

FUN & GAMES AT THE CREATIVITY FESTIVAL

BY AMY PIPER

It's Thursday at Noon at the IM East and here's the scene - music playing in the background competes with the crowd's dull roar. A man at least 12-feet tall on stilts, dressed in red and white striped pants and a top hat makes his way through the crowd. In another area, pin-traders are in hot pursuit of that particular pin, and countries are trying to entice gamers to their booth. A lot is going on but everyone is enthusiastic -- it's the Creativity Festival.

Nathan Wong, a second grader, from Del Sur Elementary in San Diego was in deep concentration as he won the game sponsored by Piedmont, Oklahoma.

The team from Hong Kong True Light College took advantage of the Moon pop-up by having their picture taken with Dr. Trena Ferrell, the Earth Science Division Education and Public Outreach Lead from NASA. NASA is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

Shopping for souvenirs in the Odyssey store was another favorite activity with a wide range of items from T-shirts to stickers.

Ashlyn Loberg is looking



for that North Carolina Tar Heels pin for her mother. If she finds it, she'll do what it takes to make the trade. Caris Schutz says, "I'm looking for dragons to complete my sets in trade for food truck pins."

Conner and Brady Jordan from St. Patrick's School in Weston, West Virginia each have traded and found their favorite pins. Conner, 8, says, "my favorite is from South Carolina." Brady, 11, proudly showed me his rather large one from South Korea and said, "This is my favorite."

The South Korea exhibit displays a mural of the Gyeongbokgung Palace and some traditional Korean dress called hanboks. The team offers two games that are getting intense. In the first game, you set the track to allow the marbles to make it through the path. It required creativity, and everyone was having fun — the second involved supporting paper with wooden discs.

British Columbia offered a trivia game that included questions about their province and OotM.