

**Contact:**

Debbie Shure

914-479-6582

[dshure@TheMastersSchool.com](mailto:dshure@TheMastersSchool.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOCAL STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE AT INTEL SCIENCE FAIR**

**DOBBS FERRY, NY** (April 7, 2008)—**Alex Paris**, a junior at The Masters School and a resident of **Scarsdale, NY**, won the “Best in Division Award” and placed within the top ten Intel fair projects at the New York State Science & Engineering Fair. He won first place in Environmental Science in the Intel Individual Division and The Air Force Award for outstanding science/engineering project. Along with the awards and trophies, Alex won a \$40,000 college scholarship to Ohio Wesleyan University.

Alex invented a “green” solar technology—“Chloroplast Based Photovoltaic Cells”—which generates electricity from extracted spinach chloroplast. He began formulating his plans for the independent research that led to his awards during a ninth grade science class. “We were learning about photosynthesis and electron transport chain, and I thought it might be possible to harness the energy in the transport chain to create enough energy to power an LED,” he explains. “Then I was reading about an experiment at MIT, and asked Mr. Ndambuki if we could extract energy from chlorophyll.”

“I helped Alex create his own model and he’s used different metals to capture electrons to conduct electricity by using ordinary high school equipment—beakers, water, and wire,” adds science teacher Jude Ndambuki.

All the research and hard work eventually paid off. “We’re using spinach leaves and we created inexpensive, biodegradable electricity!” Alex exclaims. And this is just the beginning. “Alex wants to discover something major, and he is well on his way to doing so,” states Mr. Ndambuki.

To qualify for the New York State competition, earlier this year Alex won first place in environmental science at the Intel Westchester/Putnam Science & Engineering Fair. As a sophomore, Alex won the University of Pennsylvania Engineering High School Summer Program Robotic Challenge Competition. In addition, he studies violin/music at the Mannes College in Manhattan and is a principal violinist in the second violin section of the Westchester Youth Symphony. Alex is also a skilled magician and can solve the Rubik’s cube blindfolded!

The Masters School ([www.themastersschool.com](http://www.themastersschool.com)) is a coed day and boarding school that engages 5th-12th grade students in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. Located on a majestic 96-acre suburban campus, the 130-year-old school is just 35 minutes from New York City.

*PLEASE NOTE: A photo of Alex Paris working on his project is attached.*