



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gwinnett County 14-year-old captures Georgia’s spelling championship

ATLANTA -- They came from all corners of state; 20 spellers ranging from 10- to 14-years-old, all with the same goal in mind – become Georgia’s spelling champion. After 12 tough rounds Sumedh Garimella, a 14-year-old from Hull Middle school in Gwinnett County, emerged as the winner of the 53rd Annual Georgia Association of Educators State Spelling Bee. He will now represent Georgia in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championships in Washington, D.C., May 25–31, 2014.

The words started becoming more difficult in the ninth round with words such as gasconism, myasthenia, cecity, octateuch and ceremoniarus. But it finally came down to the 14th round when it was narrowed down to Sumedh and Sathvika Narasimhan, a 12-year-old from Mill Creek Middle School in Cherokee County. Sathvika went first and was given the word “ptomaine,” but she spelled it without the “p.” The word was then given to Sumedh who spelled it correctly and then, according the rules when it’s down to two contestants, was given a new word which he must spell correctly. He received the word “enterorrhagia ,” which after a few questions, he quickly spelled correctly to become the state’s new spelling champion. Sumedh subsequently threw his hands up in triumph.

“I feel really good,” said Sumedh. “I’ve been waiting for this for about 5 to 6 years.” Sumedh says he’s seriously looking forward to going to Washington and will immediately start studying for it just as he’s done for state bee.

“I can’t say enough about what these young people have accomplished,” said GAE President Calvine Rollins. “Everyone associated with their efforts should be very proud and on behalf of GAE and I congratulate each and every one of them. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sumedh and his family as they travel to Washington to represent Georgia and to attempt to win the national championship.”

In addition to his first place trophy and an all expense paid trip to the national championship and \$1,000 (GAE), Sumedh also will have a choice of either a Nook or Ipad Mini and a \$100 Amazon gift card (Horace Mann Insurance Companies), a dictionary (Merriam-Webster), a one-year online subscription (Encyclopaedia Britannica), one \$100 U.S. Savings Bond (Samuel L. Sugarman Award) and a GAE Bee Champion lapel pin. Sathvika, as runner-up, took home a second place trophy and \$500 (GAE), and also had a choice of either a Nook or Ipad Mini along with a \$50 Amazon gift card (Horace Mann Insurance Companies) and a dictionary (Merriam-Webster). In addition, all contestants will receive a GAE State Bee lapel pin.

Order of elimination-County/word/Round:

Aylah Birks - Twiggs	Tachometer	5
Logan Witham – Henry	Bobadil	7
Arul Selvakumar – Fulton	Morphogenesis	8

Christian Lee - Bibb	Ferruginous	9
Varun Kumar – Forsyth	Hudibrastic	9
Riley Prichard – Brooks	Invigilation	9
Will Shirah – Fannin	Decastich	9
Sophie Giorgianni – Bryan	Commem	9
Michael Williams - Chatham	Grosgrain	9
John Knauss – Rome City	Parnassian	9
Rilyn McCallip - Monroe	Glomerulate	9
Lexine Feng - Gwinnett	Ceremoniarus	9
Aanya Sawhney - Cobb	Hierophant	10
Davia Allen – Early	Rabelaisian	10
Tharini Ramakrishnan Kavitha – Fulton	Gasconism	10
Monisha Mahadevan - Fulton	Thermoremanent	10
Suvitha Viswanathan - Oconee	Myasthenia	10
Kathleen Jan Mabutin - Henry	Braunschweiger	11
Sathvika Narasimhan – Cherokee	Ptomaine	14
Sumedh Garimella - Gwinnett	Enterorrhagia	14

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