

2011 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

FINALISTS



Speller No. 18, Snigdha Nandipati

The San Diego Union-Tribune, San Diego, California
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Francis Parker School
Hometown: San Diego, California

Snigdha is fond of mystery novels and whodunits, such as Agatha Christie and The Mysterious Benedict Society, as well as a few adventure series, such as the Percy Jackson series. She has played the piano for seven years, the violin for two years and has taken traditional Carnatic music lessons for three years. Snigdha takes tennis lessons and plays in United States Tennis Association seasonal tournaments. She is a repeating competitor in Science Olympiad, where she has earned several medals, and attends the San Diego Math Circle every week. In her free time, Snigdha enjoys collecting coins from around the United States and other countries.



Speller No. 24, Laura Newcombe

National Post, Toronto, OntarioCanada
Age 18, 8th grade
School: Deer Park Public School
Hometown: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Laura loves writing, especially short stories, and aspires to be a writer. She also likes singing, dancing, drawing, reading and origami. She recently began taking swim classes because it is one of her favorite pastimes, and she is learning Mandarin and French. Laura frequently volunteers with her school's charitable organization. Her favorite book is *The Host* by Stephenie Meyer, and she is an avid fan of anything Japanese, especially manga. Laura tied for 17th place in the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee and tied for 5th place in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Her sister Leslie participated in the 2006 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



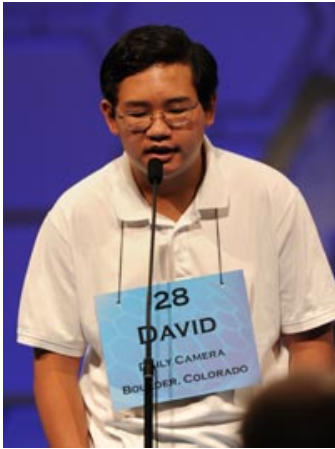
Speller No. 25, Veronica Penny

Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa, OntarioCanada
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Home School
Hometown: Rockland, Ontario, Canada

Veronica is a leading air cadet for the 832 Ottawa Twillick Air Cadet Squadron and often participates in parades, gliding and similar activities with the group. She is an avid newspaper reader and enjoys her job of delivering them once a week. In her free time, Veronica enjoys outdoor activities--gardening, swimming, camping, bike riding and geocaching. She also likes to shop and bake. Veronica has earned three Earth Day awards--two bronze and one silver--and has won a Jelly Bean guessing contest twice. Veronica participated in the 2008 and 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bees.

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Speller No. 28, David Phan

Daily Camera, Boulder, Colorado
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Nevin Platt Middle School
Hometown: Longmont, Colorado

David plays trombone and has been a member of his school band for four years. In his free time, David enjoys flying radio-controlled helicopters, building and painting scale models, playing video and computer games, watching television and reading. An honor roll student, his favorite school subject is math and he aspires to become a neurosurgeon or an aerospace engineer. David and his parents speak Vietnamese and he is the first grandchild in his extended family born in the United States. He participated in the 2009 and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bees, tying for 33rd place in 2010.



Speller No. 29, Dhivya Senthil Murugan

The Denver Post, Denver, Colorado
Age 16, 5th grade
School: Challenge School
Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Dhivya was born in India and speaks Tamil in her home. She is learning Spanish and has regular exposure to Hindi as well. Dhivya participates in her school chess club, math club and Destination Imagination program. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering at a retirement home, doing arts and crafts, drawing, swimming, roller skating and reading. She especially enjoys reading the Harry Potter series. Dhivya is currently taking piano, karate and Indian classical dance lessons.



Speller No. 38, Grace Remmer

The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Florida
Age 18, 6th grade
School: Home School
Hometown: St. Augustine, Florida

Grace enjoys knitting, sewing and reading. She is a fan of books authored by Jules Verne, with a particular fondness for the character Captain Nemo of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Grace is a violinist and a member of her church orchestra, the medieval-themed Excalibur Consort ensemble, and the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra, where she has served as concertmaster. Grace also likes to visit Disney World and especially enjoys searching for "Hidden Mickeys" throughout the parks. Grace tied for 9th place in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

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Speller No. 40, Claire Zuo
The Miami Herald, Miami, Florida
Age 18, 7th grade
School: Palmetto Middle School
Hometown: Palmetto Bay, Florida

Claire is an avid reader and especially enjoys reading the Harry Potter series. She has been playing the violin for almost two years and is a member of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony. Claire enjoys photography and traveling, and eating, sleeping and shopping are a few of her favorite things to do in her free time. Claire can speak some French and attends Chinese school every Saturday.



