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For Immediate Release

SOUTH AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN HELPS THE U.S. WIN THE  
INTERNATIONAL MATH OLYMPIAD

South Aiken High School's Valedictorian David Stoner joined five of the nation's top math students to defeat rivals from more than 100 countries last week at the International Mathematical Olympiad, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and bring home the win for the United States, the first in 21 years.

The International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for high school students

The IMO isn't just about national pride, but national improvement, Loh explained. "It plays the same role as the Olympics does in sports; to have some sort of far destination that all of our hundreds of thousands or millions of people in America can reach towards, like a pinnacle in the distance," Loh continued. "It pushes people to reach farther in mathematics."

South Aiken's own math genius David Stoner won a gold medal along with four other U.S. team members, including Ryan Alweiss, Allen Liu, Yang Liu and Shyam Narayanan. The sixth member, Michael Kural, missed gold by one point, earning silver.

"It is very easy to believe that the United States team was victorious this year if the team members were all of the same caliber as David Stoner," remarked an elated Jill Jett, Principal of South Aiken High School. "David is brilliant, articulate, and self-motivated. He comes from a family who provides him with a very strong support system, and had a great team of educators working with him at South Aiken who supported, encouraged and challenged him."

South Aiken High's Valedictorian will attend Harvard University in the fall. "David provides all young people with an example of the amazing results that follow a life of drive, self-determination and motivation, and a plan for success," remarked Ms. Jett, the math whiz's former Principal.

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