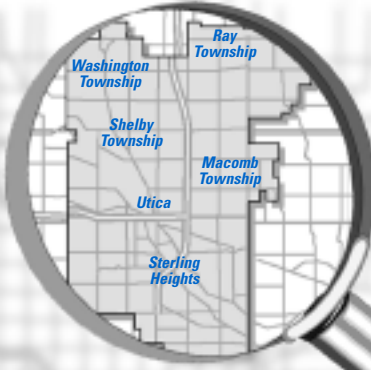


# FOCUS for the community



A Publication for the Residents of Utica Community Schools

**From the Superintendent...**



by Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

**School year closes with much to be proud of and many challenges ahead**

The 2006-2007 school year has ended on an extremely high note, with commencement ceremonies for more than 2,350 students who graduated from our four high schools, as well as our alternative education and adult education programs.

These outstanding graduates represent what is right about public education, our state and our nation. They took on the challenge of academic rigor and will move on to take jobs, enter college or trade schools or join the military service.

You can read more about the district's valedictorians and salutatorians inside this edition of Focus for the Community. You'll find their hopes and dreams will contribute to a bright future for us all.

This school year has been my first as your superintendent of schools. My initial impression of the Utica Community Schools and its many neighborhoods has not changed since I arrived last August. There is an energy and optimism

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## Congratulations, Class of 2007!



For more about the graduating class, including pictures and profiles of the valedictorians and salutatorians of each school, please turn to page two.

Anticipation ran high back stage at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, June 9 where the four Utica Community Schools high schools—Eisenhower, Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Utica—held commencement ceremonies for a total of 2,190 graduates.

Broad smiles on the faces of the graduates—represented here by Eisenhower seniors (l-r) **Andrew Neal, Andrea Yates, Megan Avesian and Jon Zott**—as they awaited the big moment matched those of the many thousands of proud parents, grandparents, family members and friends in attendance.

Like most Utica Community Schools graduates, the four plan to pursue higher education. Andrew will attend Central Michigan University to study business. Andrea plans to pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. Megan will attend the University of Michigan to major in pre-medical and French. Jon will study for a career in recording arts at Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida.

Congratulations to all of our graduates as they move "full sail" ahead into promising futures!

### Schools of Choice enrollment available all summer

Utica Community Schools is offering Schools of Choice enrollment to all students residing in Macomb County through Friday, September 7, for the coming school year.

Students in kindergarten through ninth grade are invited to apply to attend designated schools across the district.

Schools of Choice students are not charged tuition because the school district receives the State Per-Pupil Foundation Grant of approximately \$7,500 for each child enrolled.

Call 586.797.1120 throughout the summer to apply for enrollment.

### Saluting the UCS Outstanding Teachers of 2007

#### Eisenhower's Tom Lietz named Macomb County Teacher of the Year

Day by day, the school district's goal "Every Child Achieves" is taken to heart by our dedicated staff members—none more so than the three Utica Community Schools teachers who were recognized this spring with Outstanding Teacher Awards.

They are **Cheryl Hyslop**, third grade teacher at Monfort Elementary School; **Lori Wetzel**, media specialist at Eppler Junior High School; and **Thomas Lietz**, debate, history and speech teacher at Eisenhower High School.

Hyslop, Wetzel and Lietz were selected for the honor as part of the Macomb Intermediate School District's annual tradition of recognizing teachers across the county who demonstrate the highest standards of classroom excellence. The following offers a glimpse of the many talents these educators bring to the classroom:

Cheryl Hyslop's colleagues at Monfort Elementary describe her as "a natural" and "having the gift" for teaching. Her approach



Cheryl Hyslop of Monfort Elementary School UCS Elementary School Teacher of the Year



Students return **TUESDAY** September 4

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Utica Community Schools

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# Utica Community Schools graduates 2,190 plus 162 from adult/alternative education

A combined total of 2,190 graduates from the district's four high schools—Eisenhower with 597 graduates, Ford II with 485, Stevenson with 620 and Utica with 488—donned caps and gowns to receive their diplomas at the district's commencement ceremonies held Saturday, June 9 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Individually and collectively, they posted an outstanding academic record, having taken advantage of the many educational and extracurricular opportunities available to them in Utica Community Schools. Here are some of the ways the Class of 2007 made their mark:

- 364 earned Academic Scholar recognition from the Board of Education for maintaining a grade point average of 3.67 or

higher throughout a rigorous program of high school coursework while participating in school and service activities

- 494 were accepted into the National Honor Society
- 59 completed advanced academic studies at the competitive Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology
- 95 percent plan to further their education
- 88 achieved the distinction of co-valedictorian (4.0 GPA or higher) or salutatorian/co-salutatorian at their schools. These class leaders are briefly profiled below.

In addition, 162 graduates from UCS adult education and alternative high school programs received diplomas at a June 6 ceremony at the Stevenson High School auditorium.

## Eisenhower High School Co-Valedictorians

### Lauren Allen

**College/Course of Study:** Grand Valley State University, plans to become an elementary school teacher. **Academic Honors:** Michigan Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar. **Activities:** Show Choir, Orchestra, Stand Up Christian Fellowship. **Parents:** Lynette Otto of Shelby Township and Gary Allen.



### Christine Altermatt

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med, plans to become a neonatal pediatrician. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; National Honor Society, Macomb Daily All-Academic Team, National Honor Roll, Outstanding Key Club Treasurer/Michigan District. **Activities:** Key Club president, varsity tennis team captain, state tennis qualifier. **Parents:** Donald Altermatt and Fran Collins, both of Shelby Township.



### Megan Avesian

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med, plans to become a physician. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; National Honor Society, Macomb All-Academic Team, Academic Honor Roll, Varsity Academic Letter, Michigan Promise Scholarship, U of M Regents Scholarship, Textron Merit Scholarship. **Activities:** varsity dance team captain, French Club president, Key Club Bulletin editor, National French Honor Society, Troy Beaumont volunteer. **Parents:** Maria and Gregory Avesian of Shelby Township.



### Zachary Beistline

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University or Oakland University/ engineering or business. **Academic Honors:** MAC All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar, Oakland University Talented Scholars Award. **Activities:** varsity basketball. **Parents:** Bill and Wendy Beistline of Shelby Township.



### Christopher Blain

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/law or engineering. **Academic Honors:** Academic Letter, National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar, Michigan Promise Scholarship. **Activities:** varsity basketball, German Club. **Parents:** Michael and Mary Blain of Shelby Township.



### Lauren Brent

**College/Course of Study:** Oakland University/business. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Michigan Merit Award, Eagle Scholar, National Merit Award, Macomb Daily Class A All-Academic Team. **Parents:** Robert and Carol Brent of Shelby Township.



### Andrew Cheng

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/biology/pre-med, plans to become a medical doctor. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Michigan Merit Award, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Eagle Scholar, Science Olympiad First Place Medal. **Activities:** Student Council, Stand Up Christian Fellowship, French Club president. **Parents:** James and Cecilia Cheng of Macomb Township.



### Andrew Cipa

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/chemistry or biochemistry. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; Michigan Math Prize Competition Top 200, Macomb All-County Academic Team, National Merit Commended Scholar, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl State Qualifier. **Activities:** Key Club, French Club president. **Parents:** Drew and Anita Cipa of Washington Township.



### Sara Craun

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan or Northwestern University/dual major in pre-med/ biology and business or economics, plans to become a surgical oncologist. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; National Honor Society, American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) Qualifier, Presidential Honor Roll, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Academic Varsity Letter, Eagle Scholar. **Activities:** Spanish Club, Key Club, FIRST Robotics, Junior Powder Puff, JV tennis. **Parents:** Robert and Karen Craun of Shelby Township.



### Erika Dolowiec

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med, plans to become a pediatric oncologist. **Academic Honors:** MEAP Merit Award, President's Academic Award, Eagle Scholar, National Honor Society. **Activities:** figure skating. **Parents:** Walt Dolowiec of Shelby Township and the late Lucy Dolowiec.



### Sarah Ellerbrock

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University/nurse anesthetist. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar.



