

**Academic Boosters Officers &  
Key Personnel  
2007-2008**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
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| Vice President  | Louise Epstein (Sarah '07, Stephanie & Rachel '11) |
| Vice President  | Frances Shi (Cassandra '08)                        |
| Vice President  | Amy Lu (Jesse '08)                                 |
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| Merchandise     | Pat Groves (TJ staff)                              |
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| At Large        | Lynne Hamrick (Karen '07, Brian '10)               |
| At Large        | John Repetski (Rocco '04, Trey '09)                |

*The following organization supported Academic Boosters by donating food to the Student Achievement and Coach Appreciation Banquet:*

Tempt Asian Café  
6259 Little River Tpke  
Alexandria, VA 22312

# Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



**ACADEMIC BOOSTERS, INC.**

**Team Achievement Celebration**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008**

**6:00 ~ 8:50 p.m.**

## Bronze (\$60 & above)

### Families of:

Nader Al-Naji (2010)  
James Baek (2011)  
Andrew Baik (2008)  
Sid Bhatia (2010)  
Ryan Brewster (2008)  
Nimesh Chakravarthi (2011) Krish-  
nan Chander (2011)  
MengYang Chen (2008)  
Andrew Cheong (2011)  
Daniel Choo (2011)  
Margaret Coad (2011)  
Nate Coddington (2009)  
Jacob Daniels (2009)  
Sanjeet Das (2011)  
Stephen Drodge (2009)  
Patrick Elliott (2008)  
Stephen Eltinge (2011)  
Hamed Eramian (2011)  
Thomas Georgiou (2010)  
Jared Hallett (2009)  
James Heron (2011)  
Ryan Honig (2008)  
Keith Horita (2008)  
Jonathan Hsu (2010)  
Timothy Hu (2009)  
Ellen Huang (2009)  
Mohit Iyyer (2008)  
Ashneil Jain (2011)  
Aras Jizan (2008)

Madhu Karamsetty (2011)  
Samantha Keyser (2008)  
Han Kim (2010)  
Allison Koenecke (2010)  
Clarice Lee (2009)  
Erika Lee (2008)  
Natalia Medvedeva (2009)  
Grace Merkin (2010) \*  
Anirudh Mohan (2010)  
Jacqueline Montgomery (2009) Monica  
Mowery (2009)  
Jonathan Pan (2009)  
Sam Pell (2009)  
Jeff Pontell (2010)  
Eugeie Quan (2011)  
Arjun Ramesh (2008)  
Daniel Ranard (2010)  
Gireesh Reddy (2011)  
Stephen Repetski (2009)  
Andrew Rodriguez (2009)  
Amanda Rohrer (2010)  
Anirudh Saraswathula (2010)  
Nate Skolnik (2011)  
Alex H. Spalding (2009)  
Ayaka Sugiura (2010)  
Daniel Sun (2011)  
Jad Tabbara (1011)  
Timothy Tran (2011)  
Jeremy Weller (2011)  
Maria (2007) & Maddie (2009) Whittle  
Vangie Xu (2009) \*  
Judy Zeng (2010)  
Linda Zhang (2010)

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## Other Donors

TJ Faculty: ♣ Pat Gabriel ♣ Stephen Rose ♣  
Mark & Debra Harris, \$100 in honor of Lulu Wang (2008)  
Ping Wang & Michael Ye, \$100 in honor of Lulu Wang (2008)  
Steven Ausnit, \$150 in honor of Byron Hood (2008)

## Matching Funds Donors

*These organizations supported Academic Boosters by matching funds donated by Academic Boosters members:*

Exxon Mobil ☺ Freddie Mac ☺ Fannie Mae ☺ Raytheon ☺ Verizon

\* Amount donated includes matching funds.

## Silver (\$100 & above)

### Families of:

Muneeb Alam (2011)  
Amith Ananthram (2010)  
Alex (2009) & Christopher (2011) Au  
Hun Baek (2010)  
Ved Basu (2009)  
Jack Baule (2011)  
Jake Brooks (2011)  
CJ Cahill (2009)  
Arjun Chavern (2011)  
Jack Chen (2010)  
Steven Chen (2008)  
Tim (2008) & Tom (2008) Chen Luke  
Cheng (2010) Bryan (2010) & Connor  
(2011) Cheong  
Mark Cheung (2010)  
Han W. Cho (2011)  
Jungeun Choi (2010)  
Bryan Chun (2008)  
Rebecca Chung (2008)  
Connor Cotton (2009)  
Joshua Cranmer (2008)  
Aviv Cukierman (2010)  
Elizabeth Denning (2011)  
Lawrence Diao (2010)  
Kelsey Dressing (2010)  
David Ensey (2010)  
Joyce Fang (2008)  
Jonathan (2008) & Elizabeth (2006)  
Faubell  
Lauren Frank (2011)  
Rebecca Friedman (2010)  
Ashutosh Geol (2011)  
Charles Guo (2009)  
Salil Gupta (2011)  
Brian Hamrick (2010)  
Sang Min Han (2011)  
Christophonis Hartanto (2011)  
Nabeem Hashem (2008)  
Daniel Holohan (2009)  
Soonwook Hong (2009)  
Peter Im (2009)  
Aman Kansal (2011)  
Alexander Kim (2009)  
Jamie E. Kim (2011)  
Jung Shim Kim (2008)  
Eric (2009) & Seth (2010) Kolker

