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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL WINS 2009 UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON**

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE — Ventura County's Moorpark High School on Saturday, April 25, 2009 won the United States Academic Decathlon. The team scored 51,289.5 points out of 60,000 possible, earning the school's second consecutive national title and California's seventh consecutive national title. The winners were announced before an enthusiastic crowd at the 2009 United States Academic Decathlon's award ceremony at the Cannon Center Theatre in downtown Memphis, Tennessee.

Members of the winning team are Scott Buchanan, Sol Moon, Kris Sankaran, Michael Fantauzzo, Danielle Hagglund, Neil Paik, Zyed Ismailjee, Marlena Sampson, Sarah Thiele and Coach Larry Jones.

Waukesha West High School in Wisconsin finished second with 50,979.9 points and Burke High School in Nebraska finished third with 48,064.0 points.

Moorpark received 30 individual medals (eleven gold, nine silver and ten bronze) and claimed five out of nine Top Individual Overall Achievement Awards in Division I.

In all, 36 high school teams representing 36 states from across the country, including one team from London, competed in this year's national Academic Decathlon championship. Decathlete teams are comprised of three Honor students (3.75 and above GPA), three Scholastic students (3.00-3.74 GPA), and three Varsity students (2.99 GPA and below).

This victory gives California its seventh national title in a row and sixteen national titles since 1982. In 27 years of national competition, California has placed first or second every year but one.

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