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| Top 20 Media Wins                                 | 5 |
| Summary of All Coverage                          | 7 |
| Television Coverage                              | 14 |
| Newspaper Coverage                               | 19 |
| Online Coverage                                  | 59 |
| Radio Coverage                                   | 466 |
| Appendix: News Releases                          | 469 |
Campaign Goals

- To generate national media coverage of M³ Challenge 2017 – promoting The Moody’s Foundation sponsorship – before, during and after the Final Event.
- To position The Moody’s Foundation as a leader in both raising awareness of the value of math in helping to solve real-world issues and promoting future math/STEM-related education and careers among American youth.

Campaign Strategy

- Take a novel approach to maximize newsworthiness of M³ Challenge by having SIAM conduct a national survey of challenge participants and report the results via a national news release, promoting the academic habits of some of the country’s brightest young math minds.
- Use the survey as a lead-in to discussion about M³ Challenge and The Moody’s Foundation goals.
- Promote to the media the April 24 Final Event and challenge topic, as well as the winners/finalists in each of their respective six markets.

Results Overview

The campaign generated a total of 246 pieces of coverage – with 618,562,687 impressions – nationally, which breaks down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage by Outlet</th>
<th>Coverage by Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV Reports</td>
<td>National Math Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper Articles</td>
<td>Final Event / Top Three Winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Articles</td>
<td>Survey &amp; Top Three Winners Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Segments</td>
<td>Runners Up / Participating Teams</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>87</td>
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All of the pieces of coverage mention Moody’s Mega Math Challenge in a positive light, with 84% of coverage also mentioning (or linking to mentions of) The Moody’s Foundation and campaign messaging.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Outlet</th>
<th>Impressions</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>282,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huffington Post Education + Twitter (1x)</td>
<td>64,934,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Insider</td>
<td>46,470,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yahoo News</td>
<td>42,968,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBS Chicago WBBM Radio + Online</td>
<td>29,921,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wall Street Journal Online + YouTube</td>
<td>26,681,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Tribune Online</td>
<td>13,575,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MarketWatch</td>
<td>11,880,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Business Journal Online</td>
<td>10,380,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC TV Chicago WLS-TV + Online + Twitter</td>
<td>3,043,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Mathematical Society Online (4x) + Twitter</td>
<td>1,782,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Week + Twitter (4x)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ABC TV Raleigh/Durham, WTVD</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Online + Twitter + LinkedIn</td>
<td>370,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chalkbeat New York + E-newsletter</td>
<td>211,050</td>
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<td>WCGO 1590 AM Radio Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 74 Million + E-newsletter + Twitter (3x)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philanthropy New York Online (2x)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westford CAT TV + Online (3x) + YouTube</td>
<td>28,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>538,745,989</strong></td>
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Total publicity value of top 20 media wins: $498,340
## TOP 20 MEDIA WINS

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<th>Media</th>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Impressions</th>
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<td>FOX TV 5 NY</td>
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## SUMMARY OF ALL MEDIA COVERAGE

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<th>Media Type</th>
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<th>Media</th>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Impressions</th>
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TELEVISION

Pieces of Coverage: 4
Impressions: 2,796,250

FOX 5

11 abc NEWS

EYEWITNESS NEWS

westford CAT
community access television
Friday, May 5, 2017

Ran a 35-second segment during the 6:30 p.m. news show.
Covered in the New York Minute segment at 5:24 p.m.
Aired a 1:42 minute segment on the 6:00 p.m. news.
Many students can’t stand math class, let alone take a math test. But a group of wiz kids from northwest suburban Lincolnshire are up for the challenge.

Aired a 2:30 minute segment during the 11:00 a.m. news show.
NEWSPAPERS

Pieces of Coverage: 24
Impressions: 591, 275

The Times
gainesvilletimes.com

The Herald-Sun

GWINNETT
Daily GDP Post
PM East nabs honorable mention at national competition

This year was the first time ever that Pocono Mountain School District was represented at the annual Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national applied-math-modeling contest for high school students sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation in New York City and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Math in Philadelphia. A team from Pocono Mountain High School East won honorable mention for building a math model determining various sea level risks to five national parks. The Pocono Mountain School Board recognized the team Wednesday, May 17, 2017.
Beautiful minds

Johns Creek High team places third in national math competition

From Staff Reports

Additional math knowledge added up to $10,000 in scholarship money for a group of Johns Creek seniors. The five-person team competed this week in a prestigious national math competition, taking third place at the Moody’s Math Mark (4M) Challenge.

The team of Daniel Badea, Jiajia Wang, Anshul Tandon, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond were among the more than 5,000 participants, who made up more than 1,000 teams who took part in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service. More than $50,000 in scholarships and prizes were awarded in the competition.

The Johns Creek team — coached by Julie Most — placed third in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be a outstanding mathematical solution to how the National Park Service can improve in spite of global change factors expected in other resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with the other finalists.

The first place team was from Athol E. Steensman High School in Lincolnshire, Ill., and that group earned $25,000 in scholarships. The team from Westford Academy in Westford, Mass., placed second, earning $15,000 in scholarship money for its team members. Johns Creek placed third, and its participants said the problem they were asked to solve was both timely and challenging.

“I thought the challenge problem was really topical, especially since a lot of people are thinking about climate change and how that’s going to affect the future,” Johns Creek senior Akhil Vaidya said in a press release. “We all thought it was very appropriate for the times we are in right now.”

According to a press release from the event, the event is organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, and is designed to spotlight the relevance and power of

See MATH, Page 7A

From left, Akhil Vaidya, Daniel Badea, coach Julie Most, Jiajia Wang, Anshul Tandon and Alex Hammond made up the Johns Creek math team. (Photo: Moody’s Math Challenge)
From Page 1A

mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

“It’s exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on,” said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. “These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation.”

Said Michelle Montgomery, M3 Challenge Project Director at SIAM: “We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in
math class — with the goal of solving something they never related to math before.

“If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was an M3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

Prior to Monday’s judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semifinalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.
Westford math team places second in national competition

Four Westford Academy students used math modeling to predict the effects climate change would have on the National Park Service.

By Alexander Silva
asilva@wickedlocal.com

Four Westford Academy students used math modeling to predict the effects climate change would have on the country’s National Park Service and placed second in a national math competition with their results.

Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal came in second at the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge finals in New York City.
“The problem that we were given was to model the effect of climate change and a variety of factors and how that would play a role in coastal national parks,” Harshal Sheth said. “We basically modeled the vulnerability of different parks... and we also took that a step further and we modeled what impact that would have on visitorship in the next 50 years for that park.”

The competition included over 5,000 students in grades 11 and 12 from across the nation. Westford’s team competed against teams from Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Maryland in the final round on April 24.

Students had 14 hours to come up with a solution to help the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) come up with a plan for future growth and sustainability in the face of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 sites across the country using mathematical modeling.
"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge," NPS Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator Rebecca Beavers said in a release on the competition. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."

More than 1,100 participating teams submitted papers with their recommended solutions.

"Climate change is such a big problem, so you can’t exactly stop it," said Harshal Sheth. "What we had to do was give recommendations for where the NPS should allocate its resources and how it should manage that risk in the coming years."

The Westford team spent 14 hours in a room with a whiteboard and four laptops going over variables like sea level rise, wildfires, and historic visitorship data. During the time limit, they had to develop their model and write a 20-page report on it.
“Most of our time was just spent on predicting the effects (of climate change) and not so much on how do we mitigate them,” Kartik Singh said. “The problem they give to us is so open-ended, ultimately there really is no correct answer. Everyone had different solutions... the math isn’t necessarily the hardest part, it’s more of thinking about what needs to go into our models and that’s certainly quite the challenge.”

“It’s more about modeling climate change than trying to solve climate change,” added Nihar Sheth. “And obviously modeling it is important as a first step because the first step to solving any problem is identifying where the problem is and that’s what we were able to do.”

Math modeling is a good way to show students how they can apply their math skills in the real world, according to Westford Academy math teacher and the team’s coach Lisa Gartner.

“I think this particular competition is unique in that it’s a math modeling competition,” Gartner said. “It’s neat because a lot of kids say ‘when am I going to use this skill or that idea’ and math modeling is where they get to see the different aspects and where they are going to use different things in the real world.”

The Westford team focused on five national parks, according to Adithya Vellal.

“We had five focus parks and we recommended that the Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska be given more funding in the future because we saw a large predicted visitorship increase there,” said Vellal. “And we recommended that the Padre Island National Seashore in Texas, that the NPS reduce funding to that because we saw that it was the most vulnerable to climate change 50 years down the line.”

The reason – with more visitors comes more variable costs, according to Nihar Sheth.
“The general logic was (the NPS is) not going to want to be throwing money after trying to stop climate change... so why not focus on the parks where people are going to be going to and then invest there so you have robust infrastructure and everything,” said Nihar Sheth.

The Westford team won a $15,000 scholarship prize for coming in second, which will be split among the four of them.

“Climate change is real,” Kartik Singh said. “I've never thought about the effects of climate change specifically on the National Parks System although it's definitely important that we consider them because so many beautiful landscapes lie on our coastal areas. I think it was great that this topic was chosen this year. I think it's really important.”

Follow reporter Alexander Silva on Twitter @IndieEagleWL.
Stevenson High School students win national math competition, $20,000 in scholarships

Five Stevenson High School juniors recently beat out some 5,000 students, representing 47 states, to win the national Moody's Mega Math Challenge, along with $20,000 in college scholarships.
Stevenson juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu beat an initial field of 1,400 teams, making them one of the five teams who traveled to Moody's Corporation headquarters in New York City for the finals, according to Paul Kim, a Stevenson math teacher who served as the team's coach.

After the results were announced April 24, the Stevenson team was surprised to win, said Yoon, captain of the team.

"We were really excited and honored to have won," Yoon said. "We weren't really expecting to. It was a great experience working with friends on this project together, and going to New York and having a great team."

The five students from the Lincolnshire-based high school used mathematical modeling to illustrate how the National Park Service can "continue to flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites," said Gail Bergman, a spokeswoman for the event.

Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online, Bergman said.

The Stevenson students prepared with Kim, who gave the students resources to use, helping them win the competition, Yoon said.
"We did a three-hour practice problem together," he said. "We used those opportunities to figure out how to approach the problem on the day of the competition. We had a good idea of how we should start trying to approach the problem together and how to allocate our time."

Each of the five students will receive $4,000 in scholarship money, Yoon said.

"We don't really have college plans yet, but most of us are interested in (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) or other technology schools, going into that or related fields," he said.

More than any previous Stevenson team, Yoon's team worked constructively among all five members for 14 hours, Kim said.

"I'm definitely proud," he said. "They were really thoughtful. They took breaks but not for long and they stayed focused on the work. There was high quantity and quality of content."

Stevenson previously had entered teams into the math competition but none were able to advance past the semifinals, he said.

"This is our seventh year in the competition, and we have done a little better every year," Kim said.

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Geibel students compete in math challenge, PJAS event

In the photo at left, five Geibel Catholic Calculus I and Calculus II students spent 14 hours at school on a recent Sunday competing in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge. The challenge is a mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors. It is entirely internet-based. Through participation, students experience what it is like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, similar to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry. The math challenge is sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and awards $150,000 in scholarships each year. Eleventh- and twelfth-graders from across the United States participate. Pictured are (from left) Xinye (Daisy) Zhang, Abbey Weller, Maggie Ewing, Jabbie Kelensuk, and Yohsi Chiu. Calculus teacher at Geibel is Sal Bruce. At right, Geibel Catholic High School students Andy Becker (left) and Mia Baranowski (right) recently participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science regional competition at California University of Pa. Baranowski earned a second-place award for her project entitled “Straw Effect.” Becker captured a first-place award for his project, “Seed Germination.” Becker will participate in the 52nd annual PJAS state competition, which will be held May 14-15 at Penn State University’s University Park campus. The students are pictured with Geibel science teacher and PJAS moderator Angela Testa.
Gainesville team advances in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

Gainesville High School had two teams to compete in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a prestigious competition for high school juniors and seniors to develop a mathematical model for a real-world problem.

The challenge posed a real-world problem entirely unknown to the team members and involved extensive research, computational skills, in-depth analysis and communication skills. Scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 will be awarded to the top teams.

For this year’s challenge, GHS math teams used mathematical models to look into national parks and address climate-related issues. The teams had to finish the project within a 14-hour window and worked continuously for two days to produce their final reports. Team A included Pratyusha Karnati, Anna Diaz, Stephen McMarrow and Vraj Patel. Team B included Tyra Newton, Spencer Sumner, Michelle Razo and Umer Khan. Chandra Karnati, a math teacher at GHS, served as the teams’ mentor.

Team A advanced to the second round of the competition, one of 200 teams out of 1,121 total to advance to the next level. This is the third year in a row that a GHS team has advanced in the competition.

Times staff reports
Stevenson team wins national math contest

By Russell Lissau
rlissau@dailiherald.com

A team of Stevenson High School students won the top prize and $20,000 in scholarships in a national math contest Monday. They are, from left, Deepak Moparthi, Andrew Hwang, Joshua Yoon, Albert Cao, Haoyang Yu and coach Paul Kim.

The students studied the issue, collected data and uploaded solutions online.

“All of us were pretty new to math modeling, so (we) were really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours,” Joshua Yoon said in a news release. “We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this.”

The team was coached by Paul Kim, a math teacher at the Lincolnshire school.

In all, an estimated 5,100 students working in 1,100 teams competed for prizes.

Six teams of finalists, including the group from Stevenson, presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters Monday in New York City. A judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians determined that the Stevenson students came up with the overall best solution.
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Students in national math contest finals

BY GREG CHILDRESS

DURHAM

Five students from the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics have won a top spot in a major national math competition.

The students — Angela Deng, Evan Jiang, Dory Li, Miguel de los Reyes and Lucy Wu of NCSSM — have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

The competition is the only one of its kind and drew more than 5,100 11th- and 12th-grade participants from across the nation this year.

The Durham team will travel to New York City on Monday, April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue — helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide.

More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science.

Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to NCSSM, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Lincroft, New Jersey, Silver Spring, Maryland and Westford, Massachusetts.

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SEE MATH, 4A
Blair High School students reach final round in national math competition

By Jonathan Elbaz
Special to The Sentinel

A team of five Montgomery Blair high school students is headed to New York City next week to compete in the final round of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national competition where juniors and seniors apply math and creative-thinking skills to solve complex, real-world challenges.

In the previous round, the Blair team — made up of Eshan Tewari, James Vinson, Andrew Komo, Siddharth Taneja and Annie Zhao — spent 14 hours one weekend developing a mathematical model for the National Park Service to address sustainability and growth challenges at five national parks. Out of 1,100 teams that competed, the Blair team was chosen as one of six finalists.

The six teams will present their final papers to a judging panel of Ph.D.-level mathematicians in New York on April 24, where judges will decide which teams place in the competition and will award $150,000 worth of scholarships.

The challenge problem Blair students worked on dealt with the effects of climate change on National Park Service land. The team was asked to create a mathematical model that predicted the risks from rising sea levels and had to assign a single vulnerability score for each park according to the severity and likelihood of climate-related events.

“We first figured out how temperature was going to increase over time,” Vinson said. “Using that, we calculated how sea levels would rise at each of the five national parks.
We then compared the predicted sea level rise we got from our model to the actual topography of the region and rated each of the national parks as either low-risk, medium-risk, or high-risk based on how likely they were to undergo flooding, erosion and other phenomena."

They concluded that Padre Island in Texas and Cape Hatteras in North Carolina were very likely to suffer erosion and were most vulnerable to rising sea levels.

This is the second year in a row that Blair has sent a team to the final round. Last year, both Vinson and Tewari participated on the team as juniors, and worked on a problem forecasting the future of the rideshare industry.

Tewari said they learned from the previous competition to devote more time to crafting a clear and cohesive paper. Last year’s paper was a mess, he said, and the paper they submitted this year will be much better for judges to read. Tewari and Vinson fulfilled similar roles on the team last year and said they were able to effectively dole out responsibilities among the five students.

The Moody’s Mega Math Challenge was created in 2006 to highlight the possibilities of using math to address real-world concerns and to give high school students a taste of the work they could encounter in math-based careers.

While Tewari will be studying data science at Harvard and Vinson will be studying chemistry at Cal Tech when they begin college next fall, both students appreciate how the competition explores real-world challenges and tests their math skills from a perspective of process and
problem solving rather than final correctness.

"I think something that’s really unique about the Moody’s Math Challenge is that we’re not really working towards an absolute, right-or-wrong answer," Tewari said. "Instead, the competition is primarily concerned with how we think and how we arrive at the answers. We have a lot more freedom to explore ideas and put together all the math concepts that we’ve learned to date."

The five other teams competing with the Blair squad in New York City are from New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, North Carolina and Georgia.

The students’ coach, Blair math teacher Will Rose, has sponsored teams for the past seven years and gives all the credit of the team’s success to the students.
Five Geibel Catholic Calculus I and Calculus II students spent 14 hours at the Connellsville-based school on a recent Sunday, competing in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge. The challenge is a mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors that is internet based. Through participation, students experience what it is like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, similar to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry. The math challenge is sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and awards $150,000 in scholarships each year. Eleventh and 12th graders from across the United States participate. Pictured are (from left) Xinyu (Cissy) Zhang, Abbey Sitko, Maggie Ewing, Gabby Kolencik and Yoshi Chiu. Calculus teacher at Geibel is Sal Brusco.
Stevenson students advance to math

Submitted by Gail Borgman PR

A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors.

The students — Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu of Adlai E. Stevenson High School — have advanced to the finals in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, which this year drew more than 5,100 11th- and 12th-grade participants from across the nation. The Lincolnshire team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue: helping the U.S. National Park Service devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

“The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge,” said Dr. Rebecca Beaver, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at the National Park Service. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change.”

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge, now in its 12th year, spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Stevenson, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincroft, New Jersey; Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is an invitation to go beyond the classroom, to explore diverse ideas and push the limits of what our students can achieve,” said Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Stevenson who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various questions a student must answer. Each team is given an open-ended question and the teams are encouraged to come up with their own unique solutions.”

For team member Andrew Hwang, participating in the M3 Challenge was a positive experience that he said challenged him to think and create something of his own.

“Despite all of its frustrations, the M3 Challenge was a humbling task to attempt to model and provide solutions to real world problems,” he said. “These opportunities to take one’s education outside the classroom don’t come by too often, so it’s only natural that my teammates and I leapt at the chance. Those 14 hours filled with stress, math, laughter and an unforgettable experience that I only wish I could do again.”

