

Date: May 29, 2006

Contact: Lisa Lilienthal, 404 661 3679
lilialilienthal@earthlink.net

Alaina Robertson, 404 259 9712
arobertson1@student.gsu.edu

LOCAL TEAMS TAKE HOME PRIZES IN CREATIVITY AT 2006 DESTINATION IMAGINATION GLOBAL FINALS

Knoxville – There was a deafening roar of applause and jubilation at the culmination of the 2006 Global Finals Award Ceremony this Saturday night. The annual event of the popular Destination ImagiNation (DI) program, one of the largest international non-profits aimed at fostering creativity and diversity; drew a crowd of more than 800 teams and countless friends and family, and packed the University of Tennessee’s Thompson-Boling Arena as participants eagerly waited to find out which teams would be declared among the best problem solving teams in the world.

Participating teams worked for eight to twelve weeks on the design of their innovative solutions to the mind-boggling Challenges. Announced each year, Challenges can feature technical, theatrical, structural, improvisational, and scientific components—or a combination of all five. Teams must then compete against other local, affiliate and regional teams to determine which teams will progress to Global Finals.

“Welcome to the world’s largest creative problem solving celebration,” Bob Purifico wrote in the event’s introductory program. “All of you have come to celebrate the power and strength of creativity, and honor it and the power it has given you to make a difference. You have come to learn and appreciate that living in the twenty-first century will demand the process and critical thinking skills present in Destination Imagination.”

Outside of mental gymnastics, the weeklong event was full of zany activities and contests to celebrate creativity and achievement, including a graduation ceremony for elementary, middle, high school and university students who were missing their local graduations in lieu of attending the Global Finals event.

Minnesota resident Kate Nylander was named Valedictorian for her tremendous academic success and participation in the program.

“We have learned from excellent leaders in the program, be they team managers, challenge masters, or even just older teams,” said a confident Nylander in her graduation speech. “We have learned how to be good team players and how to be good leaders – two remarkably similar things. Now, with everything that we have learned from these phenomenal people in this fantastic program, it is our turn to take on that role of leadership. With what we have accomplished so far, I know that there is nothing that can stop us. The future is unlimited. We can do anything. We are DI”

Nylander, an Eden Prairie resident, has been involved in the program for 12 years, of which six years were spent as both a participant and a team manager for Elementary and Middle Level students. During her time as a participant, she's promoted the program at district informational meetings, developed promotional materials, been involved in the BuddyTeam program, a pairing of domestic and international DI teams; taught workshops, been an active member of the Minnesota DI Advisory Board, acted as an Appraiser for the Rising Stars! Teams, a program for the programs youngest learners, at the regional level; and been the recipient of the "MN Spirit of DI" award.

The winners of the 2006 Destination ImagiNation Global Finals are as follows:

CHALLENGE: BACK AT YOU!

Note: *Denotes tie

Elementary

1. Pearl Sample Elementary
2. Manhattan
3. Slinger Owls (Red)

Culpeper, Va.
Manhattan, Mont.
Slinger, Wis.

Middle

1. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, Hamilton Middle School
2. Campus Middle School, Cherry Creek School District #5
3. Delano Community Education

Cypress, Tex.
Greenwood Village, Colo.
Delano, Minn.

Secondary (high school)

1. Schizophrenic Enigmas
2. John Baptist Memorial High School
3. Plattsmouth Schools A

San Jose, Calif.
Glenburn, Maine
Plattsmouth, Nebr.

University

1. Universities of Wisconsin
2. Baylor University
3. University of Texas at Dallas

Cedarburg, Wis.
Austin, Tex.
Richardson, Tex.

CHALLENGE: KIDZ RULZ

Elementary Level

1. Westridge Elementary School
2. Gig Harbor Community, Gig Harbor Kiwanis
3. Weller Elementary*
3. Hughston Johnson, Hughston Elementary*

Lake Oswego, Ore.
Gig Harbor, Wash.
Dayton, Ohio
Plano, Tex.

Middle Level

1. Parkhill Ladies and Germs, Parkhill JH*
1. Elliott Grant Middle School*

Dallas, Tex.
Tex.

