# MATHCOUNTS® Spring Newsletter

www.mathcounts.org

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### Luke Robitaille Becomes First Repeat National Champion at 2018 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition

Over the course of the history of the MATHCOUNTS Competition Series, many have assumed we have multiple re-

peat national champions. When surrounded by such incredible mathematicians, it is easy to forget just how challenging even *making* it to the MATHCOUNTS National Competition is, let alone winning, let alone doing so twice...

One question on a tie-breaker round can mean the difference between advancing to state and going home. A silly computation error on the Sprint Round can shift a student to fifth place at state—making nationals just out of reach. A second of hesitation on the buzzer during the Countdown Round often separates the runner-up and winner. **Luke Robitaille**, our first ever repeat National Champion, talked about this following his first win. In both 2017, when he won, and 2016, when he came in second, his match-up was tied 3-3 leading up to the winning question.

Recognizing the hard work and dedication this achievement requires makes the double victory even sweeter. But fortunately for Luke, who is an eighth-grade homeschooled student from Euless, Texas, as for Mathletes across the country, participating in MATHCOUNTS is not all work. When he was asked during the Countdown Round what he was most excited about for this year's National Competition, Luke said he looked forward to the Countdown Round. Not just because of his hopes of winning it—but because

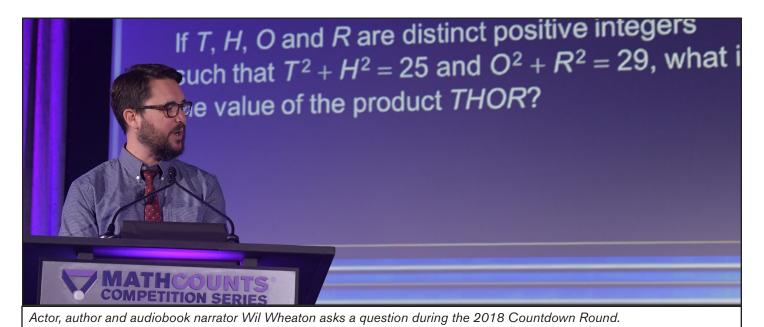


"Countdown itself is guite fun, actually...just, the math itself is fun."

This attitude was expressed not just by Luke, but by his teammates, including Andrew Cai, an eighth-grader from Sugar Land, Texas, who was a Countdown Round Quarter-finalist in 2016 and the Countdown Round Runner-Up in both 2017 and 2018. The camaraderie between Luke and Andrew, as well as their support of their fellow Mathletes and Texas teammates, demonstrates what really makes MATHCOUNTS special: beyond competition, this program forges lifelong friendships and is as much about having fun playing as it is winning.

For the second time, Luke swept the national competition awards, winning the \$20,000 Donald G. Weinert College Scholarship as National Champion, plus \$2,500 as the Written Competition Champion and \$2,000 as a member of the First Place Team. Luke wraps up his three years as a national competitor having won a total of \$58,500 in college scholarships. Luke needed just 14.55 seconds total to answer the winning question:

The first three terms of an infinite arithmetic sequence are 3.46, 2.47 and 1.48, in that order. What is the first integer term in this sequence? (Answer: -50)





Luke was joined by 223 Mathletes from across the country who competed at the 2018 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition on May 13–14 at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel. National competitors represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense and State Department.

The 2018 National Competition began with three rounds of written tests on Sunday, May 13, requiring students to work both individually and collaboratively in their four-person state teams. On Monday, May 14, the 12 students with the highest scores on the Written Competition advanced to the Countdown Round, hosted by actor, author and audiobook narrator Wil Wheaton. This final round challenges students in fast-paced one-on-one match-ups in which competitors have at most 45 seconds to answer each question.

