

The Florida Engineering Society (FES) held its 25th annual state MATHCOUNTS competition, March 28, 2008 in Orlando. The competition, in which over 230 students participated, produced a team of four middle school Mathletes® and their coach to represent Florida at the MATHCOUNTS National Competition in Denver, Colorado, May 8-11, 2008. The students and coach are: Anthony Grebe, Pine View Middle School, Sarasota; Michael Fang, Osceola Middle School, Ocala; Anya Katsevich, Jackson Heights Middle School, Orlando; Robert Perez, Miami Dade Home School, Miami Beach; and Coach Robert White, Jackson Heights Middle School, Orlando.

Each team member has trained and competed in local-chapter competitions to earn their spot on the state team. FES awarded top teams and individuals at the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs in Orlando, with trophies and scholarships, and will send the top four, including the winning coach, on an all-expense-paid trip to compete in the national competition in Denver.

At the national competition, these top Mathletes® will compete both as a team and individually for the chance to win more trophies, scholarships, and trips to US Space Camp. In order to earn the title of National Champion or National Team Champion individuals and teams will have to outscore 228 competitors from 57 territories representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, US territories, Department of Defense, and State Department affiliated schools.

Florida's MATHCOUNTS mission is to actively encourage and stimulate interest in mathematics for Florida's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in both public and private schools, with the ultimate goal being to spark students interest in mathematical, engineering, and technical fields that will, in effect, increase the likelihood that the students will pursue careers in these all important areas of today's technologically-advanced society.

FES would like to thank its 2008 MATHCOUNTS state sponsors: Florida Engineering Foundation, Shell Oil Company, Lockheed Martin, PBS&J, Publix Super Markets Charities, Collinsworth/Alter, Gulf Power Foundation, WilsonMiller, Miller Legg, Figg Engineering Group, Peoples First Community Bank and Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs. In addition, FES would like to extend their gratitude to Peoples First Community Bank in Tallahassee for its donation of goods and also to the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs for sponsoring drinks the day of the competition.

The Florida Engineering Society would like to express their gratitude to Susan Mah of Orlando for the design used for this year's program and tee shirts. A special thank you also to Carole Forrest, Central Florida MATHCOUNTS Committee, for her assistance to FES staff, and to Glenn Forrest, PE and Howard Ludwig, Lockheed Martin, for generously sharing their time and mathematical abilities to generating challenging ciphering problems for both the chapter and state competitions.

For additional information on the Florida Engineering Society or the MATHCOUNTS program, please visit www.fleng.org or call FES headquarters at 850-224-7121.