



Wins at the NC Student Academy of Science / MCA Students Elected as Presidents of the Middle School and High School NCSAS



Several MCA students recently participated at the state level of competition for the NC Student Academy of Science Research Paper competition in Durham, NC.

According to their website, the North Carolina Student Academy of Science (NCSAS) is "an organization for students in grades 6-12 in alliance with the North Carolina Academy of Science (NCAS). The objectives of NCSAS are 1) promoting the study of science, technology, and mathematics, 2) assisting students to pursue careers in science and technology, and 3) encouraging students to use their talents for the improvement of themselves, their schools, and their communities." MCA students in grades 6-10 wrote research papers based on their science projects, and only reached the state level of competition after winning at MCA and at the regional competition which was held at Appalachian State University. The state competition was held at the NC School of Science and Math in Durham. In addition to the research paper competition, NCSAS also elects officers for the coming year, and two MCA students were elected as presidents of the middle school and high school divisions. These students will represent the student organization to the general North Carolina Academy of Science periodically throughout the coming year.

Participating in the NCSAS Research Paper Competition are, left to right, **William Marshall** (8th grade), **Jack Bevard** (8th grade), **Sarah Shepherd** (10th grade), **Alayna Smith** (8th grade), **Cameron Shaw** (7th grade), and **Trisaia Legere** (7th grade). Bringing home awards are:

- **William Marshall** - 1st Technology "WiFi Woes"
- **Cameron Shaw** - 1st Environmental Advanced "Not a Drop to Drink"
- **Jack Bevard**- 1st Chemistry "What's left behind?"
- **Anna Banas** - 2nd Behavioral Science "How Color Plays a Game with your Brain"
- **Alayna Smith** - 2nd Technology "Keeping the Heat In With Green"

Cameron Shaw and **Sarah Shepherd** were elected as the presidents of the middle school division and high school division of the NCSAS, respectively.



MCA Student Does Well at Special Olympics

Ashley Cashatt, MCA sixth grade, competed in the special Olympics recently. Ashley placed first in the tennis ball throw, first in the fifth meter run, and third in the long jump. For the event, Ashley's coach was her brother, **Derek Cashatt**, an MCA 10th grade student, and her buddy was friend Emily Smith.



Pictured left to right in the back are **Emily Smith**, **Derek Cashatt**, and **Elizabeth Hubbard**, Ashley's mentor. **Ashley Cashatt** is pictured front and center.

North Carolina Science Olympiad State Competition Winners

After several years of winning at the regional level, for the first time ever, MCA students placed at the state level of the North Carolina Science Olympiad (NCSO) competition held at NC State University in Raleigh, NC. NCSO represents over 14,000 students in seventy North Carolina counties, which are narrowed down to a few hundred students by the state competition, and has the mission of promoting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to middle and high school students by making STEM studies a sport. Students participated in events such as air trajectory, elastic launched gliders, duct tape challenge, anatomy and physiology, invasive species, reach for the stars, and more. NCSO recognizes students who place in the top ten positions of each event. **Alayna Smith** (8th grade), **Cameron Shaw** (7th grade), and **William Marshall** (8th grade) placed ninth in the experimental design category.



Left to right: **Alayna Smith**, **Cameron Shaw**, and **William Marshall** pose among the sea of students in Dorton Arena at NC State University during closing ceremonies.



Mary Jones and **Sydney Watson**

Students Win Veteran's of Foreign Wars Contests

The VFW Patriots' Pen essay contest is open to sixth-eighth graders. Students submit an essay to their local VFW post where they are judged, and winners are sent on to a district contest. This year's theme was "What Freedom Means to Me." **Mary Jones**, MCA sixth grader, won second place in the district contest and was presented with an award by representatives from the VFW.

For high school students, the VFW also sponsors the Voice of Democracy contest, which takes the form of a recorded, three-minute speech. This year's theme was "My Vision for America." **Sydney Watson**, MCA freshman, placed third in the district and was presented with an award from representatives of the VFW.

Legacy Class Rings – A First for MCA!

The first MCA Senior Class of 2018 is now wearing class rings that are made especially for them. Students had the choice to purchase rings from Josten's, or to purchase them anywhere else they liked. The rings from Josten's are marked with a special designation of "Legacy Class" which will only be used for this first graduating class.

