



South African Institute of Physics

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<http://www.saip.org.za/>

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Media Release

Learners excel in Physics

On Friday, 09 September 2022, the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) will announce the South African Physics Olympiad (SAPhO) results to the media, the schools involved and the learners who excelled in the SAPhO examination.

About 119 learners from selected Secondary schools were invited to write the SAPhO 2022. The total number of participants was higher than previous two years hard hit due to Covid-19 pandemic and was administered as a hybrid Olympiad; written partially online.

“South Africa, like every other country in the world, has amongst its youth, a latent talent that needs to be identified, nurtured and monitored, to allow them to reach their full potential”, says Case Rijdsdijk, SAPhO Convener. “There are talent scouts for potential sports men and women, why not for Mathematics and Sciences? After all our future lies in education and a technologically based economy. Identifying future scientists and engineers is essential and SAPhO is one pathway to success”.

Considering the difficult circumstances, we are experiencing, the SAPhO results were most satisfactory.

Mr James Cox , a Grade 12 learner from St Alban's College in Gauteng was the top achiever in this year's Olympiad, with a score of 79%. He will receive a Gold Certificate, R2 500 and the SAIP Medal, which will be presented to him by the South African Institute of Physics.

His teacher Ms Sandra Schwartz said; James requested to write the Olympiad. He spent time preparing and really made the most of the opportunity to test himself in an unfamiliar way. We are extremely proud of his achievement.

James himself said; “Wow, this is so unexpected. I don't know what to say.”

In second place was Mr. Jaylyn Bhula , a Grade 12 learner from The Mountain Cambridge school, North West, who won this year's Silver Certificate with a score of 75% and R1 750 Mr Gibson Macheke congratulated Jaylyn for this great achievement, being second in South Africa for a Physics Olympiad which is based on a curriculum that is different from the one that we doing at our school is no mean achievement, We are proud of you Head Boy 2022 and now one of the top Physics students in the country,

Mr. Lindokuhle Magwaza, from Ndlongolwane High, who with 68%, scooped third place with a Bronze Certificate and R 1 200.

Other Council Members

Prof. E.E. Van Dyk (Treasurer, NMU); Prof. R.M. Erasmus (President-Elect, WITS); Prof. D. Naidoo (Past-President, WITS); Prof. A. Cornell (UJ); Dr. E.N. Maluta (UNIVEN); Prof. M. Mathuthu (NWU); Dr. R. Nemetudi (iThemba LABS); Dr. Z. Katamzi-Joseph (SANSa); Prof. R.D. Strauss (NWU); Prof. E. Carleschi (UJ); Ms Anna Chrysostomou (UJ).

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Mr James Cox
SAPHO Winner 2022



Mr. Jaylyn Bhula
2nd Place



Mr Lindokuhle Magwaza
3rd Place

SAPHO will also award those who scored between 70% and 60% Merit Certificates for their achievements and those who scored between 59% and 50% will receive Honourable Mention Certificates. The remaining learners will receive Participation Certificates to acknowledge their participation in the Olympiad.

The SAPHO Convener, Case Rijdsdijk, has said that he is grateful to the Department of Science and Innovation, DSI, and the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, SAASTA, for their support and funding. In addition, he also voiced his thanks to the SAIP Executive Officer, Dr Brian Masara, and the Project Manager, Ms Ndanganeni Mahani, for all their efforts in making SAPHO a success. Finally, Mr Tebogo Mokhine from the SAIP Office for online SAPHO software management.

SAPHO is hosted by the South African Institute of Physics with the aim of identifying young South Africans with ability in Physics, in the hope that these students will continue to study Physics at tertiary institutions and Universities within South Africa. This is the only Physics Olympiad registered with ASTEMI Olympiads and Competitions in the country and anyone excelling in this carries lasting prestige with them. ASTEMI is the Association of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics & Innovation that registers STEMI Olympiads & Competitions together

SAIP is the “Voice for Physics in South Africa”. It is a professional body for practising physicists in a variety of disciplines ranging from Cosmology to Medical Physics. It has several goals, one of which is raising the awareness of Physics and its importance to our daily lives, much of which can be achieved through education. In summary, SAIP is working on improving physics education and research, developing and nurturing an inclusive next generation of physicists.

The President of the SAIP, Prof M L Chithambo, is delighted at the success of the 2022 Physics Olympiad. He congratulates all winners and wishes all participants well in the forthcoming examinations.

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