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## Leland High School student Claudius Tewari wins Dean's List Award at FIRST Robotics Championship

By William Bellou  
Publisher

Claudius T. Tewari of Almaden Valley has been awarded Dean's List Winner at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) virtual championship, June 26.

Tewari, a senior at Leland High School and member of the school's FIRST Robotics Competition Team

604 Quixilver, is one of only 10 World Championship winners chosen from the 450 finalists from a total of 1,540 Dean's List semifinalist submissions from teams from around the world. Claudius, who was a junior at the time of the award, was announced a Dean's List Finalist at the San Francisco Regional.

"Students who earn FIRST Dean's List Award status as Semifinalists, Finalist or Winner, are great examples of student leaders who have led their Teams and communities to increased awareness for FIRST and its mission," said Helen Arrington, San Jose Unified District Math Instructional Coach and FIRST Team 604 Advisor/Mentor. These students have also achieved personal technical expertise and accomplishment."



Claudius Tewari (center) and his teammates work on a FIRST project.

"I'm really honored to have been chosen as one of the 10 Dean's List winners," Tewari said. "I definitely could not have won this award without the support of all of 604's members and the guidance of its mentors. When I first started FLL (FIRST LEGO League) back in third grade, I could never have imagined I would get to work on six

foot tall 120lb robots, meet people who were just as passionate as me about engineering and robotics, and teach and inspire so many students."

Due to the pandemic, this season's model was modified to allow teams to participate at home. The competitions were replaced with

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*"When I first started FLL ... I could never have imagined I would get to work on six foot tall 120 lb. robots, meet people who were just as passionate as me about engineering and robotics, and teach and inspire so many students."*

—Claudius Tewari



## San Jose has highest percentage of million-dollar homes

Two U.S. metro areas hold this distinction

San Jose and San Francisco have topped the list of the U.S. metros with the most homes valued over \$1 million.

While paying more than \$1 million for a home in the Bay Area isn't surprising, home prices have grown so much in recent years, it seems almost more uncommon to pay less than that.

The median home price in the Bay Area is now more than \$1.33 million in according to the California Association of Realtors, up more than 8% from the previous month and more than 35% from the previous year.

## LOCAL WINNER

## Apoorva wins coveted first place math prize

Steven H. Strogatz Math Communications Award

Gems in STEM founder and writer, Apoorva Panidapu from San Jose (pictured), won first place for Steven H. Strogatz Prize for Math Communication award presented to high school students worldwide by the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) on Sunday, June 27.

Every year, MoMath, the only math muse-



The Strogatz Prize is awarded to a select group of international high school students for creating projects that uniquely incorporate math in social media, art, literature, videos and performance.

um in North America, located in New York City, awards the Strogatz Prize to a select group of international high school students for creating projects that uniquely incorporate math in social media, art, literature, videos and performance.

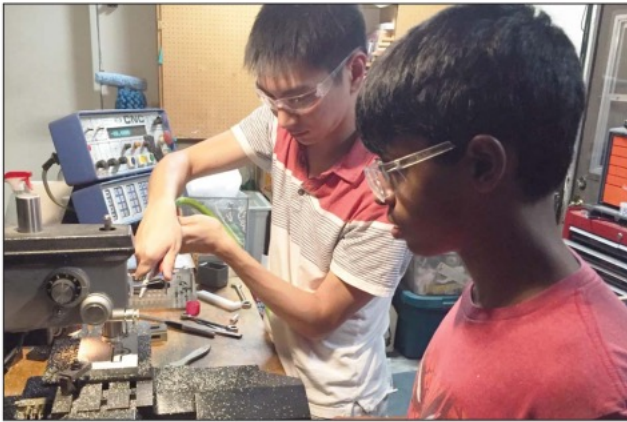
"MoMath is delighted to award the second annual Strogatz Prize to talented high school students who have created exceptional projects that reveal their love of math in so many different ways," said MoMath's CEO and Executive Director Cindy Lawrence. "This

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Times Local News



**Tewari**

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a game design challenge, an innovation challenge, and a robot performance challenge. The game design challenge involved creating a novel FRC game that would be judged on practicality, detail, and presentation. The innovation challenge involved identifying a real-world problem related to the “game changers” theme, designing a solution, creating a business model, and pitching your idea to judges.

The robot performance challenge (also called Infinite Recharge At Home) involved designing and programming a robot that could navigate an obstacle course (both autonomously and through human control) and launch balls fast and accurately into a goal. Teams had to record videos of their robot performing these tasks for judging.

Tewari currently serves as the VP of Engineering on Team 604, with experience in Java, C++, Python, and CAD. His interests include: controls theory, trajectory planning, and mechanical design.

**Team Leader**

“As VP of Engineering, I lead my team in the construction of the robot,” Tewari explained. “This all starts with teaching new members before the 6-week season about the tools and processes we use to design, manufacture, and program the robot. Once the season starts I lead the many sub-teams working on different parts of the robot to ensure that all the different parts come together to create a functional robot. I also worked on some of the design and programming elements, such as helping create the 3D model of the robot and developing the robot’s autonomous driving functions. Finally, I volunteer at many of 604’s demos and workshops, teaching kids ‘Scratch’ programming or LEGO ‘Mindstorms’ to promote STEM in my local community.”

Tewari said since he could not work at school due to the pan-

demic, he took the robot home and kept it in his garage, which allowed the entire team the ability to continue their virtual work on it by designing parts to be 3D printed or developing new software.

“When it came time to record the videos for the robot performance challenges, we set up a small field outside of my house and ran the robot there,” Tewari said. “At the end of the season we did really well, ranking third in our group and also winning the robot Autonomous Award.”



When not working on 604 projects, Tewari makes significant contributions to open source software libraries used by FRC teams around the world. He also helped start a Scratch programming club at Williams Elementary school in Almaden.

**What is FRC**

FRC stands for FIRST Robotics Competition. In a normal FRC are given a challenge near the beginning of January and 6 weeks to design, manufacture, and program a robot from scratch. After that 6 week period teams attend regional or district competition events and play matches against other teams.

During these matches teams are randomly paired with two other “alliance partners” and compete against an alliance of 3 other teams. The random selection means that a team who is your partner one match could be your opponent. If a team performs well at the regional or district events they can qualify for one of the world championships



held in Houston, Texas and Detroit, Michigan.

However, FRC is more than just building robots: teams also organize demos, teach workshops, and hold other events to help spread the FIRST message of inspiring interest in science and technology throughout their communities. Teams also compete to win the Chairman’s Award for their outreach work. The Chairman’s Award is the most prestigious award in FRC. Team 604 Quixilver has won 11 Chairman’s Awards.

**Dean’s List Award**

In an effort to recognize the leadership and dedication of FIRST’s most outstanding secondary school students, the Kamen [FIRST founder Dean Kamen] family sponsors awards for selected 10th or 11th grade students known as the FIRST Robotics Competition and the FIRST Tech Challenge FIRST

Dean’s List Award. Since its introduction in 2010, the FIRST Dean’s List Award has attracted the attention of prestigious colleges and universities who desire to recruit FIRST Dean’s List students.

The Dean’s List award starts with a nomination of an exemplary student in 10th or 11th grade to be a Dean’s List semifinalist. After the nomination the semifinalist goes through an interview process (usually in person at a competition but due to the pandemic the interviews were conducted online) to determine if they will become a Dean’s List finalist. From each event (60 teams) two Dean’s List finalists are chosen. These finalists from competitions all around the world have the chance to become one of the 10 Dean’s List winners chosen at the championship.

