

At PPPL THIS WEEK

MAR. 2

Yoga
Now every Monday & Wednesday
12 to 1 p.m. ♦ LSB Commons

MAR. 3

Clipper Ship presentation
12 to 1 p.m. ♦ MBG Auditorium
Don McBride

MAR. 5

**Raymond and Beverly Sackler
Lecture in Astrophysics**
8 p.m. ♦ A-02 McDonnell Hall,
Princeton University
Dark Energy and Cosmic Sound
Daniel Eisenstein, Harvard-Smithsonian
Center for Astrophysics

MAR. 7

**Ronald E. Hatcher Science on
Saturday Lecture Series**
9:30 a.m. ♦ MBG Auditorium
**Once upon a time in Kamchatka:
The extraordinary search for
natural quasicrystals**
Professor Paul Steinhardt,
Department of Physics; Director,
Princeton Center for Theoretical
Science, Princeton University

UPCOMING

MAR. 14

**Ronald E. Hatcher Science on
Saturday Lecture Series**
9:30 a.m. ♦ MBG Auditorium
**Scientific Opportunities
and Challenges in the the
Upgraded National Spherical
Torus Experiment**
Dr. Jonathan Menard, Principal Research
Physicist, PPPL

MAR. 19

**2015 Young Women's Conference
in Science, Technology,
Engineering & Mathematics**
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ♦ Frick Chemistry
Building, Princeton University

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Fierce Competitions Propel Two local teams to National Science Bowl

By Jeanne Jackson DeVoe

Two local teams turned their knowledge of science and math into a ticket to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl after winning the N.J. Regional Science Bowl® at PPPL on Feb. 20 and 21.

The West Windsor-Plainsboro South (WWPS) High School team won first place in the High School Science Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 21 in 12 rounds of fierce competition. The contest brought 32 teams from throughout New Jersey together to compete to answer challenging questions in general science, earth science, physical science, math, and technology.

The John Witherspoon Middle School team from Princeton won the middle school contest on Friday, Feb. 20, after defeating William Annin Middle School in Basking Ridge in an 11th round of competition.

Each team will compete against 49 other regional teams in the National Science Bowl in Washington D.C. April 30 to May 4.

But even some teams that were defeated were happy to compete. One middle school student who was on the second-string "B" team was delighted when his team was allowed to take part in the contest after one of the schools didn't show up. "When we first played my heart was pounding, it was so exhilarating," he said.

For WWPS, the victory at the high school competition was something of a comeback. The team won the regional competition in 2013. While the current team members didn't compete in that contest, many were members of the Thomas Grover Middle School Team in 2012 when it won the regional contest.

"This win feels awesome," said team member Dhruva Byrapatna. "We're the redeem team!"



The John Witherspoon Middle School team, at left, competes against William Annin Middle School, of Basking Ridge, in one of the final rounds of the Middle School Science Bowl at PPPL on Feb. 20. The John Witherspoon team won and William Annin came in second in the competition.

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Science Bowl

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Praise for volunteers

Byrapatna said he and his teammates were grateful to PPPL for hosting the contest and to the many volunteers who helped out. “First of all, I want to thank PPPL,” he said. “The moderators knew a lot and they were pretty funny and they made it very enjoyable to compete in this today.”

This year was the 22nd year PPPL has hosted the Science Bowl. A total of 60 volunteers from PPPL helped out at the contest as moderators, judges, and timekeepers with 20 volunteering in the middle school contest and 40 coming on a snowy Saturday to help with the high school contest. “We had a terrific group of volunteers,” said Andrew Zwicker, head of Science Education.

Zwicker singled out Deedee Ortiz, who has been organizing the massive event since September. “None of this happens unless one person in particular is working,” Zwicker said, before leading the audience in a round of applause for Ortiz.

PPPL’s Science Bowl uses software developed by Eliot Feibush, a computational scientist at PPPL, and a team of high school interns. The program automatically updates the latest contest, room assignments and scores and projects them on colored brackets shown on screens in the lobby and on people’s smart phones. Regional science bowls around the country have caught on to the innovation and have been calling Zwicker to ask for a copy, Ortiz said.



A member of the Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School team buzzes in during the middle school competition.