Rankings for the Countdown Round were determined by the students' scores on the previous day's Written Competition. The four individuals with the highest written scores—who received a bye in the first round of the Countdown Round—were Written Competition Champion Luke Robitaille; Written Competition Runner-Up Andrew Cai; eighth grader Daniel Yuan from North Potomac, Md., and eighth grader Daniel Xia from Basking Ridge, N.J. The two Countdown Round Semifinalists were Daniel Yuan and Daniel Xia.

After his second win, Luke appeared on <u>Live! with Kelly and Ryan</u>, where he competed against hosts Kelly Ripa and Ryan Seacrest in a math competition.

### 2018 NATIONAL COMPETITION WINNERS

### NATIONAL CHAMPION: Luke Robitaille, TX

- \$20,000 Donald G. Weinert Scholarship
- Trip to U.S. Space Camp

### COUNTDOWN ROUND RUNNER-UP:

**Andrew Cai, TX** 

\$7,500 Scholarship

### COUNTDOWN ROUND SEMIFINALISTS:

Daniel Yuan, MD Daniel Xia, NJ

\$3,000 Scholarship each

### WRITTEN COMPETITION CHAMPION: Luke Robitaille, TX

\$2,500 Scholarship

## 1ST PLACE TEAM: Texas Andrew Cai, Jacob David, Rithvik Ganesh, Luke Robitaille

- \$2,000 Scholarship each
- Trip to U.S. Space Camp

WRITTEN COMPETITION RUNNER-UP: Andrew Cai, TX

COUNTDOWN ROUND QUARTER-FINALISTS: Jessica Wan, PR Alan Chen, PA Easton Singer, OH William Chen, CA

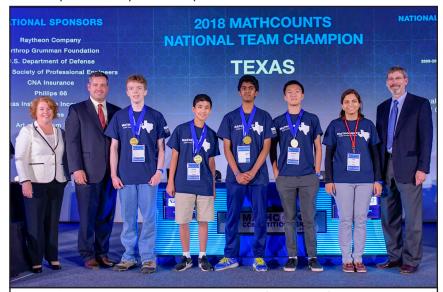
COUNTDOWN ROUND PARTICIPANTS:
Jaedon Whyte, FL Samuel Wang, VA Jack Albright, CA Reagan Choi, MI

2ND PLACE TEAM: California

**3RD PLACE TEAM: New Jersey** 

### Texas Wins Team Competition for Third Year in a Row

The team from Texas, led by coach Isil Nal, won First Place for a third year in a row—the only state to have achieved a consecutive three-time win. Even more impressive, Texas has done so twice: first from 2007 to 2009 and now from 2016 to 2018. Team members Andrew Cai, Jacob David from Fort Worth, Rithvik Ganesh from Plano and Luke Robitaille—all eighth graders—each won a \$2,000 scholarship and a trip to U.S. Space Camp.



From left: Pam Erickson, Vice President of Corporate Citizenship at Raytheon Company; Dale Ormond, Principal Director of Research in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense in the Research and Engineering Division; team members Luke, Jacob, Rithvik and Andrew; Coach Isil Nal and Charles Wampler, Chair of the MATHCOUNTS Board of Directors.

The California team, led by coach Vandana Kadam, won Second Place. The team members were Jack Albright, an eighth grader from Los Altos; William Chen a seventh grader from Fremont; Andrew Gu, an eighth grader from Ladera Ranch and Rishab Parthasarathy, an eighth grader from San Jose. The team from New Jersey won Third Place, with team members Kevin Cong, an eighth grader from Basking Ridge; Mason Wang, an eighth grader from Princeton; Daniel Xia and Eric Yang, an eighth grader from Plainsboro. The team's coach was Tara Bowman.

### MATHCOUNTS Congratulates the 2018 National Competitors

MATHCOUNTS congratulates all 224 national competitors. Advancing to the national level is an outstanding accomplishment, and every Mathlete who participated this year should be incredibly proud of his or her achievements. Links to competition results, photographs and the archived ESPN webcast are available at the <a href="MATHCOUNTS">MATHCOUNTS</a> website. All national competitors are listed below, with the following special recognitions.

