

News Release

CONTACT: Kris Clements
Caddo Parish Magnet High School
(ph) 221-2501
krisclements@gmail.com

TWO SEMIFINALISTS IN PRESTIGIOUS INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH FROM CADDO PARISH MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL IN SHREVEPORT

Shreveport, LA Jan. 24, 2008 – Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Shreveport is proud to announce that two members of its student body, Niharika Jain and Alexander Mijalis are Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS) Semifinalists. Often considered the “junior Nobel Prize,” the Intel STS recognizes America’s brightest students and their schools for excellence in science and math.

Intel announced the 300 semifinalists in its prestigious competition on January 16. Each of the semifinalists will receive \$1,000 in recognition of their scientific achievements. In addition, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, will receive \$1,000 per semifinalist to support its science and math programs. For a complete list of semifinalists visit <http://www.societyforscience.org/sts/67sts/ALPHSEMI.html>.

Niharika Jain’s project titled, “Genetic Polymorphisms Impact Warfarin Therapy: A Clinical Pharmacogenomics Model” focuses on the roles of a person’s genes in determining his/her dose of the anti-coagulant warfarin (Coumadin™). Alexander Mijalis’s project titled, “The Caveolin-1 Regulation of Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” focuses on the effect that a novel protein has on reducing the inflammatory responses associated with inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease. They are both participants in the Science and Medicine Academic Research Training Program sponsored by the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Niharika conducts her research under the mentorship of Dr. Mary Lowery Nordberg in the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Department of Pathology, and Alexander researches with the guidance of Dr. Christopher Kevil in the in the LSU Health Sciences Department of Pathology.

Over the past 67 years, STS alumni have received more than 100 of the world's most coveted science and math honors including six Nobel Prizes, three National Medals of Science, 10 MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, and two Fields Medals.

Intel STS Semifinalists

The Semifinalists of the 67th Intel Science Talent Search were chosen from among 1602 entrants representing 504 high schools in 45 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and two overseas schools.

From this group of 300 Semifinalists, 40 Finalists will be chosen to attend the Science Talent Institute in Washington, D.C. from March 6-11, 2008. During their trip to Washington, the Finalists will participate in a final judging process and share in \$530,000 in scholarships. The top prize of a \$100,000 scholarship will be announced at a black tie banquet and awards ceremony on March 11, 2008.

Science Service, one of the nation's oldest non-profit organizations dedicated to public engagement in science and science education, announced on January 10, 2008 that it has become the Society for Science & the Public (SSP). Founded by E.W. Scripps and William Ritter in 1921, SSP continues to own and administer the world's leading pre-college science competitions and publish the award-winning magazine *Science News*.