Members of the Princeton Charter School team get ready to answer a question as science judge Nate Allen looks on in the middle school contest.



Atiba Brereton, left, and Andrew Zwicker, enjoy a laugh during a round in the LSB Commons at the High School Science Bowl on Feb. 21.

Excitement in the final rounds

Both contests had plenty of excitement in the final rounds. In the high school contest, WWPS and Bridgewater were tied at the end of Round 10, and had to go into the Science Bowl equivalent of extra innings, when the contestants answer a round of five toss-up questions.

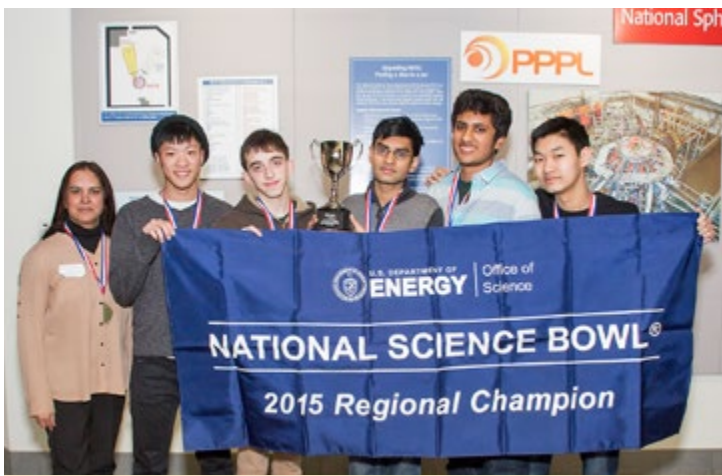
After WWPS won that round, the Bridgewater High School and Millburn High School teams competed to win a place in the final contest with Millburn defeating Bridgewater. That left Bridgewater in third place and in the end, Millburn won second place.

In the middle school competition, John Witherspoon faced close competition from William Annin in the final round, after the 14 other competing teams were eliminated. “It was really close,” said Witherspoon team member Jeffrey Cheng. “We were worried that we couldn’t pull through.” “We got scared but decided to keep doing what we were doing,” added Team Captain Lukas Eriksson.

Like all of the teams competing, the team practiced regularly with buzzers. But William Merritt, who has coached the Science Bowl for six years, said he also was worried. “I think I was more nervous than the kids were,” he said.

William Annin came in second place in the middle school competition. Highland Park won third place and also won the “school spirit trophy” for having the best sportsmanship of all the teams.

“That was an amazing day of competition centered on science topics,” Zwicker told the audience. 🍌



The West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South Science Bowl team shows off its trophy and banner after winning the High School Science Bowl on Feb. 21.



John Witherspoon team members show off their trophy.



Members of the Millburn High School team show off their medals and trophy after winning second place in the Middle School Science Bowl.



Members of the William Annin Middle School Team, of Basking Ridge, which came in second, pose with their trophy.



The Princeton High School team debates an answer in a round in the Control Room Annex.



Members of the William Penn High School team, of Philadelphia, look thoughtful during the high school contest.



An overhead shot of a round between Highland Park Senior High School, at left, and Bridgewater-Raritan High School in the LSB Commons. At the left table is Marc Cohen, at right, serving as a timekeeper, with friend Jocelyn Lewis. At the right table is moderator Andrew Zwicker, right, and science judge Atiba Brereton.

Calling All Volunteers for Young Women's Conference



Dozens of volunteers are needed for PPPL's Young Women's Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, on Thursday, March 19 at Princeton's University's Frick Chemistry building from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event attracts more than 300 young women from seventh to tenth grade and volunteers are needed to help with everything from registration to helping out with exhibits.

Please fill out a volunteer form if you are interested in volunteering or contact Deedee Ortiz at dortiz@pppl.gov

New PPPL Colloquium Page

PPPL has a new Facebook page for colloquia with all the latest information about upcoming lectures.



