

Garden State Chapter Awards Annual Jersey Shore Junior Science Symposium Participants

Gayle Grant, Board Member, AOC Garden State Chapter

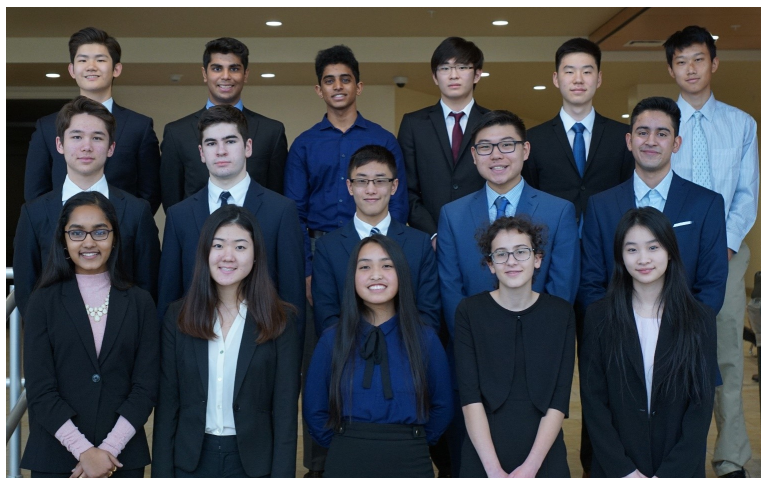
The Association of Old Crows Garden State Chapter of New Jersey participated in 4th Annual Jersey Shore Junior Science Symposium (JSJSS) March 23-25. The Chapter provided \$2,000 awards to paper and poster presenters.

Chapter member Gayle Grant participated as the executive chair, technical lead, mentor and judge. New Jersey AOC members Sorin Davidovici, Bradley Farnsworth, Tom Kesolits, Tom Newsome, and Joe Zaroff each reviewed and scored papers, mentored students, and acted as Symposium technical paper and poster judges. A special thanks to you all for your personal support.

The JSJSS was successfully held virtually this year due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. The JSJSS is a regional symposium, and the top five winners participate in the DOD 58th National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS), and students are recognized for their original research achievements in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Spoiler Alert! JSJSS took 1st Place at the JSHS Computer Science category – keep reading to find out who!

Eighty-six students from 13 New Jersey high schools submitted their STEM research papers for participation in the JSJSS competition. After an extensive review process, 10 students were chosen to be paper presenter finalists, and six were chosen to be poster presenter finalists.



JSJSS student presenters, left to right:

Top row: Mr. Jason Ping, Mr. Raehash Shah, Mr. Sourish Jasti, Mr. Edward Kim, Mr. Apollo Lee, Mr. Haocheng (Roger) Yang.

Middle row: Mr. Maximilian Zhang, Mr. Samuel Anchipolovsky, Mr. Ryan Park, Mr. Jordan Wang, Mr. Arya Tschand

Bottom row: Ms. Kannammai Pichappan, Ms. Ju Young Lee, Ms. Sophia Grace Capili, Ms. Jessica Yatvitskiy, and Ms. Crystal Pan.

Typically, the two-day symposium would include live student presentations on stage in the Ocean County College Grunin Theater with an audience of 400+, including judges. However, due to COVID-19, the usual symposium format was moved to an online format. Students submitted videos of their presentations to the JSJSS executive committee, and these videos were then posted online to be reviewed by more than 20 JSJSS volunteer judges.

After viewing the presentations online, each judge submitted a score for each presentation to the executive committee to determine the ranking of the 10 paper presenters and six poster presenters. The AOC New Jersey Chapter provided \$140 to each of the 10 paper presenters.

The top five paper presenters were:

1st – Mr. Ryan Park, Milburn High School, *X-Net: A Deep Convolutional Neural Model for X-Ray Threat Detection*

2nd – Mr. Jason Ping, Bergen County Academies, *Enabling Personalized Medicine: A Novel Deep Learning Tool for Classifying Genetic Mutations Using Text from Clinical Evidence*

3rd – Ms. Kannammai Pichappan, Bergen County Academies, *The Role of Ascorbic Acid in PNS Neurodegenerative Disease*

4th – Ms. Crystal Pan, Toms River High School North, *Development of Polymer Composites Reinforced with Recycled Carbon Fibers*

5th – Mr. Sourish Jasti, Holmdel High School, *Wastewater Purification: Fabrication Of A Low-Cost Water Filtration System To Remove Heavy Metal Ions In Wastewater Using Waste Tea & Coffee*

The top two finalists received an invitation from the National JSHS to virtually present their papers, and finalists 3, 4 and 5 were invited to be poster presenters. The top three finalists were also awarded scholarships of \$2000, \$1500 and \$1000, provided by the US Army, Navy and Air Force.

Our very own Ryan Park took first place at the JSHS virtual competition. Jason won a \$12,000 scholarship award for his great work!

The AOC New Jersey Chapter also provided \$100 to each of the six poster presenters.

The top three poster presenters were:

1st - Mr. Arya Tschand, High Technology High School

2nd - Ms. Sophia Capili, Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science High School

3rd Tie - Mr. Sam Anchipolovsky, Bergen County Academies and

Mr. Jordan Wang, Bergen County Academies

The AOC New Jersey Chapter provided \$50 checks to each of the 6 Poster Presenters.