Stephen (2008) & Andrew (2010) Lam  
Christine Lee (2010)  
Christopher Lee (2011)  
Joy Lee (2009)  
Kee Young Lee (2009)  
Peter Lee (2008)  
Greyson Lewis (2010)  
Daniel Li (2010)  
Xiaoxiao Lin (2009)  
Jinyu Liu (2008)  
Nicholas Loffredo (2008)  
Edward Junsiao Lu (2009)  
Kevin Lu (2008)  
Andy Xianhao Mai (2010)  
Sarah McManis (2011)  
Andy Menke (2008)  
William Minsheu (2009)  
Adam Mounts (2010)  
Jeremy Owen (2011)  
Nikhil Prakash (2010)  
Arvind Rachamadugu (2009)  
Swetha Rao (2011)  
Nora Riesenber (2010)  
Andrew Rowberg (2011)  
Sanghun Lee (2009)  
Craig Saperstein (2011)  
Zahra Sayyid (2008)  
Brian Shin (2011)  
Tom Smilack (2008)  
Jacob Steinhardt (2008)  
Mac Stevens (2009)  
Bruce Sun (2008)  
Brian Terrill (2008)  
Arvind Thiagarajan (2009)  
Brandon Vargo (2009)  
Max Wang (2011)  
Cindy Wei (2008)  
Quantum (2010) & Quasar (2011) Wei  
Jesse Wong (2008)  
Ferrier Xavier (2011)  
Connie Xie (2010)  
Abigail Xu (2011)  
Hanwen Xu (2010)  
Yangbo Xu (2009)  
Elizabeth (Lizzy) Yim (2011)  
So-Jung (2009) & Choong-Seoup (2011) Youn  
Emily Yu (2010)  
Sherwin Yu (2008)  
Felix Zhang (2008)  
Helen Zhang (2008)  
Franklin Zheng (2010)

## ACADEMIC TEAM

TJ It's Academic enjoyed another excellent year in 2008. Of the 16 regular-season tournaments we attended, we won 6:

- Won the Maryland Fall Classic Tournament
- Won the Blake High School Invitational Tournament
- Highest scorer in the Knowledge Master Spring Open for the 8th time in 11 years, placing first in a field of 703 schools
- Won the Virginia High School League Scholastic Bowl Regional Tournament
- Won the Virginia High School League Scholastic Bowl State Championship
- Won the Ben Cooper Memorial Fall Invitational Tournament
- Won the Collegiate High School / VCU Academic Tournament

TJ played in the final championship round in all but two tournaments, and finished in the top three rankings in all but one tournament.

Our proudest achievement this year was winning the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) High School National Championship for the 4th time in 6 years, an NAQT record. We hope to next perform just as well at the Partnership for Academic Excellence's National Scholastic Competition, which is taking place as this summary is being written.

We'd like to thank Dr. Jones, Mrs. Koepnick, Mrs. Donohue, and our new sponsor, Mrs. Gecan, for all their support in hosting practices during 8th period and after school. We'd also like to thank all of our parent chaperones, who took the time out to register with FCPS, in order to accompany us to tournaments; in particular, we'd like to thank Mr. Richard Graves and Mr. Chandran Pillai.

Congratulations to all team members. We bid farewell to our graduating seniors Keshav Pillai, Phil Graves, Mohit Iyyer, Bali Gupta, Felix Zhang, Raza Mir, and Tom Smilack.



# BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

This year Biology Olympiad Club competed for the first time in the Biology Merit Exam at Clemson University. In the second division, we took first and second place, as well as two 2nd honorable mentions. In third division, TJ won first and second place, as well as ten out of the eleven possible 1st honorable mentions, and also eight 2nd honorable mentions. TJ, as a school, placed 1st in both divisions.

We also competed in the USA Biology Olympiad, for which the club is named after. About 500 students in the nation progressed from the open exam to the semifinal exam, and 30 of them were TJ students.

The team gives special thanks to our sponsor, Dr. Uston.



## Academic Boosters Donors, 2007–2008

*The Academic Boosters appreciates all our members and volunteers. We would like to especially recognize those donors who were able to give more than the basic membership. Thank you very much for your generous financial support. TJ academic teams' continued success depends upon you.*

### Platinum (\$500 & above)

Families of:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Alexander Deluca (2011)                                   | Jennifer Gina Park (2010)                |
| Ben Field (2006)  | Michael (2007) & Gregory Romais (2009) * |
| Yang He (2008) & Jean He (2010)                           | Kaitlin Savage (2011)                    |
| Mary Linnell (2009)                                       | Naren Tallapragada (2009)                |
| Jesse Liu (2008) *  | Jack Zeshan Wang (2008)                  |
| Graham Lobel (2011)                                       | Lulu Wang (2008)                         |
| Rachel (2011), Stephanie (2011),<br>& Sarah (2007) Marzen | Aimee Zhang (2008)                       |
|   | Kevin Zhou (2011) *                      |

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### Gold (\$250 & above)

Families of:

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Anonymous (2009)  | Steven Sun-Kyu Kim (2009)          |
| Will Bunting (2011)   | Nathan Levine (2010)               |
| Liam Carter-Condon (2010)                                   | Jessica (2009) & Monica (2011) Liu |
| Kevin Casto (2009)  | Arda Menziluoglu (2010)            |
| Hannah Clark (2010)   | Jason Miller (2011)                |
| Anne-Marie Creighton (2010)                                 | Will Pitler (2009)                 |
| Huanqi Deng (2008)  | Bharat Ponnaluri (2010)            |
| Steven (2011), Peter (2011), &<br>Alexander (2006) Godofsky | Mohina Sanyal (2010)               |
| Phillip Graves (2008)                                       | Mitchell Stern (2011)              |
| Akaash Gupta (2011)   | Raghav Veluri (2009)               |
| Byron Hood (2008)   | Natalie Villacorta (2009)          |
| Lily Hsiang (2009)  | Pooja Vinayak (2009)               |
| Andre Kessler (2011)  | Harry White (2009)                 |
| Chris Kilgore (2010)  | Cassandra Xia (2008) *             |
| Eric (2011) & Ryan (2009) Kim                               | Andy Yang (2011)                   |
|   | Yan (Rose) Zu (2008)               |

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## SCIENCE BOWL

The Thomas Jefferson Science Bowl team has always had a formidable history, and this year's accomplishments have not fallen short of our excellent, if not fearsome, reputation. Historically, we have won nearly every single Virginia regional Science Bowl competition that we have attended, and Thomas Jefferson still holds the record of the single team with the most wins at the national event, with four consecutive wins from 2002-2005. The team hopes that in future years, members will continue to fulfill the TJ Science Bowl legacy.

This year, competition for team tryouts was fierce. The members of the team ultimately selected were seniors Meng-Yang Chen, Huanqi Deng, Jack Wang, Evan Warner, and Bruce Sun. With the addition of after-school practices to our weekly 8th period and lunch practice schedule, we were beyond well-prepared for the regional event, taking home yet another flawless victory as well as a \$750 check to the school.

Last month, the team traveled to Chevy Chase to attend the National Science Bowl, a 5-day event, with 66 other teams all across the United States and outlying territories. We went undefeated in the round robin portion of the competition, qualifying for the double elimination tournament. We ultimately placed 3rd, a significant improvement in comparison to years past, and received a \$1000 check to the school as well as a trip to Jefferson Labs, which we gave to the team in 4th place. In addition, the team won its round robin division team challenge, being the first team in the division to create a "cloud in a bottle," which earned us another \$500 check.



## BOTBALL TEAM

Botball is a robotics competition centered around Lego, a miniaturized computer brain, fuzzy balls, and a hacked Roomba. Its two-minute game rounds are played on an 8' x 10' game board littered with the various colorful game pieces.

This year, TJ had two teams competing in the Greater DC Regional Botball tournament. The "Senior" Team, captained by Eric Kolker and Mac Stevens, and included Asa Kusuma, Jama Mohammed, Brandon Vargo, Julian Warchall, and Jacob Welsh. The "Freshman" Team, which was actually comprised entirely of sophomores, consisted of Kelsey Dressing, David Ensey, Joel Heck, Jake Hermle, David Mazzocco, Bharat Ponnaluri, Patrick Stalcup, and Jeremy Vercillo.

The teams were tasked with rescuing Botguy (picture attached), collecting the "crew" and "plants," and ejecting the "satellites" into "space" before a "solar flare" hit the "space station" and disabled all communication systems.

The "Senior" team won a Judges' Choice award for Eric's quick hands: one of their 'bots drove off of the game board...twice. Luckily for the team, Eric caught the droid both times and saved it from a nasty fall onto the hardwood floor.

The "Freshmen" preformed exceptionally well and placed 5th out of the 48 teams, due in no small part to their meticulous and colorful documentation.

The Botball Robotics Club members would like to thank our devoted sponsor, Mr. Billington for his time and guidance during the six-week "preseason." We would also like to thank Ms. Stevens for allowing us to build the enormous game board in her basement, feeding us a constant supply of delicious food, and

for putting up with twelve tired, hyper, and loud teenagers for a month and a half. Most importantly, we would like to thank TJ's AB for its generous contribution to both of our teams. Botball is not cheap and we are very thankful that the AB helped us fund our two teams.



## CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

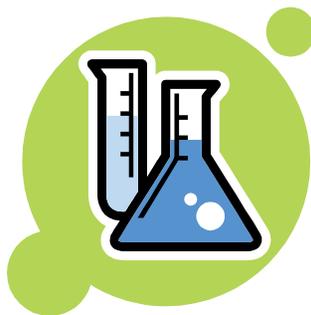
The Chemistry Olympiad team had many interested students once again this year. The National Chemistry Olympiad rules only allow each school to nominate two students for the National exam. In order to select the two nominees for TJHSST, a variety of training opportunities and examinations were provided throughout the school year. The required Chemistry Olympiad Local Exam was given on March to four Semi-Finalists:

Ryan Brewster  
Michael Chang  
Meng-Yang Chen  
Nadir Ijaz

The maximum of four students taking the semi-final exam followed by only being allowed to nominate two students per school is a Chemistry Olympiad rule, not that of TJHSST. Based on all results, interests, and participation, the two nominees allowed by Chemistry Olympiad rules were selected to be the following students:

Meng-Yang Chen and Ryan Brewster

The National Exam was given at Catholic University on April 21, from 8 AM to 4 PM. This consisted of a series of multiple choice problems, free-response problems, and a lab practical in which they must design and complete several experiments to solve lab-based problems.