Two-Time National Competitor\*\*

Three-Time National Competitor\*\*\*

#### **ALABAMA**

Sid Doppalapudi\*\*
Justin Pan\*\*
James Shi
Joshua Wang

#### **ALASKA**

Camden Armstrong Hayden Hanson Alex Loomis John Wellmann

#### **ARIZONA**

Richard Cheng Karen Culley Marcus Giorza Sai Konkimalla

#### **ARKANSAS**

Tejasv Bhatia

Yash Gokarakonda\*\*

Aaron Liu

Soren Schmidt

#### **CALIFORNIA**

Jack Albright\*\*
William Chen
Andrew Gu\*\*
Rishab Parthasarathy

#### **COLORADO**

Eleanor Greyson Shane Lambert Aiden Lee Anthony Wang\*\*

#### CONNECTICUT

Mingwen Duan Natalie Shell Andrew Xu Ryan Yang\*\*

#### **DELAWARE**

Alexander Chen Parth Rustagi\*\* Heran Yang Nicholas Zhu

#### **DEPT. OF DEFENSE**

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#### **DIST. OF COLUMBIA**

Avani Ahuja\*\* Julien Berman Layla Dawit\*\* Julie Steele

#### **FLORIDA**

Charley Cheng Atharva Pathak Karthik Vedula Jaedon Whyte\*\*

#### **GEORGIA**

Athiwat Ackaramongkolrotn Aadi Karthik Asmi Kumar Richard Yu

#### **GUAM**

Kevin Choi Andrew Leng Andrew Lu\*\* Kangsan Yoon

#### **HAWAII**

Taylor Ann Agena Jared Lo MinJae Seo Felicity Zhou

#### **IDAHO**

Raymond Bian Daniel Fernandez *Richard Sheng\*\** William Wang

#### **ILLINOIS**

Kevin Cheng Nathra Ramrajvel Henry Xie Grant Zhang

#### **INDIANA**

Aniket Biswal Jack Liu\*\* Taiga Nishida Jacob Zhang

#### **IOWA**

William Chen Nethaka Dassanayake Michael Heidt Sanghyuk Im

#### **KANSAS**

Naveen Kannan Aastha Sharma Samuel Wang Gauri Yadav

#### **KENTUCKY**

Shubh Gupta Ayush Kumar Luke Mo Lynn Ye

#### **LOUISIANA**

Jonathan Ding\*\*
Ethan Guo
John Kwon\*\*\*
Julian Vertigan

#### MAINE

Sofie Dumas

Thor Gabrielsen\*\*\*

Thomas Owen

Andrew Yoo

#### **MARYLAND**

Clarence Lam Sean Power\*\* Nathan Shan Daniel Yuan\*\*\*

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Jeff Lin Daniel Mai Max Xu Kevin Zhao

#### **MICHIGAN**

Aaryan Chandna **Reagan Choi\*\*\*** Vikram Goddla Jason Zhang

#### **MINNESOTA**

Matthew Chen John Hlavka\*\* Linden Li Golden Peng

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

Kenny Suzuki\*\* Andrew Yu Amy Zhang Luke Zhang

#### **MISSOURI**

William Bender\*\*
Samuel Chen
Nicole Li
Anthony Wang\*\*

### THE NATIONAL MATH CLUB GRAND PRIZE WINNING CLUB

Christ the King School

Olivia Baker Dayna Enderlin Macy Mohondro Kaitlyn Shtaih





From left: Charles Wampler; club leader Reid Peterson; club members Dayna, Kaitlyn, Macy and Olivia; and Pam Erickson.