C'est magnifique! French graduate students tour PPPL. John DeLooper shows QUASAR to a French graduate engineering students from the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers in Paris during a Feb. 25 tour. The students were among 72 students hosted by the Rutgers School of Engineering and the School of Urban Planning who toured PPPL. Nathan Allen and Atiba Brereton were also guides for the tour. (Photo by Jeanne Jackson DeVoe)

A travelogue on clipper ships

Don McBride will give a travelogue presentation about the Star Clipper, a four-masted clipper ship that offers cruises in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, and other clipper ships.



Tuesday, March 3, noon to 1 p.m., MBG Auditorium

Raymond and Beverly Sackler Lecture in Astrophysics

Dark Energy and Cosmic Sound

Daniel Eisenstein
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics



Thursday, March 5
8 p.m., A-02 McDonnell Hall, Princeton University

Ronald E. Hatcher

Science on Saturday LECTURE SERIES

Once upon a time in Kamchatka: The extraordinary search for natural quasicrystals

Professor Paul Steinhardt
Department of Physics; Director, Princeton Center for
Theoretical Science, Princeton University



Saturday, March 7
Doors open at 8:15 a.m., lectures begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.
M.B.G Auditorium, Lyman Spitzer Building

Ski Trip & Snow Tubing on Shawnee Mountain

March 6

Snow tubing from 1 to 3 p.m., \$17

Contact Ken Bauer, kbauer@pppl.gov, ext. 2151

To register for the ski trip, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pppl-march-ski>

The registration deadline is Monday, March 2

BROCK

MARK GAZO
Chef Manager



BREAKFAST 7 a.m. • 10 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 10 a.m. • 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH 11:30 a.m. • 1:30 p.m.

SNACK SERVICE until 2:30 p.m.

	Monday March 2	Tuesday March 3	Wednesday March 4	Thursday March 5	Friday March 6
COMMAND PERFORMANCE Chef's Special	Chicken Parmesan Served with Pasta & Garlic Bread	"Spring Training" Sausage & Peppers Torpedo Served with French Fries	Build Your Own Burrito Bar Served with Rice	Braised Pork & Sauerkraut Served with Mashed Potatoes & Vegetable	Seafood Enchiladas Served with Sweet Corn Cakes
Early Riser	Banana Stuffed French Toast	Blueberry Maple Breakfast Bake	Eggs Benedict Served with Hash Browns	Ham & Potato Hash with Fried Eggs	Sausage Egg & Cheese Stromboli
Country Kettle	Navy Bean & Ham	Cheeseburger Soup	Manhattan Clam Chowder	Cream Of Cauliflower	Chicken Sausage Gumbo
Grille Special	Meatball Parmesan Torpedo	Foot-long "Spring Training Ballpark" Frank Served with Cracker Jacks	Fish Cake Po' Boy	Chicken Breast with Goat Cheese, Sundried Tomato & Tarragon Mayo on a Whole Wheat Roll	Grilled Cheddar, Apple, & Spinach on Multigrain Bread Served with Cranberry Sauce
Deli Special	Veggie Burger with Guacamole & Salsa on a Wheat Roll	Crispy Chicken, Pepperjack, Bacon & Chipotle Mayo Kaiser	Texas Tommy Wrap Panini Served with Onion Rings	Seafood Salad Wrap	Grilled Chicken, Spinach, Feta Cheese, Kalamata Olives on Ciabatta Bread
Panini	Chipotle Pork And Avocado Wrap with Salsa	"Ballpark" Hot Soft Pretzel Served with Nacho Cheese Sauce	Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Tomato & Basil Mayo Ciabatta	Vegetarian Quesadilla	Slow-Cooked Tangy Italian Beef with Provolone on French Bread

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

VEGETARIAN OPTION

WEEKLY

Editor: **Jeanne Jackson DeVoe** ♦ Layout and graphic design: **Kyle Palmer**

Photography: **Elle Starkman** ♦ Science Editor: **John Greenwald** ♦ Webmaster: **Chris Cane**

The PPPL WEEKLY is published by the [PPPL Office of Communications](#) on Mondays throughout the year except for holidays.

DEADLINE for calendar item submissions is noon on WEDNESDAY. Other stories should be submitted no later than noon on TUESDAY.

Comments: commteam@pppl.gov ♦ PPPL WEEKLY is archived on the web at: <http://w3.pppl.gov/communications/weekly/>.