

Trumbull High School team at decathlon national finals

The Trumbull High School Academic Decathlon Team recently returned from its first national competition, held in Charlotte, N.C., from April 23 to 30. The team, in only its second year of existence, gained invaluable experience as it tested against some of the nation's brightest and hardest working students.

The THS team finished well behind perennial favorites California and Texas, which won first and second place overall respectively, but the students' passion for learning and commitment to the team never wavered. Highlights of Trumbull's competition included the selection of Betsy Pham

(Class of 2011) as a speech showcase finalist and the presentation of a \$500 scholarship to THS's highest scorer, Vishakha Negi (Class of 2013).

All team members could be considered winners, though, as they represented their state and school well in this prestigious national event. This year's theme was "The Great Depression" and all students vying for the national championship competed in 10 academic events associated with this topic.

What sets the United States Academic Decathlon apart from similar scholarly events is the inclusion of students from all grades and achievement levels.

All teams have an equal number of members with grade point averages ranging from A to C.

The THS team has its eyes on next year's state title, which would send them back to compete nationally in Albuquerque, N.M. Any students interested in joining the Academic Decathlon club for a chance to represent Trumbull High School may contact coaches Monaco, Elkins, or Pelligra for additional information.

Next year's theme is "Imperialism," and preparations will soon be under way to master this topic and return to the national USAID event.