#### **MONTANA**

Ryan Burke Miles Fastnow Edward Guthrie\*\* Jasper Thomas

#### **NEBRASKA**

Isabella Cao Eshaan Giri Michael Mullin Jalan Zhu

#### **NEVADA**

Frank Abbeduto Vishwath Ganesan Sam Goodman\*\* Sophie Liu\*\*

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Maxine Park\*\*
Anshul Rastogi\*\*
Jocelyn Sides
Abigail Thomas

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Leo deJong Michael Ferguson Eric Wu Terence Zeng

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Rick Peng Alex Rud Milton Rue V Nolan Severance\*\*

#### OHIO

Rohit Dasanoor Ryan Li Easton Singer\*\* Alan Xie

#### **OKLAHOMA**

Ray Hoggard Raymond Jiang Krish Kumar Jerry Xing



Andrew, Luke, Rithvik, Jacob and Texas coach Isil Nal

#### **NEW JERSEY**

Kevin Cong\*\* Mason Wang Daniel Xia\*\* Eric Yang

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Berkan Dokmeci\*\* Jennie Gao Grant Staten Melody Yeh\*\*

#### **NEW YORK**

Amy Feng
Maxwell Sun\*\*
Matthew Zhao
Rowechen Zhong\*\*

#### **OREGON**

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#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Alan Chen\*\* Glen Jiang Peter Liu Tony Tzolov

#### **PUERTO RICO**

Fernando O. Mediavilla Luis Umpierre-Capó Jessica Wan Luis Turino Zellek

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

Julian Gross\*\* Sam Healey Neil Panth\*\* Andrew Song

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Kaylee Chen Wesley Fletcher Zachary Huang\*\* Samuel Qin\*\*

#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Drew Comstock\*\* Simon Hill Ryan Schock Tristina Ting\*\*

#### **STATE DEPARTMENT**

David Kwon Owen Lalis Ryan Lee Irene Park

#### **TENNESSEE**

Alexander Wang Franklin Zhang George Zhang\*\* Kerry Zhao

#### **TEXAS**

Andrew Cai\*\*\*
Jacob David
Rithvik Ganesh
Luke Robitaille\*\*\*

#### UTAH

James Camacho\*\*\*
Joseph Camacho\*\*\*
Sanjula Pingali\*\*

Nathan Zhou

**VERMONT** 

Saksham Bhardwaj Kenneth Chamberlain Sangmin Lee Sriram Sethuraman\*\*

#### **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Kashish Chainani\*\*\*
Julien Loewenstein

Julien Loewenstein

Aishwarya Nagpal\*\*

Ronit Totwani

#### **VIRGINIA**

Prasidha Padmanabhan Pravalika Putalapattu\*\* Samuel Wang Ethan Zhou\*\*

#### **WASHINGTON**

Joy An\*\* Wilson Liu Medha Venkatapathy Gene Yang

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Alice Guo Grant Kenamond Amy Lu Lauren Shen

#### **WISCONSIN**

Henry Coyle William Jin\*\* Tim Li\*\* Ethan Wang\*\*

#### WYOMING

Brett Jones Steven Mansheim Kephas Olsson\*\* Gracie Zhang\*\*



Charles Wampler, James, Nathan, Joseph, Sanjula and Utah coach Ryan Camacho

### "Little Figures" Wins First Place at 2018 Math Video Challenge Finals

A video about four mathematicians who help a pilot complete her mission won the 2018 Math Video Challenge. Seventh grader Londyn Hall, seventh grader Breanna Hutchison, eighth grader Lindsey Simmons and sixth grader Iman Zakaria—all from San Antonio, Texas—each

won a \$1,000 college scholarship. The team, led by advisor Art Hall, is affiliated with the National Society of Black Engineers.



From left: Pam Erickson; team members Londyn, Iman, Breanna and Lindsey; team advisor Art Hall and Charles Wampler at the Awards Banquet.

Inspired by the movie *Hidden Figures*, "<u>Little Figures</u>" is set on a military base in the 1960s. The video solved problem #172 from the 2017-2018 *MATHCOUNTS School Handbook*:

A flight is getting ready to take off. The pilot starts from rest at the edge of the runway. She needs to accelerate to a speed of 300 km/h in 30 seconds. Acceleration is defined as the change in speed per unit time. What is the pilot's average acceleration, in meters per second per second, which is equivalent to meters per second squared, during takeoff? Express your answer as a decimal to the nearest tenth.