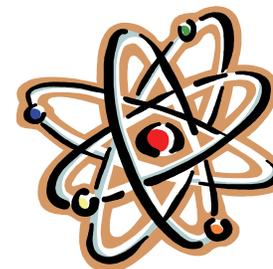


Congratulations to Ryan and Meng-Yang for their excellent performance! And thanks again to Team Coach Brian Kennedy for all his hard work and another great year!

## PHYSICS TEAM

This year, Physics Team met every Tuesday after school and every Friday 8th Period during A Block. Physics team's members practiced for the USA Physics Olympiad (USAPHO) and for the Physics Bowl. Physics Bowl results have not been released online yet. However, TJ did very well on the USAPHO Exams this year. Nineteen TJ students scored among the top 450 students in the nation on the preliminary round, thus advancing to the quarterfinal round. TJ had the highest number of qualifiers any school had in the nation with about 4% of the total US qualifiers in this round. The two closest schools were Phillips Exeter Academy, with 6 qualifiers, and Montgomery Blair High School, with 8 qualifiers.

The 19 students who qualified are Tiffany Cai, Kevin Casto, Luke Cheng, Aaron Dufour, Brian Hamrick, Soonwook Hong, Lily Hsiang, Oleg Lazarev, Kee Young Lee, Daniel Li, Casey Mihaloew, Will Minshew, Chris Olund, Emma Pierson, William Pitler, Jacob Steinhardt, Bruce Sun, Jack Wang, and Yangbo Xu.



Out of these students, 15 qualified to proceed to the semifinal round: Tiffany Cai, Kevin Casto, Luke Cheng, Aaron Dufour, Brian Hamrick, Soonwook Hong, Oleg Lazarev, Daniel Li, Casey Mihaloew, Will Minshew, Emma Pierson, Will Pitler, Jacob Steinhardt, Jack Wang, and Yangbo Xu. In total, 158 people qualified for this exam in the country.

This year, Daniel Li, Jacob Steinhardt, and Jack Wang all qualified for the 24-member US Physics Team, and Daniel and Jack have just returned from a two-week camp devoted to competing for one of the 5 International slots.

Thanks are due the team captains this year: Jack Wang, Arvind Thiagarjan, and Jacob Steinhardt for organizing and running the practice sessions. Special thanks go to our sponsor, Dr. Dell, for making our success possible.

## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Odyssey of the Mind enjoyed tremendous success this year. TJ teams placed first in all five problem categories at the Regional level, including one team in two categories, each advancing to the State level. At the State competition, seniors Ioana Cristei, Nadir Ijaz, Michael Lowman, Tim Xu and juniors Molly Patterson and Daniel Emmons placed second in both the “Classics... The Wonderful Muses” problem and the “Eccentrics” problem; juniors Tim Hu, Ryan Kim, Sue Liu, Jeanette Miranda, James Wiley, Vangie Xu, and So-Jung Youn placed in the “Dino Stories” problem; freshmen Connor Barrett, Jackie Browning, Alla Herman, Janiel Li, Jonathan Phillips, Vy Ton and Katherine Wang placed second in the “Tee Structure” problem; and seniors Dustin Moore, Arjun Khanna and Jeff Chen placed first in the “Odyssey Road Rally” problem. The “Odyssey Road Rally” team also received the Ranatra Fusca Award for exceptional creativity. All four teams advanced to the World Finals, representing TJ in all five problem categories.

A special note – Seniors Arjun Khanna, Dustin Moore and Jeff Chen not only won first place in the vehicle problem at the State Competition, but also won the highly coveted Runatra Fusca Award for being highly creative with their solution.

The Odyssey of the Mind club owes a special thanks to Ms. Cerasela Cristei for her overwhelming support and guidance. It is difficult to convey how much her dedication, patience, and encouragement has meant to us. Ms. Cristei will not be with us next year, as her daughter, Ioana Cristei, is a graduating senior. We will miss her very much; her love of Odyssey of the Mind and what it represents sets a wonderful example for all of us.



## CERTAMEN

TJ Latin sent Certamen teams to every state and local competition held this year:

- VJCL Kick-Off Certamen: St. Stephens and St. Agnes HS; October 27, 2007
- Ad Fontes Certamen at George Mason University; November 10, 2007
- Riverbend Certamen at Riverbend High School; December 8, 2007
- Flint Hill Certamen at Flint Hill Upper School; January 12, 2008
- Classical Cottage Certamen at Powhatan School; April 5, 2008
- VJCL State Finals at Park View High School; April 19, 2008

TJ teams placed in the top 5 at every tournament—winning team trophies and individual medals. The Latin III team won the State Championship at the State Finals (April 19). Team Members: Anne Marie Creighton, Vivaek Shivakumar, Alex Spalding, Soonwook Hong. Congratulations to all TJ Certamen teams!

Latin I team members:  
Zachary Seid (captain),  
Bob Lee, Keegan Cotton,  
Richard Nguyen,  
Emily Clarke, Brian Shin.