According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M3 Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels.

“M3 Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M3 Challenge increases that interest in the U.S. in a fun, unique and exciting way.”

See MATH on PAGE 3 students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite: an open-ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses.

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org. To access this year’s challenge problem, visit m3challenge.siam.org/practice-problems/2017-challenge-problem-sea-shining-sea-looking-ahead-national-park-service.
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In addition to Stevenson, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincroft, New Jersey; Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

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Westford teens’ math adds up to finals berth

By Chris Lisinski
clisinski@lowellsun.com

WESTFORD — The U.S. National Park System faces significant risks from a changing climate, and you have to figure out possible solutions.

You have 14 hours.
What do you do?
That was the challenge given to four Westford Academy students who competed in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge on a February weekend.

Through a combination of complex mathematical modeling, data analysis, and writing, the team compiled a winning report that will take them to the national finals later this month.

The team, consisting of juniors Aditya Vellal and Harshal Sheth and seniors Kartik Singh and Nihar Sheth, are one of six groups that advanced to the finals out of 1,110 entrants.

“It was a 14-hour competition, so it definitely was a marathon,” Harshal Sheth said. “It was stressful because 14 hours seems quite long, but it really isn’t when you’ve got such a huge problem you’re dealing with.”

The contest, currently in its 11th year, poses a single problem with wide-ranging, real-world implications — in this case, how to address the risks that national parks face due to climate change.

Teams, each working in their own locations, must conduct research and remotely submit a final report with evidence-based suggestions in one day.

Westford’s students had prepared by examining the problems posed in previous years, studying past winning reports, and brushing up on a 40-page booklet Moody’s provided on modeling. Their hope was to get “an idea of what the judges were looking for,” Vellal said.

During the event, the group delegated tasks so each member focused on a specific portion at a given time. The process, they said, was uncharted territory that challenged them in unusual ways.

“The math that we were doing wasn’t the most difficult sort of math, but the process of putting it all together and forming good, useful models — that was a skill,” Vellal said.

Please see MATH/10 that was definitely a new experience,” Singh said.

The team now has to develop their report into a full presentation. On April 24, they and five other teams will make their cases before a panel of judges in New York City.

Lisa Gartner, a teacher at Westford Academy and the team’s coach, said she was proud of the group for their accomplishment.

“While I know these are all extraordinary young men in every sense of the word, wonderful people, and extremely gifted mathematicians, it’s still hard to think of top six out of 1,100,” said Gartner.

“When I got the email, I was just like, ‘Wow.’”

Each finalist team is guaranteed a cash prize of at least $5,000, and the ultimate winner will receive a prize of $20,000.

That money is split evenly among members and paid directly to the colleges in which they enroll.

Singh, one of two seniors, will attend University of California, Berkeley, in the fall to study computer science. Nihar Sheth, the other senior, has not yet made a final decision, but he is considering University of Southern California for a combination of computer science and business administration.

And the Moody’s challenge? That just reinforced their interests.

“I really liked the aspect of taking a bunch of data and trying to get something out of it,” Nihar said.

“If we were able to do this much in 14 hours, I think that if this is something you actually research and you pursue over a long period of time, you can get some pretty extraordinary results.”

Follow Chris on Twitter @ChrisLisinski.
Members of Westford Academy's team for Moody's Mega Math Challenge. From left are Adithya Vellal, junior; Harshal Sheth, junior; Nihar Sheth, senior; and Kartik Singh, senior.
Team Advances
In Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

INCROFT – Teams from three high schools were honored for their mathematical and creative thinking skills recently in Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, a national mathematical modeling competition for high school juniors and seniors.

A team from High Technology High School has advanced to the finals and will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other teams from around the country. The students – Eric Jiang, Anjali Nambrath, Arvind Yalavarti, Kevin Yan and Lori Zhang – have the chance to win between $5,000 and $20,000 in scholarship money during the contest.

Using mathematical modeling, the teams had 14 hours in late February to propose a solution to a real-world situation – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) create a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

Three other teams from the Two River area received Honorable Mentions: Kevin Boyle, Daniel Draganoff, Brendan Fitzgerald, Thomas Greenwald and Nicholas Karris from Christian Brothers Academy; Michael Abelar, Dylan Cook, Arjun Gupta, Adam Konkol and Tiffany Paula representing Biotechnology High School; and a second team from High Tech which included Eric Lou, Emily Lui, Sarah Vicol, Ryan Wu, and Wendy Wu.
The Honorable Mention-winning teams each receive a $1,000 scholarship which will be split among the team members.

“The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge,” said Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation coordinator at NPS, in a statement. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change.”

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge — now in its 12th year — spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science.

Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000. Of the participating teams, six were named finalists, six semi-finalists, and 78 received honorable mention.

Through participation, students experience what it’s like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, akin to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry.

“The Moody’s Foundation, in my opinion, has created one of the best high school math modeling competitions,” said Ellen LeBlanc, a math teacher at High Technology High School who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “The competition challenges students to make assumptions, gather data, problem solve, create models and draw conclusions. The students learn how to work together and write a concise and complete mathematical paper — it is a fantastic experience.”
“At High Technology, students and the math faculty spend a great deal of time discussing real world events and how we could possibly model them,” she said. “For example, this year we discussed at length a number of topics including the electoral college, health care and even bumble bees.”

For team member Anjali Nambrath, placing as a finalist in the M3 Challenge is a tremendous opportunity that she says will help open doors in the future.

“The M3 Challenge was an opportunity to really delve into the insights math can provide in the real world,” she said. “We applied the theoretical knowledge we learned in math classes to a critical global issue, and it felt good to know that what we were doing had real, tangible relevance to the wider world. All the teamwork, collaboration, brainstorming, formulating and revising condensed into 14 hours was a truly rewarding and memorable experience for my teammates and me.”
ONLINE MEDIA

Pieces of Coverage: 216
Impressions: 611,505,162
Fair Lawn Students' Math Paper Finishes In Top 1% In National Competition

The four students had 14 hours to write a paper discussing the preservation of the National Park System.

By Daniel Hubbard (Patch Staff) - May 25, 2017 2:24 pm ET

FAIR LAWN, NJ — Four high school students showed their math wizardry and found ways to help preserve the National Park System.

Alexander Eng, Nicholas Cicero, Matthew Gordon and Philip Melnick placed in the top 1 percent of papers submitted for the Moody's Mega Math Challenge, a national mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors. Students experience what it is like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem.
The four students had 14 hours to write a paper discussing the preservation of the National Park System. The paper had to include mathematical models that examined tidal changes, climate-related events and financial resources. Of the more than 6,500 papers submitted, the Fair Lawn students finished in the top 50 or in the top 0.7 percent of all papers submitted.

*Photo: Philip Melnick, Matthew Gordon, Alexander Eng and Nicholas Cicero/Courtesy of Karen Rood*
What are the study habits of elite HS math students? New survey from @TheSIAMNews reveals a glimpse

The Habits of America’s Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study ...
The74Million is an education focused website
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The Habits of America's Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep,…

The Huffington Post - The 74, Contributor

By Mareesa Nicosia
A new survey sheds light on the habits of some of
The Habits of America’s Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm bit.ly/2qMf4qS #mathchat #edchat
RT DrAAlston: The Habits of America's Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm… twitter.com/i/web/status/8...
10:12 AM - 16 May 2017
The Habits of America's Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm

By Mareesa Nicosia
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May 15, 2017

The 74 Million – Mareesa Nicosia

“A new survey sheds light on the habits of some of America’s brightest high school math students, revealing that most dedicate one-quarter to one-half of their weekly homework time to math-related subjects and the majority spend this time alone in a quiet room. Nearly half the 1,680 students, or 47 percent, said they spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend six to 10 hours. According to the survey conducted by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the credit-rating and analytics company [more]
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By Mareesa Nicosia, Huffington Post, May 15, 2017
HARD AT WORK A survey of top math students who recently competed for scholarships in New York City shows that most spend more than 11 hours a week completing homework. The 74
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Survey Reveals the Habits of America’s Top #Math Students buff.ly/2qJLz98 via @MareesaNicosia #EdChat
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rschoolgroup.org

10:52 AM - 15 May 2017
FL Competes in Moody's Mega Math Challenge

On February 25, four students, Alexander Eng, Nicholas Cicero, Matthew Gordon, and Philip Malinski, participated in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge. For this contest the students were asked to write a paper discussing the preservation of the National Park System. Emphasis was placed on five parks, and the paper had to include mathematical models that examined tidal changes, climate related events and financial resources. After being given the statement of the problem, they were given 14 hours to complete their paper.

Our students did an outstanding job, being placed in the grouping of 28th to 50th out of 6500 papers submitted. This placed the team in the top 0.7% of all papers.

https://m3challenge.siam.org/
The Habits of America's Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm

By Mareesa Nicola

A new survey sheds light on the habits of some of America’s brightest high school math students, revealing that most dedicate one-quarter to one-half of their weekly homework time to math-related subjects and the majority spend this time alone in a quiet room.

Nearly half the 1,680 students, or 47 percent, said they spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend six to 10 hours, according to the survey conducted by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the credit rating and analytics company.
The survey included juniors and seniors from high schools around the country who participated in the 12th annual Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, an applied mathematics competition that culminated Monday as six teams presented their work in the final round of judging in New York City.

This year’s victors were Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu, juniors from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, who rose up through an initial pool of 5,100 participants. The team will split $20,000 in college scholarships.

Moody’s Foundation

The 2017 first-place winners of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, from left: Deepak Moparthi, Andrew Hwang, Joshua Yoon, Albert Cao and Haoyang Yu with team coach Paul Kim, right, from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Ill.

This year’s challenge required students to use mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service.

The winning Stevenson high school team employed modeling to determine which parks may be at the greatest risk of flooding due to rising sea levels and used the results to recommend how the park service should prioritize funding at its 417 national sites.
“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class — with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, the competition’s project director. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

Five other finalist teams from Alpharetta, Georgia, Durham, North Carolina, Lincroft, New Jersey, Silver Spring, Maryland, and Westford, Massachusetts will take home some of the total $150,000 in scholarship money that was up for grabs.

(Read The 74's previous coverage of the competition: Spending the Day With Some of America's Smartest Students at a $150,000 Math Challenge)

FLASHBACK: 2016 MOODY'S MEGA MATH CHALLENGE
SIAM organizes the competition and the Moody’s Foundation sponsors it; this is the first time students were surveyed as part of the event. In addition to soliciting feedback as organizers try to improve the competition, the survey was also designed to provide a glimpse into students’ daily lives and motivations, said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics.

Other survey highlights:

More than 50 percent of students said they “just naturally enjoy math” and there was “no special reason” that contributed to their interest in the subject. A quarter of students attributed their affinity to a “good teacher.”

They appear to enjoy working independently but will seek out help if needed. When having trouble with a tough math concept, 29 percent said they keep trying until they figure it out on their own; 25 percent ask a teacher, 11 percent ask a friend, and just over 2 percent ask a parent.

When they’re not studying, students spend their time on a variety of extracurriculars: 78 percent participate in activities such as clubs and student government; 59 percent play sports or work out regularly; and 55 percent volunteer in their communities.

About 46 percent are involved with arts or music programs; 47 percent read books in their spare time and 30 percent have a part-time job. Forty-two percent of students said they play video games.

Nearly half, or 47 percent, reported that “most of the time” they eat balanced and healthy meals, including breakfast. Twenty-four percent said they prefer healthy foods but “frequently eat fast food/junk food.” A solid majority, 59 percent, said they get between six and eight hours of sleep most nights.

Looking at the habits and behaviors of high-achieving high schoolers can help economists and professionals in other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Industries understand the role they can play in encouraging more students to pursue STEM, Zandi said. It can also help improve America’s academic proficiency in those areas.
U.S. students continue to lag behind their counterparts around the world in math and science — the most recent results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) from 2015, placed the U.S. 38th out of 71 countries in math and 24th in science, the Pew Research Center reported.

While disappointing, the poor scores aren’t a surprise, Zandi said, considering our culture’s emphasis on athletic achievements over excellence in math, science or other subjects. He recalled attending an awards ceremony as part of his daughter’s high school graduation that was mostly devoted to lauding student athletes, while spending just a minute or two acknowledging the achievements of the top physics, biology and math students.

“That’s kind of backwards and so we need to really rethink where we’re putting our priorities,” he said. “We’re very good at graduating and incenting and rewarding our football stars, our soccer players, lacrosse players ... but we’re not really good at doing it for our future mathematicians, scientists, engineers, technologists.”

Applied mathematics “is at the foundation of technology, science, engineering — things that make our economy tick,” Zandi said. Figuring out how to improve student performance in these areas is the “key to our economy’s long-term competitiveness — we need to have the best and the brightest ... because it’s the best and the brightest that are going to make the products and services that people are going to want to buy in the future,” he said.
The Habits of America's Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm @the74
The Habits of America’s Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm

05/15/2017 12:43 pm ET

By Mareesa Nicosia

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This year’s challenge required students to use mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service.
The winning Stevenson high school team employed modeling to determine which parks may be at the greatest risk of flooding due to rising sea levels and used the results to recommend how the park service should prioritize funding at its 417 national sites.

“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class — with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, the competition’s project director. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

Five other finalist teams from Alpharetta, Georgia, Durham, North Carolina, Lincroft, New Jersey, Silver Spring, Maryland, and Westford, Massachusetts will take home some of the total $150,000 in scholarship money that was up for grabs.
The habits of America’s top math students: survey shines light on study groups, sleep, enthusiasm
What are the study habits of elite high school math students?

The Habits of America’s Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm

The 74 Million – Mareesa Nicosia “A new survey sheds light on the habits of some of America’s brightest...
The Habits of America's Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, Sleep, Enthusiasm - The 74
"A new survey sheds light on the habits of some of America's brightest high school math students, revealing that most dedicate one-quarter to one-half of their weekly homework time to math-related subjects and the majority spend this time alone in a quiet room."

The Habits of America's Top Math Students | RealClearEducation

RealClearEducation.com
A new survey sheds light on the habits of some of America’s brightest high school math students, revealing that most dedicate one-quarter to one-half of their weekly homework time to math-related subjects and the majority spend this time alone in a quiet room.
Nearly half the 1,680 students, or 47 percent, said they spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend six to 10 hours, according to the survey conducted by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the credit-rating and analytics company.
The habits of America’s top math students: survey shines light on study groups, sleep, enthusiasm
https://t.co/sG4rTvR3
NEW SURVEY REVEALS THE HABITS OF AMERICA’S TOP MATH STUDENTS: Solo study time + plenty of sleep + exercise + a "natural" interest in math = key ingredients for success among some of the country’s top high school math students, a new survey finds. These and other habits of 1,680 elite juniors and seniors who participated in the annual Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national applied mathematics competition, were revealed in the survey, conducted by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation. The applied mathematics competition pits thousands of high school students against each other for a chance to win some of $150,000 in college scholarships. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics, said the results will help educators and STEM professionals better prepare students — the country’s future workforce — to compete globally in science, math, and technology-related industries. Read more about the full survey findings.
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Mareesa Nicosia
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New: Solo study time, sleep, exercise all big for top students taking on applied mathematics @m3challenge @the74

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Applied mathematics "is at the foundation of technology, science, engineering — things that make our economy tick," Zandi said. Figuring out how to improve student performance in these areas is the "key to our economy’s long-term competitiveness — we need to have the best and the brightest... because it's the best and the brightest that are going to make the products and services that people are going to want to buy in the future," he said.

"We're very good at graduating and incenting and rewarding our football stars, our soccer players, lacrosse players... but we're not really good at doing it for our future mathematicians, scientists, engineers, technologists."

https://www.the74million.org/.../survey-americas-elite-hs-mat...

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The Habits of America’s Top Math Students: Survey Shines Light on Study Groups, ...

Photo: Photo courtesy of Moody’s Foundation The 2017 first-place winners of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, from left: Deepak Moparthi, Andrew Hwang, Joshua Yoon, Albert Cao and HyoYang Yu with team coach Paul Kim, right, from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire.

(Read The 74’s previous coverage of the competition: Spending the Day With Some of America’s Smartest Students at a $150,000 Math Challenge) SIAM organizes the competition and the Moody’s Foundation sponsors it; this is the first time students were surveyed as part of 1.

Nearly half the 1,680 students, or 47 percent, said they spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend six to 10 hours, according to the survey conducted by the Philadelphia-based (SIAM) and sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the credit-rating and analytics company.
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Nearly half of the 1,680 students, or 47 percent, said they spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend six to 10 hours, according to the survey conducted by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the credit-rating and analytics company.

The survey included juniors and seniors from high schools around the country who participated in the 12th annual Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, an applied mathematics competition that culminated April 24 as six teams presented their work in the final round of judging in New York City.

This year’s victors were Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon, and Haoyang Yu, juniors from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois, who rose up through an initial pool of 5,100 participants. The team will split $20,000 in college scholarships.
This year's challenge required students to use mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service.

The winning Stevenson high school team employed modeling to determine which parks may be at the greatest risk of flooding due to rising sea levels and used the results to recommend how the park service should prioritize funding at its 417 national sites.
“We pose big, messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class — with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, the competition’s project director. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

Five other finalist teams from Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts, will take home some of the total $150,000 in scholarship money that was up for grabs.
Johns Creek High team places third in national math competition

From left, Akhil Vaidya, Daniel Bodea, coach Julie Mierl, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial and Alex Hammond made up the Johns Creek math team. (Phc Moody’s Math Challenge)
Advanced math knowledge added up to $10,000 in scholarship money for a group of Johns Creek seniors. The five-person team competed this week in a prestigious national math competition, taking third place in the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

The team of Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond were among the more than 5,000 participants who made up more than 1,000 teams who took part in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service. More than $150,000 in scholarships and prizes were awarded in the competition.

The Johns Creek team — coached by Julie Meert — placed third in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be an outstanding mathematical solution to how the National Park Service can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with the other finalists.

The first-place team was from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Ill., and that group earned $20,000 in scholarships. The team from Westford Academy in Westford, Mass., placed second, earning $15,000 in scholarship money for its team members. Johns Creek placed third, and its participants said the problem they were asked to solve was both timely and challenging. "I thought the challenge problem was really topical, especially since a lot of people are thinking about climate change and how that’s going to affect the future," Johns Creek senior Akhil Vaidya said in a press release. "We all thought it was very appropriate for the times we are in right now."