**Activities:** Key Club, dance. **Parents:** Ronald and Elizabeth Ellerbrock of Shelby Township.

### Douglas Harrington

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University/mathematics, plans to become a mathematics teacher. **Academic Honors:** Eagle Scholar, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Academic Letter. **Activities:** junior varsity ice hockey. **Parents:** David and Susan Harrington of Shelby Township.



### Jennifer Jozefiak

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-pharmacy, plans to become a pharmacist. **Academic Honors:** Academic Varsity Letter, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, Detroit Science Fair Honorable Mention, National Science League Chemistry Distinction, President's Award for Academic Excellence, Michigan Promise Award. **Activities:** varsity swimming, varsity track and field, soccer, Science Olympiad, Spanish Club, Young Republicans Club, Project Outreach. **Parents:** Louis and Theresa Jozefiak of Shelby Township.



### Charles Machi

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/engineering, plans to become a chemical engineer. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Top 200 Finalist, Academic Letter, German Student of the Year, Academic All-County in cross-country, U of M Academic Scholarship, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medalist Scholarship. **Activities:** German Club, cross-county team captain. **Parents:** Thomas and Diane Machi of Shelby Township.



### Samuel Machi

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/engineering, plans to become a chemical engineer.



**Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; Michigan Merit Scholarship, National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Top 200 Finalist. **Parents:** Thomas and Diane Machi of Shelby Township.

### Meredith Manire

**College/Course of Study:** Wayne State University/biology-pre-med, plans to become a physician. **Academic Honors:** Student of the Month, Academic Letter, Eagle Scholar, National Honor Roll, Who's Who Among America's High School Students, Wayne State Presidential Scholarship, Oakland Talented Scholar Award, Michigan Promise Award, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. **Activities:** French Club, dance, Troy Beaumont Hospital co-operative education. **Parents:** Terri and Don Kulhanek of Shelby Township and Greg Manire of Oxford.



### Jenifer Mocerri

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med/psychology. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar. **Activities:** Senior Class treasurer, French Club vice president, Student Council, LCCE Prom, Project Outreach. **Parents:** Joseph and Lisa Mocerri of Macomb Township.



### Christina Monolo

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/kinesiology, plans to become a doctor of physical medicine and rehabilitation. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar. **Activities:** varsity volleyball, varsity softball, Key Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions, jazz band. **Parents:** Alex and Mary Monolo of Shelby Township.



### Andrew Para

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University Lyman Briggs Honors College/ biochemistry and molecular biology, plans to become a doctor of neurology or oncology. **Academic Honors:** National Science League Chemistry Distinction, National Honor Society, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Eagle Scholar, Macomb Community College Scholastic Scholarship, University of Michigan School of Pharmacy



pre-admittance, Michigan Promise Scholarship. **Activities:** varsity tennis, French Club. **Parents:** Bill and Kathy Para of Shelby Township.

**Jessica Powell**

**College/Course of Study:** Northern Michigan University/secondary education, plans to become a high school mathematics and history teacher.



**Academic Honors:** Academic Letter, Michigan Merit Award, Northern Michigan

University Merit Award, Eagle Scholar, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society. **Activities:** French Club, marching band. **Parents:** Michele Runyan of Macomb Township and Lyle Powell of Waterford Township.

**Christine Renke**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-pharmacy and French, plans to become a pharmacist. **Academic Honors:**



Academic Varsity Letter, Michigan Merit Award, National Art Honor Society, Student of the Month, French

Student of the Year, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society. **Activities:** French Club vice president, Project Outreach, Student Council, Builders Club. **Parents:** David and Rosemary Renke of Macomb Township.

**Alyssa Roegner**

**College/Course of Study:** University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC/secondary education in mathematics or



crime scene investigation. **Academic Honors:** MAC All-Academic Team for cross-country,

President's Academic Award, Outstanding Citizenship and Attendance awards, Student of the Month, USC Upstate Presidential and Athletic scholarships, Bowling Green State University Success and Faculty Achievement scholarships, National Honor Society. **Activities:** Student Council, V-Day (Eliminate Violence Against Women), varsity soccer and cross-country. **Parents:** Ronald and Peggy Roegner of Shelby Township.