Latin II team members:  
David Warrington  
(captain), Ashwin Raja,  
Christine O'Donnell,  
Catherine Zucker, Con-



nor Cheong, Stephen Godofsky, Willis Wender, Nate Skolnik, Siddarth Hariharan, Connor Cotton.

Latin III team members: Alex Spalding (captain), Vivaek Shivakumar, Anne Marie Creighton, Soonwook “Drew” Hong, Lucas Carreno.

Upper Level members: Amith “Roger” Ananthram (captain), Chris Kilgore, William Czaplyski, Zach Mott, Maya Wei, Lara Howerton, Keith Horita.

### **III. National Champions**

Students from TJHSST comprised the Virginia Lower Level Certamen team and won the National Championship at the National Junior Classical League Convention at the University of Tennessee in August 2007. Congratulations to these students on this impressive victory: Amith Ananthram, Chris Kilgore, Vivaek Shivakumar, and Anne Marie Creighton. Please ‘take a look’ at their scrap-book located on the Latin table. Anne Marie, Amith, and Chris will return this summer to assist the Upper Level team with their quest for victory.

### **IV. TJHSST’s Fourth Annual Certamen**

Our 4th Annual Certamen was held on February 23, 2008. Thirty-nine schools sent over 100 teams to this successful Certamen (including one team from Wisconsin!). The TJHSST Certamen is the largest Certamen competition held in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia each year!! Many thanks go to the parent and student volunteers, without whom this event would not have been so successful!!

chase books and materials. With these resources, the students picked areas of interest, researched topics, prepared lectures and handouts for one another. The website and Blackboard site are used to archive our study guides and presentations each year.

In April, the team flew to Anchorage, Alaska and the following day took the Alaskan Railroad through the alpine tundra to Seward where the competition was held. The four hour train trip was halted half way into the ride in a small town called Portage in the snow covered Chugach Mountains, when we learned that an avalanche had made it impossible to continue. We continued the journey to the coastal town of Seward by bus arriving in time to catch a catamaran ride off the Gulf of Alaska on Resurrection Bay – a glacial fjord – to see Alaskan wildlife such as sea otters, whales, and bald eagles. The day finished with a dinner at the Alaskan Sea Life Center.

The next day we sailed smoothly into the competition making it into the double elimination rounds. Although not in top four teams, the coach, Lisa Wu, won an opportunity to return to Alaska this summer to study the effect of climate change on estuaries with the University of Alaska at their field station on the remote Kenai Peninsula. While in Alaska, we made the front page of the Seward newspaper. The headline read, “The Sea Geeks are Coming.”

Following the competition, we attended an Alaskan barbeque and visited the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center where we saw porcupines, bison, brown bears, caribou, muskoxen, coyotes, great horned owls, elk, and moose.

The teams have several players graduating this year and several returning members. I want to encourage anyone with an interest in the ocean to join us next year. We plan to have a “whale of a time”!

## OCEAN BOWL

The National Ocean Science Bowl was launched in 1998. It is intended to increase knowledge of the oceans (biology, chemistry, geology, math, physics, social science and current events in the context of the ocean) and raise the visibility and understanding of the national investment in ocean related research. It provides a forum for students who excel in science to receive national recognition for their talents. It fosters collegiality and teamwork, competition, imagination and factual recollection. It also allows students to work side by side with experts in a variety of settings. Students who participate are also qualified for college scholarships and summer internship programs.

This year, the regional Ocean Bowl competition, the Chesapeake Bay Bowl, was held on February 23, 2008 at the U.S. Naval Academy. The TJ-A team, consisting of Helen Zhang (Captain), Aimee Zhang, Oleg Lazarev, Alex Kim, and Catherine Kim, placed first, washing out teams from Virginia, Washington DC, Delaware, and Maryland. This tsunami win allowed them to advance on to the national competition in Seward, Alaska in April. The TJ- B team, consisting of Diane Palko (Captain), Bryan Chun, Janiel Li, Margaret Tarmann, and Joey Jachowski, placed second in the regional competition (losing only once to the A-team!)

We prepared for the competitions with 8th period study sessions, after school, and weekend practices. The generous grant from the Academic Boosters enabled us to pur-



## CHESS TEAM

The Chess Team was more successful than ever during the 2007-2008 school year. From November 2007 to January 2008, the team won the Northern Division of the Metro Area Chess League handily, going undefeated with four wins and no losses. In the playoff round at the beginning of March, a five-member team composed of Aryan Khojandi, Craig Saperstein, Byron Hood, Emma Pierson, and Madhu Karamsetty dominated the competition from Maryland, D.C., and Virginia, scoring 15 points out of 15.

The Chess Team also sent two groups of players to the Amateur Team East, a highly competitive tournament in Parsippany, New Jersey. The "King Krunchers," with Aryan Khojandi, Byron Hood, Craig Saperstein, and Emma Pierson won an award for being the top high school team.

At the State Championships on March 8-9, 2008, the Chess Team once again proved its mettle. The team scored 19.5 out of 24 possible points to take home the first place team trophy for the tenth consecutive year. Meanwhile, team members Joey Regalbuto, Eddie Lu, and Aryan Khojandi brought home the first, second, and third place individual trophies in TJ's most dominant showing ever.