According to a press release from the event, the event is organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, and is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on," said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. "These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation."
Said Michelle Montgomery, M3 Challenge Project Director at SIAM: "We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class — with the goal of solving something they never related to math before.

"If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission."

In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody's Investor Services. Bergman himself was an M3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

Prior to Monday's judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semifinalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.
Four Westford Academy students placed second in a national math competition in New York.

Westford math team places second in national competition
Four Westford Academy students used math modeling to predict the effects climate change would have on the National Park Service.

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Four @westfordacademy students placed second in a national math competition in New York. #Westford

Westford math team places second in national competition
Four Westford Academy students used math modeling to predict the effects climate change would have on the National Park Service.
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Seniors receive recognition for solution to a real-world problem

Four seniors completed the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge by writing a paper solving an open-ended math problem.

Ryan McTigue, Staff Writer • May 3, 2017 • Leave a Comment

The Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is an annual competition in which juniors and seniors spend a 14 hour period creating a math model to solve a real-world problem. This year, four BSM seniors received an honorable mention for their solution paper.
Every year, second semester arrives and seniors begin the infamous "senior slide" as they focus solely on being able to skip their finals. However, for a few Red Knights, "sliding" is a fictitious word in their vocabulary. Seniors Alec Johnson, James Libbey, Alex Hyjek, and Matt Nyberg entered Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors throughout the country, which involves solving a mathematical problem. Beginning in 2006 in the New York City area, Moody’s Challenge has spread nationwide, awarding scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $20,000 to the top teams.

While each year the mathematical problem varies from higher educational costs to the cost of living, a nutritious lifestyle, this year’s problem focused on the environment. "The topic this year involved building a model that determined sea level change in five different national parks in the U.S., assigning a 'climate vulnerability score' to these parks based on a number of climate-related events, and predicting the long-term changes in visitors for each park based on the vulnerability score," Johnson said.

Although none of the seniors had competed in an event similar to that of Moody’s prior to the challenge, the four competitors share a passion for math and interest later on in their life. "I hope to do something related to math (either in business or computer science), and I’m sure that this will be the first of many projects where I have to develop a math model and explain my thought process in a formal essay," said Johnson.

Throughout the entire process, the group had to collect enough information to then write an analytical essay explaining their reasoning. During their extensive research in the period of fourteen hours allotted to collaborate, challenges arose. "It was hard to stay focused for the entire time. We had to take a lot of breaks, and even then it's hard to work on the same problem for so long," Hyjek said.

Although the hours were monotonous, Johnson, Libbey, Hyjek, and Nyberg were able to come together and enjoy creating a successful model in the competition. "I liked working with our team; it was a cool experience to get together and all work on the same problem, share ideas, and it was a pretty fun experience that you don’t get with most projects in school," Hyjek said.

While all four do not have intentions to pursue mathematical data and applying systems of equations to the real world, Moody’s Math Challenge prepared them for life beyond high school and later on in life. "For me, I learned how to create models from data which will be useful later on as I pursue STEM fields in college. It was also interesting to write a cohesive paper [in] organization with four different people who think different than one another. It will really prepare me for future collaborative projects in college," Nyberg said.

“"It was interesting to write a cohesive paper [in] organization with four different people who think different than one another. It will really prepare me for future collaborative projects in college.”

— Matt Nyberg
Pocono Mountain East High School

To prepare all students for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities.

Moody's Mega Math Challenge
The following students recently participated in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge and received honorable mention. These students are Matthew Velardi, Michael Medaugh, Eric Dittmar, Danielle Shermock and Kayla Gerenza. Congratulations to all!
Math Contest Winners Reflect on Achievement

The seventh year proved to be the charm for Stevenson in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge. During its first six tries in the national mathematics contest, SHS showed improvement. This year, everything came together as juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu took top honors, beating 1,400 teams from 47 states. Yoon, the team's captain, and mathematics teacher Paul Kim, the group's coach, talked with Pioneer Press' Phil Rockrohr about the experience.
Geibel students compete in math challenge, PJAS event

In the photo at left, five Geibel Catholic Calculus I and Calculus II students spent 14 hours at school on a recent Sunday competing in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge. The challenge is a mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors. It is entirely internet-based.
Westford math team places second in national competition

Four Westford Academy students used math modeling to predict the effects climate change would have on the National Park Service.

By Alexander Silva
asilva@wickedlocal.com

Four Westford Academy students used math modeling to predict the effects climate change would have on the country's National Park Service and placed second in a national math competition with their results.

“The problem that we were given was to model the effect of climate change and a variety of factors and how that would play a role in coastal national parks,” Harshal Sheth said. “We basically modeled the vulnerability of different parks... and we also took that a step further and we modeled what impact that would have on visitorship in the next 50 years for that park.”

The competition included over 5,000 students in grades 11 and 12 from across the nation. Westford’s team competed against teams from Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Maryland in the final round on April 24.

Students had 14 hours to come up with a solution to help the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) come up with a plan for future growth and sustainability in the face of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 sites across the country using mathematical modeling.
“The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge,” NPS Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator Rebecca Beavers said in a release on the competition. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change.”

More than 1,100 participating teams submitted papers with their recommended solutions.

“Climate change is such a big problem, so you can’t exactly stop it,” said Harshal Sheth. “What we had to do was give recommendations for where the NPS should allocate its resources and how it should manage that risk in the coming years.”

The Westford team spent 14 hours in a room with a whiteboard and four laptops going over variables like sea level rise, wildfires, and historic visitorship data. During the time limit, they had to develop their model and write a 20-page report on it.
“Most of our time was just spent on predicting the effects (of climate change) and not so much on how do we mitigate them,” Kartik Singh said. “The problem they give to us is so open-ended, ultimately there really is no correct answer. Everyone had different solutions... the math isn’t necessarily the hardest part, it’s more of thinking about what needs to go into our models and that’s certainly quite the challenge.”

“It’s more about modeling climate change than trying to solve climate change,” added Nihar Sheth. “And obviously modeling it is important as a first step because the first step to solving any problem is identifying where the problem is and that’s what we were able to do.”

Math modeling is a good way to show students how they can apply their math skills in the real world, according to Westford Academy math teacher and the team’s coach Lisa Gartner.

“I think this particular competition is unique in that it’s a math modeling competition,” Gartner said. “It’s neat because a lot of kids say ‘when am I going to use this skill or that idea’ and math modeling is where they get to see the different aspects and where they are going to use different things in the real world.”

The Westford team focused on five national parks, according to Adithya Vellal.

“We had five focus parks and we recommended that the Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska be given more funding in the future because we saw a large predicted visitation increase there,” said Vellal. “And we recommended that the Padre Island National Seashore in Texas, that the NPS reduce funding to that because we saw that it was the most vulnerable to climate change 50 years down the line.”

The reason – with more visitors comes more variable costs, according to Nihar Sheth.
“The general logic was (the NPS is) not going to want to be throwing money after trying to stop climate change... so why not focus on the parks where people are going to be going to and then invest there so you have robust infrastructure and everything,” said Nihar Sheth.

The Westford team won a $15,000 scholarship prize for coming in second, which will be split among the four of them.

“Climate change is real,” Kartik Singh said. “I've never thought about the effects of climate change specifically on the National Parks System although it’s definitely important that we consider them because so many beautiful landscapes lie on our coastal areas. I think it was great that this topic was chosen this year. I think it's really important.”

Follow reporter Alexander Silva on Twitter @IndieEagleWL.
Stevenson High School students win national math competition, $20,000 in scholarships

Five Stevenson High School juniors recently beat out some 5,000 students, representing 47 states, to win the national Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, along with $20,000 in college scholarships.

Stevenson Juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Huang, Deepak Nopatni, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu beat an initial field of 1,400 teams, making them one of the five teams who traveled to Moody’s Corporation headquarters in New York City for the finals, according to Paul Kim, a Stevenson math teacher who served as the team’s coach.

After the results were announced April 24, the Stevenson team was surprised to win, said Yoon, captain of the team.

“We were really excited and honored to have won,” Yoon said. “We weren’t really expecting to. It was a great experience working with friends on this project together, and going to New York and having a great team.”

The five students from the Lincolnshire-based high school used mathematical modeling to illustrate how the National Park Service can “continue to flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites,” said Gail Bergman, a spokeswoman for the event.

Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online, Bergman said.

The Stevenson students prepared with Kim, who gave the students resources to use, helping them win the competition, Yoon said.

“We did a three-hour practice problem together,” he said. “We used those opportunities to figure out how to approach the problem on the day of the competition. We had a good idea of how we should start trying to approach the problem together and how to allocate our time.”

Each of the five students will receive $4,000 in scholarship money, Yoon said.

“We don’t really have college plans yet, but most of us are interested in (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) or other technology schools, going into that or related fields,” he said.

More than any previous Stevenson team, Yoon’s team worked constructively among all five members for 14 hours, Kim said.

“I’m definitely proud,” he said. “They were really thoughtful. They took breaks but not for long and they stayed focused on the work. There was high quantity and quality of content.”
Stevenson previously had entered teams into the math competition but none were able to advance past the semifinals, he said.

“This is our seventh year in the competition, and we have done a little better every year,” Kim said.

Phil Rockstroh is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Westford Academy Math Team Places Second in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

By: SUBMITTED CONTENT | 5 HOURS AGO

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Participation in a prestigious national math competition has added up to a second-place finish for four local high school students. The group of 11th and 12th-graders from Westford Academy took home a prize of $15,000 in college scholarships in the Moody's Mega Math (M^3) Challenge.

Nihar Sheth, Harshul Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal were among 5,100 students – working in 1,100 teams – participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.
The Westford students were runners up in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be an outstanding mathematical solution to how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody's Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody's Foundation, M³Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

"For three out of the four members of our team, it was our first time doing this competition. We had no experience with math modeling before," said Harshal Sheth from the winning team, which was coached by Lisa Gartner, a math teacher at Westford Academy. "Through competing in M3 Challenge, I've learned that I can make an impact and solve a real world problem. That was really valuable and I hope to continue that in the future."

"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on," said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. "These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation."

First place winners in the competition are Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL, who split a $20,000 scholarship prize. Third place winners are Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tushnial, Akhil Valdia and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School in Alpharetta, GA, who shared $10,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each. (See link below for a full list of winners).

"We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before," said Michelle Montgomery, M³ Challenge Project Director at SIAM. "If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission."
In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody's Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M^3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

Prior to Monday's judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the Moody's Mega Math (M^3) Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.


View the 2017 winning solutions and full list of winning teams here: https://m3challenge.siam.org/archives/2017/winning-solutions

View video highlights of the final event here: https://youtu.be/wQFa3Tg1fmQ
The team of Elena Mehiel, Autumn Matthews, Jade Wilkens and Emily Dunham took the Moody's Mega Math (M3)... fb.me /1jjgNmHDT
Stevenson High School students win national math competition, $20,000 in scholarships

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"This is our seventh year in the competition, and we have done a little better every year," Kim said.

*Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.*
cityofjohnscreekgeorgia Congrats to five Johns Creek High School 12th-graders, who took home a $10,000 prize in college scholarships in the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge! Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond were among 5,100 students – working in 1,100 teams – participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). The team’s third place finish included a mathematical solution to how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters last week.

Pictured is the winning Moody’s Mega Math Challenge team (from the left): Akhil Vaidya, Daniel Bodea, Coach Julie Meert, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial and Alex Hammond)

#johnscreek #johnscreekhighschool #betheexception #moodysmathchallenge #math #students
Westford team second in national math competition
– Lowell Sun Online

Members of Westford Academy’s team that finished runners-up in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge at the finals in New York on Monday are, from left, senior Kartik Singh, junior Adithya V..
Westford team second in national math competition

By Chris Lisinski, clisinski@lowellsun.com

WESTFORD -- A group of four Westford Academy students will split a $15,000 scholarship after finishing as runners-up in the final round of a national math competition.

Juniors Adithya Vellal and Harshal Sheth and seniors Kartik Singh and Nihar Sheth were one of six teams selected to the finals of Moody’s Mega Math Challenge from more than 1,100 entrants. The competition gives teams 14 hours on a February weekend to complete a report on a single, real-world problem, in this case how national parks could adapt to climate change.

The finalists traveled to New York earlier this week to make a final presentation before a panel of judges. The Westford Academy team, which was coached by math teacher Lisa Gartner, finished second overall.
"For three out of the four members of our team, it was our first time doing this competition," Harshal Sheth said in a Tuesday press release. "Through competing in M3 Challenge, I've learned that I can make an impact and solve a real world problem. That was really valuable and I hope to continue that in the future."

As the second-place team, the group will split a $15,000 scholarship that will be paid directly to the colleges in which they enroll.

Follow Chris on Twitter @ChrisLisinski.
OHS M3 team wins honorable mention

Published April 29, 2017 at 12:01 am

A team of students from Orono High School received an honorable mention in the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge 2017. It is believed that this is the farthest an OHS team has ever gone in the competition.

Team members were Andy Baran, Alex Berger, Olivia Eriksson, Ben Greiber and Tate Welty.

Of the 1,121 papers submitted in this year’s challenge, the OHS team was one of 78 to receive an honorable mention award. Only 8 percent of the submitted papers were selected for recognition.

The M3 Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and as a viable and exciting profession. The specific real-world problem that is posed each year was unknown to participants until they logged in during Challenge Weekend (Feb. 24–27).

The challenge is entirely Internet-based. Once the problem is downloaded, the team’s 14-hour clock starts and it cannot be paused. Teams can work from any location they choose and can use any free and publicly available resources, but they cannot discuss any aspect of the problem with, or seek help from, their coach or anyone other than their teammates via any medium.

More than 225 Ph.D.-level applied mathematicians served as judges throughout three rounds of judging.

With an honorable mention, the OHS team received a scholarship prize of $1,000 to be divided equally among members and paid directly to the colleges or universities at which they ultimately enroll.

OHS mathematics teacher Michelle Swenson was the team’s coach this year.
Blair High School students reach final round in national math competition

28 Apr 2017 | Written by Jonathan Elbaz | Published in Local | Read 128 times | font size - + | Print | Email |

A team of five Montgomery Blair high school students is headed to New York City next week to compete in the final round of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national competition where juniors and seniors apply math and creative-thinking skills to solve complex, real-world challenges.

In the previous round, the Blair team — made up of Eshan Tewari, James Vinson, Andrew Komo, Siddharth Taneja and Annie Zhao — spent 14 hours one weekend developing a mathematical model for the National Park Service to address sustainability and growth challenges at five national parks. Out of 1,100 teams that competed, the Blair team was chosen as one of six finalists.

The six teams will present their final papers to a judging panel of Ph.D.-level mathematicians in New York on April 24, where judges will decide which teams place in the competition and will award $150,000 worth of scholarships.

The challenge problem Blair students worked on dealt with the effects of climate change on National Park Service land. The team was asked to create a mathematical model that predicted the risks from rising sea levels and had to assign a single vulnerability score for each park according to the severity and likelihood of climate-related events.
“We first figured out how temperature was going to increase over time,” Vinson said. “Using that, we calculated how sea levels would rise at each of the five national parks. We then compared the predicted sea level rise we got from our model to the actual topography of the region and rated each of the national parks as either low-risk, medium-risk, or high-risk based on how likely they were to undergo flooding, erosion and other phenomena.”

They concluded that Padre Island in Texas and Cape Hatteras in North Carolina were very likely to suffer erosion and were most vulnerable to rising sea levels.

This is the second year in a row that Blair has sent a team to the final round. Last year, both Vinson and Tewari participated on the team as juniors, and worked on a problem forecasting the future of the rideshare industry.

Tewari said they learned from the previous competition to devote more time to crafting a clear and cohesive paper. Last year’s paper was a mess, he said, and the paper they submitted this year will be much better for judges to read. Tewari and Vinson fulfilled similar roles on the team last year and said they were able to effectively dole out responsibilities among the five students.

The Moody’s Mega Math Challenge was created in 2006 to highlight the possibilities of using math to address real-world concerns and to give high school students a taste of the work they could encounter in math-based careers.

While Tewari will be studying data science at Harvard and Vinson will be studying chemistry at Cal Tech when they begin college next fall, both students appreciate how the competition explores real-world challenges and tests their math skills from a perspective of process and problem solving rather than final correctness.
"I think something that’s really unique about the Moody’s Math Challenge is that we’re not really working towards an absolute, right-or-wrong answer," Tewari said. "Instead, the competition is primarily concerned with how we think and how we arrive at the answers. We have a lot more freedom to explore ideas and put together all the math concepts that we’ve learned to date."

The five other teams competing with the Blair squad in New York City are from New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, North Carolina and Georgia.

The students’ coach, Blair math teacher Will Rose, has sponsored teams for the past seven years and gives all the credit of the team’s success to the students.

"My role is to advise from afar in advance," Rose said. "These particular students probably know more about math modeling that I do."

When asked about their expectations for the final round in New York, Tewari admits that the team faces strong competition but remains confident in their prospects of nabbing first place.

"We’re going to win," he says. "We’re coming back this year with a vengeance."
Johns Creek Students Win $10,000 In College Scholarships dlvr.it/P17lgq
Johns Creek Students Win $10,000 In College Scholarships

The Georgia students placed third in the Unique National Competition that demonstrates the importance of math in real life.

By Mona Kaziur (Patch Staff) - April 28, 2017 3:36 pm ET

From Gail Bergman PR: Participation in a prestigious national math competition has added up to a third-place finish for five local high school students. The group of 12th-graders from Johns Creek High School took home a prize of $10,000 in college scholarships in the Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusni, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond were among 5,100 students-working in 1,100 teams-participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.
The Alpharetta students placed third in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be an outstanding mathematical solution to how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody's Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody's Foundation, M3Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.
Calling the Moody's Mega Math Challenge “a lot of fun and an exciting experience,” the Johns Creek High School students appreciated the opportunity to provide a solution to a real-world problem. “I thought the challenge problem was really topical, especially since a lot of people are thinking about climate change and how that’s going to affect the future,” said Akhil Vaidya from the winning team, which was coached by Julie Meert, a mathematics teacher at Johns Creek High School. “We all thought it was very appropriate for the times we are in right now.”

"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on,” said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. “These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation."

