

For Immediate Release

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North Carolina math students compete in national meet

DURHAM, N.C. – June 2, 2009 – Thirty-three of North Carolina’s sharpest high school mathematics students recently competed in the 31st Annual American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Meet in Athens, Ga., the only on-site national mathematics competition. It included 148 teams from 47 states in the U.S., and 17 international teams. Teams from Canada, Columbia, the Philippines, and Macaw, competed on-site, and teams from China, Germany, Russia, Taiwan, and Turkey participated via the Internet.

The North Carolina “A1” teamed took first place at their site and placed seventh in the nation. John Berman, representing Hoggard High School in Wilmington, was the high individual scorer for the North Carolina team, answering nine of the 10 individual questions correctly and **placing in the top 20 in the nation.**

North Carolina’s team won the ARML meet in 2006 and was the only team in the nation to place in ARML’s top five for each of the past three years. The two 2009 teams of 15 students each were chosen on the basis of their scores on the State High School Mathematics Exam and several national math exams.

Coaching this year’s team were Archie Benton, North Buncombe High School, Weaverville; John Noland, Cary Academy; Ken Thwing, Freedom High School, Morganton; Philip Rash, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM), Durham; Jeff Lucia, Providence Day School, Charlotte, and Kathy Hill, Athens Drive High School, Raleigh.

“These coaches, under the leadership of Archie Benton, have become an outstanding team at training and identifying the best math students in North Carolina,” said John Goebel, chair of the State Mathematics Competition.

North Carolina’s “A1” Team included John Berman, Hoggard High School, Wilmington; Calvin Deng, Ligon Middle School, Raleigh; Brendan Fletcher, a home school student in Charlotte; Christine Hong, J. H. Rose High School, Greenville; Raleigh resident Damien Jeng, NCSSM; Kevin Lang, Myers Park, Charlotte; Thomas Lu, Guilford Early College, Greensboro; David Lucia, Providence Day, Charlotte; Southern Pines resident Pom McCabe, NCSSM; Gray Symon, Chapel Hill High School; Bryce Taylor, Mt. Tabor High School, Winston-Salem; Raleigh residents Nick Tobey and Daniel Vitek, Enloe High School; Allen Yang, Cary Academy, and Andrew Hertzberg, Chapel Hill High School.

The following students were on the “A2” Team or were alternates: Wilmington resident Michael Chang, NCSSM; Zijing Goa, Smith Middle School, Chapel Hill; Dylan Peiper, North Buncombe High School,

Weaverville; Jesse Duan, Green Hope High School, Cary; Elizabeth Shen, Myers Park High School, Charlotte; Michael Bai, Enloe High School, Raleigh; Jason Chow, Cary Academy; Alex Vasilyev, Enloe High School, Raleigh; Boone resident Shutong Zhan, NCSSM; Jeffrey An, West Cary Middle School; Arjun Bhattacharya, Enloe High School, Raleigh; Leo Chen, Athens Drive Middle School, Raleigh; Cary resident Royce Feng, NCSSM; Tianyi Wei, East Chapel Hill High; Winston-Salem resident Jared Nelson, NCSSM; Jeffrey Dudek, Cary Academy; Yu Want, Guy B. Phillips Middle School, Chapel Hill, and Remy Lee, Davis Drive Middle School, Raleigh.

The “B” Team consists of younger, less-experienced students and who would normally compete in the “B” Division; however, since the North Carolina “B” Team has done so well in recent years, it was required to compete in the A-Division this year.

“We are very proud of these students – and their coaches – for the extraordinary job they have done representing our state on a national level,” said Sam Houston, CEO of the NC Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center (SMT Center).

The ARML Meet, which originated in the New England states, has grown to include four sites across the nation: Penn State University, The University of Iowa , the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University of Georgia. The meet, which consists of four rounds, is conducted simultaneously at all four sites. Three of the rounds are team rounds, including a Power Question, the Team Questions, and Relays. There is one Individual Round. Awards are given for each site and for overall national winners.

The North Carolina Teams are sponsored by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics with generous help from the Duke Energy Foundation.

For additional information, please visit the following websites: NC State High School Mathematics Contests, <http://math.ncssm.edu/smc/state.htm>; American Mathematics Contests, www.unl.edu/amc/, and ARML, <http://www.arml.com/index.php>.

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