In the final tournament of the year, the national championships, TJ was one of two favorite teams going in, with tremendous depth of strength. And after five rounds, TJ was leading by two solid points with an eye for the championship. But in the last two rounds, TJ players lost four critical games, knocking them back into second place by 1/2 point. The team's second place finish, however, was by no means a defeat: it was the highest finish the team has made in the past several years at this ultra-competitive tournament.



## COMPUTER TEAM

### USA Computing Olympiad

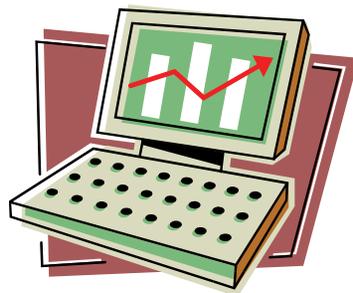
January USACO Contest – Gold Division, Brian Hamrick was fourth in the US and Haitao Mao was fifth. Silver Division, Daniel Li was first in the US and fifth in the world; he was also promoted to the Gold Division.

February USACO contest – Gold Division, Jacob Steinhardt was third in the country, Brian Hamrick was fourth, Haitao Mao seventh, Jack Chen twenty-fourth, Daniel Li twenty-sixth, and Tiffany Cai twenty-seventh. Silver Division, Christina Wallin was eighth in the country, Tom Georgiou was tenth, and William Yang twenty-first. Bronze Division both Casey Mihailew and Filip Sufitchi were part of a 79-way tie for first in the world – can't beat perfection.

March USACO contest – Gold Division, Jacob Steinhardt and Brian Hamrick were among those tied for 4th in the country. Silver division, Tom Georgiou was 1st in the country. Bronze Division, Ryan Brewster and Mary Linnell had perfect scores.

April USACO U.S. Open – 31 students competed. In the Gold Division, Haitao Mao was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country; Jacob Steinhardt was 6<sup>th</sup>, and Stephen Drodge 9<sup>th</sup>. In the Silver Division, Ryan Brewster was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country. In the Bronze Division, Patrick Elliott was 1<sup>st</sup> in the country.

Haitao Mao, Jacob Steinhardt, and Brian Hamrick were invited to the USACO Camp in June 2008 to compete for the four spots on the U.S. Team for the International Olympiad.



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

TJ Model UN has again enjoyed an incredibly successful year of competition. This year, TJMUN won all local conferences in which it participated, including those at George Mason, C.D. Hylton, Chantilly, and Fairfax high schools. TJMUN also handily won the Virginia Model United Nations Conference hosted by the University of Virginia, and performed extremely well at the competitive Ivy League Model United Nations Conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. As such, many of our over 100 regular members made outstanding personal achievements, taking home top individual awards at each of these conferences.

As the year comes to a close, many thanks go to the TJMUN leadership headed by Secretary-General Marina Arnold, Undersecretary-General Nabeem Hashem and the rest of the 2007-2008 Officer Corps. Most importantly, TJMUN would like to thank its wonderful sponsor, Ms. Jennifer Bain, who will unfortunately not be here next year to give her unflinching guidance, support, and dedication to the club. We hope that she will take fond memories of her three years as an integral part of TJMUN with her as she continues her life in Boston.

Finally, congratulations and best of luck to our graduating seniors: Marina Arnold, Andy Barthakur, Laura Berk, Rohit Dasgupta, Amy Duncan, Casey Enders, Raja Goel, Rachana Haliyur, Nabeem Hashem, Yang He, Aras Jizan, Anna Karnaze, Arjun Khanna, Karl Leswing, Dyuti Mahendru, Ankita Nagirimadugu, Corinna Pan, Rathna Ramamurthi, Vinitra Rangan, Jared Rector, Blake Reed, Tanvi Shirke, Meliha Skaljic, Shoshana Spiro, Drew Stebbins, Soo Suh, Lulu Wang, and Cindy Wei.



We will be missing some of our top members due to USACO camp, but we still hope for a strong finish.

Now for competitions we take in school. First, we won first place on Mandelbrot, with an unexpected turnaround on the last round. Jacob Steinhardt won 1st individually, breaking David Bay Rush's streak of four perfect scores. We also got 5th place in the cumulative team round. In Purple Comet, an online contest, we won first and second. At ARML Local, we also won first place and Haitao Mao tied for first place individually. In VAML (Virginia Math League), our school won first place as a team, but we didn't have any individual winners due to inconsistent attendance of our top scorers.

Finally, the most important national contest, the AMC (American Mathematics Competitions) test series. For the AMC-12, we had three perfect scorers, Brian Hamrick, Dan Li, and Haitao Mao, and our school got the highest team score in the nation. Haitao Mao also aced the AIME, giving him a perfect USAMO (USA Mathematics Olympiad) index. For the USAMO, our school had six qualifiers, including Jack Wang, Aviv Cukierman, Jacob Steinhardt, Brian Hamrick, Haitao Mao, and Dan Li, which is not as high as some years, but our school still has the most cumulative USAMO qualifiers of any school in the nation. One team member, Brian Hamrick, also qualified for MOP (Mathematics Olympiad Summer Program), which will take him to Nebraska for three weeks in June to train for Olympiad problem solving.

### **University of Maryland Programming Contest**

TJ Senior 'Puter Team won first place in a forty team field. Jacob Steinhardt, Haitao Mao, Brian Hamrick, and Jack Chen represented TJ. They were the only team to solve 5 of the 8 problems.

