



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 26, 2010

## San Diego Area Students Win National Distinction in Physics

In results just announced by the American Association of Physics Teachers, ten San Diego area students have qualified for the national semifinal competition leading to the selection of the U.S. Physics Team. The selection was made based on a screening exam taken by thousands of physics students nationwide each January. The ten semifinalists are:

Robi Bhattacharjee	Torrey Pines High School	San Dieguito Union High School District
Lucas Brown	Rancho Bernardo High School	Poway Unified School District
Neil Garde	Westview High School	Poway Unified School District
Marco Gentili	Canyon Crest Academy	San Dieguito Union High School District
David Hu	Rancho Bernardo High School	Poway Unified School District
Jesse Orłowski	Eastwood Christian Homeschool	San Diego
Aaron Schild	The Bishop's School	La Jolla
Eric Guan	Torrey Pines High School	San Dieguito Union High School District
Henry Huang	Torrey Pines High School	San Dieguito Union High School District
Leo Zhou	Scripps Ranch High School	San Diego Unified School District

Nationwide, 312 students qualified, with 75 (24.0%) coming from California. San Diego's students constitute 13.3% of California's qualifiers and 3.2% of the national total.

In March, these ten students will take a comprehensive examination covering all fields of physics, including Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Thermodynamics and Fluids, Relativity, Nuclear and Atomic Physics, and Waves and Optics. Their work will be judged not only for the correctness of their answers, but for the soundness and completeness of their work as a whole.

The semifinal exam is used to select the 24 members of the U.S. Physics Team. These students, from schools all over the United States, travel to the University of Maryland-College Park at the end of May for the annual U.S. Physics Team Training Camp. There they engage in nine days of intense studying, testing and problem solving. At the end of that training camp, five students will be selected for the "Traveling Team." The Traveling Team will return for three additional days of intense laboratory work before they are ready for the International Event. This year's 41<sup>st</sup> International Physics Olympiad will be held in Zagreb, Croatia, July 17-25.

Schools are encouraged to make the local rounds of the U.S. Physics Olympiad available to their students. The San Diego Math Circle supports the Olympiad program by administering local rounds of the competition series on behalf of the American Association of Physics Teachers for any students who do not otherwise have that opportunity.

The San Diego Math Circle ([www.sdmathcircle.org](http://www.sdmathcircle.org)) is a cooperative venture blending the volunteer and charitable efforts of parents, expert instructors, UCSD, the Art of Problem Solving, Inc., and is supported by private donations and corporate sponsors such as Gen-Probe Incorporated and Quintiles International.

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