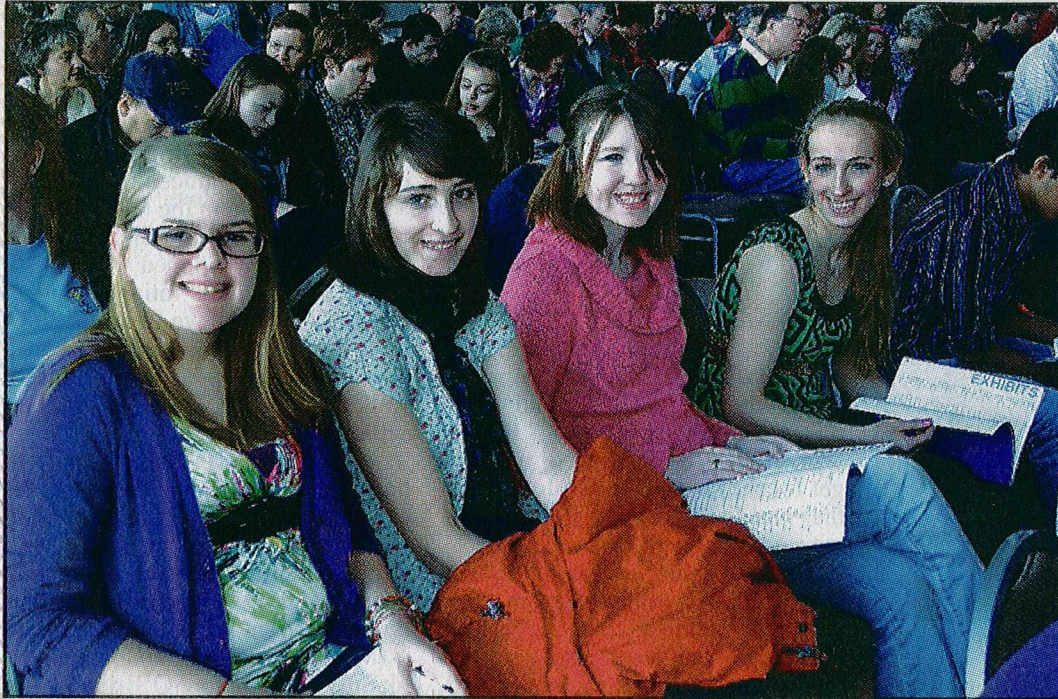


OCHS senior advances in engineering event



Darci Sampsell, Inga Saathoff, Anastasia Lloyd and Rachel Moore (from left) were among the nine Oil City

High School students who attended the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

► **Inga Saathoff will participate in the international fair in May in San Jose, Calif.**

Inga Saathoff, a student at Oil City High School, has been selected to advance to the International Science and Engineering Fair in San Jose, Calif., next month.

Saathoff was one of only two students picked to go to the May 9-14 event in California following the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair last month.

More than 1,000 students from about 100 schools in western Pennsylvania and Maryland competed for \$1 million in cash prizes and scholarships at the Pittsburgh fair.

About 1,500 students from 50 nations will compete for scholarships, tuition grants,

internships and scientific field trips at the international fair.

The grand prize will be an all-expense paid trip to the Nobel prize ceremonies in Stockholm, Sweden.

Saathoff's research focuses on the development of a new method to identify young, sun-like T-Tauri stars in their earliest stages of development using small-scale optical telescopes.

Tim Spuck, Saathoff's teacher at Oil City, said her work has brought the idea from a "maybe it will work" to "yes this method has strong scientific merit" and potentially will lead to an all-sky survey and long-term monitoring project for years to come.

Saathoff won a second-place award (\$150) out of 60 participants in the earth-space-environment senior di-

vision, and she also won the \$50 Mellon university sponsors award at the fair.

Two other Oil City students won awards as Stephanie Schneider took a third place (\$75) out of 52 participants in the behavioral-social science senior division, and Niki Coogan received the \$50 Baker corporation sponsors award.

Other Oil City students who participated in the science fair were Ed Culbertson, Anastasia Lloyd, Rachael Moore, Nick Reinsel, Darci Sampsell and Nat Yashinski.

The regional fair, a program of the Carnegie Science Center's Regional SciTech Initiative, has been a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940. It is the third oldest science fair in the U.S. under the affiliation of the Society for Science and the Public.