First place winners in the competition are Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparathi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL, who split a $20,000 scholarship prize. Runners up are Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal from Westford Academy in Westford, MA, who shared $15,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each. (See link below for a full list of winners).
“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, M3 Challenge Project Director at SIAM. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

Prior to Monday’s judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.
To access the challenge problem, visit

View the 2017 winning solutions and full list of winning teams here: https://m3challenge.siam.org/archives/2017/winning-solutions

View video highlights of the final event here:
https://youtu.be/wQFq3Tg1fmQ

Photo courtesy of Gail Bergman PR (Pictured is the winning Moody’s Mega Math Challenge team (from the left): Akhil Vaidya, Daniel Bodea, Coach Julie Meert, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial and Alex Hammond)
A team of five Montgomery Blair high school students is headed to New York City next week to compete in the final round of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national competition where juniors and seniors apply math and creative-thinking skills to solve complex, real-world challenges.

In the previous round, the Blair team — made up of Eshan Tewari, James Vinson, Andrew Komo, Siddharth Taneja and Annie Zhao — spent 14 hours one weekend developing a mathematical model for the National Park Service to address sustainability and growth challenges at five national parks. Out of 1,100 teams that competed, the Blair team was chosen as one of six finalists.

The six teams will present their final papers to a judging panel of Ph.D.-level mathematicians in New York on April 24, where judges will decide which teams place in the competition and will award $150,000 worth of scholarships.

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Montgomery Blair High School Moody’s Mega Math Challenge #academic #math #competition http://www.thesentinel.com/.../5157-blair-high-school-student...
Blair High School students reach final round in national math competition

28 Apr 2017 | Written by Jonathan Elbaz | Published in Local | Read 128 times | font size - + | Print | Email |

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They concluded that Padre Island in Texas and Cape Hatteras in North Carolina were very likely to suffer erosion and were most vulnerable to rising sea levels.

This is the second year in a row that Blair has sent a team to the final round. Last year, both Vinson and Tewari participated on the team as juniors, and worked on a problem forecasting the future of the rideshare industry.

Tewari said they learned from the previous competition to devote more time to crafting a clear and cohesive paper. Last year’s paper was a mess, he said, and the paper they submitted this year will be much better for judges to read. Tewari and Vinson fulfilled similar roles on the team last year and said they were able to effectively dollo out responsibilities among the five students.

The Moody’s Mega Math Challenge was created in 2006 to highlight the possibilities of using math to address real-world concerns and to give high school students a taste of the work they could encounter in math-based careers.

While Tewari will be studying data science at Harvard and Vinson will be studying chemistry at Cal Tech when they begin college next fall, both students appreciate how the competition explores real-world challenges and tests their math skills from a perspective of process and problem solving rather than final correctness.
“I think something that’s really unique about the Moody’s Math Challenge is that we’re not really working towards an absolute, right-or-wrong answer,” Tewari said. “Instead, the competition is primarily concerned with how we think and how we arrive at the answers. We have a lot more freedom to explore ideas and put together all the math concepts that we’ve learned to date.”

The five other teams competing with the Blair squad in New York City are from New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, North Carolina and Georgia.

The students’ coach, Blair math teacher Will Rose, has sponsored teams for the past seven years and gives all the credit of the team’s success to the students.

“My role is to advise from afar in advance,” Rose said. “These particular students probably know more about math modeling that I do.”

When asked about their expectations for the final round in New York, Tewari admits that the team faces strong competition but remains confident in their prospects of nabbing first place.

“We’re going to win,” he says. “We’re coming back this year with a vengeance.”
Blair HS students reach final round in natl.
#math #competition
@blairprincipal @blairmagnet @m3challenge #academic

Blair High School students reach final round in national... 
A team of five Montgomery Blair high school students is headed to New York City next week to compete in the final round of the Moody’s Mega Math Chall...
Juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu won the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge on Monday, taking home the top prize of $20,000 in college scholarships. They were among five teams of finalists who traveled to Moody’s Corporation headquarters in New York City to present solutions to this challenge: Use mathematical modeling to show how the National Park Service can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites. The Stevenson students were joined by their coach, math teacher Paul Kim. Click here to read the Stevenson solution.

“All of us were pretty new to math modeling, so we’re really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours,” Yoon said. “It was just great working with this group of friends. We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this.”

Prior to Monday’s final round, more than 1,100 student-team submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semifinalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.
Gainesville High School had two teams to compete in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a prestigious competition for high school juniors and seniors to develop a mathematical model for a real-world problem.

The challenge posed a real-world problem entirely unknown to the team members and involved extensive research, computational skills, in-depth analysis and communication skills. Scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 will be awarded to the top teams.

For this year’s challenge, GHS math teams used mathematical models to look into national parks and address climate-related issues. The teams had to finish the project within a 14-hour window and worked continuously for two days to produce their final reports. Team A included Pratyusha Karnati, Anna Diaz, Stephen McMarow and Vraj Patel. Team B included Tyra Newton, Spencer Sumner, Michelle Razo and Umer Khan. Chandra Karnati, a math teacher at GHS, served as the teams’ mentor.

Team A advanced to the second round of the competition, one of 200 teams out of 1,121 total to advance to the next level. This is the third year in a row that a GHS team has advanced in the competition.
Gainesville team advances in Moody's Mega Math Challenge

Team A included Pratyusha Karnati, Anna Diaz, Stephen McMarrow and Vraj Patel. Team B included Tyra Newton, Spencer Sunner, Michelle Razo and Umer Khan. Chandra Karnati, a math teacher at GHS, served as the teams' mentor. Team A advanced to the second...
The power formula for highly successful math students http://okt.to/ySqxMx

Habits of highly successful math students
The brightest math minds reveal the habits that help them succeed, according to a national survey by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

EAB.COM
Habits of highly successful math students

8:08 AM - April 26, 2017

Developmental math is one of the biggest barriers to community college completion. A 2014 report from Complete College America found that fewer than 10% of students required to complete remedial courses before enrolling in for-credit courses graduated community college within three years.

Your approach to developmental math could be holding students back →

As colleges experiment with new ways to set up developmental math students for success, a national survey by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) reveals some common habits and traits of some of the nation's top math students.

For the survey, 1,680 students in the 11th and 12th grades were asked how they learn math. The students all participated in Moody's Mega Math Challenge, an annual competition sponsored by Moody's Corporation where students are asked to use math to solve real-world problems.
One study habit was a clear favorite among students: 64% said they focus on understanding the underlying concepts behind math formulas.

But some of the most common strategies taught to students turned out to be their least favorite ways to study. Of the respondents:

- 23% work on lots of practice problems to learn how to solve them;
- 7% apply math to real-world problems to increase understanding; and
- 4% memorize formulas.

Students also shared what they do when they have difficulty learning a math concept:

- 29% keep trying on their own until they figure it out;
- 24% ask a teacher for help;
- 17% search the internet for help;
- 11% take a break and come back later;
- Another 11% ask a friend for help; and
- Only 0.79% skip the problem and move on.

2017 Moody's Mega Math Challenge - A team from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL won first pla...
Illinois Students Named Champions in National M3 Challenge

Lincolnshire, IL — April 24, 2017 — Participation in a prestigious national math competition has added up to a first-place finish for five local high school students. The group of 11th-graders from Adlai E. Stevenson High School took home the top prize of $20,000 in college scholarships in Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu were among 5,100 students — working in 1,100 teams — participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.

The Lincolnshire students were found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to have come up with the overall best mathematical solution that addresses how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

First place Moody’s Mega Math Challenge winners (from the left): Deepak Moparthi, Andrew Hwang, Joshua Yoon, Albert Cao and Haoyang Yu with team coach Paul Kim (far right).
Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, M3 Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

“All of us were pretty new to math modeling so we were really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours,” said Joshua Yoon from the champion team, which was coached by Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adelphi E. Stevenson High School. “It was just great working with this group of friends. We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this.”

“It’s exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on,” said Amanda Ebseon, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. “These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation.”

First runners-up in the competition are Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellai from Westford Academy in Westford, MA, who split a $15,000 scholarship prize. Third place winners are Daniel Bodee, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School in Alpharetta, GA, who shared $10,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each. (See link below for a full list of winners).

“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, M3 Challenge Project Director at SIAM. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”
In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

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News

2017 Moody's Mega Math Challenge

A team from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL won first place and $20,000 in scholarships in the 2017 Moody's Mega Math Challenge. Team members are (alphabetically): Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthy, Joshua Yoon, and Haoyang Yu. The team's coach is Paul Kim. This year's challenge involved modeling solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service. The Challenge is organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by the Moody's Foundation. Stevenson team member Andrew Hwang was one of the 10 semifinalists at the 2017 national Who Wants to Be a Mathematician in Atlanta. (Photo: The Moody's Foundation. Left to right: Haoyang Yu, Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Joshua Yoon, and coach Paul Kim.)
Illinois Students Named Champions in Unique National Competition that Demonstrates Importance of Math in Real Life

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“All of us were pretty new to math modeling so were really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours,” said Joshua Yoon from the champion team, which was coached by Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. “It was just great working with this group of friends. We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this.”

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For more information about the Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.

To access the challenge problem, visit https://m3challenge.siam.org/practice-problems/2017-challenge-problem sea-shining-sea-looking-ahead-national-park-service

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View video highlights of the final event here: https://youtu.be/wQFa3Tq1fmQ
Five Juniors Earn Honorable Mention at National Math Competition

A team of five Rye Neck High School students used their knowledge and critical thinking skills to solve an applied mathematics problem when they competed in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national online math competition.

Juniors Olivia Dunne, Allie Liebmann, Jack Masciopinto, Marisa Santoli and Bennett Taylor, under the guidance of teacher David Grazioli, were presented with a problem, which had to be solved within a 14-hour time limit. During the competition, the students studied the issue, gathered data, stated assumptions and devised mathematical models before reporting their results in the form of a solution paper.

“After being scrutinized by more than 225 Ph.D.-level applied mathematicians, their solution paper was chosen as one of 78 to receive an Honorable Mention award, putting them in the top 8 percent of all submissions,” Grazioli said. “As a reward for their hard work and their exemplary solution, they were awarded a $1,000 scholarship to be shared equally among them.”

Rye Neck High School was among 1,121 high schools nationwide to compete in the competition. Principal Scott Mosenthal congratulated the students and commended them on their ability to work together under trying circumstances.

“Their teamwork speaks volumes about their willingness to listen to each other and recognize each other’s talents,” he said.
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Juniors Win National Math Contest, $20K Grand Prize

Juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu won the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge on Monday, taking home the top prize of $20,000 in college scholarships. They were among five teams of finalists who traveled to Moody’s Corporation headquarters in New York City to present solutions to this challenge: Use mathematical modeling to show how the National Park Service can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites. The Stevenson students were joined by their coach, math teacher Paul Kim. Click here to read the Stevenson solution.

“All of us were pretty new to math modeling, so we’re really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours,” Yoon said. “It was just great working with this group of friends. We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this.”

Prior to Monday’s final round, more than 1,100 student-team submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semifinalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.
Stevenson team wins national math contest

A team of Stevenson High School students won the top prize and $20,000 in scholarships in a national math contest Monday. They are, from left, Deepak Moparthi, Andrew Hwang, Joshua Yoon, Albert Cao, Haoyang Yu and coach Paul Kim.

Courtesy of Goll Bergman PR

A team of Stevenson High School students won the top prize and $20,000 in scholarship cash Monday in a national math competition.
Stevenson juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu claimed first place in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge held in New York.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by the Moody's Foundation, the contest spotlights the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues. This year, students were challenged to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service by using mathematical modeling.

The students studied the issue, collected data and uploaded solutions online.

"All of us were pretty new to math modeling, so (we) were really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours," Joshua Yoon said in a news release. "We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this."

The team was coached by Paul Kim, a math teacher at the Lincolnshire school.

In all, an estimated 5,100 students working in 1,100 teams competed for prizes.

Six teams of finalists, including the group from Stevenson, presented their findings at Moody's Corporation headquarters Monday in New York City. A judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians determined that the Stevenson students came up with the overall best solution.
CBA Team In Top 4 Percent of National Math Modeling Contest

Several Academy men received the distinction of “Honorable Mention” in this year’s Moody’s Mega Math Challenge (M3), a national mathematics contest. CBA’s team ranked in the top 4 percent overall of the over 1,120 submissions received the distinction.

Under the direction of CBA mathematics teacher Matt Reagan, seniors Kevin Boyle and Nicholas Karris along with juniors Daniel Draganoff, Brendan Fitzgerald, and Thomas Greenwald were recognized as one of the nation’s top 78 teams.

The Moody’s Foundation provides honorable mention teams with scholarship prizes in the amount of $1,000 per team, to be divided equally among the team’s members. The individual amounts will be paid directly to the colleges or universities at which the winning students ultimately enroll.

About The M3 Challenge:
Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge is a mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors. Through participation, students experience what it’s like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, akin to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry. The Challenge is sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and awards $150,000 in scholarships each year.

About Christian Brothers Academy:
Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) is a private, Catholic, academic preparatory school for boys located in Lincroft, New Jersey. Founded in 1959 and taught in the Lasallian tradition, CBA is dedicated to helping students become intellectually mature and morally responsible leaders for society. Through the combined efforts of the Office of Advancement and friends of the Academy, CBA awards over $1.3 million in scholarships and financial aid to current students. Experience the Academy at www.CBA-LincroftNJ.org.
Stevenson team wins national math contest

A team of Stevenson High School students won the top prize and $20,000 in scholarship cash Monday in a national math competition. Stevenson juniors Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu claimed first place in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge held in New York. Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by the Moody’s Foundation, the contest spotlights the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues. This year, students were challenged to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service by using mathematical modeling. The students studied the issue, collected data and uploaded solutions online. "All of us were pretty new to math modeling, so (we) were really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours," Joshua Yoon said in a news release. "We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this." The team was coached by Paul Kim, a math teacher at the Lincolnshire school. In all, an estimated 5,100 students working in 1,100 teams competed for prizes. Six teams of finalists, including the group from Stevenson, presented their findings at Moody’s...more detail
Westford Academy Math Whizzes Score a Victory at National Challenge

Westford students score a victory at Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

By Lisa Redmond (Patch Staff) - April 25, 2017 1:28 pm ET

WESTFORD, MA – The scores have been added up and four Westford Academy students were big winners in the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, a prestigious national math competition.

The group of 11th and 12th-graders from Westford Academy took home a prize of $15,000 in college scholarships.
Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal were among 5,100 students – working in 1,100 teams – participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS).

A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.

The Westford students were runners up in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be an outstanding mathematical solution to how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide.

The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, M3 Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science.
Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

“For three out of the four members of our team, it was our first time doing this competition. We had no experience with math modeling before,” said Harshal Sheth from the winning team, which was coached by Lisa Gartner, a math teacher at Westford Academy.

“Through competing in M3 Challenge, I’ve learned that I can make an impact and solve a real world problem. That was really valuable and I hope to continue that in the future,” Sheth said.

"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on,” said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event.

“These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation.”
First place winners in the competition are Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL, who split a $20,000 scholarship prize.

Third place winners are Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School in Alpharetta, GA, who shared $10,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each.

“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, M3 Challenge Project Director at SIAM.

“If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”
In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

Prior to Monday’s judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions.

In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

_Courtesy photo of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge team from Westford Academy (from the left): Kartik Singh, Adithya Vellal, Coach Lisa Gartner, Nihar Sheth and Harshal Sheth._
Westford Academy Math Whizzes Score a Victory at National Challenge

Westford students score a victory at Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

patch.com
Habits of Talented Math Students

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics conducted a survey of nearly 1,700 students who participated in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge. Results show that talented math students "tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp the underlying concepts behind math formulas."
HAYSTACK TV ONLINE
April 22, 2017
Audience Reach: 27,600

Moody's Reveals the Habits of America's Top Math Students

The Results of The Moody Foundation's National Math Survey
Moody’s Reveals the Habits of America’s Top Math Students

April 22, 2017 2:25 am
Tagged with: #america, #habits, #moody, #reveals, #students.

The Moody’s Foundation’s National Math Survey outlines the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students. Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivera on Lunch Break to see what we can learn from America’s top math performers.

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Westford Academy students advanced to the national Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

Westford students advance to national math competition
Westford Academy students Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal recently advanced to the finals in the Moody’s Mega Math
These @westfordacademy students advanced to the national Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.
Moody’s Reveals the Habits of America’s Top Math Students

Wall Street Journal | Friday 21 April 2017 20:25 CET

The Moody’s Foundation’s National Math Survey outlines the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students. Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivero on Lunch Break to see what we can learn from America’s top math performers.

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#Technology & Science #Mark Zandi #Moody’s Analytics #Zandi #Business #Knowledge #America #Tanya Rivero #Mark Zandi #Moody's #Moody's Analytics
This group of NC students from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics are heading to the M3 Challenge in NYC.

Math modeling is a team sport for NC students in final round of national Moody challenge - EducationNC

A North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) team of five students is heading to the final round of a prestigious national math competition later this...
Math modeling is a team sport for NC students in final round of national Moody challenge

by Liz Bell | April 21, 2017 — updated April 21, 2017

A North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) team of five students is heading to the final round of a prestigious national math competition later this month.

Dory Li, Angela Deng, Evan Jiang, Miguel de los Reyes, and Lucy Wu will compete against five other teams in Moody’s Mega Math (M^3) Challenge in New York City on April 24. The challenge requires participants to use math and problem-solving skills in a real life application.
Dory Li, who traveled with EducationNC’s Mebane Rash and other STEM students to China in March, said making it to the finals in the M3 Challenge has shown her how math can be used to solve real-life issues.

“Moody’s has provided our team with an incredible opportunity to apply theoretical mathematics to a real-world situation,” Li said. “We each contributed different key strengths and learned the importance of working together to solve problems. This experience has further inspired us to pursue mathematical analysis and to collaborate on global issues in college and beyond.”

The team’s journey began in February when it was one of the 1,100 groups of students given 14 hours to create plans using mathematical modeling for the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). The challenge asked students to protect its 417 national sites despite looming changes. The NPS said factors like climate change will likely impact its resources and visitor experience in the future. Student participants were invited to envision a path for growth and sustainability.

“The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge,” said Rebecca Beavers, coastal geology and adaptation coordinator at NPS. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change.”

The final round will take the form of a 15-minute presentation with questions from the judges.
The winning team will receive $20,000, with another $150,000 in scholarship prizes being rewarded to individual participants. The other finalist teams are from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

Li said her favorite part of the process was seeing how each team member could use his or her strengths to help create the best possible outcomes.

