



## NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE**

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### **RANCHO SAN JOAQUIN MIDDLE AND SAINT MARGARET EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS LEAD IN REGIONAL MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION**

**Two schools will represent Orange County in a state math competition to be held in March at UC Irvine**

Irvine, Calif., February 21, 2006 – Local teams of sixth through eighth grade student mathletes competed on Saturday, February 11 at UC Irvine's Crawford Hall in a regional Mathcounts event to earn a spot in the California state competition to be held simultaneously at UC Davis and UC Irvine on Saturday, March 18, 2006.

The day's events began with individual competitions consisting of the sprint and target rounds. The morning session wrapped up with a team round where groups of four students representing local middle and junior high schools competed amongst each other. The top ten individuals then competed in a head-to-head countdown round in the afternoon.

The winners of the 2006 Orange County Mathcounts competition are as follows:

Rancho San Joaquin Middle School of Irvine placed first in the team competition with a half-point lead, followed by Saint Margaret Episcopal School of San Juan Capistrano.

First place for the individual competition was determined by a three-way tie breaker. Jonathan Elzure from Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School of Irvine led the group with a perfect sprint round score. Alex Pusy from Saint Margaret Episcopal and Daisuke Gatanaga from Rancho San Joaquin with perfect target round scores rounded out the top three.

Founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1983, Mathcounts is a nationwide program to boost the math competency of middle school students in our public school system. The program features a series of competitions with elimination rounds based on team and individual effort. Competitions start at the regional level,

leading to a statewide competition and concluding with a national competition to be held May 11-14, 2006 in Arlington, Virginia.

To prepare students for these competitions junior high school teachers lead tutoring sessions for several months preceding the competitions. Participation is open to any sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student. Nationwide involvement totals more than 350,000 students from 7,500 junior high schools.

In Orange County, UC Irvine partners with several corporate sponsors to host both the regional competition as well as the California statewide event. This year's sponsors include Fluor, Conexant, Toshiba, Orange Country Teacher's Federal Credit Union, and Carl's Jr. UCI's School of Physical Sciences Department of Mathematics and the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences are committed to the Mathcounts program, which plays a crucial role in encouraging and promoting future scientists. Over the years, UCI has hosted more than 2,500 mathletes.

About Orange County Chapter of Mathcounts: In 1992, the California Society of Professional Engineers (CSPE) invited UCI to administer the Orange County regional competition as well as the California statewide competition. Over the last seven years, UCI has built the Orange County program to become the largest Mathcounts region in the state. 24 Orange County middle and junior high schools were involved this year. In addition to being a large program, Orange County Mathcounts has a history of success. Over the years, several Orange County students have been selected to represent California in the national competition.

About the University of California, Irvine: The University of California, Irvine is a top-ranked university dedicated to research, scholarship and community service. Founded in 1965, UCI is among the fastest-growing University of California campuses, with more than 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students and about 1,400 faculty members. The second-largest employer in dynamic Orange County, UCI contributes an annual economic impact of \$3.3 billion. For more UCI news, visit [www.today.uci.edu](http://www.today.uci.edu).

California Society of Professional Engineers MATHCOUNTS Website  
<http://www.cspe.com/FunctionalAreas/StudentYouth/sy01.htm>

California MATHCOUNTS Website  
<http://www.mathcounts-ca.org/>

National MATHCOUNTS website  
<http://www.mathcounts.org/>

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