Speller No. 42, Stuti Mishra
Orlando Sentinel, Orlando, Florida
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy
Hometown: West Melbourne, Florida

Stuti, a National Junior Honor Society member, enjoys learning about different languages and is taking French lessons. She participates in Indian festivals and cultural association activities. Stuti loves swimming and has been doing it for eight years. She is an avid fan of Harry Potter--the books, movies, cast, games and accessories. In her free time, Stuti likes spending time with her family and friends, eating Mexican and Italian cuisine and going to Disney World--a place she has visited more than 50 times.



Speller No. 65, Pranav Sivakumar
Lake County Regional Office of Education, Grayslake, Illinois
Age 17, 6th grade
School: Barrington Middle School - Station Campus
Hometown: Tower Lakes, Illinois

Pranav plays the piano and viola and participates in music composition activities. He is a member of jazz band and his school and community youth orchestras. Pranav loves reading and writing and wrote a 100-page science fiction novel at the age of 10. He earned the most points for the "A" team in the 2011 Barrington Invitational Scholastic Bowl tournament and earned a rating of 1,100 from the United States Chess Federation. Pranav enjoys intellectual challenges, geography, and astronomy and cosmology. Last year, Pranav memorized more than 800 digits of pi for National Pi Day. He hopes to become an astrophysicist when he grows up.

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Speller No. 79, Gina Solomito

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Home School
Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana

Gina loves science and would like to pursue a career in marine biology. She earned first place in her school science fair and was on a winning Scholastic Bowl team. Gina participates in gymnastics and has won several awards through her participation on a swim team. She enjoys technology and loves experimenting with her new MacBook Air computer. Gina participated in the 2008 and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



Speller No. 88, Hanif Brown Jr.

Jamaica Gleaner, Kingston, Jamaica
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Ardenne High School
Hometown: St. Thomas, Jamaica, Jamaica

Hanif loves sports, especially soccer, basketball, football and cricket. His favorite sports figure is Didier Drogba, a player on the English Premier League soccer team, Chelsea, because he is an inspirational athlete. Hanif is a youth leader in his church and was named a Paul Bogle Scholar in 2010. His favorite book is *Young Warriors* by Victor Stafford Reid and his favorite movie is *Spellbound*. Hanif would like to become a pediatrician.



Speller No. 93, Emily Keaton

Kentucky Spelling Bee Collaborative, Louisville, Kentucky
Age 18, 6th grade
School: Christ Central School
Hometown: Pikeville, Kentucky

Emily has been playing the piano since she was four years old. She is a member of her school basketball team and, after serving as the captain of her elementary school academic team, Emily is helping her school prepare and organize a middle school academic team. In her free time she enjoys writing poetry and short narratives and would like to publish a book one day. Emily was named a Kentucky Colonel by Steve Beshear, the governor of Kentucky. Her favorite school subject is English and she would like to become a lawyer. Emily participated in the 2009 and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bees, tying for 20th place in 2010.

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Speller No. 98, Lily Jordan

Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, Portland, Maine
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Cape Elizabeth Middle School
Hometown: Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Lily loves playing softball and has been working to learn how to throw a knuckleball. She also plays field hockey and ice hockey, where she plays goalie, and enjoys skiing and snowboarding in her free time. Lily participates in Girl Scouts and is a member of her school honors band and debate team. She enjoys writing and earned a Scholastic Writing award as well as second place in an essay contest about Native American culture. Lily enjoys learning about and following politics, studying French, reading, and photography. She participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 102, Sam Osheroff

Howard County Library, Columbia, Maryland
Age 18, 7th grade
School: Clarksville Middle School
Hometown: Columbia, Maryland

Sam is a member of his school's wind ensemble and plays both trumpet and piano, which he began studying at the age of five. He enjoys reading and cooking and plays basketball and soccer. Sam is part of his school's accelerated math program and he achieved the highest score in his school's Math Olympiad contest. Sam is currently raising money for the Team Tyler Foundation to benefit children with leukemia. He is also looking forward to traveling with his family to Israel at the end of June, even though he hates flying in planes. Sam participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 106, Surjo Bandyopadhyay