“I always enjoy seeing everyone be able to use their unique skills,” Li said. She said skills from communication and writing to computer science and data analysis were necessary to create a plan, build the model, run simulations, and write a 20-page report with findings and recommendations.

“Some people would call math modeling a team sport because you need so many types of talents on the team,” she said.

Dan Teague, a math teacher at NCSSM who prepared the team for its challenge, said this kind of opportunity can transform students’ ideas of what all is possible when it comes to math.

“Mathematical modeling can change students’ perception of what it means to ‘do mathematics’ as it focuses on thinking mathematically more than on remembering mathematics techniques,” Teague said. “In most math classes, questions are strictly mathematical in nature, whereas with mathematical modeling, students must combine their knowledge in all of their subjects to think strategically and come up with solutions in a real-world context.”
Teague said the challenge has helped students see connections between subjects and combine their skills in multiple areas.

“The Moody’s Math Challenge pulls together the whole school day in one activity and requires the students to use mathematical principles along with computer coding, research and writing,” he said. “As a consequence, math naturally becomes a part of the students’ everyday approach to life’s challenges.”

The competition is sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation and organized by Philadelphia’s Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. It is designed to encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in math and science. Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, president of the organization, said the goal has become a reality for many M³ challenge finalists and champions.

“We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “M³ Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique, and exciting way.”
Math modeling is a #teamsport for this group of #NC high school students. buff.ly/2pLY5nB
Moody’s Reveals the Habits of America’s Top Math Students

The Moody’s Foundation’s National Math Survey outlines the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students. Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivera on Lunch Break to see what we can learn from America’s top math performers.
Moody’s Reveals the Habits of America’s Top Math Students

Posted on April 21, 2017 by News
Westford students advance to national math competition

The Westford Academy team for Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, (from left to right) Lisa Garterer, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh, Nihar Sheth, and Adithya Vellal. [Courtesy Photo]
Westford Academy students Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal recently advanced to the finals in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge held on April 24 at Moody's Corporation World Trade Center headquarters in New York City.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to help the U.S. National Park Service devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both its resources and visits.

Around 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are available, with the champion team receiving $20,000. The other five finalist teams are from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; and Silver Spring, Maryland.

For information, visit: www.m3challenge.siam.org.
A Look Into the Habits of America’s Top Math Students

4/20/2017 4:59PM

A national survey sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation outlines the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students. Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivero on Lunch Break to see what we can learn from America’s top math performers.
Artwork on the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) campus. NCSSM

NCSSM students to compete in top science competition

BY GREG CHILDRESS
grchildres@heraldsun.com

DURHAM — Five students from the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics have won a top spot in a major national math competition.
The students – Angela Deng, Evan Jiang, Dory Li, Miguel de los Reyes and Lucy Wu of NCSSM – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

The competition is the only one of its kind and drew more than 5,100 11th- and 12th-grade participants from across the nation this year.

The Durham team will travel to New York City on Monday, April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue — helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide.

More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science.

Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to NCSSM, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Lincroft, New Jersey, Silver Spring, Maryland and Westford, Massachusetts.

Greg Childress: 919-419-6645, @gchild6645
Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students

High school juniors and seniors who participated in a prestigious national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when t... blogs.edweek.org
A Look Into the Habits of America's Top Math Students

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This video originally appeared on WSJ Video

Posted April 20, 2017
How Are the U.S.’s Top Math Students Fairing?

Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivero on Lunch Break to share details of the Moody Foundation’s National Math Survey.
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Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivero on Lunch Break to share details of the Moody Foundation's National Math Survey which outlines the academic habits of some of the country's top math students.
芝加哥国际新闻报道，许多学生对数学学深感畏惧，更不要提“万恶”的数学考试。可是，来自于Lincolnshire地区的一些年轻学生却推翻了这一看法。

据abc7chicago消息，事实上，他们击败了来自全美的数千名其他数学高手，将代表下周前往纽约参加全国总决赛。

Lincolnshire地区高中这五名亚裔学生出类拔萃，下周参赛的是名为Moody’s Mega Math Challenge数学总决赛。

这五名天才少年分别是：Albert Cao、Andrew Hwang、Deepak Nopartha、Joshua Yoon、和Mingyang Yu，均来自于Adlai E. Stevenson高中。

Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge数学竞赛吸引了全美超过5100名数学精英高手，他们都是11和12年级的学生。

最后的总决赛将于1月24日在纽约的世界贸易中心总部举行，总计有6支比赛队伍。

冠军队伍将获得20000美元的奖金，除此之外，还有大约90个名额的奖学金总额为15万美元。
除了Adai E. Stevens高中之外，另外五所学校的所在城市分别是乔治亚州的Alpharetta，北卡州的Durham，新泽西州的Lincoft，马里兰州的Silver Spring，以及麻州的Wentford。

对于五名队员来说，此次竞赛是满满的正能量，这不仅是数学实力的较量，更有奖金、奖学金以及未来征程的重大吸引力。
A Look Into the Habits of America’s Top Math Students

4/20/2017 4:59PM

A national survey sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation outlines the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students. Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivero on Lunch Break to see what we can learn from America’s top math performers.
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Video Description:
Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi joins Tanya Rivero on Lunch Break to share details of the Moody Foundation’s National Math Survey which outlines the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students.

Watch Video +
How Are the U.S.'s Top Math Students Fairing?

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Moody's Mega Math Challenge

For a more involved challenge, you can try this one. Entry to 2017 is over but you can still attempt the problem for the fun of it. Just in case you're interested in the competition, keep a bookmark on this page for the 2018 challenge.

Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge is a mathematical modeling contest for high school juniors and seniors. Through participation, students experience what it's like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, akin to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry. The Challenge is sponsored by The Moody's Foundation and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and awards $50,000 in scholarships each year.

The Challenge is entirely Internet-based with no registration or participation fees.

You can also search through their archives for some of their older challenges.

What's great about this set of challenges is that it offers real-world scenarios that help students see how relevant math is to solving some of the problems we face in the world today.
ncssmunis

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ncssmunis Via @m3challenge: Meet the finalist team from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics! This is the 6th year in a row that a team from @ncssmunis has made it to the #M3Challenge finals!
Moody’s Foundation Supports 12th Annual Mega Math Challenge

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge - now in its 12th year - spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000...

Read @ ABC7 Chicago
Five Rye Neck Juniors Earn Honorable Mention At National Math Competition

Rye Neck High School students received an honorable mention award after competing in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national online math competition. Photo Credit: Contributed
RYE NECK, N.Y. – A team of five Rye Neck High School students used their knowledge and critical thinking skills to solve an applied mathematics problem when they competed in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a national online math competition.

Juniors Olivia Dunne, Allie Liebmann, Jack Masciopinto, Marisa Santoli and Bennett Taylor, under the guidance of teacher David Grazioli, were presented with a problem, which had to be solved within a 14-hour time limit. During the competition, the students studied the issue, gathered data, stated assumptions and devised mathematical models before reporting their results in the form of a solution paper.

“After being scrutinized by more than 225 Ph.D.-level applied mathematicians, their solution paper was chosen as one of 78 to receive an honorable mention award, putting them in the top 8 percent of all submissions,” Grazioli said. “As a reward for their hard work and their exemplary solution, they were awarded a $1,000 scholarship to be shared equally among them.”

Rye Neck High School was among 1,121 high schools nationwide to compete in the competition. Principal Scott Mosenthal congratulated the students and commended them on their ability to work together under trying circumstances.

“Their teamwork speaks volumes about their willingness to listen to each other and recognize each other’s talents,” Mosenthal said.
Five Rye Neck Juniors Earn Honorable Mention At National Math Competition

Rye Neck High School students received an honorable mention award after competing in Moody's Mega Math Challenge, a national online math competition. Photo Credit: Contributed
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Habits of talented #math students
@LianaLoewus @educationweek ow.ly/Jj1p30aXbTX #MTBoS #MathEd

Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students
High school juniors and seniors who participated in an elite national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp under... blogs.edweek.org

12:21 PM - 13 Apr 2017
4 KHS students add it up for math challenge

Lisa Knodel - Contributing Writer
1:43 p.m Tuesday, April 18, 2017 Filled in Warren County

Kings High School students (from left) Brendan Guenn, Kaitie Waisboluth, Anders Wilkum and Nathan Gurley won a $1,000 scholarship for their evaluation of the National Park Service as part of the Moody's Mega Math Challenge. They are the top team from Ohio. CONTRIBUTED
After crunching the numbers and creating predictive climate change models, a team of Kings High School students has determined that the United States National Park Service should allocate funds to preserve high-risk coastal parks.

Brendan Guerin, Katie Waisbluth, Anders Wikum and Nathan Gurley won a $1,000 scholarship for their evaluation as part of the 2017 Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge.

This national competition gives participants the opportunity to use mathematical modeling to come up with solutions to relevant everyday issues.

This year more than 5,000 students from across the country were asked to make recommendations about the future of the NPS in regards to global change factors likely to affect park resources and visitor experience in coming years. The challenge problem remained top secret until the morning of the contest.

“The math challenge helps young mathematicians approach real-life problems using their analytical thinking skills. So many problems in the classroom are viewed as right or wrong. The beauty of the M3 Challenge is that there is no right answer. Students are asked to present their findings and support their recommendations to deal with the current issue at hand — applied mathematics in its most beautiful form,” said KHS math teacher Lynn Brant, who served as the teacher adviser for the team.

The Kings students had 14 hours to gather and evaluate data impacting national parks — sea level change risk and the effects of climate-related events like hurricane frequency, annual rainfall increases, avalanches and wildfires on coastal park sites.

They were charged with building a mathematical model to determine sea level change risk for five specific parks over the next 10, 20 and 50 years, assigning a climate vulnerability score to any NPS coastal unit, predicting long-term changes in visitors for each park and advising NPS on prioritizing future financial resources.
"The best way to approach the problem was to divide the work among us and then come to a consensus on our recommendation once all the variables had been weighed by every individual in their own area of the project," said Gurley, who created a mathematical model for calculating climate risk for a given geographical location. "One of us worked on budgeting and regressions involving park visitors, while someone else worked on modeling a risk calculation and another on climate change research. While all of these different tasks were being accomplished, we were getting information to help figure out what we should recommend. We agreed, in the end, that budgeting high risk would be the best use of resources, unless a park has extremely high risk, in which case the park wouldn’t be able to be saved regardless of how much funding it received, and they would get funds equivalent to that of a medium- or low-risk coastal park."

Of the initial 1,121 submissions, a total of 90 papers received awards: six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions, including KHS as the top-placing team from Ohio. This recognition is the highest achievement in the school’s history of participating in the national competition.

Team members also are eligible to participate in a 10-week summer internship program.

"I really enjoyed being given the opportunity to think creatively and mathematically. Traditional math courses up until this point have been very process oriented, and, like tourists visiting a new country, we were given a simple road map guide to follow," said Guerin. "In the M3 Challenge, however, we were not simply encouraged but forced to think outside of those typical confines — a more native approach if you will. It was rather refreshing."
Five students from Montgomery Blair High School are traveling to New York City to compete in the prestigious Moody's Mega Math Challenge.

Silver Spring Students Head To Major National Math Competition
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Silver Spring Students Head To Major National Math Competition

Five students from Montgomery Blair High School are traveling to New York City to compete in the prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

By Cameron Luttrell (Patch Staff) - April 18, 2017 3:57 pm ET

SILVER SPRING, MD — A combination of math smarts and creative thinking is sending a team of five students from Montgomery Blair High School to New York City to participate in the prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.
The students – James Vinson, Eshan Tewari, Siddharth Taneja, Andrew Komo and Annie Zhao, juniors and seniors at Montgomery Blair High School – have advanced to the finals of this major national math competition that will take place at the World Trade Center headquarters on April 24.

The competition draws more than 5,000 junior and seniors from across the U.S. The Silver Spring team will compete against five other finalist teams. Prizes range from about 90 scholarships totaling to $150,000, and the winning team will receive $20,000.

Montgomery Blair High School students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue using mathematical modeling. The students helped the U.S. National Park Service devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide.
“Even though I've known all five of the students on my team since they were in 9th grade and personally taught them math in multiple years, I didn't realize what they were truly capable of until I read their paper,” said William Rose, a math teacher at Montgomery Blair High School, who coached the students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge.

Moody's Mega Math Challenge will give the students the opportunity to see what it's like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, similar to challenges professional mathematicians face.

“The Moody's M3 Challenge forces the students to combine their skills from math, statistics, computer science and writing classes in ways that go beyond any one thing we ever ask them to do at school,” Rose said. “I can't imagine what they could accomplish if we gave them a week or a month to come up with a solution, instead of just 14 hours.”

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit their site here.
Silver Spring Students Head To Major National Math Competition

Five students from Montgomery Blair High School are traveling to New York City to compete in the prestigious Moody's Mega Math Challenge.

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Stevenson High School students to compete in Moody's Mega Math Challenge: abc7.ws/2oIjmZb
STEVENSON HS STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL MATH COMPETITION

Many students can’t stand math class, let alone take a math test. But a group of wiz kids from northwest suburban Lincolnshire are up for the challenge. (WLS)

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 12:19PM

CHICAGO (WLS) -- Many students can’t stand math class, let alone take a math test. But a group of wiz kids from northwest suburban Lincolnshire are up for the challenge.

In fact, they just beat out thousands of students from across the country to secure a spot in a national competition. They’re heading to New York next week for the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.
The group joined ABC7 News at 11AM to talk about the competition, what it's like to be recognized among the best in the country at math and how they plan to prepare for the challenge.

(PRESS RELEASE)

A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors.

The students - Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu of Adlai E. Stevenson High School - have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Lincolnshire team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody's Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue - helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody's Foundation, the M3 Challenge - now in its 12th year - spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.
In addition to Adlai E. Stevenson High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

"Moody's Mega Math Challenge is an invitation to go beyond the classroom, to explore diverse ideas and push the limits of what our students can achieve," said Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School who coached the school’s students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge. "Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite - an open ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses."

For team member Andrew Hwang, participating in the M3 Challenge was a positive experience that he said challenged him to both think and create something of his own. "Despite all of its frustrations, the M3 Challenge was a humbling task to attempt to model and provide solutions to real world problems," he said. "These opportunities to take one's education outside the classroom don't come by too often, so it's only natural that my teammates and I leapt at the chance. Those 14 hours filled with stress, math and laughter are an unforgettable experience that I only wish I could do again."

According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody's Foundation, M3 Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both college and career. "We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field," Isaacs-Lowe said. "M3 Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way."

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org. To access this year's challenge problem, visit m3challenge.siam.org/practice-problems/2017-challenge-problem-sea-shining-sea-looking-ahead-national-park-service.
NEWS

DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HEAD TO NATIONAL MATH COMPETITION TO SOLVE CLIMATE PROBLEMS

A group of students from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham is getting ready to go to New York City. (WTVD)
By Stephanie Lopez

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 09:55PM

DURHAM, North Carolina (WTVD) -- A group of students from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham is getting ready to go to New York City.

The kids have beat out thousands of students to earn their spot in the Moody's Mega Math competition.

Only the best make it, but this isn't the sort of math competition you might be thinking of. Timing out traffic, figuring out fuel efficiency, and examining energy issues are all things that impact our lives that young minds are now trying to solve with math.

"There's no real preparation in terms of 'we are going to use these math techniques,'" 12th grader, Angela Deng said.

Forget your basic multiplication and division, the students have 14 hours to come up with a real solution to a real world problem using mathematical modeling.

In this case, they're looking at how climate change affects the US National Park Service and they're using real data to do it.

"You could turn their work into a really nice senior thesis," their teacher and math coach, Dan Teague, said.

Their chalkboard looks more like the alphabet than a set of numbers because they're devising the equation themselves.
"Doing well in these modeling competitions really isn’t so much a statement about their mathematical preparation, but really their whole educational preparation," Teague said.

They’re competing for scholarships and it’s opened doors for them to choose between Harvard, MIT, Duke, and others - making the math very real, showing them how they might use their skills to create a brighter tomorrow.

"The whole process of mathematical modeling has kind of like reaffirm my desire to major in economics," 12th grader, Lucy Wu said.

"It shows me that what I’ve been learning, and what I will be learning in college can often be applied to address social and environmental issues," 12th grader, Dori Li said.
Habits of talented #math students
@LianaLoewus @educationweek ow.ly/JjIp30aXbTX #MTBoS #MathEd

Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students
High school juniors and seniors who participated in an elite national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp under... blogs.edweek.org
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April 17, 2017
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Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students
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Five students from Marlboro Twp. and Holmdel who attend High Technology High School have a chance at winning $20,000 in the competition.
Holmdel, Marlboro Students Compete in Math Challenge, Chance to Win $20K

Five students from Marlboro Twp. and Holmdel who attend High Technology High School have a chance at winning $20,000 in the competition.

By Carly Baldwin (Staff) - April 17, 2017 1:57 pm ET

![Image of students]
LINCOLT, NJ – Five students from Marlboro Twp. and Holmdel who attend High Technology High School have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, the only competition of its kind, which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Lincroft team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters. They have a chance at winning the grand prize of $20,000.

The students are Arvind Yalavarti from Marlboro, Lori Zhang from Marlboro, Eric Jiang from Marlboro, Anjali Nambrath from Marlboro and Kevin Yan from Holmdel. Ellen LeBlanc, a math teacher at High Technology High School, was their coach.

“The Moody’s Foundation, in my opinion, has created one of the best high school math modeling competitions,” said LeBlanc. “The competition challenges students to make assumptions, gather data, problem solve, create models and draw conclusions. The students learn how to work together and write a concise and complete mathematical paper – it is a fantastic experience.”
“At High Technology, students and the math faculty spend a great deal of time discussing real world events and how we could possibly model them,” she said. “For example, this year we discussed at length a number of topics including the electoral college, health care and even bumble bees.”

For team member Anjali Nambrath, placing as a finalist in the M3 Challenge is a tremendous opportunity that she says will help open doors in the future. “The M3 Challenge was an opportunity to really delve into the insights math can provide in the real world,” she said. “We applied the theoretical knowledge we learned in math classes to a critical global issue, and it felt good to know that what we were doing had real, tangible relevance to the wider world. All the teamwork, collaboration, brainstorming, formulating and revising condensed into 14 hours was a truly rewarding and memorable experience for my teammates and me.”
Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solution.

