



**THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL**  
PRESS RELEASE

December 1, 2011

Contact: Cindy McNaughton, 216-251-2321

**Local 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Draws the Attention of Renowned Astronomy Scholars**

Cleveland-On Nov. 5, **Kavya R** was the lead presenter at a workshop hosted by the History of Science Society at their annual national conference in Cleveland. The session was entitled: *Copernicus Crosses the K-12/University Divide: How Four Distinguished Historians of Science Helped Create a National History Day Website*.

As a 7th grader at Birchwood School, **Kavya** created a National History Day website on heliocentrism. Her work received first place at both the district and state level of competition and qualified her for the national competition. In the course of her research, **Kavya** interviewed four of the most renowned scholars of the history of astronomy. Two of the scholars were also on the panel with **Kavya**: Professor Owen Gingerich from Harvard University and Professor Robert Westman of the University of California, San Diego.

The fact that these educators gave their time, “to a mere seventh grader,” as **Kavya** put it, over several phone calls and emails, “supplied my work with years of experience and knowledge. I am very grateful for their openness and willingness to share their expertise with me.”

Professor Michael Crowe of Notre Dame had been especially helpful to **Kavya** in guiding her through her research and understanding of a complex topic. **Kavya**, along with teacher **Connie Miller**, talked about how she developed her National History Day website and sought out expert help from the four professors. The History of Science Society would very much like to see this kind of collaboration grow.



###

**The Birchwood School** is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to provide an educational setting where challenging academics build solid work habits, an achievement culture nurtures healthy attitudes, and a caring environment forges social responsibility.

[www.birchwoodschoo.org](http://www.birchwoodschoo.org)