

[USA Science Festival]

## Lego robotics, hydrogen cars, geospatial tech on the D.C. Mall

*Students and professors offer hands-on demos*

Students and professors from multiple disciplines and programs represented JMU at the first USA Science and Engineering Festival on Oct. 23–24 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The JMU Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education and Outreach hosted a booth featuring First Lego League robotics. The hands-on exhibit also focused on hydrogen-fueled cars and a display of geospatial technologies. Lt. Col. Nick Swayne (College of Education) and Bob Kolvoord (co-director of the Center for STEM Education and Outreach) staffed the booth along with a number of students: Danielle Tamulis (human resource development), and integrated science and technology students Daniel Attard, Ellis Gore, Daniel Knox, Taylor Moellers, Andrew Spurr and Vincent Zampelli.

“We had the opportunity to interact with many people interested in science and engineering and shared many activities happening at JMU,” says



Students and professors from many disciplines represent JMU at the first USA Science and Engineering Festival on the National Mall. Education professor Nick Swayne (above) and JMU National Science Teacher Student members offer hands-on learning booths.



ISAT professor Bob Kolvoord. JMU science and engineering professors and students also represented a variety of national organizations. Eric Pyle (geology and environmental science) and three students from the JMU National Science Teachers Association

Student Chapter with their adviser David Slykhuis (middle, secondary and math education) led hands-on demos at the National Science Teachers Association exhibit. The students representing the NSTA Student Chapter were Meghan Flynn (earth science

and secondary education), Kaitlyn Gordon (biology and secondary education), and Casey Marshall (earth science and secondary education).

Steven Whitmeyer (geology and environmental science professor) and students Natalie Caro and Sharon Porter demonstrated plate tectonics educational materials at the NSF Earth-Scope booth.

Kristen St. John (geology and environmental science professor) worked with the Consortium for Ocean Leadership Deep Earth Academy, where she guided visitors through activities on the marine geologic record of the end Cretaceous mass extinction.

Costel Constantin (physics and astronomy professor) volunteered with both Nanoscale Informal Science Education Networked/Material Research Society and PBS WG BH/NOVA Making Stuff booths, with the help of JMU physics students Anita Vincent-Johnson, Anthony Chieco, Jimmy Hauver, Cheyenne Shafte, Denise McKaig, Alexandra Iuga, Christina Hanks and nursing student Emily Schofield. The students explained properties of carbon nanotubes, nano sands and strengths of nanofabrics to festival visitors. **MI**

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Madison



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