**Kirsty Sadler**

**College/Course of Study:** Hillsdale College/dual major in theatre and music. **Academic Honors:** Who's



Who Among American High School Students, Michigan Promise Scholarship, scholarships

from Evansville and Alfred universities, Student of the Month, National Honor Society. **Activities:** Drama Club, International Thespian Society, orchestra, swimming. **Parents:** Chuck and Lori Sadler of Macomb Township.

**Nicholas Sapiano**

**College/Course of Study:** United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT/naval architecture and marine engineering, plans to



become a Coast Guard officer and government contractor. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center

for Mathematics, Science and Technology; National Merit Scholarships, Robert G. Byrns Scholarship, Eagle Scholar, National Honor Society. **Activities:** marching and jazz bands, forensics, Quiz Bowl and Spanish Club. **Parents:** John and Sheila Sapiano of Macomb Township.

**Jillian Scarpace**

**College/Course of Study:** will study mathematics and science in college. **Academic Honors:**



Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Eagle Scholar, Macomb Scholastic Award, National

Honor Society, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Saginaw Valley State University President's Scholarship, Central Michigan University Superior Scholar and Academic Honors scholarships, Oakland University Talented Scholar Award. **Activities:** Young Republicans, dual enrollment, German Club. **Parents:** Monica and Robert VanFleteren of Shelby Township and William Scarpace of Macomb Township.

**Stacia Thomas**

**College/Course of Study:** Hanover College, Indiana/international studies and French, plans a career



in foreign policy. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Eagle Scholar. **Activities:** Model United Nations,

German Club, Student Council and golf. **Parents:** William and Valerie Thomas of Shelby Township.

**Alycsa Valentine**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Detroit-Mercy/plans to become



an architect. **Academic Honors:** Honor Roll, National Society of High School Scholars, National Honor

Society, MEAP Merit Scholarship, University of Detroit-Mercy Dean's Scholarship. **Activities:** varsity basketball, Students Against Destructive Decisions. **Parents:** Thomas Valentine and Theresa Ingles, both of Shelby Township.

**Kelly Wilt**

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University/pre-med, plans to



become a physician. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, French National Honor Society,

Macomb County Academic Scholar, Academic Letter, President's

Award, MEA Scholarship, University of Michigan Merit Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Grand Valley Merit Scholarship, University of Detroit-Mercy Merit Scholarship.

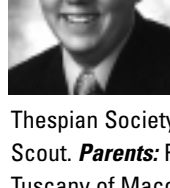
**Activities:** Key Club, cheerleading, yearbook, National Honor Society treasurer, French Club vice president. **Parents:** Charles and Susan Wilt of Macomb Township.

**Eisenhower Salutatorian**

**Ross Tuscany**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan, plans to major in education to become a teacher.

**Academic Honors:** Academic Letter, Michigan Merit Award and National Honor Society. **Activities:** Drama Club, International



Thespian Society and is an Eagle Scout. **Parents:** Patrick and Lori Tuscany of Macomb Township.

**Henry Ford II High School Co-Valedictorians**

**Rachel Burford**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med, plans to become a missionary doctor in



South America. **Academic Honors:** All-A Honor Roll, Music Award, Falcon Scholar, National Honor Society,

Michigan Promise Scholarship. **Activities:** S.T.A.T.I.C. (Students Taking Action Together In Christ), Spanish Club, Book Club, marching band. **Parents:** Stephen and Cheryl Burford of Sterling Heights.

**Shayna Kunz**

**College/Course of Study:** Wayne State University/chemistry and management. **Academic Honors:**



Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, 2006 World Champion ThunderChickens

FIRST Robotics Team vice-president, National Honor Society, MEAP Merit Scholarship, Falcon Scholar, Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship, scholarships from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, Alma College and Albion College.

**Activities:** UCMST Activities Council vice president, Rotary International Interact. **Parents:** Lawrence and Shelly Kunz of Sterling Heights.

