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## Varsity Cheer squad captures National Championship

The Varsity Lancers joined with students from Saint Louis School (SLS) to win the highly-coveted "Grand National Champion" title at the JAMZ School Cheer National Championships at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas on February 22 and 23.

The joint squad was one of 72 competing for the top spot in this **JAMZ** event – the largest Prep National Championship in the nation, and these athletes earned the award by notching the highest total and combined score.

The Lancers represented the Academy in the "Show" portions and with SLS in the "Sideline" segments.

In addition to the overall **Championship Title**, the cheerleaders earned a bevy of other top awards:

- ▶ Best Stunt Sequence
- ▶ Sideline Performance Coed National Champions
- ▶ Sideline Performance Overall National Champions
- ▶ Level 3 Coed Division National Champions
- ▶ Level 3 Overall Champions.



The Cheerleading Champions include Derrick Okamoto, Odyn Kane, Alissa De Smet, Kammiee-Marie Ardo, Kamalani Agcaoili, Jacelyn Tanavasa, Cayla Cabanban, Megan Valente, Kayla Oka, Melina O'Reilly, Tristan Racpan and Lexy Freitas.

Their dynamic efforts at these Championships is the culmination of talent and months of dedication and hard work by these Lancer athletes, who also currently hold the **Varsity Cheerleading Championship Title** in both the **Interscholastic League of Honolulu** as well as the **State**.

Along with **Coaches Cadey Vakauta** and **Gail Gushikuma**, the members of the squad were overwhelmed by this experience, which allowed them to bond as a team and proudly exhibit their enthusiastic school pride.



## From the Head of School

### ATHLETICS ADVANCES ASTONISH

*This has been an exciting week at the Academy! This past Thursday, Dr. Scott Schroeder was appointed as our new Head of School. Since the news was too late to make this edition of e-Parentline, it will be covered next week.*



*While Ryan Hogue is building enthusiasm and encouraging parents to volunteer at the Athletic Country Fair on March 10, athletics, in general, seem to be "bumped up" a few notches. The revitalized softball team is holding its own; track and field athletes are "finding their rhythm;" wrestlers and water polo players number more than in the past; the Air Riflery students are League Champions; and the Cheer squads are unstoppable, extending far beyond the boundaries of Hawai'i.*

*Cheer is currently one of the Academy's most popular sports, and it involves more than just cheering for the team from the sidelines or engaging the crowd as they encourage a team on to victory. I encourage parents to view the video of the Academy-Saint Louis Varsity squad as it competed in Las Vegas at <http://tinyurl.com/SHACheerJAMZ2019>. Watching it several times is still amazing!*

*The cheer athletes are very talented with their stunts and tumbling and have the distinct presence of performers. They are very focused and give 100 percent of their energy. This is a powerful combination that results in confidence and the desire to work together as a team. And, according to Hogue, "If you want a strong capable leader and a caring and compassionate person, find a cheerleader!"*

*Best wishes for a "sun-filled" weekend.*

*Betty White*

## Exploring aspects of green life

The **Junior Kindergarten (JK)** students in **Sandy Arnobit's** class were thoroughly engrossed and intrigued during their recent explorations focusing on the "fantastic" world of **plant** life.

This in-depth study entailed participating in a variety of hands-on activities, including carefully planting their own "crop" of beans.

The students diligently cared for their new plants and were extremely excited to observe the growth and changes as the new "life" took root.

After these in-depth examinations, the kindergartners recorded their observations in their journals. Their notations often included the height of the stalk or the amount of leaves that were visible, and many even further documented the changes with color-accurate illustrations of developments.

Their lesson into the world of plant life continues as they "hone" their "green thumbs!"



## Junior High squad cheers way to first-place finishes

*The 13 Lancer Junior High cheerleaders epitomized school spirit and pride, bringing home two top awards from the USA Game Day National Championships from February 22 to 24 in Anaheim, California.*

The young **Lancer cheer** squad nabbed first place spots for **"Junior High Sideline/Crowd Lead"** and **"Junior High Fight Song."**

