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 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.”

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.”


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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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 in preparation for 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 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.”


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

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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 in preparation for 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 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.”


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

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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 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 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.”


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Local Students Advance to Finals in Major National Math Competition

Team from Adlai E. Stevenson High School headed to NYC to participate in prestigious Moody's Mega Math Challenge

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 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.”


**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 (M$^3$) 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 Alpharetta, Georgia; Durham, North Carolina; Lincolnshire, Illinois; Lincroft, New Jersey; 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 in preparation for the 14-hour challenge.

“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 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 M³ 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 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.”


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

- 30 -

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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, 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

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.

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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 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.

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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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 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 (M^3) 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.

Organized by the Philadelphia-based Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and sponsored by The Moody’s Foundation, M^3 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

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

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*PHOTO CAPTION:*
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).

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