

Physics Olympics marks 25th anniversary at YSU

Youngstown State University's Physics and Astronomy Department celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Physics Olympics on Saturday, March 22, in Beeghly Center on campus.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. with the first event starting at 9 a.m.

The event attracts top physics students from about 25 high schools throughout the region who compete in a series of 12 events: Mousetrap Racer, Flying Machine, Balsa Wood Bridge Breaking, Ping Pong Ball Launcher, Hot Water Making, Quiz Show, Fermi Question, Mystery Problem (deals with mechanics this year), Egg Drop, Physics Phloater, Physics Hang Up (art dealing with Physics in Nature) and Making Music (home made instruments).

The awards ceremony will follow the Quiz Show final round of the top three schools. This usually takes place around 3 p.m.

For more information contact Richard Zitto at 330-941-7110 or Sharon Shanks at 330-941-3619.

The event was started 25 years ago by Steve Hanzely of YSU, Kevin Crowley of Canfield High School, Richard Zitto of Boardman High School, Larry Sherer of Lakeview High School, Fred Poese of Howland High School and Kevin Boyd of Columbiana High School.

Zitto said the idea of a contest for top physics students had been bantered around for a few years and finally took off into a friendly competition between eight schools the first year. The event rapidly expanded to about 16 schools, and that grew to about two dozen schools by the end of the 1980s.