



***St. Louis Area Physics Teachers  
30th Annual High School Physics Contest  
2015 Contest Results***

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, the St. Louis Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers and Washington University hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the St. Louis Area Physics Teachers High School Physics Contest. The contest was held in historic Crow Hall at Washington University in St. Louis.

142 students from twelve schools participated in this year's contest. The test period was 2 hours for both the Mechanics Division, a 50-question test dealing with only mechanics topics, and the Senior Division, a 50-question test that included questions from mechanics, fluids, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, optics and modern physics. Awards were given in each division for first through third place for individuals, as well as honorable mention awards for the next highest 20% of the scores. Team awards were given in both divisions to the top three scoring teams, based on the sum of the three highest scores from each school in each division for the small schools (under 500) and the sum of the four highest scores from each school in each division for the large schools (500 and above).

There were 89 participants in the Mechanics Division in each of two levels.

This year's individual awardees for large schools are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100 – Justin Camie – Parkway North High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$50 – Joshua Yang – Parkway Central High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$25 – Ryan Gardiner – Webster Groves High School

Honorable Mention Awards were given to the next highest scoring 20% of the participants. The fifteen recipients of the Honorable Mention Awards in Mechanics include Ananth Panchamukh of Carbondale Community High School, Franco Tong of Clayton High School, Nicholas Sudekum and Elia Taffa of Kirkwood High School, Yunchao Zhang of Parkway Central High School, Michael Buckner, Joshua Graeler, Sean Harrigan, and Phillip Kheyfets of Parkway North High School, Timothy Tierney of St. Louis University High School, Augustin Redington of Timberland High School, and William Johnson, Dean Krueger, and Roschan Rao of Webster Groves High School.

Team awards for the Mechanics Division, Large School are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Parkway North High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Webster Groves High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Parkway Central High School

There were 53 participants in the Senior Division.

This year's individual awardees for large schools are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$100 – Aditya Cowsik – Clayton High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$50 – Terrence Huang – Parkway Central High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$25 – Anna Widder – Clayton High School

The ten Honorable Mention awards were given to Kinan Sawar of Carbondale Community High School, Jeffrey Cheng, Tim Nonet, David Ryffel, Samuel Rubin, Peter Schmidt, and Pietro Vannucci of Clayton High School, Anirudh Gururaj of Parkway Central High School, Jack Greer of Timberland High School, and Allie Jones of Webster Groves High School.

Team awards for the Senior Division, Large School are:

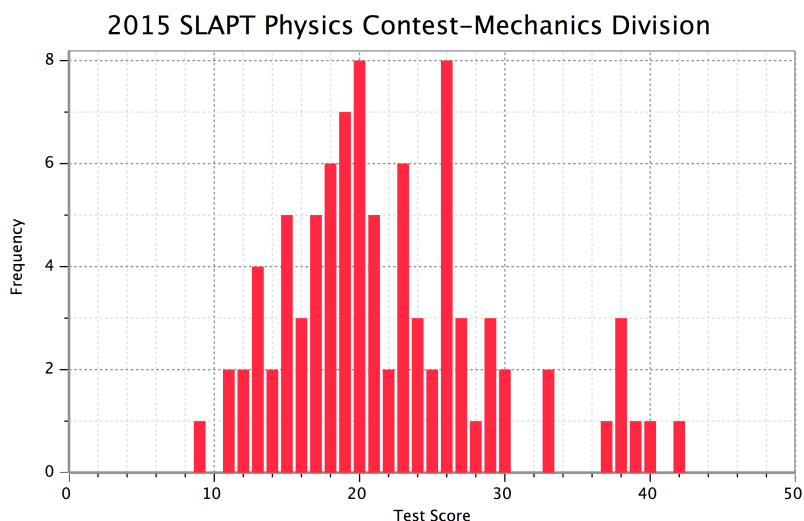
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Clayton High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Parkway Central High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Webster Groves High School

We had nine students from three schools participate in the small school level this year. All nine of these students participated in the Mechanics Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team in the Small School Mechanics Division was Marquette Catholic High School. Individual awards in Mechanics for Small Schools included 1<sup>st</sup> place to Tommy Morrissey of Marquette Catholic High School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to Anthony Buchholz of Duchesne High School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place to Brittany Pace of Marquette High School, and Honorable Mention to Andria Pace of Marquette High School. The 30<sup>th</sup> iteration of this contest represents the second time that separate awards were given for large and small school participants. We look forward to continuing the increased participation by smaller schools in the future.

