

Saturday, May 18, 2013

## **Day 8 - The Voyage Home**

Everybody is home safe and sound... it was a long travel day today, with everyone out of their rooms and ready to board the buses by 6:00am.



It was a two and a half hour bus trip to the Calgary airport, then a short chance to grab lunch, and on to our flight... which included a short stopover in Winnipeg on the way home. Happy to say that nobody got left in Manitoba accidentally, and we all arrived safe and sound on Saturday night.

And that's it for the Canada-Wide Science Fair for another year. Fantastic results with 11 of our team coming home with medals. The entire team worked very hard and had great projects, and even more than that all of the team were terrific representatives for our region and for their schools.



A reminder that you can get more information by following Team BASEF:

Facebook [www.facebook.com/teambasef](http://www.facebook.com/teambasef)

Flickr (high resolution pictures) [www.flickr.com/photos/team-basef/sets/72157633438750758/with/8752561392/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/team-basef/sets/72157633438750758/with/8752561392/)

Twitter [www.twitter.com/basef](http://www.twitter.com/basef)

All of us chaperones, and in fact all of the BASEF organizers and volunteers, are so very proud of the students on this team. Thank you all for being respectful, funny, hard-working, and just plain amazing. It was a privilege spending the week with all of you, and best wishes wherever your future endeavors take you.

-- George.

at [10:38 PM](#)

Friday, May 17, 2013

## **Day 7 - Public Viewing and Packing Up**

Before things wrap up, there was one more morning of public viewing and school tours.



After that was done, it was time to take down our projects and start packing up.

One more event in the week - a trip to Downtown Lethbridge, with a party in the park just for CWSF students. This was a great opportunity for the team to relax a bit, and some of them even decided to learn western line dancing...





Then it was off to the restaurant that Stephanie found for us, "Mocha Cabana", a great little place the specializes in local foods and dishes. The dinner was terrific, and everyone had quite a share!



We wandered a little more around downtown Lethbridge, including a visit to the mall to get some ice cream, and then it was back to the campus for a final event in the participant's lounge.



Once that finished, it was time to settle down and pack up... and prepare for our 6:30am bus ride on Saturday!

at [1:45 AM](#)



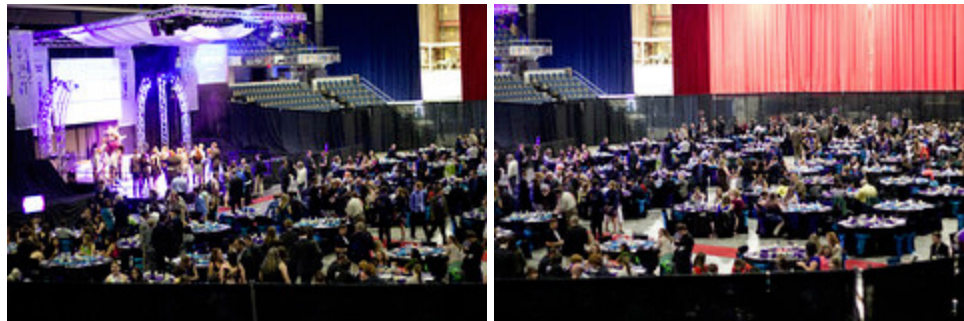
Thursday, May 16, 2013

## **Day 6 - Awards Ceremony and Banquet!**

Today is the big event, the Awards Ceremony. But first, there was another morning session of public viewing with VIP, media and school tours.



After that it was off to lunch, and then cleaning up and getting ready to travel to the Awards.



In just a short while, the awards presentations began, and some of the hard work of BASEF students was rewarded...

