



**American Association for Artificial Intelligence**

445 Burgess Drive  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(650) 328-3123  
www.aaai.org

## **Press Release**

For press inquiries only, contact:

Sara Hedberg  
Emergent, Inc.  
(425) 444-7272 (cell)  
hedberg@aaai.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **AAAI Awards Amazing High School Students' AI Achievements**

**MENLO PARK, CA – June 12, 2006.** Now in its seventh year, the AAAI Special Awards program at the annual Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) consists of up to 10 awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of intelligent computation and robotics. The awards are intended for the best exhibits in the area of computer science with an artificial intelligence component. Finalists in other areas with significant computer science components are also eligible. The student authors of each award-winning project share \$500 and each student receives a certificate and other momentos. The winners and their schools also receive a complimentary one-year membership in the AAAI, including a subscription to *AI Magazine*.

This year, the ISEF was held May 7-13, 2006 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 10 winning projects by 13 students (three teams). Eight projects were entered in the category of Computer Science, one in Engineering, and one in Mathematics. The 2006 winners are as follows:

**Facool: Convenient Internet Face Retrieval System**

Liu Liu, 19, Shanghai Datong High School, Shanghai, China

**Statistical-based Adaptive Binarization for Document Imaging**

Nat Piyapramote, 17, Sarasit Phithayalai School, Banpong, Ratchaburi, Thailand

**A Novel Approach to the Automatic Recognition of Emotions in Natural Speech**

Caroline Elizabeth Pietsch, 17, Ossining High School, Ossining, New York

**Tough or Diabolical? An Analysis of Sudoku Difficulty Level**

Elsa Star Culler, 16, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago, Illinois

**Three-dimensional Face Recognition from Video: Facial Surface Reconstruction and Analysis Using Tensor Algebra and Differential Geometry**

Justin Moore Solomon, 18, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia

**Combining Touch Screen and Scanner Input for Handwriting Recognition**

Alan Garrett Pierce, 16, School of Science and Technology, Beaverton, Oregon  
Nathaniel John Broussard, 17, School of Science and Technology, Beaverton, Oregon

**Leaf! What Are You?**

Hung-Ju Chen, 18, National Hsinchu Girls, Hsinchu City, Taiwan, Chinese Taipei  
Min Ju Yang, 17, National Hsinchu Girls, Hsinchu City, Taiwan, Chinese Taipei

**A New Algorithm to Minimize Factory Inefficiency Through Penalty Reduction**

Andrew David Gamalski, 17, Hamilton High School, Chandler, Arizona  
Vinayak Muralidhar, 16, Corona del Sol High School, Tempe, Arizona

**Acoustic Localization, Detection, and Identification**

Joseph Anthony Crivello, 18, University School of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Computer-aided Identification of Cancer from Photomicrographs by Entropy Analysis**

Lucia Mocz, 15, Mililani High School, Mililani, Hawaii

AAAI wishes to congratulate all the winners! In addition, we would like to recognize the judges, who attended the fair in Indianapolis and selected the 10 winning projects from many remarkable and worthy entries. Many thanks to Reid Simmons (Chair), Carnegie Mellon University, for his organizational efforts, and to all the judges, Dave Kortenkamp, Metrica TRACLabs, Martha Pollack, University of Michigan, and Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts Lowell, for their generous donations of time and energy.

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**About AAAI**

Founded in 1979, the American Association for Artificial Intelligence ([www.aaai.org](http://www.aaai.org)) is a nonprofit scientific membership society devoted to advancing the science and practice of AI. Its mission is to: (1) advance the scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying intelligent thought and behavior, (2) facilitate their embodiment in machines, (3) serve as an information resource for research planners and the general public concerning trends in AI, and (4) offer training for the current and coming generations of AI researchers and practitioners. The Association has sponsored an annual conference, regarded as the premier gathering in the field, since 1980.