**David Orban**

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University Lyman Briggs Honors College/zoology and professorial assistantship.



**Academic Honors:** Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, 2006 World

Champion ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics Team marketing vice-president, All-A Honor Roll, Falcon Scholar, scholarships from Michigan State and Henry Ford Health Systems, National Honor Society. **Activities:** UCMST Activities Council president, Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, Ski/Snowboard Club, Spanish Club and varsity tennis. **Parents:** Mark and Cheryl Orban of Macomb Township.

**Alban Rushiti**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan, Georgetown, Yale or Duke universities/will pursue

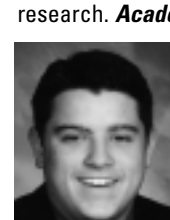


diplomacy, law or international relations. **Academic Honors:** All-A Honor Roll, National Honor

Society, MAC All-Academic Athlete, National French Contest Award, soccer team Coach's Award. **Activities:** French Club, soccer, basketball and tennis team captain and Most Valuable Player. **Parents:** son of Avni and Ismete Rushiti of Sterling Heights.

**Anthony Schuller**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Pennsylvania Vagelos Scholar/medicine or medical research. **Academic Honors:** First



in the Class, All-A Honor Roll, Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, AXA

Achievement Scholarship, Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student National Finalist, 2006 World Champion ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics Team, National Honor Society. **Activities:** Spanish Club, UCMST Activities Council, ThunderChickens 2007 CEO, Science Olympiad Team captain. **Parents:** Paul and Carroll Schuller of Sterling Heights.

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**From the Superintendent...** *continued from page 1*

*here, a "can do" spirit that reminds me of my childhood home in Western Pennsylvania.*

*The people here are committed to hard work and are making a positive difference in the community and the school district. Despite difficult economic issues facing the state, our Board of Education, parents and staff have rallied on behalf of public education.*

*They have met with our state legislators to advocate for the creation of a stable funding source for Michigan's school districts, and I anticipate they will continue that conversation. I thank them on behalf of our students for that support. Their actions increase my confidence that they will continue to advocate for children by monitoring what happens in Lansing. For more information about the district's financial picture and our efforts with the state legislature, please visit our website at [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org).*

*I am very proud of the many academic strides this district—the state's second largest—has made and I look forward to 2007-2008 with the same energy and optimism that is such a part of this community.*

*Next year, we will expand the number of Advanced Placement courses for our high school students, providing them with additional opportunities to increase academic rigor and accrue college credit while still in high school. I am very proud of our principals and teachers*

*who continue to raise expectations for their students.*

*At the junior high schools, our principals are offering students increased opportunities to meet or exceed the state's graduation requirements by encouraging them to enroll in courses like Algebra I as eighth graders. Our elementary school principals, who provide the learning base upon which we build, are making steady progress in reading and writing, the key building blocks for future school success.*

*We have more work to do, of course. The continued instability of state funding has forced us to make additional and painful reductions to our programs and services. We will be saying good-bye to cherished professionals who, through no fault of their own, will leave the district due to budget reductions that have been made for the 2007-2008 school year. Despite these measures, we will continue to focus our efforts to assure that all of our students make progress toward meeting the goal of academic proficiency.*

*This is a time of uncertainty in public education, but it is also a time of innovation and energy as we work together to continue to provide a challenging program for students. I sincerely thank you for your continued support after such a warm welcome last August. Have a safe and restful summer. I look forward to continuing our conversation on behalf of students next fall.*

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### Ashley VanMaldeghem

**College/Course of Study:** Kettering University or Wayne State University/ engineering.

**Academic Honors:** Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, Falcon Scholar, National Honor Society, 2006 World



Champion ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics Team, Ferris State University President's Scholarship, Wayne State Presidential Scholarship, Kettering Trustee Scholarship, engineering aide at U. S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC). **Activities:** UCMST Activities Council vice president, Lego Robotics mentor, Rotary International Interact youth group. **Parents:** Guy and Janet VanMaldeghem of Macomb Township.

### Aaron Vedolich

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University Lyman Briggs Honors College.

