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SCIENCE SUPERSTARS FROM WESTCHESTER and LONG ISLAND NEW YORK HONORED FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY RESEARCH IN NATION'S PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE COMPETITION

Siemens Competition Regional Winners Announced at Carnegie Mellon; Will Compete for \$100,000 at National Finals

**Alicia Darnell of Pelham, New York, Wins Top Individual Prize
Janelle Schlossberger and Amanda Marinoff of Plainview, New York, Win Top Team Prize**

PITTSBURGH, PA, November 17, 2007 — Molecular Biology and chemistry won top honors tonight for Alicia Darnell and for Amanda Marinoff and Janelle Schlossberger in the Region 4 Finals of the 2007-08 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, the nation's premier high school science competition.

The Siemens Competition, a signature program of the Siemens Foundation, is administered by the College Board. Tonight's winners will receive thousands of dollars in college scholarships and be invited to compete at the National Finals in New York City, where the winners of six regional competitions across the United States will vie for scholarships ranging from \$10,000 to the top prize of \$100,000.

"These students have earned a place of honor among the nation's best and brightest," said Thomas McCausland, Chairman of the Siemens Foundation. "We applaud their achievement and look forward to welcoming them to the national event."

The students presented their research this weekend to a panel of judges from Carnegie Mellon University, host of the Region 4 Finals.

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Alicia Darnell, a senior at Pelham Memorial High School in Pelham, New York won the individual category and a \$3,000 college scholarship for her project on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Her project could potentially lead to a diagnostic test and help develop treatments for ALS. Ms. Darnell's project title is *Alternative Splicing Defects Linked to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)*.

"She found significant changes in the structure of specific RNAs in the spinal cord of mice with ALS," said Dr. Javier Lopez, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University. "The quality of her work was impressive, her presentation was phenomenal. The next step is to find out when these changes occur and how that information can be used in the development of medical treatments. Her findings will certainly inspire scientists in this field to further explore the relationship between changes in RNA processing and ALS."

Ms. Darnell is the editor of the student newspaper, *Youth-In-Action*, President of the Science Honors Society, Student Association Senator, as well as a member of both the National Honors Society (tutoring and community service) and the Environmental Science Club. She was inspired to research Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis because she is interested in molecular biology and very motivated by the potential clinical applications of research on ALS. She hopes to study biology and neuroscience, and her dream job would be to combine scientific research applicable to medicine and epidemiology with journalism. Her mentor was Mrs. Irene Gruber, teacher of Science Research program at Pelham Memorial High School.

Janelle Schlossberger and Amanda Marinoff, both seniors at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School in Plainview, New York won the team category and will share a \$6,000 scholarship for developing potential medicinal alternatives to current tuberculosis treatments. The team's project title is *FtsZ Inhibitors as Novel Chemotherapeutic Agents for Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis*.

"These students made two compounds that prevent a specific protein from assembling into structures that are required for the reproduction of the tuberculosis bacterium, which could become a very effective therapeutic strategy," said Dr. Bruce Armitage, Professor of Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University. "This research is an exciting lead in the development of the next generation of anti-tuberculosis drugs. It could have a broader impact not just in the United States but in developing countries as well where tuberculosis is on the rise because of the increasing prevalence of AIDS. "

Ms. Schlossberger is the President of the Science Honor Society, member of Science Olympiad, editor-in-chief of the district-wide literary and art magazine, and a member of the French Honor Society and National Honor Society. Ms. Schlossberger was a finalist in the DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition. She is proficient in French and plans to study physics in college.

Ms. Marinoff is the editor-in-chief of her school newspaper and a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Science Olympiads and Increase the Peace. She volunteers at an after-school program for autistic children. Her personal hero is Bono, the lead singer of U2, because he uses his influence as a rock star to make the world a better place. Ms. Marinoff plans to study biology and French in college and aspires to become a doctor with the 'Doctors without Borders'.

The team was mentored by Mary Lou O'Donnell, High School Research Teacher/Coordinator, Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School; Dr. Iwao Ojima, Distinguished Professor and Director for the Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery, Chemistry Department, Kunal Kumar, Graduate Student, Dr. Bela Ruzsicska, Director of the Analytical Instrumentation Laboratory and Ilaria Zanardi, Senior Research Support Specialist, SUNY Stony Brook.

Runners-Up

Runners-up each received a \$1,000 scholarship. In addition, the Siemens Foundation awards \$2,000 per project to the high school of every regional finalist.

Runners-up in the individual category were:

- Alicia Chionchio, Smithtown High School West, Smithtown, NY
- Rebecca Long, Francis Lewis High School, Fresh Meadows, NY
- John Mortensen, Garden City High School, Garden City, NY
- David Rosengarten, John L. Miller Great Neck North High School, Great Neck, NY

Team runners-up were:

- Adam Fields, Jericho Senior High School, Jericho, NY and Alex Ramek, Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway, Cedarhurst, NY
- James Leung, Shabitri Dasgupta, Francis Lewis High School, Fresh Meadows, NY and Tiffany Yau, Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY
- Christine Shrock, Ward Melville High School, East Setauket, NY and Ellen Shrock, Long Island School for the Gifted, Huntington Station, NY
- Sanchita Singal, Herricks High School, New Hyde Park, NY and Lara Fourman, Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, Plainview, NY and Mili Mehta, The Wheatley School, Old Westbury, NY

The Siemens Competition

The Siemens Competition was launched in 1998 to recognize America's best and brightest math and science students. This year, 1,641 students registered to enter the competition with a record number of projects submitted, including a 9% increase in team projects.

Entries are judged at the regional level by esteemed scientists at six leading research universities which host the regional competitions: California Institute of Technology; Carnegie Mellon University; Georgia Institute of Technology; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; University of Notre Dame; and The University of Texas at Austin.

The National Finals, judged by a panel of nationally renowned scientists and mathematicians, will take place November 30 – December 3 at New York University in New York City.

Log on to www.siemens-foundation.org to watch a webcast from the Siemens Competition National Finals in New York. Webcast schedule: Student presentations are available beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 12:00pm EST. Live webcast of the national winners press conference on Monday, December 3, from 8:30am EST.

The Siemens Foundation

The Siemens Foundation, established in 1998, is a national leader in math and science education, providing more than \$2 million in scholarships and awards annually. Based in Iselin, New Jersey, the Foundation's signature programs – the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, and the Siemens Teacher Scholarships – recognize exceptional achievement in science, math and technology. By supporting outstanding students today, and recognizing the teachers and schools that inspire their excellence, the Foundation helps nurture tomorrow's scientists and engineers. The Foundation's mission is based on the culture of innovation, research and educational support that is the hallmark of Siemens' U.S. operating companies and its parent company, Siemens AG. For more information, please visit, www.siemens-foundation.org.

The College Board

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.com.

NOTE TO EDITORS: B-roll and Photos of winners available on request.

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