



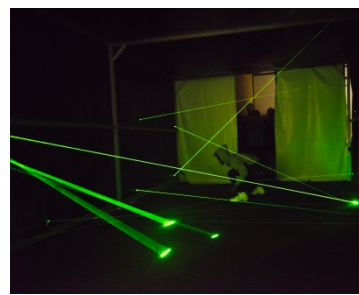
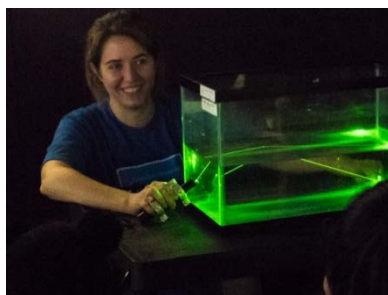
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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The Department of Physics at American University announces the fourth annual Optics Olympiad on **Friday, February 14, 2020** at American University's East Campus. This event is a fun-filled day of optics demonstrations and team competitions designed to get middle school students excited about optics, physics, and science.

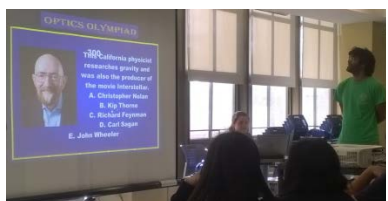
During the morning session, students engage with optics demonstrations showcasing the use of optics in a variety of fun and educational ways, including a laser maze, infrared light to “see heat”, and color mixing showing how color is used in art. The science of these demonstrations forms the basis of the quiz show questions in the afternoon.



Optics demonstrations. From left, internal reflection of light, fire as a wave in a Ruben's tube, thermal imaging, laser maze.

Following the demonstrations, lunch is provided to all participants. During lunch there is a panel discussion where students can ask a diverse panel of scientists and engineers anything about their research, science questions, careers, interests, hobbies, etc.

In the afternoon, team quiz competitions take place in a game show-style, double-elimination tournament. The questions draw on the optics demonstrations from the morning, and get progressively more difficult in later rounds. The top three teams receive team trophies and individual medals and all student participants will receive a gift bag with optics prizes.



Quiz show competitions. Left, late round question, middle, two teams prepare for competition, right, early round with parent observer.



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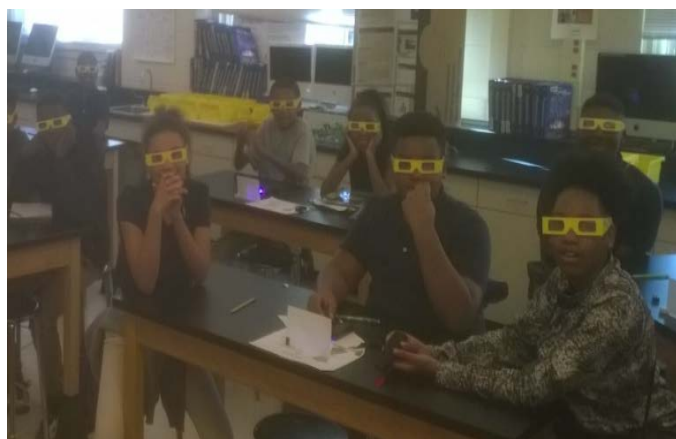
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Medals and trophies. From left, gold medal, medal winners with professional volunteer, team trophy with medals.

American University students, faculty, and staff who present the Optics Olympiad are available to visit interested DC middle school classes to show optics demonstrations and promote the Olympiad. Although no academic preparation is necessary on the part of the middle school classes, the American team can provide guidance on optics should teachers want to include it in their class prior to attending the Olympiad.



Classroom visit, left, and championship plaque, right.

If interested in having a school visit, or want further information, please contact:

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