

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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14-year-old from Woodward Academy 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 23 rounds and 137 words, with rounds 9 through 23 being just between the final two, Monisha Mahadevan, a 14-year-old from Woodward Academy in Fulton County, emerged as the winner of the 54th Annual Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) State Spelling Bee. She will now represent Georgia in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championships in Washington, D.C., May 26-28, 2015.

The words started becoming more difficult in the fifth round on with words such as wasteweir, nasturtium, omnilegent, escritoire, quaquaversal, dvandva, incurvariid, and fuliginous. But it finally came down to between Monisha and 14-year-old Billy Chung from Mount de Sales Academy in Bibb County. Billy received the word "udometer" but added an extra "e" to the word. Monisha received the words "novillero" then "arboretum" and spelled both correctly to become the state's new spelling champion.

"This is great," exclaimed Monisha! "I'm looking forward to meeting other kids who love spelling." Monisha says she will prepare for the nationals by studying the roots and language origins of words.

"I can't say enough about what these young people have accomplished," said GAE President Dr. Sid Chapman. "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 Monisha and her family as they travel to Washington to represent Georgia and to attempt to win the national championship."

In addition to her first place trophy and an all expense paid trip to the national championship and \$1,000 (GAE), Monisha also will receive an iPad Mini and a \$100 Amazon gift card (Horace Mann Insurance Companies), a Kindle Fire (Best Buy of Cumming, GA), 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. Billy, as runner-up, took home a second place trophy and \$500 (GAE), and also had a choice of either a Kindle Fire or Ipad Mini along with a \$50 Amazon gift card (Horace Mann Insurance Companies) and a dictionary (Merriam-Webster). In addition, all contestants received a GAE State Bee lapel pin.

[See the Bee pics](#)

Monisha Mahadevan

Billy Chung

Order of Elimination - County	Word	Round
Ariana Johns – Bibb	Crimson – Vocab	1
Imiri David – Gwinnett	Periscope – Vocab	1
Rucker Robinson – Gwinnett	Ambulance	2
Logan Witham – Henry	Dandiacal	3
Sameer Khan – Fulton	Vestry	3
Aylah Birks - Twiggs	Usury	4
Ethan Jeanfils – Decatur City	Noblesse	5
Reagan Campbell - Bryan	Wasteweir	5

Zac Mitchell – Floyd	Charpoy	6
Aundra Johnson II – Clayton	Nasturtium	6
Anna Paduano – Dougherty	Umbrageous	6
Cassidy Messner – Chatham	Omnilegent	6
Varun Krishnaswamy – Cobb	Fuliginous	7
Meinard Tio - Meriwether	Porcini	7
David Sellers – Decatur	Nosocomial	7
Paula Bondoc – Dublin City	Forficiform	8
John Knauss – Rome City	Palingenesis	8
Varun Kumar – Forsyth	Opificer	8
Billy Chung – Bibb	Udometer	22
Monisha Mahadevan – Fulton CHAMPION	Arboretum	23

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