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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Badin's Brown and Koch win national Neuroscience poetry competition

Badin High School senior Alex Brown and junior James Koch have won a national contest in the 2010 Neuroscience for Kids poetry competition.

"What a great honor for them!" said Badin's Kay Collins, chair of the Science Department. "You send in contest entries and you never know what will happen. In this case, what happened is that they won the whole thing!"

Brown and Koch wrote limericks about the nervous system for the competition, which featured 646 entries from 36 states and five foreign countries. Ten finalists were chosen at each of four grade levels, including grades 9-12, and then three winners selected in each category by a panel of 11 judges.

"Being able to write clever limericks like they did," said Collins, who teaches the pair in her physiology classes, "shows you that they have paid attention and mastered the material. This is truly a major accomplishment."

Brown is the daughter of Tom and Rhonda Brown of Hamilton and a graduate of St. Peter in Chains School. She is the president of Badin's senior class. Koch is the son of Roger and Carol Koch of Oxford and a graduate of Queen of Peace School.

***In other science news, Badin has been awarded three significant grants:***

\* A grant for \$540 from the Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District will enable the school to continue to maintain a mixed-use recycling dumpster, and to buy a small bin for the cafeteria for mixed-use recyclables.

"Recycling is important for the environment," Collins said, "and our recycling program at Badin has been very successful. We keep adding to the list of things that we recycle, and that's very good for the world around us."

\* A grant for \$953 from the Butler Rural Electric Connection will enable the department to buy software for use in Smartboard technology.

"Smartboards are a tremendous teaching tool," said Mollie Marot, biology teacher who wrote the grant. "Today's students are really connected to technology, and the more you use it, the more effective you can be as a teacher."

\* A grant for \$500 from the Hamilton Rotary Club to fund a Science Carnival.

Badin will host nearly 200 fifth graders from area Catholic elementary schools on Thursday, March 25, in the Pfirman Family Activity Center. Students from Badin's Chemistry II honors class will serve as hosts and instructors.

"We have done Science Carnivals in the past, and we thought it was time to bring them back," said Teresa Heinrich, chemistry teacher and academic dean at Badin. "We'll have a lot of interesting things to get fifth graders thinking about science. This grant has enabled us to make that happen."

The Limericks:

**Alex Brown '10**

The brain is loaded with synapses,  
Without them your memory lapses.  
You need them it's true.  
They're like sticky glue.  
If shut down your body collapses.

**James Koch '11**

Every movement accounted for,  
Even ones that you may ignore,  
It keeps you alive,  
So that you may thrive.  
The brain does all of this and more.

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