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Students gain top oratory awards

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Press staff report

Five Mountain House students were among the seven top competitors in the **Rrooar Coding and Robotics Academy** Original Oratory Competition for Spring 2021.

Within the theme of "We Will Overcome!" 55 elementary school speakers talked about topics like climate change, global warming, health care, discrimination, bullying and COVID-19.

Winners of the oratory contest including Leila Parsa, Altamont School; Arnav Shah and Diya Dileep from Hansen School; Kithara Thalesh, Questa School; and Aina Silva, Bethany School. Top awards also went to Vihaan Ailiani of Fremont and Dhanya Ramanian of Sunnyvale.

Other finalists included Riya Dileep and Sabby Olsen of Mountain House, Siddharath Rao, Amyra Manghwani and Ashvika Prakash of Fremont, Gabrielle Sonnberger of Menlo Park, and Kriti Jethwani of Ellicott City, Maryland.

As with previous competitions through Rrooar Coding and Robotics Academy, the panel of judges included professional and academic leaders who serve as inspirational role models for the speakers by sharing their own experiences.

The judges included Paul Romero, staff psychologist with Fremont School District; Megan Wingo, deputy public defender, Fresno County; and Renu Bhatia, vice president of the technology company NVIDIA; Heather Sherburn, assistant superintendent, Lammersville Unified School District; Angela Ehlrich, director of student services and accountability, Soledad School District. Gurvinder Ahluwalia, Founder & CEO of Digital Twin Labs and an Advisor on Digitization to the Gates Foundation; Gaganbir Kaur, Toastmaster of the Year 2019-2020; Christa Cannon, singer, actress and social activist; Elizabeth Ramirez, executive life coach; and J.J. Kapur, 2017 National Original Oratory winner.

Tracy astrophysicist heads to Scotland

scope atop the Harvard

& Smithsonian center.

Through his research he

hopes to better under-

stand how the brown

dwarf stars form and

graduation

evolve.

After

Press staff report

Tracy native Theron Carmichael, 27, will graduate from Harvard University's Center for Astrophysics| Harvard Smithsonian later this month with a PhD in astrophysics specializing in the study of brown dwarf stars.

Theron has spent several years searching for and cataloging the brown dwarf stars using the Kit Peak Observatory in Arizona and the Clay tele-



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Theron will head to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he will serve as a research associate in astronomy.

Contact the Tracy Press at tpnews@tracypress.com or 209-835-3030.

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