## 2015 SLAPT Physics Contest Statistics

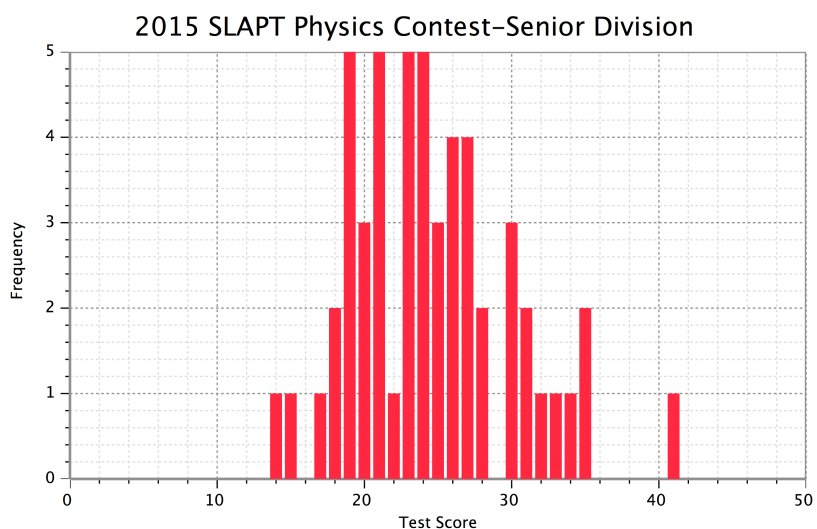
### *Mechanics Division*

Number of Participants: 89  
Mean: 22.0  
Median: 20  
Standard Deviation: 7.18  
Lowest Score: 9  
Highest Score: 42  
Highest Possible Score: 50  
Cutoff Score for Hon. Mention: 27



### *Senior Division*

Number of Participants: 53  
Mean: 24.6  
Median: 24  
Standard Deviation: 5.51  
Lowest Score: 14  
Highest Score: 41  
Highest Possible Score: 50  
Cutoff Score for Hon. Mention: 28



The St. Louis Area Physics Teachers Association wishes to congratulate all students who participated and to thank all of the physics teachers who brought students to the contest this year. Special thanks go to Washington University, and particularly to Dr. Kasey Wagoner of Washington University for coordinating the production of the tests and for hosting the contest and for providing a pizza lunch for participants as they waited for the results. We also want to thank Mike Johns, for his diligent work to send announcement and reminder emails and to advertise the contest on the SLAPT website; Gabe de la Paz and Rex Rice for analyzing the test data and producing the award certificates; John Barr, Bob Brazzle, Mike Dollins, Elegan Kramer, and Jenna Piazza, who helped diagnose test errors and assisted in proctoring the contest and producing the awards; and Frank Cange, whose passion for the continuation and growth of the contest has allowed it to reach its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Without David Schuster, who coordinated the event and made certain that all of the components necessary to make such a contest a success were in place, this event would never have happened. Thank you to all.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual SLAPT High School Physics Contest featured a 20% increase in the number of schools and a 36% increase in the number of students participating compared to last year. This growth trend is similar to what we saw from 2013 to 2014. We applaud the physics students of the greater St. Louis Area for preparing for and participating in this contest on a Saturday when many of them were getting ready for proms and athletics events and the many other activities that consume their lives. We hope to have even more participants when the SLAPT High School Physics Contest celebrates its 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2016.

Bob Brazzle, President  
St. Louis Section  
American Association of Physics Teachers