Little Figures was one of four teams that presented a video at the 2018 Math Video Challenge Finals, which took place on Monday, May 14 at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel. The 224 national competitors voted to determine the winning video.

### 2018 MATH VIDEO CHALLENGE WINNERS

#### **FIRST PLACE:**

"Little Figures" by The Little
Figures/NSBE Jr. Chapter
Londyn Hall, TX
Breanna Hutchison, TX
Lindsey Simmons, TX
Iman Zakaria, TX
• \$1,000 Scholarship each

#### FINALIST:

"Snow White and the Thousand Apples" by A Bunch of Apples Eric Chen, UT Danju Liu, UT Faith Winkler, UT Selena Yu, UT

#### FINALIST:

"Sherlock: A Study in Pi" by Salk School of Science Leonardo Boone, NY Cayla Kushner, NY Luke Kushner, NY Owen Neaman, NY

#### FINALIST:

"Recipe for Success" by The Perfect Square Talia Alter, CA Aliza Nissanoff, CA Talia Sacks, CA Daniella Zisblatt, CA



From left: Luke Kushner, MATHCOUNTS Executive Director Kristen Chandler (at back), Cayla Kushner, Leonard Boone, Owen Neaman, Eric Chen, Londyn Hall, Breanna Hutchison, Iman Zakaria, Lindsey Simmons, Daniella Zisblatt, Talia Alter, Aliza Nissanoff, Selena Yu and Danju Liu at the Math Video Challenge Finals.

### Board of Directors Announces Kristen Chandler as New Executive Director of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation



Kristen Chandler is the third woman to lead the MATHCOUNTS Foundation.

On April 1, 2018, Kristen Chandler became the executive director of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation—the third woman to lead the organization. She took over following the resignation of Lou DiGioia, who left to pursue opportunities at another organization. Previously associate executive director, Kristen has worked at MATHCOUNTS since 2001 and has held leadership positions in every facet of the organization's operations.

Kristen managed the successful launch of the National Math Club in 2007 and as program director oversaw the execution of the National Math Club, Competition Series and Math Video Challenge. A former math teacher, Kristen designed new outreach initiatives at MATHCOUNTS to deepen and expand the program's impact in underserved communities and further support educators and students.

Charles Wampler, chair of the MATHCOUNTS Board of Directors, was thrilled to welcome Kristen to her new position. "With her in-depth knowledge of the organization, expertise in designing and scaling innovative ideas and proven success supporting and challenging the staff, we are confident she will do a phenomenal job leading MATHCOUNTS."

All of us at MATHCOUNTS are excited about the future endeavors of our organization, knowing the unique talents, creativity and expertise Kristen will bring.

# Former Executive Director Lou DiGioia Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

On Monday, May 14 at the Awards Banquet and Ceremony, Charles Wampler and Kristen Chandler presented Lou DiGioia the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition, Charles gave Lou a customized director's chair to thank him on behalf of the board of directors for his service to the organization.

MATHCOUNTS is fortunate its change in leadership this year was a positive, though bittersweet, transition all around. Lou, now head of DECA, Inc., left MATHCOUNTS after 17 years, including 11 as executive director, during which he expanded the organization and brought clarity to its mission and programs.

Fortunately, Lou will always be connected to our organization as an alumnus of the program, and it seemed fitting to honor Lou's contribution's to MATHCOUNTS and celebrate the continued success of one of our alumni. Lou put it best when he accepted his award and said, "MATHCOUNTS is not a place of work. It's a family."



On behalf of the MATHCOUNTS Board of Directors, Charles Wampler presents Lou DiGioia (left) a custom director's chair.