The Recorder, Prince Frederick, Maryland
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Southern Middle School
Hometown: Lusby, Maryland

Surjo enjoys spending time with his friends and playing outside. His other interests include origami, video games, chess, card games and reading. His favorite book is *Darkwing* by Kenneth Oppel. He is a member of several groups and clubs including Middle East Studies Association, Creative Writing Club and Mathcounts. Surjo earned first place in his school's Pi Day competition, history fair and science fair and he qualified for the state Reflections competition. Surjo participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

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Speller No. 111, Surabhi Iyer

Comcast, Taunton, Massachusetts

Age 18, 6th grade

School: The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School

Hometown: Franklin, Massachusetts

Surabhi enjoys fashion designing, writing, reading, biking and playing basketball. She plays clarinet, takes Indian classical vocal lessons and is a member of her school's chorus. In 2010, Surabhi was a winner on Jeopardy! Kids Week. Surabhi loves the Harry Potter series and would like to meet and get writing tips from J.K. Rowling.



Speller No. 113, Siddharth Varanasi

The Detroit News, Detroit, Michigan

Age 18, 7th grade

School: Canton Charter Academy

Hometown: Canton, Michigan

Siddharth is a soccer enthusiast. He and his twin brother Anirudh are co-captains of their school's soccer team and the writers of a sports blog where they post opinions about thrilling games. Siddharth is a violinist and he studies Indian classical music. In his free time he enjoys learning trivia, traveling and reading. His favorite book is Eragon. Siddharth participates in Mathcounts competitions and is the president of his school's student council. He has four pet betta fish, and he claims that he can spell words more accurately in his sleep. Siddharth participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 127, Anja Beth Swoap

Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P., Minneapolis, Minnesota

Age 20, 8th grade

School: Valley View Middle School

Hometown: Edina, Minnesota

Anja Beth is passionate about foreign languages. She spent six years in a French immersion school and is now fluent in French. She is currently learning Spanish and would like to learn German and Italian. Anja Beth is on a competitive high kick dance team and plays soccer during the summer. She enjoys playing with her dog Patches and teaching a small group of second and third graders at her church. She participated in Knowledge Masters activities and competes as a member of her school's math team. In her free time, Anja Beth enjoys reading and crocheting. Her friends call her "scarf queen" because she has amassed a large collection of scarves. Anja Beth participated in the 2009 and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bees, tying for 20th place in 2010.

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Speller No. 130, Connor Gunsbury

National Joint Powers Alliance, Staples, Minnesota
Age 19, 8th grade
School: Forestview Middle School
Hometown: Nisswa, Minnesota

Connor enjoys running, playing tennis, and downhill and cross-country skiing. He recently won the junior high championships for cross-country skiing in the freestyle race and also made the 2011 All-State Mid-Level Honor Band of Minnesota. Connor participates in the Builders Club through Kiwanis, as well as the Knowledge Bowl. In his free time, Connor enjoys reading. His favorite book is *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams.



Speller No. 140, Jenny Solheim

Omaha World-Herald, Omaha, Nebraska
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Westside Middle School
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Jenny loves music and enjoys playing violin and hardanger fiddle, a Norwegian instrument similar to the violin. She is the principal violinist in her orchestra and she earned the Olav Jorgen Hegge Memorial Scholarship from the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America. Jenny plays volleyball and in her free time she enjoys reading and working on art projects. She received a Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key Award for mixed media art, a Society of American Military Engineers Post President's Award of Honor for a group engineering project and came in first place in a math contest. Jenny's mother, Joyce Christopher Solheim, participated in the 1972 and 1974 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



Speller No. 141, Dakota Jones

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Las Vegas, Nevada
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Hyde Park Middle School
Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

Dakota attends a magnet school that specializes in mathematics and science educations. He won third place in the 2010 state-level Mathcounts competition, second place in the 2011 Mathcounts chapter countdown round, and second place in the 2011 Mathcounts chapter overall competition. Dakota plays the viola and is also involved in Boy Scouts, where he has earned the rank of Life Scout. In his free time, Dakota enjoys playing chess, reading and camping. Dakota tied for 33rd place in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

