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USA Science & Engineering Festival

**USA Science & Engineering Festival Announces Nifty Fifty Program:
Top Scientists Will Tell Their Stories in DC-Area Schools
Program is one of many opportunities for teachers and students in DC**



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Washington, D.C. The USA Science & Engineering Festival, as part of a massive effort to get students of all ages to love and embrace science and engineering, will send more than fifty kid-friendly scientists into local middle and high schools this October 10-24, 2010. The scientists and engineers come from a range of disciplines including, high tech entrepreneurs and financiers, policy makers, actors, journalists, educators, researchers, explorers, video game developers, spies, alien hunters, astronauts and brain surgeons, among others. Sending scientists into schools is supported by festival host Lockheed Martin and sponsor Life Technologies. DC area schools can apply to host a Nifty Fifty speaker –applications are due May 31, 2010. Speaker bios and the online application form are available on the Festival website: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2010festival/niftyfifty/theniftyfiftybios>

The scientists and engineers selected represent a multicultural, multi- generational and multi-disciplinary group of tremendous talent from those disciplines. Here are some of the stories they'll tell:

- **How an auto accident led to a career at Life Technologies.** While recovering from an auto accident at 12, Chris Linthwaite of biotechnology giant Life Technologies, became fascinated by how bones break and repair themselves with the help of doctors. Today he helps develop life saving drugs and therapies at this leading biotechnology company.
- **The physics of NASCAR** and what it's like to drive a couple hundred miles per hour – Diandra Leslie Pelecki, University of Texas at Dallas
- **The findings of the Human Genome Project** and how it's changed what we know about us – Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health
- **How a migrant worker became a top brain surgeon** who removes the most complicated tumors – Alfredo Quinones Hinojosa, Johns Hopkins



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- **The physics of superheroes** and how it was used to create characters like those in the movie *The Watchmen* – James Kaklios, University of Minnesota

The USA Science & Engineering Festival offers many other opportunities for teachers and students to get involved. Here are three ongoing contests for K-12 students, with fast-approaching deadlines:

Kavli Science Video Contest – prize money goes to STEM education at the students’ school

Science is cool and The Kavli Foundation is challenging K-12 students to explain why. Student teams are invited to submit entries for the video contest, with cash awards going toward science education at the students’ school and electronics prizes for the students. The best videos will be shown at the Festival's Expo on October 23-24, 2010, where hundreds of thousands of science fans are expected to gather on D.C.'s National Mall. Videos can be linked to current curriculum, a science fair project or can be whatever students’ decide works for them. Submission Deadline: 7/15. For more info visit

<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2010festival/contests/kavli-science-video-contest>

You Can Do The Rubik’s Cube Tournament - Winners Will Meet Erno Rubik

K-12 teams from DC, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia will be competing for the fastest time to collectively solve 25 Rubik's Cubes. There is a K-8 and 9-12 competition. The preliminary tournament is 10/21/10 at the National Electronics Museum. The top six finalists will compete for the championship at the USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo on the National Mall on 10/23. Prizes range from \$100 to \$1,000 and will be awarded to winning schools. Deadline for Entries: 5/31. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2010festival/contests/rubikstournament>

Environmental Engineering Challenge: Design a Sustainable Dream House

The American Academy of Environmental Engineers is challenging middle and high-school students to design a residential home that a family of four could comfortably live while taking advantage of sustainable design concepts such as energy efficiency, reusable natural resources, the sun and much more. The top winner in each category will get a chance to present their submittal in Washington, D.C. during the USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo on the National Mall, October 23 and 24, 2010. Deadline for Entries: 9/15. To find out more visit

<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2010festival/contests/sustainabledreamhouse>



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The pinnacle event of the USA Science & Engineering Festival is a 2-day Expo on the National Mall on October 23 and 24, 2010. The Expo is perfect for teens, children and their families, and anyone with a curious mind who is looking for a weekend of fun and discovery. Expo-goers can build an underwater robot, chat with a Nobel Laureate, explore the science behind the magic of Hogwarts Academy and see a car that drives itself. From bugs to birds, kitchen chemistry to computer games, environmental monitoring to electronic music – the Expo has something for everyone and is completely free of charge. Festival organizers are hoping that teachers will give extra credit to students who attend the Expo and complete a specified set of exhibits. Details, including a Festival map, will be available on the Festival website in September. Schools that submit at least 10 entries for the Kavli Science Video Contest or 1 team for the Rubik's Cube Tournament are eligible to receive a bus grant to bring a group of 50 students, teachers and parents to the Expo.

About the USA Science & Engineering Festival

The first USA Science & Engineering Festival from 10/10-10/24, 2010 creates a new model for celebrating science in the nation's capital. Two weeks of science events across VA, MD and D.C. include 50 of the area's top scientists visiting local middle and high schools, brown bag lunches for high school students with Nobel Laureates, science open houses, events such as the science of wine and chocolate, a [Kavli Science Video Contest](#), a [Jingle Contest](#) and much more. A two day Science Expo on the National Mall will feature more than 400 science and engineering organizations, and most of science's best and brightest. www.usasciencefestival.org

The USA Science & Engineering Festival is hosted by Lockheed Martin and [sponsors](#) include Life Technologies Foundation, Clean Technology and Sustainability Industries Organization (CTSI), Larry and Diane Bock, ResMed Foundation, Farrell Family Foundation, Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Agilent Technologies, Amgen, Celgene Corporation, The Dow Chemical Company, National Institutes of Health, Illumina, The Kavli Foundation, Intel Corporation, You Can Do the Rubik's Cube, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Genentech Inc., MedImmune, Sandia National Laboratories, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), K&L Gates, Baxter International, NuVasive Inc., FEI Company, Case Western Reserve University, Biogen Idec Foundation, **LifeStraw®**, Microsoft Corporation, Silicon Valley Bank, Bechtel Corporation, SpaceX and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Research in Motion.

Current [media partners](#) include *Popular Science and Science Illustrated, New Scientist, EE Times Group, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, POPULAR MECHANICS, ScienceBlogs, Technology Review* published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Discovery Communications, *Forbes*



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