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.
Holmdel, Marlboro Students Compete in Math Challenge, Chance to Win $20K

Holmdel, Marlboro Students Compete in Math Challenge...
Five students from Marlboro Twp. and Holmdel who attend High Technology High School have a chance at winning $20,000 in the competition.
patch.com

2:10 PM – 17 Apr 2017
Education News Roundup: April 17, 2017

Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students

High school juniors and seniors who participated in a prestigious national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp the underlying concepts behind math formulas.

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics conducted a survey of nearly 1,700 students who participated in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a contest held online annually in which high school students use mathematical modeling to solve real-world problems. For instance, students have previously been asked to come up with a model predicting how much plastic waste will be in landfills in 10 years.

Participants are generally self-selected or encouraged by their teachers to participate, and tend to be talented, motivated math students, said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation, which sponsored the survey.

http://gousoe.uen.org/9Hp
Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students

By Liana Loewus on April 14, 2017, 8:34 PM

High school juniors and seniors who participated in a prestigious national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp the underlying concepts behind math formulas.

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics conducted a survey of nearly 1,700 students who participated in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, a contest held online annually in which high school students use mathematical modeling to solve real-world problems. For instance, students have previously been asked to come up with a model predicting how much plastic waste will be in landfills in 10 years.

Participants are generally self-selected or encouraged by their teachers to participate, and tend to be talented, motivated math students, said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation, which sponsored the survey. Winning teams receive scholarship awards of up to $20,000, to be divided among team members and put toward college.
Concerning students’ interests and study habits, the survey found:

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents selected "understanding the underlying concepts behind math formulas" as what works best in learning math. Nearly a quarter said practice works best. Very few students said memorization was most helpful.
- When asked what most contributed to their interest in math, about half of students said they just naturally enjoy the subject. A quarter of respondents cited "a good teacher" as being most influential in their math interest. Less than 10 percent of students pointed to parents or friends.
- About 45 percent of students said they study "alone in a quiet room or library, with minimal distractions." Another nearly 40 percent said they study alone but with distractions, such as "social media, nonschool-related websites, video games, TV, music, etc." Very few respondents said they study with other students and try to help each other, or that they study "in a room with friends or family members, and frequently get distracted."
- When faced with a difficult math concept, respondents were most likely to say they "keep trying" until they figure it out on their own. (Twenty-nine percent said this.) About a quarter of students said they ask a teacher for help, and 17 percent said they look for answers on the Internet. Students were less likely to say they ask a parent or friend for help, or take a break. And less than 1 percent said they "skip it and move on."
As Zandi noted, the students who took the survey are likely to be all-around good students, not just in math. But the finding about persistence (in the chart above) may be math-specific. "I think in math in particular, the satisfaction is in the solving of the problem and getting an answer," he said. "There's actually a real rush when that happens."

For the math challenge's final event on April 24, six teams will solve mathematical modeling problems and explain their answers in front of a panel of judges at the Moody's headquarters in New York City.

*Charts: Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 2017*
Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students

High school juniors and seniors who participated in a prestigious national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when t...

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Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students

High school juniors and seniors who participated in an elite national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp under...
Stevenson students advance to finals in national math competition

Submitted by Gail Bergman PR

A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors.

The students -- Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu of Adlai E. Stevenson High School -- have advanced to the finals in the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Lincolnshire team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue: helping the U.S. National Park Service devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at the National Park Service. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge, now in its 12th year, spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Stevenson, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincroft, New Jersey; Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is an invitation to go beyond the classroom, to explore diverse ideas and push the limits of what our students can achieve,” said Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Stevenson who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite: an open ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses.”

For team member Andrew Hwang, participating in the M3 Challenge was a positive experience that he said challenged him to both think and create something of his own.

“Despite all of its frustrations, the M3 Challenge was a humbling task to attempt to model and provide solutions to real world problems,” he said. “These opportunities to take one’s education outside the classroom don’t come by too often, so it’s only natural that my teammates and I leapt at the chance. Those 14 hours filled with stress, math and laughter are an unforgettable experience that I only wish I could do again.”

According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M3 Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels.

“M3 Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M3 Challenge increases that interest in the U.S. in a fun, unique and exciting way.”

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org. To access this year’s challenge problem, visit m3challenge.siam.org/practice-problems/2017-challenge-problem-sea-shining-sea-looking-ahead-national-park-service.
Survey: Habits of Talented Math Students

Education Week

High school juniors and seniors who participated in a prestigious national math competition said they tend to study alone and to learn best when they grasp the underlying concepts behind math formulas.

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics conducted a survey of nearly 1,700 students who participated in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge, a contest held online annually in which high school students use mathematical modeling to solve real-world problems. For instance, students have previously been asked to come up with a model predicting how much plastic waste will be in landfills in 10 years.
Team of Juniors Reaches National Math Contest Finals

Five juniors are heading to New York City later this month to compete in the finals of the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, one of the nation’s most prestigious math competitions. Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu will compete against five other teams on April 24. The six teams were chosen from among more than 1,100 around the country that submitted papers using math modeling to propose solutions to a practical issue. The teams will compete for monetary awards ranging from $5,000 to $20,000. The winning team also will ring the bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

This is the first time Stevenson has reached the finals. “There are so many reasons to be excited,” math teacher and Moody’s Mega math Challenge coach Paul Kim told WBBM Radio. “It validates a lot of their efforts. It shows that what we learn in school is actually useful.”
This year’s challenge was to help the National Park Service strategize for its second century of maintaining the country’s national parks, monuments, seashores, and other historical sites in the face of climate change. Specifically, teams had to use math modeling to determine sea level-change risk ratings for five national parks; to assess climate risk for all national parks along coasts; and to use visitor statistics and climate vulnerability scores to predict long-term park attendance and recommend where future financial resources should go. All of the work had to be completed within a 14-hour period in late February.

“These opportunities to take one’s education outside the classroom don’t come by too often, so it’s only natural that my teammates and I leapt at the chance,” Hwang said in a news release. “Those 14 hours filled with stress, math and laughter are an unforgettable experience that I only wish I could do again.”

Stevenson also had a second team in the competition, featuring seniors Amber Hu, Kevin Li, Jason Lu, Alex Shi and Austin Zhou. They reached the semifinal round, and won $1,500 in scholarship money. Four of the five semifinalists also were semifinalists in 2016: Hu, Li, Lu and Zhou joined 2016 graduate Shu Zhang.
OHS team wins award in M³ challenge

April 11, 2017

A team of students from Orono High School received an honorable mention in the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge 2017. It is believed this is the farthest an OHS team has ever gone in the competition.

Team members were Andy Baran, Alex Berger, Olivia Eriksson, Ben Greiber and Tate Welty.

Of the 1,121 papers submitted in this year’s challenge, the OHS team was one of 78 to receive an honorable mention award. Only 8 percent of the submitted papers were selected for recognition.

The M³ Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and as a viable and exciting profession. The specific real-world problem that is posed each year was unknown to participants until they logged in during Challenge Weekend (February 24-27, 2017).

This year’s challenge:

The National Park System of the United States comprises 417 official units covering more than 84 million acres. The 100-year-old U.S. National Park Service (NPS) is the federal bureau within the Department of the Interior responsible for managing, protecting, and maintaining all units within the National Park system, including national parks, monuments, seashores and other historical sites.

Global change factors such as climate are likely to affect both park resources and visitor experience and, as a result, the NPS’s mission to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” Your team can provide insight and help strategize with the NPS as it starts its second century of stewardship of our nation’s park system.

Build a mathematical model to determine a sea level change risk rating of high, medium, or low for each of the five parks for the next 10, 20 and 50 years. Here is this year’s challenge in full.

The challenge is entirely Internet-based. Once the problem is downloaded, the team’s 14-hour clock starts and it cannot be paused. Teams can work from any location they choose and can use any free and publicly available resources, but they cannot discuss any aspect of the problem with, or seek help from, their coach or anyone other than their teammates via any medium.

More than 225 Ph.D.-level applied mathematicians served as judges throughout three rounds of judging.

With an honorable mention, the OHS team received a scholarship prize of $1,000 to be divided equally among members and paid directly to the colleges or universities at which they ultimately enroll.

OHS mathematics teacher Michelle Swenson was the team’s coach.
Westford teens' math adds up to finals berth

By Chris Lisinski, c尼斯ki@lowellsun.com

WESTFORD — The U.S. National Park System faces significant risks from a changing climate, and you have to figure out possible solutions.

You have 14 hours.

What do you do?

That was the challenge given to four Westford Academy students who competed in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge on a February weekend. Through a combination of complex mathematical modeling, data analysis, and writing, the team compiled a winning report that will take them to the national finals later this month.

The team, consisting of juniors Adithya Vellal and Harshal Sheth and seniors Kartik Singh and Nihar Sheth, are one of six groups that advanced to the finals out of 1,110 entrants.

"It was a 14-hour competition, so it definitely was a marathon," Harshal Sheth said. "It was stressful because 14 hours seems quite long, but it really isn’t when you’ve got such a huge problem you’re dealing with."

The contest, currently in its 11th year, poses a single problem with wide-ranging, real-world implications — in this case, how to address the risks that national parks face due to climate change. Teams, each working in their own locations, must conduct research and remotely submit a final report with evidence-based suggestions in one day.
Westford’s students had prepared by examining the problems posed in previous years, studying past winning reports, and brushing up on a 40-page booklet Moody’s provided on modeling. Their hope was to get “an idea of what the judges were looking for,” Vellal said. During the event, the group delegated tasks so each member focused on a specific portion at a given time. The process, they said, was uncharted territory that challenged them in unusual ways.

"The math that we were doing wasn't the most difficult sort of math, but the process of putting it all together and forming good, useful models -- that was a skill that was definitely a new experience," Singh said.

The team now has to develop their report into a full presentation. On April 24, they and five other teams will make their cases before a panel of judges in New York City.

Lisa Gartner, a teacher at Westford Academy and the team’s coach, said she was proud of the group for their accomplishment.

"While I know these are all extraordinary young men in every sense of the word, wonderful people, and extremely gifted mathematicians, it's still hard to think of top six out of 1,100," said Gartner. "When I got the email, I was just like, 'Wow.'"

Each finalist team is guaranteed a cash prize of at least $5,000, and the ultimate winner will receive a prize of $20,000. That money is split evenly among members and paid directly to the colleges in which they enroll.

Singh, one of two seniors, will attend University of California, Berkeley, in the fall to study computer science. Nihar Sheth, the other senior, has not yet made a final decision, but he is considering University of Southern California for a combination of computer science and business administration.

And the Moody's challenge? That just reinforced their interests.

"I really liked the aspect of taking a bunch of data and trying to get something out of it," Nihar said. "If we were able to do this much in 14 hours, I think that if this is something you actually research and you pursue over a long period of time, you can get some pretty extraordinary results."

Follow Chris on Twitter @ChrisLisinski.
School Notes: Silver Spring High Schoolers Put Math Smarts to the Test as National Finalists

Plus: Petition drive takes aim at sugary school food; local high schooler wins election as student councils president

BY BETHANY RODGERS
Published: 2017.04.07 01:06

A team of five juniors and seniors at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring have earned a spot in the finals of a national math challenge and will travel to New York City to compete.

The Moody’s Mega Math Challenge pits more than 5,100 high schoolers from across the country against one another. The students—James Vinson, Eshan Tewari, Siddharth Taneja, Andrew Komo and Annie Zhao—in February were tasked with using mathematical
modeling to develop a sustainability plan for the U.S. National Park Service. More than 1,100 teams turned in papers with the plans they’d developed during the 14-hour challenge.

“Even though I’ve known all five of the students on my team since they were in the 9th grade and personally taught them math in multiple years, I didn’t realize what they were truly capable of until I read their paper,” Montgomery Blair math teacher William Rose said in a press release. “I can’t imagine what they could accomplish if we gave them a week or a month to come up with a solution, instead of just 14 hours.”

The team from Montgomery Blair will face off against five other finalist teams April 24 at Moody’s Corp. World Trade Center Headquarters, according to a press release.

About 90 scholarship prizes adding up to $150,000 are available. The winning team gets a $20,000 scholarship prize, according to the release.
National Survey of America’s Top Math Students Provides Glimpse into Their Academic Success

Friday, April 7, 2017 @ 12:04 AM
Posted by Scott Shindledecker

NEW YORK, N.Y. – Do the math. Revealing the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students plus sharing the findings may equal improved overall scholastic scores for American youth.

That’s the thinking of Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in unveiling the results of a national survey that queried 1,830 11th and 12th grade students, comprising some of America’s brightest young math minds, to get a glimpse into the motivation and practices behind their academic success.

(Photo above: Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation)
Survey results

According to the survey, sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the majority of students queried (84 percent) do their homework in a room by themselves.

Almost half of the students (47 percent) spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend 6-10 hours.

After school, 78 percent of the students participate in extracurricular activities such as clubs and student government, while 55 percent are involved in volunteer activities.

Nearly half (47 percent) eat healthy foods most of the time, while 24 percent prefer healthy foods but frequently eat fast food or junk food.

The students queried for the survey are all participants of the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, a prestigious national math competition that involves high school juniors and seniors committing a 14-hour weekend day to use mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for real-world problems.

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National Survey of America’s Top Math Students Provides Glimpse into Their Academic Success

April 7, 2017 12:22 am

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(Photo above: Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation)

Survey results

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HABITS of America’s TOP
High School Math Students

How much time do students spend on homework?

- 47% spend 11+ hours a week
- 29% spend 6-10 hours a week
- 84% do homework alone in a room

Outside of school...

- 78% of students surveyed participate in activities such as clubs and student government
- 59% play sports or do exercise
- 55% volunteer

What most contributed to students’ interest in math?

- 51% are naturally interested
- 25% are motivated by the prospect of a better college, career
- 11% credit a good teacher
- 11% prefer healthy foods, but often eat fast food or junk food
- 47% of students surveyed eat healthy foods most of the time

What is the best way to learn math?

- 64% said understanding the underlying concepts behind the formulas
- 23% cited practice at solving math problems
- 33% one third of students surveyed keep working at a math problem until they come up with an answer, while the rest reach out to a teacher, the internet or a friend

Source: Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics on behalf of Moody’s Corporation, April 2017. Based on survey responses of 1,080 11th and 12th grade participants of the Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, a prestigious national math competition that involves students using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for real-world problems.
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Scott Shindledecker | April 7, 2017

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National Survey of America's Top Math Students Provides Glimpse into Their Academic Success - Markets Insider ow.ly /6k7C30aDpZr
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*Infographic of survey results available.*
Westford Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

By: SUBMITTED CONTENT | 8 HOURS AGO

Team from Westford Academy headed to New York City to participate in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for four Westford high school students.

The students — Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal of Westford Academy — have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Westford team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.
Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

“The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge,” said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change.”

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M^3 Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Westford Academy, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; and Silver Spring, Maryland.

“While many mathematics competitions have students work individually to solve rigorous ‘pure’ mathematical problems, Moody’s Mega Math Challenge gives students the opportunity to collaborate with others to solve problems in which they must apply their mathematical knowledge to new and unique real world situations,” said Lisa Gartner, a math teacher at Westford Academy who coached the school’s students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge. “The fact that students can potentially earn college scholarship money as a result of their efforts is an added bonus.”

For team member Harshal Sheth, placing as a finalist in the M^3 Challenge opened his eyes to the possibilities of math. “The M^3 Challenge provided my teammates and me a rare opportunity to use our math and problem-solving skills in a real world application,” he said. “I found it exhilarating to work together as a team to produce practical, model-based analyses and forecasts within the short span of 14 hours.”

According to Arlene Isacca-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M^3 Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both college and career. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “M^3 Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”

Congrats to Johns Creek High School students Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond, who have advanced to the finals in the Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge! The Johns Creek team will compete against five other finalist teams at Moody's Corporation in New York later this month.

Read the Johns Creek Patch article: https://patch.com/.../johns-creek-students-advance-finals-nat...
CITY OF JOHNS CREEK GEORGIA, INSTAGRAM
April 5, 2017
Audience Reach: 1,599 Followers

22 likes

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#johnscreek #betheexception #johnscreekhighschool #math #moodysmegamathchallenge
Results from The Moody’s Foundation-sponsored National Survey of America's Top Math Students Provides Glimpse into their Academic Success

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Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Posted on April 5, 2017 | Leave a comment

Quartet Reaches Math Contest Semifinals Again

Tuesday’s Digest featured an item on a team of juniors who have qualified for the prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge in New York City later this month. Stevenson also had a second team in the competition, featuring seniors Amber Hu, Kevin Li, Jason Lu, Alex Shi and Austin Zhou. They reached the semifinal round, and won $1,500 in scholarship money. Four of the five semifinalists also were semifinalists in 2016: Hu, Li, Lu and Zhou joined 2016 graduate Shu Zhang.
National Survey of America's Top Math Students Provides Glimpse into Their Academic Success | Yahoo! Finance

National Survey of America's Top Math Students Provide...
NEW YORK, April 4, 2017 /PRNewswire/ - Do the math. Revealing the academic habits of some of the country's top math students plus sharing the findings may equal improved overall ...
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SOURCE Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Learning from students' practices may help improve country's educational scores on global scale; says Moody's Analytics Economist

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*See infographic of survey results.

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According to Stevenson math teacher Paul Kim, "Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody's Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite – an open ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses." In this case, the happy opposite was a 14-hour challenge to come up with a solution to a real-world issue.

This year, five juniors from Stevenson have advanced to the finals of the Moody's Mega Math Challenge which will be held in New York City on April 24. The SHS students competing include:

Albert Cao,
Andrew Hwang,
Deepak Moparthi,
Joshua Yoon
Haoyang Yu

This competition initially drew over 5,000 students from across the country. Stevenson is one of six schools who will compete in the finals. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes will be awarded totaling $150,000 with the champion team receiving $20,000.
Suburban Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

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Learning from students' practices may help improve country's educational scores on global scale, says Moody’s Analytics Economist

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By Jamie Wilkins (Patch Staff) - April 4, 2017 11:30 am ET

From Gail Bergman PR: A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Johns Creek high school seniors.
The students – Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Johns Creek team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Johns Creek High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Durham, North Carolina; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“The students have taken many different math and computing courses and now they have the opportunity to use what they learned to analyze and model challenging real world problems,” said Julie Meert, Mathematics Teacher at Johns Creek High School, who coached the school’s students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge. “This is a diverse group of students who had to pull together as a team, using and appreciating one another’s strength and abilities to create a clear, detailed solution in a short amount of time. I am impressed with the level of rigor, analysis and technical writing skills exhibited by our students both at the individual level and as a team.”