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Speller No. 147, Ray Wang

Asbury Park Press/Home News Tribune, Neptune, New Jersey
Age 19, 8th grade
School: William R. Satz Intermediate School
Hometown: Holmdel, New Jersey

Ray plays trombone and piano and is a member of his school's jazz and symphonic bands. He has received many awards at piano competitions and received the highest score at an Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music audition in his area. Ray loves to play tennis and is a member of the United States Tennis Association. His favorite school subject is science and he enjoys participating in Science Olympiad events, where he received a total of eight medals in the regional and state tournaments. In his free time, Ray likes to read classic novels and write. He was voted "most likely to succeed" by his classmates.



Speller No. 151, Nabeel Rahman

The Buffalo News, Buffalo, New York
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Casey Middle School
Hometown: Buffalo, New York

Nabeel has been playing viola for a few years and is a member of his school's orchestra. He enjoys competing in intramural sports including soccer, track and field, and basketball. Nabeel's favorite subject is math and he is a Math Olympiad participant. He is an active volunteer and helps with his school's food drive and is his homeroom representative for the student activities committee. Nabeel speaks Bengali and loves to travel. In his free time, he enjoys riding his bike and solving Rubik's Cube, which he can do in a few minutes. Nabeel participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 152, Sriram Hathwar

The Leader, Corning, New York
Age 17, 5th grade
School: Chemung Valley Montessori School
Hometown: Painted Post, New York

Sriram enjoys playing oboe and has learned to play several Sanskrit hymns on piano. He spends much of his time participating in sports including skiing, ice-skating, swimming, baseball, basketball, tennis and Ping-Pong. He is an avid reader and especially enjoys the Harry Potter book series. Sriram's favorite school subject is science and he hopes to become an ophthalmologist. He participated in the 2008 and 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bees.

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Speller No. 157, Arvind Mahankali

Daily News, New York, New York
Age 17, 6th grade
School: Forest Hills Montessori School
Hometown: Forest Hills, New York

Arvind's favorite school subject is math, and he aspires to be a physicist like his role model, Albert Einstein. Outside of school, Arvind enjoys playing tennis and soccer, reading books and acting. He also enjoys Indian classical music and speaks Telugu. Not one to be shy, Arvind once delivered a monologue performance in front of an audience of 7,000. In 2009 he was a university talent search participant. Arvind tied for 9th place in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee. His cousin Sanjay Kottapali participated in the 2008 and 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



Speller No. 168, Prakash Mishra

The Charlotte Observer, Charlotte, North Carolina
Age 19, 8th grade
School: Marvin Ridge Middle School
Hometown: Waxhaw, North Carolina

Prakash has written several novels and enjoys reading, especially works by Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe and T.S. Eliot. Prakash speaks five languages, including Hindi, French, German, Spanish and English. He is passionate about academics and especially enjoys learning about history, culture and religion. Prakash studies Tae Kwon Do, plays both piano and drums, and loves to play hacky sack. He is a Junior Beta Club member and the Mega Math Madness first place champion. Prakash participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 181, Sunny Levine

Akron Beacon Journal, Akron, Ohio
Age 18, 7th grade
School: Claggett Middle School
Hometown: Medina, Ohio

Sunny finds food fascinating and enjoys cooking and eating it. She would like to meet chef Gordon Ramsay. Sunny loves to sing and act and recently participated in the school production of Honk! Jr. She is also involved in choir, the robotics club, Scrabble club, and the Science Olympiad, in which she won two awards this year. Sunny holds a third kyu green belt and was named student of the year at karate. She loves art and knows how to make over 50 types of balloon animals. Sunny aspires to a career in medicine. She participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

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Speller No. 182, Tony Incorvati

The Repository, Canton, Ohio
Age 19, 8th grade
School: Canton Country Day School
Hometown: Uniontown, Ohio

Tony loves to learn foreign languages. He's almost fluent in French and placed eleventh in the Le Grand Concours French exam. Tony is currently teaching himself Japanese. Tony plays piano and bass guitar and is a member of his school's jazz band. He has placed first in the district-level Mathcounts competition and first in the American Mathematics Contest-8 competition for the past two years. Tony is a registered member of the North American Scrabble Players Association and has been playing competitively in the Northeast Ohio Club since last fall. Tony participated in the 2008 and 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