Special Awards:

CHALLENGE AWARD – Catharine Bowman (HWCDSB - St. Mary Secondary School, Hamilton)

Merit Awards:

GOLD –

Catharine Bowman (HWCDSB - St. Mary Secondary School, Hamilton)

SILVER –

Alex Tomala (HWCDSB - Cardinal Newman Secondary School, Stoney Creek)

Ishan Aditya (Independent - MacLachlan College, Oakville)

Jason Fan (HWDSB – Westdale Secondary School, Hamilton)

BRONZE –

Graham Bohm (HWCDSB - St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School, Dundas)

Katie Brent (HCDSB - Notre Dame Secondary School, Burlington)

Eduard Brenninkmeijer (Independent - Oakville Christian School, Oakville)

Blake Correia (Independent - Oakville Christian School, Oakville)  
Mycah DeJong (Independent - Trinity Christian School, Burlington)  
Caroline Mahut (HDSB, Rolling Meadows Public School, Burlington)  
Theo Willows (HDSB - John William Boich Public School, Burlington)







After the Awards Ceremony, it was time for the Awards banquet dinner, and then back to the university campus for the awards-day Dance!



Congratulations to all the Medal Winners, and also to the entire Team for their great projects and hard work. All of you are superb ambassadors for our region and your schools, and you have all done us proud.

at 9:05 PM

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

## **Day 5 - Tour Day**

Today was tour day - all CWSF participants go on a tour of Southwest Alberta.

After breakfast and the "Team Ontario" picture in the morning (with all the other teams from Ontario), it was on to the bus and heading for the mountains!



Our first stop was Waterton National Park in the Rocky Mountains. The team eagerly participated in various hikes, and the general consensus was that we could have spent a lot more time there. The views were great, and so was the weather!





After that we were off to the "Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump" World Heritage Site, a native site and interpretive centre that was very interesting.





Our final stop was the Alberta Birds of Prey Centre, which specializes in protecting and rehabilitating injured birds and recovering species. The eagle demonstrations were very popular, as were the other displays and birds at the centre.



In the evening, a number of different events - a trip to the local dairy queen, some time in the participants lounge, and just sitting around talking ... then it was off to bed, in preparation for tomorrow's public viewing, followed by the Awards Ceremony and Awards Banquet!

The welcome from the University staff and the people in Lethbridge has been great, with a large dose of that famous western hospitality.



Still lots more excitement to come!