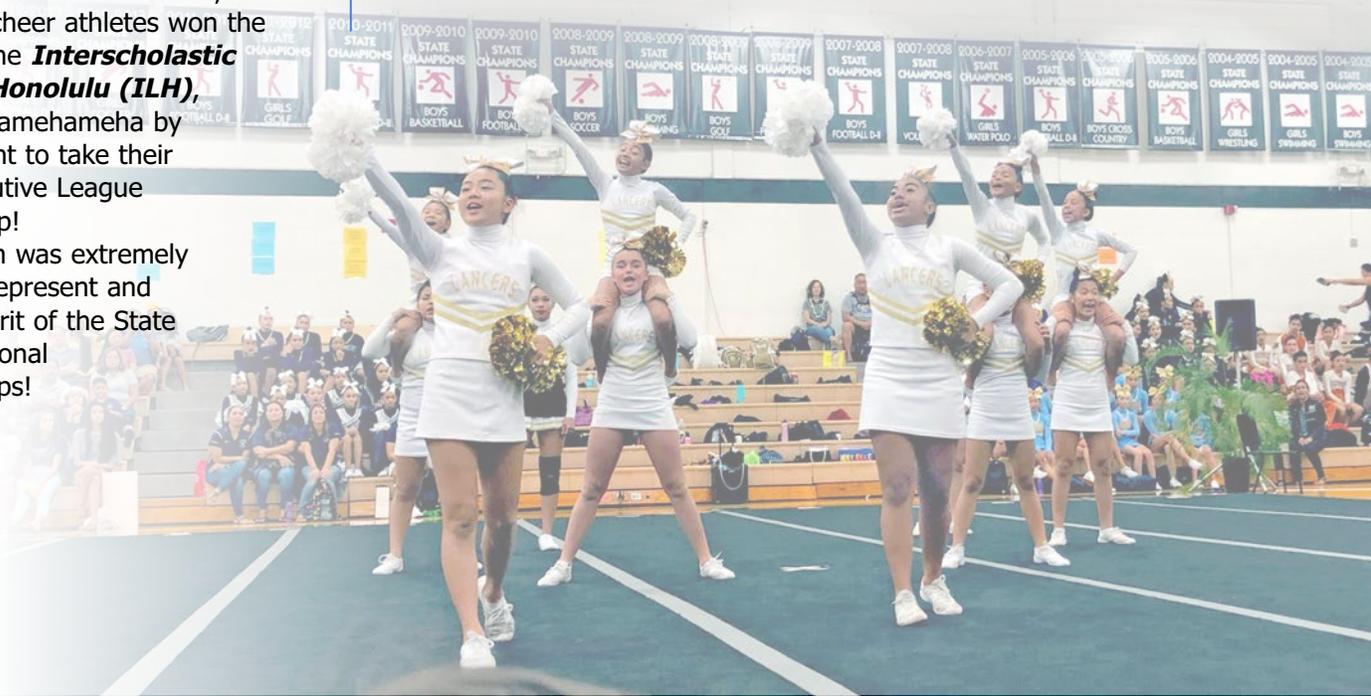
At this Championship event, the Junior High athletes competed in three sections – the **"Situation/Game Day"** component requiring them to react actual offensive and defensive game situations, a full *cheer and dance* routine segment and **"Fight Song"** delivery.

Prior to this National event, these Junior High cheer athletes won the top spot in the **Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH)**, edging out Kamehameha by only one point to take their third consecutive League Championship!

The team was extremely honored to represent and share the spirit of the State at these National Championships!



Members of the Lance cheer squad includes (with Coaches Tania Morimoto, Chanel Moke-Puha and Lindsey Ogata): Danilla Monk, Chrissy Hori, Carlee Marcello, Ailana Le Lesch, Brooke Matsubara, Koko Tanaka, Rhyan Okamoto, Angelina Castaneda, Jondrina Cambra, Rita Komada, Kaena Medrano, Tya Hunter and Andromeda Tong.



## Science Symposium stimulates interest in STEM studies

For the 25th year, the Academy sponsored and hosted the annual **Science Symposium 4 Girls** on February 23. While the STEM Symposium – held a week prior – focuses on an older demographic, this unique outreach aims at stimulating interest in the areas of **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** beginning at a younger age and is specifically tailored for those in grades five to eight.