Speller No. 188, Nicholas Rushlow

Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, Lancaster, Ohio
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Lakeview Junior High School
Hometown: Pickerington, Ohio

Nicholas is an avid Lego collector and owns almost every Star Wars set in existence. He also enjoys playing chess, Scrabble and Stratego. Nicholas loves drawing dragons and other mythological creatures, and reading science-fiction books. He is a year-round competitive swimmer, preferring the 500 meter freestyle and the 50 meter backstroke events. Last year, he took first place in the league championships for 50 meter backstroke. A violinist for nearly eight years, Nicholas is a member of the Suzuki Music Columbus tour group. He participated in the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bees, tying for 17th place in 2009 and 33rd place in 2010.



Speller No. 200, Parker Strubhar

The Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Middle School of Piedmont
Hometown: Piedmont, Oklahoma

Parker loves to watch reality TV, Entertainment Weekly and sports, especially Oklahoma University football and Oklahoma City Thunder basketball. He has several different collections and his favorite is his key chain collection, which includes several hundred key chains that he has collected when he's traveled. Parker has been to 29 of the states and more than 30 national parks and monuments. He hopes to visit each of the 50 states before he graduates from high school. Parker is an Odyssey of the Mind World qualifier and will be in the Washington, D.C. area the week before the Scripps National Spelling Bee for the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition.

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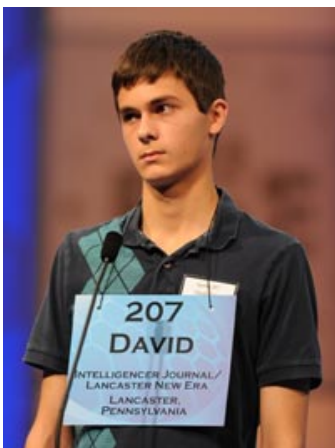
Speller No. 202, Katie Fo
Portland Tribune, Portland, Oregon
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Whitford Middle School
Hometown: Beaverton, Oregon

Katie hopes to become a fiction writer someday, and took a step toward that goal by winning first place in the Beaverton Library Fan Fiction Contest when she was in sixth grade. An avid reader, she participates in the Oregon Battle of the Books and excels in her English classes at school. After school, Katie participates in Mathcounts competitions and in science fairs. She also enjoys spending time with friends, playing violin, and drawing. Katie has two cats, Kiki and Orion, and is looking forward to her first trip to Washington, D.C.



Speller No. 206, Joanna Ye
WITF: Public Media for Central Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Lambertton Middle School
Hometown: Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Joanna enjoys playing tennis and is team manager for a high school girls' tennis team. She likes to listen to music and is a member of the Wednesday Club, which is a classical music society. Joanna plays flute in her school's concert band and alto saxophone in her school's jazz band and a district honor band. She won first place for her fiction writing in the Hershey Story Historical Writing Contest. Joanna tied for 5th place in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee and upon returning to her hometown of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was honored with "Joanna Ye Day" on June 11, 2010.



Speller No. 207, David Krak
Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Age 21, 8th grade
School: Warwick Middle School
Hometown: Lititz, Pennsylvania

David enjoys writing and in seventh grade won first prize in a journalism contest. He has also won the regional gold key and national silver medal for poetry. A piano player, David learned the original score of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and performed it last year. He also likes to sing in a chorus, compose and act. He aspires to be either a choir director or engineer. David participates in cross-country, track, and Quiz Bowl, and he enjoys playing with his dog, Beaker and cat, Elliott.

2011 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE FINALISTS



Speller No. 209, Anahita Iyer

Pennridge Community Education Foundation, Perkasie, Pennsylvania
Age 19, 8th grade
School: Tohickon Middle School
Hometown: Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Anahita plays violin in the select strings orchestra at her school. She is an honor roll student and a member of a gifted education program. Anahita participated in the Reading Olympics, and she and her science partner received a third place medal for ecology in the seventh grade Science Olympiad. After school, Anahita enjoys track and field, playing Ping-Pong, solving puzzles and playing games on her computer, Wii and PlayStation2. Her best school subject is math, and she would like to pursue a career in medicine. Anahita participated in the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 214, Sukanya Roy

Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Abington Heights Middle School
Hometown: South Abington Township, Pennsylvania

Sukanya enjoys hiking, rock climbing and ice skating. She was selected to go to Panama this summer with her school's ecology club to learn more about the rain forest. A pianist, Sukanya also plays violin in her school's orchestra. She won first place in the individual portion of the Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter Mathcounts Competition. Last summer, she was selected to participate in Jeopardy! Kids Week at the regional level. Sukanya speaks Bengali, and every summer travels to India to visit family. She hopes to pursue a career in international relations. Sukanya participated in the 2009 and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bees, tying for 12th place in 2009 and 20th place in 2010.



Speller No. 234, Chetan Reddy

The Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas
Age 17, 6th grade
School: C.M. Rice Middle School
Hometown: Plano, Texas

Chetan can tell you the value of pi up to 70 decimal places, so it's no surprise that math is his best school subject. He is the captain of his sixth grade Whiz Quiz team and also plays piano, chess and cricket. Cricket is, in fact, Chetan's favorite sport and he would most like to meet Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. In his free time, Chetan reads books, watches movies and plays music. He also speaks Telugu and wants to pursue a career in law. Chetan participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

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Speller No. 236, Narahari Bharadwaj

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth, Texas
Age 19, 8th grade
School: Harmony Science Academy
Hometown: Plano, Texas

Narahari speaks four languages and is in the process of learning two more. He has qualified for state-level Mathcounts competition and has twice qualified for the state science fair. He has participated in International Science Olympiad competitions, earning second place twice and honorable mention once. In his free time Narahari enjoys playing chess, basketball and tennis. His favorite school subject is math and he aspires to become a neurosurgeon.



Speller No. 237, Mashad Arora

Valley Freedom Newspapers, Harlingen, Texas
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Resaca Middle School
Hometown: Brownsville, Texas

A true competitor, Mashad participates in spelling, writing, math and poetry recitation competitions through the University Interscholastic League. He is also a member of his school's robotics team. Mashad's Science Bowl team placed fourth at the Rio Grande Valley Regional competition after building and racing a hydrogen fuel cell car. He enjoys playing badminton and piano and is a member of the school's cross-country team. Mashad admires the art and architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and his career aspirations include architecture, engineering, journalism or international relations. Mashad participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Speller No. 250, Anna-Marie Sprenger

Daily Herald, Provo, Utah
Age 19, 8th grade
School: Centennial Middle School
Hometown: Provo, Utah

Anna-Marie has lived in France, and her language skills already match those of any diplomat: she is fluent in Romanian and French, conversational in German and Spanish, and is currently studying Chinese. She loves to eat Japanese food. In her spare time, Anna-Marie likes to dance, ski, play piano and read. Her favorite book is *Jane Eyre*. Anna-Marie is an honor society member and hopes to become a scientist. At home, she has a beagle named Barney and credits her mother as her role model.

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Speller No. 264, Samuel Estep

The Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Virginia
Age 19, 7th grade
School: Home School
Hometown: Berryville, Virginia

Samuel likes to spend time outdoors with his six siblings. He enjoys playing games on the Wii and the computer. Samuel aspires to become a computer scientist and is already honing his programming skills by making games on his calculator. To date he has made a car racing game, a snake game and is working on a chess game. Samuel's dream is to design a working portal gun and a computer that understands English. His family has a solar array on their roof that provides most of the electricity for their house. Samuel participated in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee. His sister, Marissa Estep, participated in the 2004 and 2006 Scripps National Spelling Bees.



Speller No. 273, Parker Dietry

Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Wisconsin
Age 20, 8th grade
School: Waunakee Middle School
Hometown: Waunakee, Wisconsin

Parker is a big fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes. His favorite sports figure is the late Woody Hayes, whose OSU football team won three national titles during the 28 seasons he coached them. An athlete himself, Parker plays basketball and baseball. He is also in his school's band. Parker enjoys the outdoors and traveling. He is an avid reader, and studies his spelling words with his canine companion, a pug beagle mix named Henry. Parker is a twin, but they are not matched in height -- Parker stands five feet four inches, while his brother is more than six feet tall.



THE 2011 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

THURSDAY, MAY 26
8:00 P.M.
LIVE ON ESPN