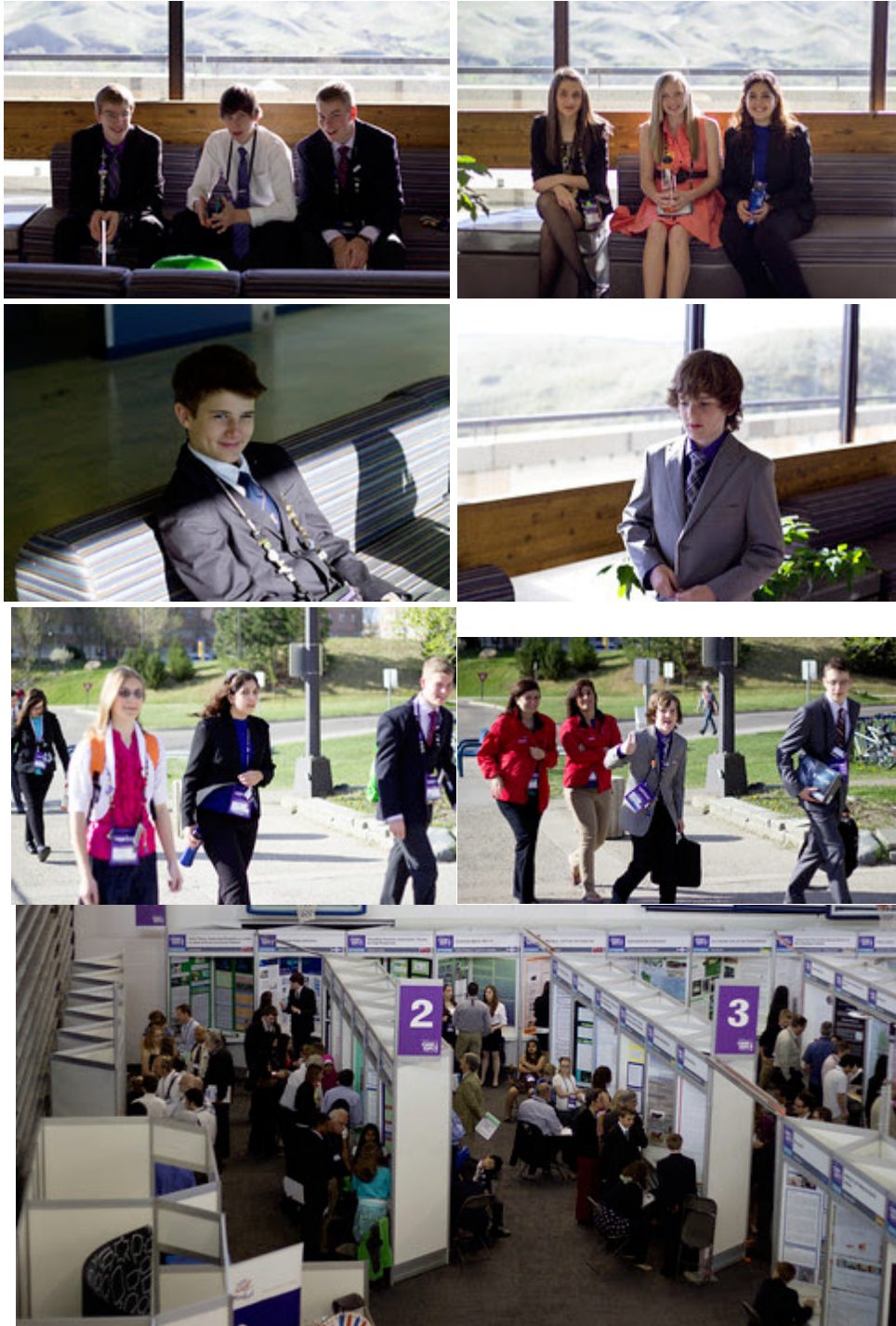
at 1:42 AM

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

## **Day 4 - Judging Day!**

Today was the day to get down to work - Judging Day!

Everyone was up a little bit earlier to grab breakfast, and then it was time to change into the nice clothes to impress the judges. At 8:30am it was off to the Project Hall for the first judging sessions.





When the time arrived for lunch, the main judging section (medals and challenge awards) had been completed... and the mood was certainly upbeat among the team. Most of the judges were reported to be polite and easy to talk to, with a lot of good interviews taking place. Many of the judges were very interested in the projects and students they interviewed, and it appears that the team had pretty good experiences as part of judging. But nothing beats finally getting the worry of the main interviews behind you!



After lunch it was back for the "Special Awards" judging, which is different depending upon the types of projects involved... some students had dozens of short interviews, others only had a few. By 5:30pm, all the interviews were done, and the "tough part" of the week was behind us.





After dinner everyone had some options, either to movie night (a number of movies were being shown), or else going on (of course) another hike outside.



With the pressure off nobody really wanted to get to bed early, but tomorrow has the earliest morning wake-up time yet, having to be at breakfast at 7:00am to get ready for our tour day of SouthWestern Alberta!

at 12:35 AM

Monday, May 13, 2013

## Day 3 - School Tours and Discovery Day

Another easy start to the day, the shift in time zones is helping most people with the morning schedule. After breakfast the team was off for another morning of Public Viewing, today including school tours from some of the Lethbridge school systems. It gave everyone a chance to practice a bit more, and also get to know their fellow finalists a bit better on the exhibit floor.



Former BASEF student Ben Gulak, who 10 years ago won ISEF trips from our fair, received the first annual CWSF Alumni Award, and was at the exhibit hall in the morning...





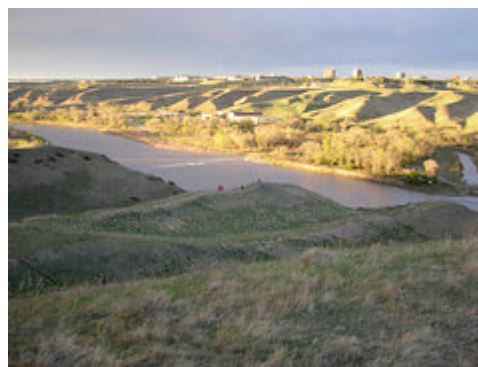
Public viewing ended for lunch, and in the afternoon we had "Discovery Day", which consisted of a number of activities across the campus. The team split up a bit for these, as everyone has different activities that they attended, on topics ranging from medicine, to robotics, to wind power, to music and art. Some were more interesting than others, though...