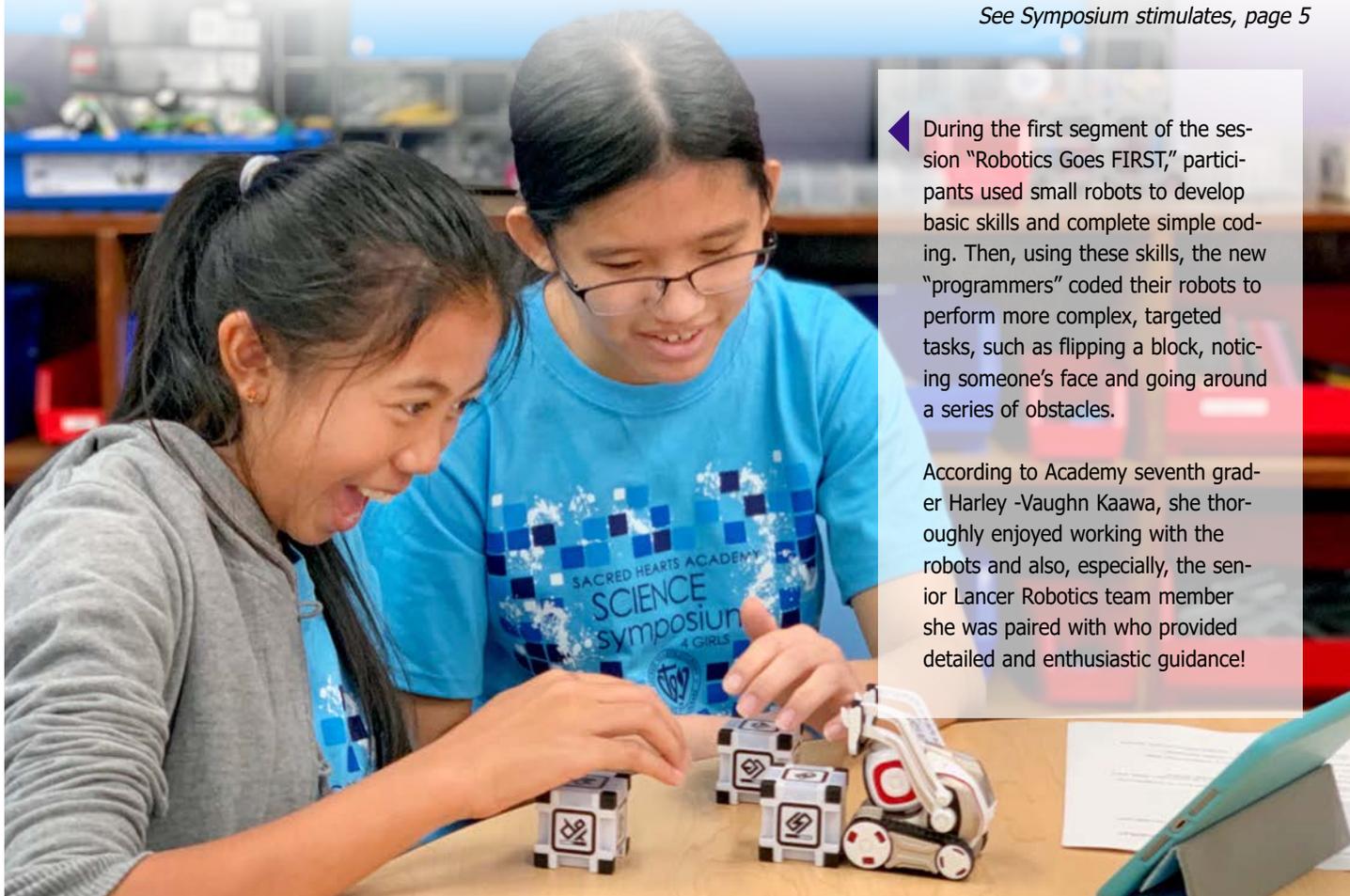
This year, over 359 Symposium students were immersed in a morning of discovery, exploration and fascinating and fun interactive sessions with professionals who shared their expertise in the STEM fields. From coding robots to “observing” whales, from solving mysteries to “examining” live animals and insects up-close, and much more, the participants learned some intriguing and unexpected facts about STEM’s reach into all areas of life.

The morning also featured a keynote address by (right) **Dr. Lee Ellen Buenconsejo-Lum**, a pivotal member of the University of Hawai‘i’s School of Medicine, and a segment “only for” parents with a panel of STEM specialists who discussed education and careers.

The Academy extends its gratitude to the presenters and Symposium sponsors – *Bank of Hawai‘i Foundation; Bayer; Hawai‘i Gas; HEI Industries, Inc.; Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc.; Academy Parent Organization; AECOM Technology Corporation; Cookie Corner Hawai‘i; Engineering Design Group, Inc.; Resurgo LLC; Meadow Gold Dairies; and Soroptimist International of Waikiki Foundation, Inc.*



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During the first segment of the session “Robotics Goes FIRST,” participants used small robots to develop basic skills and complete simple coding. Then, using these skills, the new “programmers” coded their robots to perform more complex, targeted tasks, such as flipping a block, noticing someone’s face and going around a series of obstacles.

According to Academy seventh grader Harley -Vaughn Kaawa, she thoroughly enjoyed working with the robots and also, especially, the senior Lancer Robotics team member she was paired with who provided detailed and enthusiastic guidance!

## Symposium stimulates studies

*Continued from page 4*

The exploration of erosion provided some surprising discoveries for session participants – especially during their experiment to discern which plants led to the dirtiest “run-off” after watering. As seventh grader Victoria Fang-Yee learned, it was not the species that had the cleanest root systems in place, but – in fact – the clump of tightly-packed grass!



Participants, including Academy eighth grader Abigail Vendiola, were astonished to discover that preventing and fighting fires is closely related to the STEM areas during a session with members of the Honolulu Fire Department.

The students learned about the complexity and volume of Mathematics and Science that firefighters utilize daily. They not only need to complete calculations, but must memorize many of these details since responding to calls often requires immediate action. Many students also did not realize that fire response situations require different water pressures to douse the flames, as well as use of a specific-sized hose – thus the wide array of equipment filling the truck!

This session made students view rainwater in a new, completely fluid way!

Students took a hands-on “tour” of the insect world and were surprised to learn that not everything about bugs is bad! In fact, led by an Entomology expert from Bayer, the students discovered that many insects provide functions that keep the delicate ecosystem healthy and balanced.

Academy students Ava Damo and Hayden Yee concurred with the majority of participants that their favorite part of the tour was when they got “hands-on” and carefully carried the live caterpillar and butterfly co-presenters and felt their unique outer coverings and textures!

Participants were also awed during their exploration of a fire truck and seeing the complicated and vast amounts of levers, valves, gauges and more!

