
Nobel Laureate

February 12, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Patti Leigh
(604) 443-7557
pleigh@sciencefairfoundationbc.ca

BC Students Win International Awards!

Arielle Garrett, a Grade 11 student from Stelly's Secondary School in Saanichton, and Sarah O'Connor, from Ashcroft Secondary School in Ashcroft have returned big winners from the Taiwan International Science Fair, held February 3rd to 10th in Taipei, Taiwan.

Ms. Garrett's work entitled '*A Sphagnum Solution for Safe Water*' was awarded first place in the Environmental category. The purpose of her project was to find if *Sphagnum* moss could be used as a cheap, reusable filter for poor families with water contaminated by heavy metals. Ms. O'Connor's work entitled '*The Grapes of Math*' was awarded third place in the Environmental category. Her project determined which varietal of grapes grew best in the Lytton / Lillooet area.

The students were accompanied by Dr. Judith Soon, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC. The students were selected to participate based on their science fair project work, their effective communication skills and their ambassadorial qualities. Dr. Soon was chosen to act as their chaperone because of her Chief Judge role at the National Science Fair level and her enthusiastic support of the science fair program.

While in Taiwan Arielle and Sarah were billeted with a local family which provided both a wonderful ambassadorial opportunity as well as a unique and incredible cultural experience. The international component of the competition included entries from Canada, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Thailand and United States. As Dr. Soon says, 'It was a most amazing and unforgettable experience'.

This was the fourteenth year that British Columbian students have attended the Taiwan International Science Fair as part of an international science fair exchange program set up by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia. The Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia is supported by the Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development.

'Through scientific research, Science Fair participants are able to gain important life and job skills which help reveal where new career opportunities exist' said Patti Leigh, Executive Director, Science Fair Foundation of BC. 'Science fairs allow students to stretch their imaginations and intellect, and they also provide a chance for young scientists to network with their peers and with potential mentors.'

British Columbia regional science fairs are supported by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia, a non-profit organization whose vision is to sustain and enhance the science culture of the youth of British Columbia.

-end-