2011 AIAS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Randy Pausch and Mark Beaumont Scholarships Provide Educational Scholarships for Aspiring Video Game Makers and Leaders

Calabasas, Calif. – August 2, 2011– The Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences (AIAS), the professional video games organization advancing the artistic values of the interactive entertainment community, has named the winners for its annual scholarship programs. Four recipients – Hunter Ian Hart (Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy), Melissa Kronenberger (Savannah College of Art & Design), Logan McEwan (Florida State University, College of Law) and Joshua Cain (Duke University, Fuqua School of Business) -- will receive a total of $10,000 ($2,500 to each recipient) through the Randy Pausch and Mark Beaumont scholarship funds. The scholarships were awarded by the AIAS Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the organization.

 "There is an incredible amount of young, creative talent in the interactive entertainment industry who will be building and driving the next evolution of video games," said Martin Rae, president, Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences. "We are honored to be able to contribute to these talented individuals' educational pursuits. There is no doubt in my mind that we will see their work within the interactive entertainment community in the near future."

The *Randy Pausch Scholarship* was established by the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences in 2008 to honor the memory of Computer Science Professor and Co-Founder of the Entertainment Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University, Dr. Randy Pausch. The scholarship has been established to support students who are pursuing careers specializing in the development of interactive entertainment.

"What an honor to have been selected by the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences to receive the Randy Pausch Scholarship award," said Hunter Hart, student at Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy. "His legacy to 'Dream Big' has left an indelible footprint on the interactive entertainment community for the next generation of game makers to create games that not only entertain, but stimulate young minds to pursue their own dreams. My childhood dream to become a Video Game 3D Artist will soon be a reality. I took the advice of Randy Pausch and '…followed my passion, believe in karma, and lead my life the right way…' My reward was being accepted into Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy coupled with receiving the prestigious award from AIAS to continue the legacy of Randy Pausch proving "…your dreams will come to you and you won't have to chase them."

"Video game development is so new to the cultural stage, that it is rarely given the academic attention it deserves," said Melissa Kronenberger, student at Savannah College Arts & Design. "Randy Pausch made great strides in legitimizing video game education, and I am absolutely honored to receive a scholarship bearing his name."

The *Mark Beaumont Scholarship* was established by the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences in 2010 to honor the memory of COO of Capcom North America and Europe, Mark Beaumont. This scholarship has been established to support students who are pursuing careers specializing in the business of interactive entertainment.

"The Mark Beaumont Scholarship is both a wonderful opportunity and an honor to receive," said Logan McEwan, student at Florida State University, College of Law. "Nothing is more exciting than the interactive media industry and this scholarship will help me find my place in the legal sector therein. My excitement for the future is matched only by my appreciation for this honor."

"I am grateful and honored to receive this scholarship," said Joshua Cain, student at Duke University, Fuqua School of Business. "Working in the gaming industry has always been a dream of mine, which is why I intend to study brand management at Duke's Fuqua School of business. My intention is to work for a video game publisher and ultimately be responsible for helping to create the kinds of games that I would want to play. The Beaumont Scholarship will help me turn this dream into a reality."

PRESS CONTACT:
Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences
Debby Chen
debby@interactive.org
818-876-0826 x206