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## News Releases

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Tuesday, February 17, 2009

### TJHSST Team Creates Floating Sustainable House for Conrad Foundation Competition

The Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Alpha Team is one of 18 teams nationwide to be named a finalist in the Conrad Foundation Spirit of Innovation Awards. The Alpha Team, composed of students Luke Cheng, Allison Koenecke, Daniel Wang, and Judy Zeng, is using the concept of a house that can float in the ocean but is also self-sustainable and uses green technologies to reduce its impact on the environment. TJHSST is a Fairfax County public school.

The students are combining the house—named the Modular Wave-Powered Ocean House—with a buoy-like wave power generator that harnesses the motion of the waves to provide electricity. To address the problem of stability, the team made the house spherical and allowed the insides of the house to tilt in the opposite direction of the waves so the inhabitants can be kept level.

All four team members are currently taking quantum physics at TJHSST.

The public is encouraged to vote for their favorite team at [www.conradawards.org](http://www.conradawards.org); public votes will be tallied along with votes cast by judges to determine the winning team.

The Conrad Foundation Spirit of Innovation Awards program challenges high school students to create unique commercial products using science and technology, produce viable business plans, and create plans to bring the products to market. Finalists will advance to an innovation summit in April at NASA Ames Research Center in California, where final judging will take place.

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Note: For more information, contact TJHSST Alpha Team sponsor Jay Cheng at 703-505-0885 or [njcheng714@gmail.com](mailto:njcheng714@gmail.com).

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