The James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) is pleased to announce the winners of the academic scholarships for 2008. Each year, a total of $10,000 is awarded to students who have shown extraordinary ability in *using* critical thinking in their field of study, who will actively *pursue* building critical thinking skills into their field, and who *research* the use of critical thinking in their field.

These qualities are judged by how closely they reflect the goals and values of the James Randi Educational Foundation: bringing critical thinking to the public, exposing pseudoscientific frauds, and promoting real science and rationality.

The winners of 2008 academic scholarships are:

James Randi Educational Foundation Press Release

For immediate release

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The winners of 2008 academic scholarships are:

Pavel Petkov ($5000: Top Prize)

Mr. Petkov is a PhD student in literature with a solid history of academic achievement at the Universit

Tamas Borbely ($2500)

Mr. Borbely is working on a BS degree in Psychology at the University of Sussex in England. Borbely

Joseph Meyer ($1500)

Mr. Meyer holds Masters degrees in psychology from The College of William and Mary in Virginia and

Alan Jern ($1000)

Mr. Jern recently finished a BS degree in computer science with an overall 3.9 GPA from UCLA, and

James Randi, JREF Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors, is pleased to offer these scholarships to support the winners' academic endeavors. "Getting people to think critically can be very difficult, but we're greatly encouraged by the dedication and vision of these young researchers. We're very glad to be able to support them in their work, and we expect to see great things from them in the future."

The academic scholarship winners are chosen by a committee consisting of scientific researchers and outreach professionals. This is the second contiguous year of scholarship grants, and over the course of the program well over $20,000 has been given to deserving applicants. More information about the scholarships, including applications for the 2009 awards, can be found at http://www.randi.org/joom/jref-scholarships.html .

The JREF was established in 1996 as a registered 501(c)3 organization under the IRS code, and as such, all donations to the Foundation are tax-exempt to the full extent under the law. For further information and media inquiries, contact the JREF:
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