

News Release

Feb. 13, 2007

DeKalb High School Academic Team Competes

DeKalb High School's WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering) team competed in its first meet of the season on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at Kishwaukee College.

WYSE competition is a series of academic tests created and administered by Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (sponsored by the University of Illinois College of Engineering) and offered to high school students in Illinois and Missouri.

Test material is drawn from high school and freshman-level college curricula. Written by teams of college and university faculty, subjects include biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering graphics, English, mathematics, and physics. Tests increase in difficulty as students move to the next round – regional, sectional and state finals. Students have 40 minutes to complete multiple-choice tests that range in length from 30 questions (computer science) to 100 questions (English).

This year's WYSE team is composed of sophomore Wen Zhou, math and biology; juniors Megan Butzke, math and biology; Mark Fiedler, math and physics; Andy Freeland, physics and computer science; Evan Phillips, chemistry and physics; Leo Reich, English and chemistry; and Becky Sullivan, English and biology; seniors Sean Burke, math and English; Ethan Guio, math and chemistry; Afton Hallauer, biology and engineering graphics; Matt Hudak, math and chemistry; Jake Krupa, chemistry and engineering graphics; Derick Peterson, English and chemistry; and Anny Ying, English and computer science.

DeKalb High School has participated in academic competition for many years. The program was initially known as JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) before the University of Illinois started its own program. Science teacher Scott Williams has served as the academic team coach for more than twenty years. "Since I've been doing this," Williams said, "DeKalb has had at least one student qualify for state in every year but two. One year the whole team advanced, and twice we had a student place in the top 6 at state." As the only team in the large school division in the region, DeKalb will automatically advance to sectionals, where the team will compete for the chance to move on to state competition.