### **Virginia Commonwealth University 5th Annual VCU Programming Contest**

TJ Senior 'Puter Team – Tiffany Cai, Tom Georgiou, Daniel Li, and Jack Wang – placed first and were each awarded \$2000 annual scholarships to VCU to study computer science.

TJ Frosh Team – Andrew Cheong, William Dalton, Daniel Kang, and Swetha Rao, placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **American Computer Science League**

Frosh 'Puter Team was invited to the ACSL All-Star Competition with teams from all over the USA and from Canada, Romania, and Croatia. Andrew Cheong (Captain), William Dalton, Stephen Eltinge, Divya Garg, and Daniel D. Kang, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> among the Junior Teams. In addition, the team was awarded First Place Junior Team in the Central Division for the regular season; Stephen Eltinge was recognized for his perfect score in the regular season competition.

Sponsors: Shane Torbert, Senior 'Puter Team; Steve Rose, Frosh 'Puter Team

## DEBATE TEAM—LD

The Lincoln Douglas debate team has enjoyed fantastic success this year! Throughout the year, TJ has consistently placed in the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice divisions at the local Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League (WACFL) tournaments. Top finishers, often going undefeated, at the WACFLs included: Sid Bhatia, Kevin Boehm, Maya Chaudhuri, Steven Chen, Jared Hallett, Soonwook Hong, Lily Hsiang, Betty Huang, Aman Kansal, Alex Kim, Joy Lee, Tilani Lowman, Ani Mohan, Christine O'Donnell, Emma Pierson, Jackson Prestwood, Kushal Seetharam, John Walsh, Katherine Wang, Akshar Wunnava, Emily Yu, and Rebecca Zhang.

TJ's outstanding performance at these tournaments led to a record number of debaters qualifying for the end-of-year Metrofinals tournament: 25 debaters – the most in TJ history and a number virtually unmatched in the Washington area. Christine O'Donnell also competed in the VHSL District tournament and qualified for Regionals. The LD team also participated in three national tournaments: Princeton, Harvard, and GMU. At the Princeton Invitational, Christine O'Donnell broke into double-octafinals and Divya Srinivasan broke into octafinals, while at GMU, Alex Kim and Viola Li broke into elimination rounds.

Finally, at the end-of-year Metrofinals tournament, the TJ Lincoln Douglas team had a record performance! In Junior Varsity, Rebecca Friedman placed as 2nd speaker and six of the eight quarterfinalists were from TJ: Akaash Gupta (2nd place), Jackson Prestwood (3rd place), Kushal Seetharam (4th place), Tilani Lowman, Anirudh Mohan, and Katherine Wang. In the Varsity Division, Emma Pierson won 1st place speaker and was named the WACFL Metrofinals 2007-2008 Champion. She

and two other TJ Varsity debaters qualified for the NCFL Grand Nationals Tournament in Appleton, Wisconsin: Christine O'Donnell (4th place), and Lily Hsiang (5th place). In addition, the LD team won first place in the Sweepstakes Competition with a perfect score of 192/192!



## MATH TEAM

This past year for the Varsity Math Team has been one of many successes. We have done better than ever before in several key events, and have met expectations on others. At the PuMAC (Princeton University MATH Competition) in November, the TJ-A team won 2nd overall and got the highest score on the team round. Virginians swept 1st place in every division of the competition, with Jacob Steinhardt winning 1st in Combinatorics and Number Theory, Haitao Mao winning 1st in Geometry, and Palmer Mebane winning 1st in Algebra. Also, Brian Hamrick and Dan Li tied for 6th place in the Algebra division. At the Duke Math Meet the following week, a different TJ-A team got 2nd place and our B team got 5th place, a great improvement over our 5th place finish last year. Also, Renjie You won 2nd place individually. The HMMT (Harvard-MIT Math Tournament) was more of a special occasion – it turned out that the only snow day FCPS called this year disabled VMT from going to Boston, so we were forced to take the contest at TJHSST. Consequently, we were not allowed to take the Guts Round of the competition, so we were ineligible for the 400 points from that round. Since we lost to Philips Exeter Academy by 387 points, we believe we had a good chance at first if we had been able to travel to the competition site. At HMMT, Brian Hamrick won 1st place individually, and Jacob Steinhardt won 2nd place, both very stunning achievements, as HMMT is arguably the most prestigious traveling competition. Also, Dan Li won 10th place individually. Our final trip for the year is the largest. We will travel with 3 teams of 15 members each to ARLM (American Regional Math League) at Penn State on May 31.



# JAPAN BOWL

The Japan Bowl is a national academic competition sponsored each spring by the Japan-America Society. It tests the achievements of high school students throughout the United States who are studying the Japanese language, including their knowledge of traditional and modern Japan. (Japan America Society)

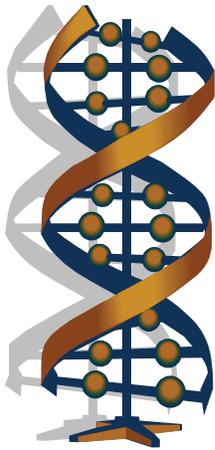
Our school has been participating to this competition since it started at George Mason University campus in 1993. Each year we are placed high among other schools. We have sent three groups (three in each group) to the tournament this year. Each team did well on the competition again this year. There were 65 teams and 186 students participated to the competition this year. And the result each level is: level 2 (beginners): 11th, level 3 (intermediate): 5th, level 4 (advanced): 6th. We will continue to practice and participate to represent TJ for the coming years.