#### **Summer Session for Competition Math Course Opens June 6th**



Registration is open for the 2018 summer session of Competition Math for Middle School, presented by MATHCOUNTS, Art of Problem Solving and the University of Oklahoma. This online course for coaches features exclusive content and strategies from experts at Art of Problem Solving and MATHCOUNTS, and is led by University of Oklahoma faculty.

Hundreds of MATHCOUNTS coaches and math teachers have taken Competition Math since it was created in 2015.

The course is designed to be a resource for both new and returning coaches. This year's session will run June 6-August 7, 2018.

More information is available at <u>mathcounts.ou.edu</u> and enrollment in the course costs \$199. All participants who successfully complete the course this summer will receive one graduate credit from the University of Oklahoma, which can be used in most districts for professional development credit. Educators interested in taking this course should register online by June 6, 2018.

#### **Colin Hill Wins 2018 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship**

Colin Hill of Norwell, Mass. won the \$3,000 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship. After participating in both the National Math Club and MATHCOUNTS Competition Series from 2008-2011, he went on to attend Yale University, where he volunteered as part of the university's longstanding MATHCOUNTS Outreach club. Colin, who just

completed his junior year, has been a MATHCOUNTS coach and the club's Competition Coordinator since his freshman year.

In addition to his volunteer work, Colin was one of only 20 students selected for Yale's Education Studies Scholars Program, which prepares students to become global leaders in education. A statistics and data science major, with a minor in education studies, helping students of all backgrounds has become a defining part of Colin's time at Yale. "As a former MATHCOUNTS student and a current MATHCOUNTS teacher, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing hundreds of middle schoolers who are genuinely excited about math."

The application for the 2019 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship will be available in the fall at <a href="https://www.mathcounts.org/scholarship">www.mathcounts.org/scholarship</a>.



#### **2018 FINALISTS**

Sritanuj Alapati, AL Alexa Beathard, OK Brittany Blakeley, ID Andrew Cui, NY Adam Henderson, AZ Gabriel Kammer, NY Ashley Knebel, CA Jim Kong, MD Janpal
LaChapelle, AK
Edward Lee, TX
Junhee Lee, IA
Jae Hyun Lim, NE
Tanisha
Martheswaran, UT

Sarah Martin, MD

Dianna Meyers, OR George Moe, IL Anna Nguyen, PA Adriene Pavek, ID Shyam Sai, IL Margaret Scholle, IL Laura Seaberg, MD Emily Spencer, KS Daniel Stein, MN
Zachary Sussman, FL
Alexander Tan, MO
Madeline Wang, CA
Ingrid Zhang, NE

#### **Spotlight on State and Chapter Donors**

We would like to express our gratitude to the outstanding donors at the state and chapter level whose generosity reached thousands of students attending chapter and state competitions this year. They helped make the 2017-2018 MATHCOUNTS Competitions Series a success!

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Olga Serebrennikov

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Western Michigan University, School of Engineering



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New York Chapter, NY State Society of Professional Engineers

#### **North Carolina**

Appalachian State University

Art of Problem Solving Academy

**Duke Energy** 

**Duke University** 

Florence Rogers Charitable Trust

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Math

Department

Wake Forest University



Kristen Chandler interviews Math Video Challenge finalists Talia Alter, Aliza Nissanoff and Daniella Zisblatt.



Semifinalists Daniel Xia and Daniel Yuan; at back, Reagan Choi and William Chen.

#### Ohio

Columbus State Community College Farmers and Merchants State Bank

FirstEnergy Foundation

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University of Akron

University of Cincinnati, College of Engineering University of Cincinnati, Department of Mathematics

#### <u>Oregon</u>

Mentor Graphics

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Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations Coastal Carolina University Marguerite McClam, P.E.

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3M Aberdeen

#### <u>Tennessee</u>

Jacobs Technology Piedmont Natural Gas USAF STEM Program

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Quarter-finalist Jessica Wan and Reagan Choi. JESSICA WAN **REAGAN CHOI** SEED 12 QUESTION REAGAN C. JESSICA W. COMPETITION SER



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