



FALL 2009

WSO NEWS

Welcoming a new season of Science Olympiad

WSO LOSES A CHAMPION

On September 15th, Washington Science Olympiad lost a true champion. Long-time WSO coach and board member, **Gordon Patterson**, was struck and killed while riding his bicycle home from Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver where he taught science and technology classes.

A candlelight vigil and memorial service that filled the high school gymnasium celebrated Gordon's life and his phenomenal dedication to his students and science.

WSO pays tribute to Gordon via a scholarship fund in his name. Contributions made payable to "Washington Science Olympiad, Gordon Patterson Fund" may be sent to:

Sue Murphy, WSO State Director
15112 W Third Addition Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004



[Gordon Patterson](#)

HOT TOPICS

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DISCOUNT FOR NEW TEAMS: \$150

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2009 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

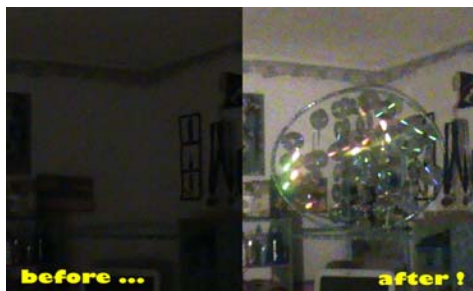
Key outcomes of the WSO Annual Meeting on June 20th in Ellensburg:

- **Judy Bauer, Richard Grote, Sheila Guard,** and **Clarene Ricarte** were elected to 2-year terms. See <http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/directors.html> for information on all state board members.
- Ballot measures changing the bylaws were approved. See <http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/bylaws/wsobylaws.pdf> for current (revised) bylaws.
- Revisions were made to the Policy Notebook (policies outlining team

registration, tournament procedures, and WSO practices). See http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/policies/09_wso_policies.pdf for amended policies. [Note: The Board is considering adoption of a new Team Affiliation Policy and will present the policy to membership before the end of 2009.]

- Registration fees for 2009-10 are: \$210 for returning teams and \$150 for new schools (those that have not competed within the last 5 years).
- Spirit awards will not be presented in 2010 tournaments. ♦

LET THERE BE LIGHT – WSO STUDENT SHINES



Jordana Dahmen's video entry into the Young Scientist Challenge (YSC), a national event sponsored by Discovery Education and 3M, was the Washington state winner. The purpose of this competition is to encourage exploration of science, innovation, and promotion of science communication – key tenets of Science Olympiad. (cont. page 2)

IMPORTANT DATES:**REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

MARCH 6, 2010
NW REGION
SEATTLE, WA

MARCH 6, 2010
EASTERN REGION
SPOKANE, WA

MARCH 13, 2010
SW REGION
LONGVIEW, WA

STATE TOURNAMENT

APRIL 10, 2010
CHENEY, WA

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

MAY 21-22, 2010
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN,
IL

WSO INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS ARE PRACTICE COMPETITIONS THAT HELP PREPARE YOUR TEAM FOR REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS. CLICK ON LINK ABOVE FOR MORE INFO – DATES/ LOCATIONS/DIVISIONS.

**LIGHT SHINES**

(cont. from page 1)

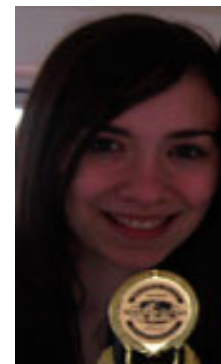
The 2009 YSC was to transform a dark space into a lighted space using common household objects without adding light fixtures. Jordana, a 9th grader at Colton School, used reflection, refraction, and refraction grating to illuminate her bedroom (note the “before” and “after” pictures on page 1).

Having essentially the same mission as Science Olympiad (SO) – promoting science among America’s youth – YSC recognizes that SO participants have the knowledge to excel in this competition, with SO applicants often earning top honors. All YSC entries are by teacher nomination, with **Eric Nordquist**, Jordana’s Science Olympiad coach, nominating her. From approximately 10,000 overall applicants, Jordana was selected as the best from Washington. This put her in the running for a \$50,000 top prize. While she didn’t make it to the finals, Jordana indicates that she met her goal for winning Washington state.

WSO COACHING CLINICS

Get a jump-start on the Science Olympiad season by attending a coaching clinic. Sponsored by WSO regional boards, learn about new events, rules changes to returning events, and coaching tips. Coaches can ask questions and gain insight into preparing students for events. Clock hours are generally available – check with each clinic for specific

This honor came with a cash award plus recognitions for her individual achievement, her school, and her teacher. She attributes her winning video to concepts she learned



in Crave the Wave and Experimental Design, Science Olympiad events Jordana has competed in over the last two years.

Jordana has been involved with Science Olympiad for 6 years, first as a spectator when her sister competed, then as a member of the Colton Middle School team. Garnering several first place Science Olympiad tournament awards, Jordana says she plans to become a junior high school science teacher or pursue another career related to science.

Jordana’s mother says that Science Olympiad “literally changed both my girls’ lives and their goals of what they want to be.” Even if students aren’t science oriented, “Science Olympiad really does change young lives.” ♦

number. For Washington clinics, see <http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/meetings.html> for details.

Another resource for coaches to get answers to their questions is to ask national event supervisors at http://soinc.org/official_rules_clarif_2009 ... NOTE: If it is in the rules manual, national supervisors will respond, “Read the rules!”

GET IN ON THE WSO 2009-10 SEASON

Registration for the 2009-10 Science Olympiad season ends **January 31, 2010**. Slots in each regional tournament are limited ... early registration ensures a spot in your first choice location. [Register now!](#)

Coaches will want to review the [unified schedule](#), which is followed at each Washington regional and state tournament. As most students compete in multiple events, the schedule helps determine the different events students are able to work toward. ♦