After the afternoon activities, some of the team took the opportunity in the spare time to take another hike on the beautiful grounds surrounding the campus. After dinner (roast chicken), we gathered in one of the lounges.... first to watch the end of the Leafs game, and then to have a team meeting to discuss judging day and answer questions, as well giving a few tips and suggestions. Many of the team are a bit nervous, but they are also experts on their projects and are all in a great position to explain their work really well. The students and projects of Team BASEF are top notch, and we're very proud to these representatives of our region here at the Canada-Wide Fair.



After the meeting (and the end of the hockey game.....), some of us went on another walk outside, and others wound down a bit at the participant's lounge. And then to bed for everyone, to get ready for the big day tomorrow.



at 11:33 PM

Sunday, May 12, 2013

## **Day 2 - Campus Tour, Public Viewing, Opening Ceremonies**

Today started with a bonus - no early wake-up time. Of course, because of the travel time change (two hours earlier than Ontario), most of the team woke up between 6am and 7am anyways and headed down for an early breakfast, well before the 8:30am that they were allowed.



This morning was an easy schedule... once the late risers of the team had their breakfast, we went out to the trails beside the University of Lethbridge and took another look at the great surroundings. Some were a bit more adventurous than others, but once again it was a great day to go exploring - however a bit windy today too! Lethbridge was living up to its reputation as one of the windiest cities in Canada.





We went on a tour of the Lethbridge University campus, that gave us a good feel for the types of work and teaching that are done here.... plus an even greater appreciation for the large number of stairs in this place!



After the tours we spent a bit of time practicing the project presentations to each other.



After lunch, it was time for the first public viewing session, which went well. Then at 5pm it was time to board buses and head into Lethbridge for the Opening Ceremonies.



After the Opening Ceremonies, a bit of time was spent at the lounges, and the another day in Lethbridge is over. Monday will bring another session of public viewing in the morning, and some on-campus activities in the afternoon. Stay tuned!



at 11:30 PM



Saturday, May 11, 2013

## **Day 1 - Arrival**

The good news was that our flight left from Hamilton Airport, a low stress and crowd-free location... the bad news was that we had to all be at the airport by 5:30am. Everyone made it and the efficient Westjet staff had us checked in quickly, and soon we were boarding our plane to Calgary.



After a four hour flight our arrival in the Calgary airport was also uneventful, and soon we were again on the move by bus for the trip to the University of Lethbridge campus. A 2 1/2 hour bus ride later (which some spent watching the prairie scenery pass by, and others spent trying to catch up on sleep), and we were pulling in to the CWSF event on the University of Lethbridge campus.



After lunch and an orientation, we started to set up our project boards. Most teams had not arrived yet, so the exhibit hall had a lot of elbow room! This year all participants used the new backboard system, meaning that all projects were standardized into pre-assembled display units. Project boards were either taped on the the display page by page, or else large-format project prints were used and taped directly to the boards.



After project setup, another leisurely pace as we had dinner, and then attended a "Meet and Greet" social event. By shortly after 9:00pm most of us were long out of energy, and so it was back to the residences and off to bed...



Tomorrow we have campus tours and some other on-campus events, and then the first public viewing session starting at 2:00pm.

Be sure to check out pictures on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/teambasef](http://www.facebook.com/teambasef)

You can download high resolution versions of our pictures from our flickr page at [www.flickr.com/photos/team-basef/sets/72157633438750758/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/team-basef/sets/72157633438750758/)

at [11:30 PM](#)

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

## **Team BASEF at Canada-Wide 2013**



*Some of Team BASEF, at the BASEF Awards*

The reports are finished, the backboards are (mostly) finished, and packing has (hopefully) begun... the countdown is on for Team BASEF to depart for the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

The 52nd annual Canada-Wide fair is being held this year in Lethbridge, Alberta. Hundreds of students, judges, and volunteers will descend onto the University of Lethbridge campus for a week of competition, tours and events.

Check back starting May 11th to 18th, 2013, for the latest news, photos, and updates.

at [12:06 AM](#)