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For team member Daniel Bodea, placing as a finalist in the M3 Challenge opened his eyes to the possibilities of math. "The M3 Challenge allowed our group of students with diverse interests to bond and engage in 14 hours of mathematical modeling of an issue that mattered to us: climate change and its massive impact on our world," he said. "The teamwork was empowering and the competition exciting. It showed us that the world can be boiled down to math, and that modeling is only a question of finding the right mathematical associations that describe the world, getting creative with them, and simulating them."

According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody's Foundation, M3 Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both college and career. "We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field," Isaacs-Lowe said. "M3 Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way."

For more information about the M3 Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org. To access this year's challenge problem, visit here.

Photo via Gail Bergman PR: Johns Creek students and coach, from the left: Daniel Bodea, Akhil Vaidya, Jamie Wang, Julie Meert (coach), Anshul Tushial, and Alex Hammond.
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*Learning from students' practices may help improve country's educational scores on global scale, says Moody's Analytics Economist*

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Suburban Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

A team of five from Adlai E. Stevenson High School is headed to New York City to participate in the prestigious Moody's Mega Math Challenge....
The following students participated in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge and received honorable mention:

Matthew Velardi
Michael Mcaugh
Eric Dittmar
Danielle Shermock
Kayla Gerenza.

Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge 2017 – second round judging results for Team # 9076

Dear students and Coach Feuerstein,

Congratulations! Of the 1,121 papers submitted in this year’s Moody’s Mega Math Challenge, your team’s solution has been selected to receive one of 78 honorable mention awards. You and your team should be very proud of this distinction, especially given the rigorous and intense scrutiny that each paper endured. Only 8% of the submitted papers were selected for recognition.

The Moody’s Foundation provides honorable mention teams with scholarship prizes in the amount of $1,000 per team, to be divided equally among the team’s members. The individual amounts will be paid directly to the colleges or universities at which the winning students ultimately enroll.

In order for team members to receive their scholarship prizes, it is necessary for each student to submit an online scholarship payment form. We cannot proceed with payment for any student who does not submit this form. Students who are juniors should indicate their junior status so that their scholarship will be held in escrow until they are ready to use it. Please complete the form by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017.

Once again, congratulations on your team’s superior paper and thank you for participating in the 2017 M3 Challenge!

Best regards,
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Based on the results of the SIAM study, Zandi suggested that increased efforts be made to promote a natural interest in math among American youth. "Investing in a national math competition that opens students' eyes to the possibilities of using math to solve real-world issues is one effective way," he said.

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Westford's Math Whizzes Compete in Moody's Mega Math (M3) Challenge

Four Westford Academy students will put their math skills to the test.

By Lisa Redmond (Patch Staff) - April 4, 2017 2:09 pm ET

WESTFORD, MA – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking by four Westford high school students has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition.

The Westford Academy Students – Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation.
The Westford team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide.

More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science.
Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Westford Academy, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; and Silver Spring, Maryland.

“While many mathematics competitions have students work individually to solve rigorous ‘pure’ mathematical problems, Moody’s Mega Math Challenge gives students the opportunity to collaborate with others to solve problems in which they must apply their mathematical knowledge to new and unique real world situations,” said Lisa Gartner, a math teacher at Westford Academy who coached the school’s students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge.

“The fact that students can potentially earn college scholarship money as a result of their efforts is an added bonus,” Gartner said.

For team member Harshal Sheth, placing as a finalist in the M3 Challenge opened his eyes to the possibilities of math.
"The M3 Challenge provided my teammates and me a rare opportunity to use our math and problem-solving skills in a real world application,” he said. “I found it exhilarating to work together as a team to produce practical, model-based analyses and forecasts within the short span of 14 hours.”

According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M3 Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both college and career. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “M3 Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”

Westford Patch
@WestfordPatch

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2:44 PM - 4 Apr 2017
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SOURCE Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

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A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors.

The students –

Read Full Article
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APRIL 4, 2017

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Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Contestant Competing in Moody's Mega Math Challenge

Andrew Hwang recently competed in the 2017 National Who Wants to Be a Mathematician competition in Atlanta, GA. Now, he and his teammates from Adlai E. Stevenson High School are headed to NYC to compete in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.
Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition 

dlvr.it/NnmyWn
Suburban Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

April 3, 2017 5:56 PM


From left to right: Haoyang Yu, Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Josh Yoon, Deepak Moparthi, Paul Kim (Credit: Sall Bergman/PR)

CHICAGO (CBS) — A team of five from Adlai E. Stevenson High School is headed to New York City to participate in the prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors. The students — Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu of Adlai E. Stevenson High School — have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th- and 12th-grade participants from across the nation. The Lincolnshire team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters. WBBM’s Lisa Fielding reports.
“This is by far, the best that Stevenson’s ever done in this competition. There are so many reasons to be excited,” said said Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School who coached the school’s students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge. “It validates a lot of their efforts. it shows that what we learn in school is actually useful.”

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue, helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

“The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge,” said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change.”
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M3 Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Adlai E. Stevenson High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is an invitation to go beyond the classroom, to explore diverse ideas and push the limits of what our students can achieve,” Kim said. “Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite – an open ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses.”
For team member Andrew Hwang, participating in the M3 Challenge was a positive experience that he said challenged him to both think and create something of his own.

"Despite all of its frustrations, the M3 Challenge was a humbling task to attempt to model and provide solutions to real world problems," he said. "These opportunities to take one’s education outside the classroom don’t come by too often, so it’s only natural that my teammates and I leapt at the chance. Those 14 hours filled with stress, math and laughter are an unforgettable experience that I only wish I could do again."

“For most of these teens, they want to excel in business. It’s a feather in their cap that they even got this far. The winner will be able to ring the bell on Wall Street in the New York Stock Exchange. How cool is that?” Kim said.

SUBURBAN STUDENTS ADVANCE TO FINALS IN MAJOR NATIONAL MATH COMPETITION

CHICAGO (CBS) — A team of five from Adlai E. Stevenson High School is headed to New York City to participate in the prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors. The students - Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu of Adlai E. Stevenson High School - have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M3) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th- and 12th-grade participants from across the nation. The Lincolnshire team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters. WBBM’s Lisa Fielding reports.
“This is by far, the best that Stevenson’s ever done in this competition. There are so many reasons to be excited,” said Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School who coached the school’s students in preparation for the 14-hour challenge. “It validates a lot of their efforts. It shows that what we learn in school is actually useful.”

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue, helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

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In addition to Adlai E. Stevenson High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is an invitation to go beyond the classroom, to explore diverse ideas and push the limits of what our students can achieve,” Kim said. “Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody’s Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite – an open ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses.”

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Suburban Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

A team of five from Adlai E. Stevenson High School is headed to New York City to participate in the prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

Read more: chicago.cbslocal.com
Congratulations to Siddarth, Jamie, Eshan, Andrew, and Annie for placing top 6 in the country in Moody's Mega Math Challenge! @m3challenge
Moody’s Mega Math Challenge Team #8878 & Coach LeBlanc are one of 6 finalists (out of 1400 registered teams) that will compete for $20,000.
MC Students Compete in National Math Competition

Four seniors take part in Mega Math Challenge

BY WHITNEY RUPP | MAR. 8, 2017

When the National Park Service called on the help of high schoolers nationwide to provide recommendations concerning global change factors, local students were excited to contribute.

Four seniors at Marian Central were among more than 5,100 students nationwide competing in Moody's Mega Math Challenge to win scholarship money.

Marian’s team of Jacob Fiedler, Matthew Snell, Jayson Wieczorek and Sierra Teeter was chosen by Stephan Liggett, chairman of the math department at Marian, to compete in the event. The foursome was allotted 14 hours to solve a complex problem with no guidance given by anyone other than each other.

“This is a lot more subjective than some math competitions,” Fiedler said.
“In most math contests, there’s only one correct answer. But what’s more important here is seeing the logical steps you took to develop your model, to see if it matches with reality.”

The group began at 9 a.m. Feb 26 and worked until 11 p.m. They took breaks totaling around 20 minutes, which included time for milkshakes.

The first problem that high schoolers nationwide were presented with was to build a mathematical model to determine sea-level changes in five national parks. Then the students were tasked with assigning climate vulnerability scores. Together they used the information gathered to create a model that predicted long-term changes in visitors to each park, advising NPS on where future financial resources should be allocated.
“They provided us with data sufficient to produce a linear aggression model, which is helpful, but not the most accurate. So we decided to go a little bit deeper and produce a very accurate model based on a huge number of factors. It’s basically putting together a huge amount of information to try to come up with one coherent model. At the end of each part, what you’ll be left with is a table of data. In our case, we determined an index for how vulnerable the parks were to rising sea levels,” Fiedler explained.

With just 10 minutes to spare, the group had prepared its response: a 20-page paper that cited around 30 sources and provided a written explanation accompanied by equations and math that backed up the work.

Liggett oversaw the problem-solving challenge but was not able to provide any form of assistance.

“The day was long. There was so much they had to do. On [March] 15th, they (the judges) determine if we go to the second stage. They’ll make that cut. Roughly 700 groups turned something in. What is predicted is that 70 percent of those teams would not make the first cut (of judging),” Liggett said.

“I felt pretty prepared for it overall, and a lot of that is just due to the general education you get at Marian. Lots of the science, math and English courses really help with the aspects of putting together a comprehensive 20-page paper in a short span of time,” Fiedler added.

This article is from The Woodstock Independent Newspaper. Did you like what you read here? Subscribe to The Woodstock Independent »
APPLIED MATH: STUDENTS TO COMPETE FOR $150,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

One organization trying to give a lift to this type of math learning is The Moody’s Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Moody’s Corporation that funds education-based causes. The Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, challenges teams of high school juniors and seniors to work together to solve an advanced applied math problem.
Registration for the 2017 Moody's Mega Math Challenge event is open online now and closes on February 17. The event is completely free to enter.

Moody's Mega Math Challenge

Challenge weekend – February 24 to 27 – to download the problem. They have 14 hours to upload their solution to be entered to win part of $150,000 in college scholarship money. The top team will be awarded $20,000 and another 5 will win between $5,000 and $15,000. Another 90 teams have a shot at between $1,000 and $1,500 in semi-finalist awards.

The solutions are judged by Ph.D.-level mathematicians.

The math event is designed to elevate high school students' enthusiasm and excitement about using mathematics to solve challenging, real-life problems and increase students' interest in studying and pursuing mathematical, economic, and financial careers.

The M³ Challenge began for New York residents in 2006 and now the competition is national, with teams able to compete from anywhere with Internet access. From there, the top 6 teams head to New York to be judged in real time by a panel at the Final Event (here are more details about judging specifics).
Math in Real Life

What I really love about this particular challenge is its accessibility. Teams from anywhere in the U.S. can complete the challenge without needing to raise funds for travel – even the top 6 teams who get an all-expense paid trip to NYC to present at the Final Event. The teams also need diverse members in order to succeed – math concepts are the focus, but there is plenty of writing and innovation in other areas that must come into play to reach sound solutions. I also like that there is such a focus on APPLIED math or taking what students are learning in the classroom and bringing it to life in a timely and relevant way.

Students who are interested can take advantage of the many free math resources that Moody’s offers to prepare for the Challenge. Teachers can also use these resources to teach applied math concepts in classrooms.

“The main theme of the Challenge this year is preparing for success. We have tons of freely available resources that we encourage students, and their teachers, to use in preparing not only for the Challenge weekend, but also to familiarize themselves generally with applied math and math modeling, which will better prep them for success in college and beyond,” said Michelle Montgomery, Director of Marketing and Outreach for the Society for Industrial and Applied mathematics and Project Director for the M3 Challenge.

“Our surveys consistently tell us that 25 percent of student participants pursue careers in applied math, finance, and economics as a result of participating in the M3 Challenge” she said.

Students prepping for the event can check out past problems to help them know what to expect. You can read the full rules and eligibility requirements on the event page.

Teachers or coaches can register teams by February 17 by heading to the M3 Challenge official page.
APPLIED MATH LEARNING: FREE CHALLENGE TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

BY MATTHEW LYNCH | FEBRUARY 1, 2017 | 1841 | 2

The lines of math learning are fluid. Cross-disciplinary math is a push in P-20 learning and “real world” math application is at the heart of the shift. Students who can take the rudimentary math skills that they learn and apply them to other subject areas and their lives are students who will truly understand math concepts long-term.
One organization trying to give a lift to this type of math learning is The Moody's Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Moody's Corporation that funds education-based causes. The Moody's Mega Math (M³) Challenge, organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, challenges teams of high school juniors and seniors to work together to solve an advanced applied math problem.

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RADIO

Pieces of Coverage: 2
Impressions: 3,670,000
Aired a 14:33 min segment on the French & Friends show from 5-7 p.m.
Multiple airings of news report throughout the day.
APPENDIX

NEWS RELEASES
For Immediate Release

National Survey of America's Top Math Students Provides Glimpse into Their Academic Success

Learning from students’ practices may help improve country’s educational scores on global scale, says Moody’s Analytics Economist

New York, NY, April 4, 2017 – Do the math. Revealing the academic habits of some of the country’s top math students plus sharing the findings may equal improved overall scholastic scores for American youth.

That's the thinking of Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in unveiling the results of a national survey that queried 1,680 11th and 12th grade students, comprising some of America’s brightest young math minds, to get a glimpse into the motivation and practices behind their academic success.

Survey results

According to the survey, sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the majority of students queried (84 percent) do their homework in a room by themselves. Almost half of the students (47 percent) spend more than 11 hours a week doing homework, while 29 percent spend 6-10 hours.

After school, 78 percent of the students participate in extracurricular activities such as clubs and student government, while 55 percent are involved in volunteer activities. Nearly half (47 percent) eat healthy foods most of the time, while 24 percent prefer healthy foods but frequently eat fast food or junk food.

The students queried for the survey are all participants of the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, a prestigious national math competition that involves high school juniors and seniors committing a 14-hour weekend day to use mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for real-world problems. Now in its 12th year, the M³ Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and a viable, exciting profession, awarding $150,000 in scholarship prizes. From a pool of 5,100 students, working in 1,100 teams, six teams were judged to be superior by a national panel of professional mathematicians. Those six finalist teams – from Alpharetta, GA, Durham, NC, Lincolnshire, IL, Lincroft, NJ, Silver Spring, MD and Westford, MA – will participate in the final event at Moody’s headquarters on April 24.

Other findings of the survey showed that when it comes to interest in math, 51 percent of respondents said they are naturally interested, while 25 percent cited a good teacher sparked their interest, and 11 percent said the prospect of a better college and career path is what motivates them.
When grappling with a math problem, almost a third said they keep at it until they come up with an answer, with the balance reaching out to a teacher, the internet or a friend. When learning math, 64 percent of respondents said understanding the underlying concepts behind the formulas works best for them, while 23 percent cited practice at solving math problems to be most effective.

**International study**

The survey follows the December 2016 unveiling of results of an international math quiz by Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that showed U.S. high school students lag behind their global peers in math, ranking 40th in math out of 72 countries last year. The U.S. score was down 17 points from 2009 and 20 points below the average of others taking the quiz, which saw Singapore come out on top, followed by Japan, Estonia, Finland and Canada.

According to the OECD report, only six percent of the 15-year-old U.S. students who took the international math test had scores in the highest proficiency range, while 29 percent did not meet baseline proficiency.

**Moody’s comments**

“The SIAM survey is an important step in identifying what makes those who are passionate about math succeed so that we can transfer that insight to American educators and parents, and enable students who struggle with STEM and other subjects to learn from it,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation.

“In today’s knowledge-based economy, it’s critical that we provide the next generation of Americans with the tools they need to ensure their skills are competitive and innovative,” Zandi said. “A good starting place is working to boost our country’s academic rankings, particularly in math and science, which research shows open doors to a rising number of job opportunities – from economics and computers to engineering and healthcare.”

Based on the results of the SIAM study, Zandi suggested that increased efforts be made to promote a natural interest in math among American youth. “Investing in a national math competition that opens students’ eyes to the possibilities of using math to solve real-world issues is one effective way,” he said.
“Another important approach is for parents and educators to plant the seeds of interest in children at a young age,” he explained, pointing to numbers-related board games, puzzles such as Sudoku, brain teasers, online programs and gaming sites, and analyzing sports scores or retail discounting as a good place to start. “The message needs to be that math not only gets you places, but is used every day and can be a lot of fun too.”

###

*See infographic of survey results.

**Media information or to set up interviews:**

Gail Bergman or Elizabeth Glassen  
Gail Bergman PR  
Tel: 1-877-986-1340  
Email: info@gailbergmanpr.com
HABITS of America’s TOP High School Math Students

How much time do students spend on homework?
- 47% spend 11+ hours a week
- 29% spend 6-10 hours a week
- 84% do homework alone in a room

Outside of school...
- 78% of students surveyed participate in activities such as clubs and student government
- 59% play sports or do exercise
- 55% volunteer

What most contributed to students’ interest in math?
- 51% are naturally interested
- 25% credit a good teacher
- 11% are motivated by the prospect of a better college, career
- 24% prefer healthy foods, but often eat fast food or junk food

What is the best way to learn math?
- 64% said understanding the underlying concepts behind the formulas
- 23% cited practice at solving math problems

One third of students surveyed said working at a math problem until they come up with an answer, while the rest reach out to a teacher, the internet or a friend

What Can America Gain from Studying Academic Habits of Country’s Top Math Students?

Moody’s Analytics economist to provide insight on results of national study of young math enthusiasts

WHAT: Media Tour – Academic Habits of America’s Top Math Students Unveiled

WHEN: April 14-21, 2017 – selected dates

WHO: Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a subsidiary of Moody’s Corporation

R.S.V.P.: Gail Bergman or Elizabeth Glassen – Gail Bergman PR info@gailbergmanpr.com or 1-877-986-1340

A national survey conducted by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and sponsored by The Moody’s Corporation, queried 1,680 11th and 12th grade students, comprising some of America’s brightest young math minds, to get a glimpse into the motivation and practices behind their academic success. Topics explored include hours and location spent doing homework, sleep and eating habits, extracurricular activities, preferred learning methods and reasons behind the students’ interest in math.

The students queried for the survey are all participants of the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, a prestigious national math competition that involves high school juniors and seniors using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for real-world problems. From a pool of 5,100 students working in 1,100 teams, the six finalist teams – judged to be superior by a national panel of professional mathematicians – will participate in the final event at Moody’s headquarters on April 24.