## Japan Bowl Team 2008

Level 2: Jungeun Choi (2), Brian Yu (2), Connie Xie (2)

Level 3: Steven Kim (3), Andrew Lam (2), Han Kim (2)

Level 4: Andrew Baik (4), Cassandra Xia (4), Jessica Lee (4)



Finally, at Grand Nationals, Lily Hsiang broke into double-octafinals. Congratulations, everyone!!

As always, the team remains indebted to Mr. Sherwood Williams for all the time and dedication he put into the team this year—we could not have achieved anything without his continued support and encouragement. Thank you, Mr. Williams, for such a fabulous year!

## DEBATE TEAM—Public Forum

In its inaugural year, Public Forum Debate achieved great success with a very dedicated team. On the local circuit, PF qualified 11 debaters to WACFL Metrofinals. The Varsity qualifiers were senior Francis Deng, Sumit Malik, and Dan Wang; the Junior Varsity qualifiers were Emily Yu, Rebecca Friedman, Kevin Sun, Katherin Helmick, Cindy Han, Akaash Gupta, Lisa Yang, and Jane Hu. At Metrofinals, co-captains Francis and Sumit qualified for the NCFL Grand National Tournament. Emily and Rebecca were quarterfinalists and each received the Eleanor E. Wright Spirit of Competition Award. On the national circuit, Francis and Sumit were quarterfinalists at the Wake Forest Earlybird, semifinalists at the Villiger Tournament, and the first TJ debaters to fully qualify for the prestigious National Tournament of Champions (TOC).

The PF team would like to specially thank its sponsor, Mr. Michael Miller, for his tremendous enthusiasm, encouragement, and guidance, as well as Mr. Sherwood Williams, the LD Debate sponsor, for his overwhelming support in making this debate season as enjoyable and successful as it could be.



## DEBATE TEAM—POLICY

The TJ Policy Debate team had a notable season, especially with a massive increase in the number of members. We'd like to thank this year's new sponsor Mr. Thomas Sleete for his constant support and enthusiasm for the growth and development of the team; without him, our success this year would not have been possible.

This year's JV teams, consisting of new freshmen debaters, enjoyed considerable success, having qualified 4 teams of two to the Debate Metrofinals tournament. Of these debaters, the team of Andre Kessler and Graham Lobel placed 6th in JV, and debater Chris Lee received the 5th Speaker award.

The varsity team also enjoyed special success at Metrofinals: debater Hannah Clark received the Eleanor E. Wright Spirit of Competition Award for attending every single WACFL tournament this year. The team of Kathy Hutchinson and Lisa Pang placed 3rd in Varsity and attended the Nationals tournament. Kathy also received the 6th speaker award at Metrofinals. Overall, the policy debate team as a whole placed third, in its first-ever sweepstakes award.

At the Harvard Invitational tournament on February 18th and 19th, Kathy Hutchinson and Lisa Pang broke into the quarterfinals round with a record of 4-3, a notable achievement at this large and prestigious tournament.



We'd like to thank the Academic Boosters for their support, without which we would not be able to send our teams to succeed at such prestigious tournaments.

## FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS

TJ's Future Problem Solving teams had a fantastic season this year. We had twenty-five students qualify for the Virginia Future Problem Solving State Bowl, including five teams in the Senior Division (grades 10-12), and one team and one individual in the Middle Division (grades 7-9). At the State Bowl, TJ swept at the State Bowl: 1st place was taken by the team of Logan Gates, Alexis Barrett, Clarice Lee, and Kevin Casto; 2nd place: Rose Zu, Maneeshika Madduri, So-Jung Youn, and Pooja Vinayak. These two teams qualified to compete at the International Conference from May 29 to June 1. Third place was taken by Zoe Hoffman competing on an Independent Team, and Honorable Mention by the team of Sasha Scott, Cindy Wei, Rachel Cackler, and Will Tarpeh. In the Middle Division, Daniel Sun took 3rd place in the individual competition. Congratulations!

In the supplemental presentation of action plan (skit) competition, TJ also did extraordinarily well. 1st place was taken by the team of Rose Zu, Maneeshika Madduri, So-Jung Youn, and Pooja Vinayak; 2nd Place: Sasha Scott, Cindy Wei, Rachel Cackler, and Will Tarpeh; and Honorable Mention: Lily Hsiang, Lisa Pang, Ellen Huang, and Huan Song. Also at State Bowl, Rose Zu won the annual \$1000 VA FPS Scholarship, while Mr. Lampazzi, our long-time coach and mentor, won the prestigious Movers and Shakers Award for all the years of patience and support he has put into FPS and the TJ team. Congratulations, everyone!

On a more bittersweet note, we bid farewell to Mr. Lampazzi, without whom we could never have reached any of our moments of success. He has been the epitome of a dedicated coach, encouraging us through all our struggles and all our triumphs, whether in Norfolk at the State Bowl or simply in Lab 113. We will truly miss his guiding presence—a true mover and shaker who will remain in our hearts for many years to come!

