

Beal Bank

Contact: Jim Chambless
Phone 469-467-5533
Fax 469-241-9563
JChambless@bealservice.com

Beal Service Corporation
6000 Legacy Drive
4th Floor
Plano, TX 75024
Phone 469-467-5000
www.bealbank.com

For release at 3:00 p.m. Central time, March 20, 2007

2007 Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair Celebrates 50 Years of Tradition

Competition to take place at Fair Park on March 24-25

Dallas—The future of science will be on display at Dallas' Fair Park Automobile Building on March 24-25, during the Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which provides an annual venue for Dallas-area middle- and high-school children to demonstrate their scientific expertise. And because this is the Fair's 50th anniversary, a sense of history continues to be present as the Fair recognizes past winners and their contributions to science and engineering.

Dallas-based Beal Bank, in its second year as the Fair's title sponsor and overall a 10-year sponsor of the Fair, recognizes the importance of history in driving future scientific accomplishments. Molly Curl, Senior Vice President of Beal Service Corporation, said, "Beal Bank has a longstanding commitment to youth and to academic excellence in science. We strongly support the Fair's participants as they look at past scientific milestones in their quest to develop their own futures, and potential future milestones. We look forward to helping make the 50th-anniversary Fair a special event for the students, teachers and judges."

Over the last 50 years, the event has grown into one of the largest regional fairs in the United States with approximately 800 students interviewed by more than 300 judges from area businesses, professional organizations, and schools. Students in the Junior and Senior divisions (grades 7-12) submit entries in 17 different categories, from math and chemistry to zoology and behavioral and social sciences. Student winners and their teachers are eligible for prizes and cash awards, and top winners represent their schools and the Dallas community at the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF).

Fred Olness, Professor of Physics at SMU and Fair Director, noted that things have changed since the first Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held in 1957-58, the same year that Sputnik was launched and NASA was formed. Since then, he continued, "We've landed a man on the moon and seen the

invention of lasers, microchips, personal computers, cell phones, artificial hearts, gene splicing, the World Wide Web. The technology for these advances was driven, in part, by the scientists and engineers whose interest was sparked by past science fairs. I wish I had a crystal ball and could look 50 years ahead because I know the future inventions and discoveries made by the students at our Fair will be equally fascinating.”

During its 50-year history, the Fair has seen thousands of young scientists and engineers participate in this event. Many have gone on to science and engineering careers, and some have returned to serve as Fair judges, mentoring the next generation of scientists, and most participants attest that the benefits of the Science Fair are lasting. Current Fair Judge Dennise Richardson writes, “I won an honorable mention in a science fair for an electric motor I put together. I remember it clearly. I went on to get a Ph.D. in cellular biology and have helped judge science fairs for several decades as a result.”

Even though this is an educational event, the students can produce significant results that contribute to their field, and the Fair has seen some incredible projects over the past 50 years. For example, one student, Michael Willette, discovered a new shark species at Lake Tawakoni as part of his Fair project. Other recent projects, all favorites of Dr. Olness, include a robot-controlled lawnmower, a personal hovercraft, a magnetically levitated train and an analysis of whether video games cause stress.

While the type of projects may have changed over the Fair’s 50 years, the scientific method underlying the discovery process is still the same. In creating a Fair project, the students learn to do background research, form a hypothesis and ask the right questions. They also learn how to step back and redesign and improve their project if everything does not go right the first time – as is usually the case. “That,” says Dr. Olness, “is a learning experience they can put to use in the real world.”

Jupin Malhi, currently a biology major at SMU, comments, “Although Science Fair technically ended in high school, it continues to be a part of my life. I can only hope that I continue being a part of the Science Fair community, and, someday, find myself judging students just like me.” As noted by these and other experiences highlighted on the Fair’s website at www.DallasScienceFair.org, the advantages of science fair participation include the opportunity to travel, meet other young scientists and learn presentation skills, in addition to the educational benefits.

The 50th Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair takes place March 24-25, 2007, in the Automobile Building at Fair Park in Dallas, TX. The competition is on Saturday, March 24, and the Fair

is open to the public Sunday, March 25, from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit the Fair's website at www.DallasScienceFair.org or call 214-768-2495.

###

About Beal Bank: Beal Bank, based in Dallas, Texas, with deposit branches in Texas and California, was founded in 1988 and is a state-chartered savings bank. The Bank has a well-earned reputation as a stable, strongly capitalized financial institution, with assets of almost \$1.5 billion as of December 31, 2006. Beal Bank provides high rates on certificates of deposits and, through affiliates CSG Investments, Inc., Loan Acquisition Corporation, and Beal Mortgage Services, is active in commercial real estate acquisition and development; individual loan and loan portfolio acquisition; and financing and funding loans and participations in loans secured by tangible assets in such industries as real estate; gaming and lodging; energy, power and gas; manufacturing; timber; and transportation and distribution. Beal Bank is a member of the FDIC. For additional information on Beal Bank, please contact Jim Chambless at 469-467-5533 or jchambless@bealservice.com.