2. Harrison Middle School
3. Midland School #1, Midland School

Yarmouth, Maine
Rochelle Park, N.J.

Secondary (high school)

1. International School of MN
2. Team #33
3. Sturgeon Bay DI Program

Eden Prairie, Minn.
Lynnwood, Wash.
Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

University

1. University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, Tex.

CHALLENGE: HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?

Elementary Level

1. Wayzata Elementary Schools ""A""
2. Magee International School
3. Walter Jackson Elementary School*
3. South Mountain School*

Plymouth, Minn.
Corpus Christi, Tex.
Decatur, Ala.
Millburn, N.J.

Middle Level

1. St. Mary Elementary School Hag, St. Mary Catholic School
2. West Middle School*
2. Tower Heights Middle School*
3. Glacier Creek Middle School

Hagerstown, Md.
Plymouth, Mich.
Centerville, Ohio
Middleton, Wis.

Secondary Level (HS)

1. Bear River High School
2. John Handley High School
3. Minnetonka High School

Grass Valley, Calif.
Winchester, VA
Excelsior, Minn.

University Level

1. University of Texas at Dallas
2. Grafton Alumni

Richardson, Tex.
Grafton, Wis.

CHALLENGE: ON SAFARI

Elementary Level

1. Bernice Vossbeck Elementary, Lynden School District
2. Ledgeview Elementary
3. Woodland Elementary Team A, Woodland Elementary

Lynden, Wash.
Akron, N.Y.
Eagan, Minn.

Middle Level

1. Lake Oswego Junior High
2. McCullough JHS*
2. Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School*
3. Ashbrook Independent School

Lake Oswego, Ore.
The Woodlands, Tex.
Croton on Hudson, N.Y.
Corvallis, Ore.

Secondary Level (HS)

1. Batesville High School
2. Pueblo County High School
3. Klamath Union HS

Batesville, Ind.
Pueblo, Colo.
Klamath Falls, Ore.

University/Military Level

1. Baylor University
2. UT Pwntoql Conglomerate

Waco, Tex.
Kingwood, Tex.

CHALLENGE: INSIDE DIMENSION**Elementary Level**

1. Sevastopol Elementary
2. Gibraltar Area Schools
3. LCE - The Destimators, LCE

Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
Baileys Harbor, Wis.
Sugar Land, Tex.

Middle Level

1. Kennedy Middle School
2. Oakwood, Independent
3. Lincoln JHS

Germantown, Wis.
Dayton, Ohio
Plymouth, Ind.

Secondary Level (HS)

1. Martin High School
2. Bedford High School
3. Grossmont High School

Arlington, Tex.
Bedford, Mass.
El Cajon, Calif.

DI EXTREME**CHALLENGE: JUGGERNAUTJUMBLE, UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

1. UTD #2
2. UTD Kidz Rulz
3. Unified Regulators

Knoxville, Tenn.
Knoxville, Tenn.
Knoxville, Tenn.

CHALLENGE: AIR BALL, UNIVERSITY LEVEL

1. The Team Formerly Known as Waterford Mott
2. Team New York Clark Nell Nius Point
3. United Regulators

Knoxville, Tenn.
Knoxville, Tenn.
Knoxville, Tenn.

Additional details on the specific Challenges, images from the four-day event, and a transcript of Nylander's graduation speech are available upon request.

About Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination is an international program designed to foster creativity and problem-solving abilities. The original Flagship program provides students the opportunity to flex their creative problem-solving muscles by competing in one of five challenges; exploring themes of technical/mechanical engineering, theatre arts, science, fine arts, structural/architectural design and theatrical improvisation.

Additional programs include *DIcor*, a corporate consulting division; *DI eXtreme*, an accelerated program geared towards students at the university-level; *Rising Stars!*, a program for early learners ages 4-7; *DI Later*, a program designed for adults; the *Model School Program* which shares DI's creativity and critical thinking principles with teachers and school administrators; *Enrichment Programs* which enhance existing camps and community events; and *Project Outreach*, a service/learning program allowing students the opportunity to explore creative solutions to social issues.

DI is sponsored by the National Dairy Council, 3M and Velcro USA. Visit Destination ImagiNation online at www.destinationimagination.org.