“The SIAM survey is an important step in identifying what makes those who are passionate about math succeed so that we can transfer that insight to American educators and parents, and enable students who struggle with STEM and other subjects to learn from it,” Zandi said.

In interviews, Zandi will discuss why boosting America’s academic rankings on a global scale, particularly in math and science, is critical for the future economic health of the country. He will also share suggestions on how parents can promote interest and motivation in math and STEM subjects well before the next generation joins the workforce.

####

Media interviews will be set up on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and to schedule an interview:

Gail Bergman or Elizabeth Glassen
Gail Bergman PR
Tel: 1-877-986-1340
Email: info@gailbergmanpr.com
High School Students Do the Math for National Park Service

Future of NPS takes center stage as major math competition gets underway in NYC

New York, NY – The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) is getting advice from an unlikely source: High school students. They may be in 11th and 12th grade, but they're some of the brightest young minds in the country and the NPS has an open ear to their recommended strategies for the agency’s future growth.

It’s all part of a major national math competition, called the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, which this year drew the participation of 5,100 students nationwide. Media are invited to attend the following event to hear the finalists’ suggestions first hand:

**WHAT:** Moody’s Mega Math Challenge Finals

**WHEN:** Monday, April 24, 2017

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Finalist presentations
2:30 p.m. News Conference announcing the M³ Challenge winners

**WHERE:** 7 World Trade Center at 250 Greenwich Street

A representative from the NPS will be on site to hear the students’ recommended plans for the agency’s future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at the NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."

Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M³ Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, including a top award of $20,000 for the champion team.

From 1,100 participating teams, six finalist teams – from Alpharetta, GA, Durham, NC, Lincolnshire, IL, Lincroft, NJ, Silver Spring, MD and Westford, MA – were selected by a national panel of judges.

####

Media information and to RSVP:

Gail Bergman or Elizabeth Glassen
Gail Bergman PR
Tel: 1-877-986-1340
Email: info@gailbergmanpr.com
For Immediate Release

**Illinois Students Named Champions in Unique National Competition that Demonstrates Importance of Math in Real Life**

Lincolnshire, IL – April 24, 2017 – Participation in a prestigious national math competition has added up to a first-place finish for five Lincolnshire, IL high school students. The group of 11th-graders from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in took home the top prize of $20,000 in college scholarships in Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge.

Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu were among 5,100 students – working in 1,100 teams – participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.

The Lincolnshire students were found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to have come up with the overall best mathematical solution that addresses how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters today in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

“All of us were pretty new to math modeling so were really excited to get this opportunity to work together and collaborate for 14 hours,” said Joshua Yoon from the champion team, which was coached by Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. “It was just great working with this group of friends. We had so much fun and we are very honored and thankful for this.”
"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on," said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. "These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation."

First runners-up in the competition are Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal from Westford Academy in Westford, MA, who split a $15,000 scholarship prize. Third place winners are Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School in Alpharetta, GA, who shared $10,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each. (See link below for a full list of winners).

“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before," said Michelle Montgomery, M³ Challenge Project Director at SIAM. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M³ Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.
Prior to Monday’s judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.


View the 2017 winning solutions and full list of winning teams here: https://m3challenge.siam.org/archives/2017/winning-solutions

PHOTO AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

- 30 -

Media information or to set up interviews:

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For Immediate Release

Massachusetts Students Named Runners Up in Unique National Competition that Demonstrates Importance of Math in Real Life

Westford, MA – April 25, 2017 – Participation in a prestigious national math competition has added up to a second-place finish for four local high school students. The group of 11th and 12th-graders from Westford Academy took home a prize of $15,000 in college scholarships in the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge.

Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal were among 5,100 students – working in 1,100 teams – participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.

The Westford students were runners up in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be an outstanding mathematical solution to how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.
“For three out of the four members of our team, it was our first time doing this competition. We had no experience with math modeling before,” said Harshal Sheth from the winning team, which was coached by Lisa Gartner, a math teacher at Westford Academy. “Through competing in M3 Challenge, I’ve learned that I can make an impact and solve a real world problem. That was really valuable and I hope to continue that in the future.”

"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on,” said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. “These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation."

First place winners in the competition are Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL, who split a $20,000 scholarship prize. Third place winners are Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School in Alpharetta, GA, who shared $10,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each. (See link below for a full list of winners).
“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, M^3 Challenge Project Director at SIAM. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M^3 Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.

Prior to Monday’s judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the Moody’s Mega Math (M^3) Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.


View the 2017 winning solutions and full list of winning teams here: https://m3challenge.siam.org/archives/2017/winning-solutions
View video highlights of the final event here: https://youtu.be/wQFa3Tg1fmQ

PHOTO CATION:
Pictured is the winning Moody’s Mega Math Challenge team (from the left): Kartik Singh, Adithya Vellal, Coach Lisa Gartner, Nihar Sheth and Harshal Sheth.

Media information or to set up interviews:

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For Immediate Release

Georgia Students Place Third in Unique National Competition that Demonstrates Importance of Math in Real Life

ALPHARETTA, GA – April 25, 2017 – Participation in a prestigious national math competition has added up to a third-place finish for five local high school students. The group of 12th-graders from Johns Creek High School took home a prize of $10,000 in college scholarships in the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge.

Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond were among 5,100 students – working in 1,100 teams – participating in the Challenge, which involved using mathematical modeling to recommend solutions for the future growth and sustainability of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). A total of $150,000 was up for grabs, divided among the finalist teams and top performers nationally.

The Alpharetta students placed third in delivering what was found by a judging panel of more than 220 professional mathematicians to be an outstanding mathematical solution to how the NPS can flourish in spite of global change factors expected to affect resources and visits at its 417 national sites country-wide. The students presented their findings at Moody’s Corporation headquarters on Monday in the pinnacle contest event along with five other finalist teams.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge is designed to spotlight the relevancy and power of mathematics in solving real-world issues, as well as motivate students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Participants were given 14 consecutive hours during the last weekend of February to study the issue in question, collect data and devise models before uploading their solutions online.

Calling the Moody’s Mega Math Challenge “a lot of fun and an exciting experience,” the Johns Creek High School students appreciated the opportunity to provide a solution to a real-world problem. “I thought the challenge problem was really topical, especially since a lot of people are thinking about climate change and how that’s going to affect the future,” said Akhil Vaidya from the winning team, which was coached by Julie Meert, a mathematics teacher at Johns Creek High School. “We all thought it was very appropriate for the times we are in right now.”
"It's exciting to see the breadth of creative ideas that come out of these teams applying their math modeling skills to the very types of management challenges we in the National Park Service are working on," said Amanda Babson, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service, who was an honorary judge and luncheon speaker at the final event. “These students have a thoughtful understanding of the challenges of preserving park resources from sea level rise and climate change. I am truly inspired by this future generation.”

First place winners in the competition are Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL, who split a $20,000 scholarship prize. Runners up are Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Aditya Vellal from Westford Academy in Westford, MA, who shared $15,000 in scholarship funds. Finalist teams from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC; High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ; and Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, received team scholarship prizes of $5,000 each. (See link below for a full list of winners).

“We pose big messy problems about real issues that students may not know much about and that require them to make sense of it all by quantifying and organizing data, using skills they learned in math class – with the goal of solving something they never related to math before,” said Michelle Montgomery, M$^3$ Challenge Project Director at SIAM. “If students participate in this contest, see its value, get excited about what is possible when they have math skills, and realize the type of cool work and impact they might be able to have in their communities and even the larger world, then we have succeeded in our mission.”

In addition to Babson, members of the final judging panel included professional mathematicians Karen Bliss (Virginia Military Institute), Kelly Black (University of Georgia, Athens), Dan Connors (IBM) and Honorary Judge Christopher Bergman, Associate Analyst, Moody’s Investor Services. Bergman himself was a M$^3$ Challenge finalist in 2009 and stood before a judge panel much like the one he was part of this year.
Prior to Monday’s judging round, the more than 1,100 student submissions were assessed by 228 judges from across the country, who then narrowed down the entries to six finalists, six semi-finalists and 78 honorable mentions. In total, about eight percent of entrants were distinguished with scholarship prizes.

For more information about the Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, visit m3challenge.siam.org.


View the 2017 winning solutions and full list of winning teams here: https://m3challenge.siam.org/archives/2017/winning-solutions

View video highlights of the final event here: https://youtu.be/wQFa3Tg1fmQ

PHOTO CATION:
Pictured is the winning Moody’s Mega Math Challenge team (from the left): Akhil Vaidya, Daniel Bodea, Coach Julie Meert, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial and Alex Hammond

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Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

Team from Johns Creek High School headed to NYC to participate in prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

ALPHARETTA, GA – April 3, 2017 – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Alpharetta high school seniors.

The students – Daniel Bodea, Jamie Wang, Anshul Tusnial, Akhil Vaidya and Alex Hammond of Johns Creek High School – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Alpharetta team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M³ Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Johns Creek High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincroft, New Jersey; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Durham, North Carolina; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“The students have taken many different math and computing courses and now they have the opportunity to use what they learned to analyze and model challenging real world problems,” said Julie Meert, Mathematics Teacher at Johns Creek High School, who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “This is a diverse group of students who had to pull together as a team, using and appreciating one another’s strength and abilities to create a clear, detailed solution in a short amount of time. I am impressed with the level of rigor, analysis and technical writing skills exhibited by our students both at the individual level and as a team.”

For team member Daniel Bodea, placing as a finalist in the M³ Challenge opened his eyes to the possibilities of math. "The M³ Challenge allowed our group of students with diverse interests to bond and engage in 14 hours of mathematical modeling of an issue that mattered to us: climate change and its massive impact on our world,” he said. “The teamwork was empowering and the competition exciting. It showed us that the world can be boiled down to math, and that modeling is only a question of finding the right mathematical associations that describe the world, getting creative with them, and simulating them.”
According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels. “M³ Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M³ Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”


Media are invited to interview the students and their coach. Excellent visuals are available.

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Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

Team from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics headed to NYC to participate in prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

DURHAM, NC – April 3, 2017 – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Durham high school seniors.

The students – Angela Deng, Evan Jiang, Dory Li, Miguel de los Reyes and Lucy Wu of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation.

The Durham team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody's Foundation, the M³ Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

"Mathematical modeling can change students' perception of what it means to 'do mathematics' as it focuses on thinking mathematically more than on remembering mathematics techniques," said Dan Teague, a math instructor at North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. "In most math classes, questions are strictly mathematical in nature, whereas with mathematical modeling, students must combine their knowledge in all of their subjects to think strategically and come up with solutions in a real-world context."

"The Moody’s Mega Math Challenge pulls together the whole school day in one activity and requires the students to use mathematical principles along with computer coding, research and writing," Dr. Teague said. "As a consequence, math naturally becomes a part of the students’ everyday approach to life’s challenges."

For team member Dory Li, placing as a finalist in the M³ Challenge opened her eyes to the possibilities of math. "Moody's has provided our team with an incredible opportunity to apply theoretical mathematics to a real-world situation," she said. "We each contributed different key strengths and learned the importance of working together to solve problems. This experience has further inspired us to pursue mathematical analysis and to collaborate on global issues in college and beyond."
According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels. “M³ Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M³ Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”


Media are invited to interview the students and their coach. Excellent visuals are available.

For more information and to book interviews, contact:

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LINCOLNSHIRE, IL – April 3, 2017 – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincolnshire high school juniors.

The students – Albert Cao, Andrew Hwang, Deepak Moparthi, Joshua Yoon and Haoyang Yu of Adlai E. Stevenson High School – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Lincolnshire team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. “These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M³ Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Adlai E. Stevenson High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincroft, New Jersey; Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Silver Spring, Maryland; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“Moody's Mega Math Challenge is an invitation to go beyond the classroom, to explore diverse ideas and push the limits of what our students can achieve,” said Paul Kim, a mathematics teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “Math class is typically an exercise of convergence where a teacher asks various students a question, and the hope is that all the students converge upon the same answer. Moody's Mega Math Challenge is the happy opposite – an open ended question that hopes for a divergence of responses.”

For team member Andrew Hwang, participating in the M³ Challenge was a positive experience that he said challenged him to both think and create something of his own. "Despite all of its frustrations, the M³ Challenge was a humbling task to attempt to model and provide solutions to real world problems," he said. “These opportunities to take one's education outside the classroom don't come by too often, so it's only natural that my teammates and I leapt at the chance. Those 14 hours filled with stress, math and laughter are an unforgettable experience that I only wish I could do again."
According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels. “M³ Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M³ Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”


Media are invited to interview the students and their coach. Excellent visuals are available.

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For Immediate Release

Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

Team from High Technology High School headed to NYC to participate in prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

LINCROFT, NJ – April 3, 2017 – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Lincroft high school students.

The students – Eric Jiang, Anjali Nambrath, Arvind Yalavarti, Kevin Yan and Lori Zhang of High Technology High School—have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Lincroft team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody's Foundation, the M³ Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to High Technology High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincolnshire, Illinois; Durham, North Carolina; Silver Spring, Maryland; Westford, Massachusetts; and Alpharetta, Georgia.

“The Moody's Foundation, in my opinion, has created one of the best high school math modeling competitions,” said Ellen LeBlanc, a math teacher at High Technology High School who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “The competition challenges students to make assumptions, gather data, problem solve, create models and draw conclusions. The students learn how to work together and write a concise and complete mathematical paper – it is a fantastic experience.”

“At High Technology, students and the math faculty spend a great deal of time discussing real world events and how we could possibly model them,” she said. “For example, this year we discussed at length a number of topics including the electoral college, health care and even bumble bees.”
For team member Anjali Nambrath, placing as a finalist in the M³ Challenge is a tremendous opportunity that she says will help open doors in the future. “The M³ Challenge was an opportunity to really delve into the insights math can provide in the real world,” she said. “We applied the theoretical knowledge we learned in math classes to a critical global issue, and it felt good to know that what we were doing had real, tangible relevance to the wider world. All the teamwork, collaboration, brainstorming, formulating and revising condensed into 14 hours was a truly rewarding and memorable experience for my teammates and me.”

According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels. “M³ Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M³ Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”


Media are invited to interview the students and their coach. Excellent visuals are available.

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Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

Team from Montgomery Blair High School headed to NYC to participate in prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

SILVER SPRING, MD – April 3, 2017 – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for five Silver Spring high school students.

The students – James Vinson, Eshan Tewari, Siddharth Taneja, Andrew Komo and Annie Zhao, juniors and seniors at Montgomery Blair High School – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Silver Spring team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody’s Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M^3 Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Montgomery Blair High School, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Lincroft, New Jersey; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Durham, North Carolina; Alpharetta, Georgia; and Westford, Massachusetts.

“Even though I’ve known all five of the students on my team since they were in 9th grade and personally taught them math in multiple years, I didn’t realize what they were truly capable of until I read their paper,” said William Rose, a math teacher at Montgomery Blair High School, who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge.

“The Moody’s M^3 Challenge forces the students to combine their skills from math, statistics, computer science and writing classes in ways that go beyond any one thing we ever ask them to do at school,” Rose explained. “I can’t imagine what they could accomplish if we gave them a week or a month to come up with a solution, instead of just 14 hours.”

For team member Jamie Vinson, placing as a finalist in the M^3 Challenge opened his eyes to the possibilities of math. "Everyone on our team is incredibly interested in mathematics and the Moody's Mega Math Challenge gave us an opportunity to apply our knowledge and love of mathematics to a real-world problem," Vinson said. “The 14-hour competition was definitely hard work but our team had lots of fun and we’re ecstatic we've been chosen as one of the top six teams.”
According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels. “M³ Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M³ Challenge increases that interest in the U.S. in a fun, unique and exciting way.”


Media are invited to interview the students and their coach. Excellent visuals are available.

For more information and to book interviews, contact:

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For Immediate Release

Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

Team from Westford Academy headed to NYC to participate in prestigious Moody’s Mega Math Challenge

WESTFORD, MA – April 3, 2017 – A combination of math smarts and creative thinking has added up to a top spot in a major national math competition for four Westford high school students.

The students – Nihar Sheth, Harshal Sheth, Kartik Singh and Adithya Vellal of Westford Academy – have advanced to the finals in the popular Moody’s Mega Math (M³) Challenge, the only competition of its kind which this year drew more than 5,100 11th and 12th grade participants from across the nation. The Westford team will head to New York City on April 24 to compete against five other finalist teams at Moody’s Corporation World Trade Center headquarters.

Using mathematical modeling, the students had 14 hours in late February to come up with a solution to a real-world issue – helping the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) devise a plan for future growth and sustainability in spite of global change factors expected to affect both resources and visits at its 417 national sites country wide. More than 1,100 participating teams from across the U.S. submitted papers detailing their recommended solutions.

"The National Park Service is privileged to work with the high school mathematicians in Moody's Mega Math Challenge," said Dr. Rebecca Beavers, Coastal Geology and Adaptation Coordinator at NPS. "These bright young minds hold the keys to innovative solutions for many environmental concerns, including climate change."
Organized by Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, the M³ Challenge – now in its 12th year – spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and motivates students to consider further education and careers in math and science. Approximately 90 scholarship prizes totaling $150,000 are up for grabs, with the champion team receiving $20,000.

In addition to Westford Academy, the five other finalist teams hail from high schools in Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; and Silver Spring, Maryland.

“While many mathematics competitions have students work individually to solve rigorous ‘pure’ mathematical problems, Moody’s Mega Math Challenge gives students the opportunity to collaborate with others to solve problems in which they must apply their mathematical knowledge to new and unique real world situations,” said Lisa Gartner, a math teacher at Westford Academy who coached the school’s students through the 14-hour challenge. “The fact that students can potentially earn college scholarship money as a result of their efforts is an added bonus!”

For team member Harshal Sheth, placing as a finalist in the M³ Challenge opened his eyes to the possibilities of math. "The M³ Challenge provided my teammates and me a rare opportunity to use our math and problem-solving skills in a real world application," he said. “I found it exhilarating to work together as a team to produce practical, model-based analyses and forecasts within the short span of 14 hours."
According to Arlene Isaacs-Lowe, President of The Moody’s Foundation, M³ Challenge winners and finalists have gone on to excel at both the college and career levels. “M³ Challenge is the signature program of The Moody’s Foundation, and for good reason,” Isaacs-Lowe said. “We are at a critical moment in history where there is a very real international need for our youth to pursue careers in STEM-related fields so we can sufficiently fill an increased number of jobs coming down the pike in this field. M³ Challenge increases that interest in the US in a fun, unique and exciting way.”


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