



**International Cassini Scientist for a Day 2009
Essay Contest: Students around the world
share their stories**

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Abstract

In honor of the International Year of Astronomy,
the Cassini Scientist for a Day Essay Contest
was an official Special Project of the
International Year of Astronomy 2009.

1. Introduction

Across waters and languages, the Cassini
Scientist for a Day found outstanding students
from 5 continents who shared their essays about
Saturn and its moons.

This essay contest is open to all students in
grades 5-12. It is held twice annually, in the
spring and fall. Students are invited to write a
500-word essay. Winners and their classes could
win an opportunity to talk to Cassini scientists
working on the mission to Saturn and its rings
and moons.

The Cassini Scientist for a Day Essay Contest
received broad international support from a
variety of agencies including:

- International Year of Astronomy 2009
- Europlanet
- European Space Agency
- Canadian Space Agency
- Turkish Astronomical Society
- UK SEDS - Students for the Exploration and
Development of Space
- Space Generation Advisory Council to the
United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs
- International Space University Alumni
World Space Week Coordinators

6. Summary and Conclusions

As a result, we received essays by 372 students
in the United States as well as from over 2,000
students in 27 countries on 5 continents.

“Many years ago, Vincent van Gogh wrote, “To
look at the stars always makes me dream ...

“I don't know what van Gogh dreamt about
when glazing at the sky, but I know Saturn's
rings truly fascinate me.”

*--Luca Istodor Berceanu Slavomir, 13-year-
old, Bucarest, Romania*

The lasting legacy will be the voices and the
enthusiasm of students.

In this talk, Alice Wessen will share their words,
and lessons learned from this global effort.

Acknowledgements

The Acknowledgements section should not be numbered. Here, you may include all persons or institutions which you would like to thank. We recommend that the abstract is carefully compiled and thoroughly checked, in particular with regard to the list of authors, **before** submission.

References

Cassini Scientist for a Day invited space enthusiasts in 142 countries to participate. It also appeared in blogs around the world:

<http://persiancsfad.blogspot.com>

<http://www.cbk.waw.pl/cassini/>

<http://www.planetarium.be/cassini.htm>

<http://www.maths.qmul.ac.uk/schools/cassini/>

Websites for the U.S. winners and for the international winners of the contest can be seen here:

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/education/scientistforday8thedition/sfad8thview/>

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/education/scientistforday8thedition/international/winners2009/>