**Academic Honors:** MSU Honors College Scholarship, MSU Professorial Assistantship,



Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology, Second in the Class, National Honor Society, National Merit Semifinalist, All-A Honor Roll and 2006 World Champion ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics Team. **Parents:** Roy and Theresa Vedolich of Sterling Heights.

### Stephanie Zary

**College/Course of Study:** Grand Valley State University/secondary education.

**Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Award



of Distinction, Grand Valley State Presidential Scholarship and Award for Excellence, Michigan Promise Scholarship. **Activities:** Key Club, varsity show choir, school musicals. **Parents:** Stephen and Anita Zary of Sterling Heights.

### Ford II Salutatorian

#### Kara Dixon

**College/Course of Study:** Lee University, Tennessee/theatre.

**Academic Honors:** Falcon Scholar, Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Centennial Scholarship.

**Activities:** S.T.A.T.I.C. (Students Taking Action Together In Christ), Drama Club. **Parents:** Randall and Karen Dixon of Sterling Heights.



### Stevenson High School Co-Valedictorians

#### Christopher Angelakos

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/biochemistry and neurological psychology, plans a career in research. **Academic**



**Honors:** Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part II qualifier, Macomb Daily Student of the Week, National Honor Society, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Spanish Honor Society, Academic Ace, Psychology Department Award. **Activities:** varsity soccer and tennis, Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club, Key Club, Science Olympiad coach. **Parents:** Nick and Kathy Angelakos of Sterling Heights.

#### Rula Awwad

**College/Course of Study:** Wayne State University or University of Michigan-Dearborn/mathematics, plans to become a secondary mathematics teacher.



**Academic Honors:** U of M-Dearborn Chancellor's Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Wayne State Scholars Day Award, Presidential Award, Academic Ace, MEAP Merit Award, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Outstanding Academic Excellence Certificate, Merit in Spanish Certificate. **Activities:** Spanish Club vice president, Distributive Education Club of America (DECA), forensics, peer mediation. **Parents:** Nasir and Raida Awwad of Sterling Heights.

#### Lisa Bradley

**College/Course of Study:** Grace College, Indiana/plans to become a psychologist. **Academic Honors:**



National Honor Society, Grace College Dean's Scholarship, Silver Key Scholastic Art Award, Academic Ace, UCS Art Fair Superintendent's Choice Award, City of Sterling Heights Artist of the Month, French National Honor Society. **Activities:** Wired Up Christian group, French Club. **Parents:** Wayne and Carol Bradley of Sterling Heights.

#### Thomas Cerrone

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University Lyman Briggs



Honors College of Natural Science/pre-med, plans a career in anesthesiology. **Academic Honors:** MEAP Merit Scholarship, Macomb Area Conference All-Academic Team, National Society of High School Scholars, Academic

Ace, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Michigan Social Studies Olympiad Bronze Medal, Who's Who Among American High School Students. **Activities:** Student Council, varsity golf. **Parents:** Gary and Carmie Cerrone of Sterling Heights.

#### Rachel Chall

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University/secondary



education, plans to become a high school history or English teacher. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Academic Ace, Spanish National Honor Society, Michigan Promise Scholarship. **Activities:** theatre arts productions, Thespian Troupe 33, Spanish Club. **Parents:** John and Catherine Chall of Sterling Heights.

#### Komal Desai

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med/biology, plans to become a doctor of internal medicine. **Academic Honors:**



Academic Ace, Macomb County All-Academic Team, Michigan Merit Award, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society. **Activities:** Key Club. **Parents:** Mehul and Priti Desai of Sterling Heights.

#### Jennifer Dolan

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/biochemistry and neuroscience, plans to become a surgeon. **Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; Henkel Corporate-



Sponsored Merit Scholarship, MEAP Merit Award, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society. **Activities:** Key Club, French Club, drama, Quiz Bowl, debate. **Parents:** Shawn and Maria Dolan of Sterling Heights.

#### Chelsea Gerlach

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/mechanical engineer.

**Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Michigan Promise



Scholarship, Spanish National Honor Society, Academic Ace, All-American Scholar, Honor Roll. **Activities:** Student Council secretary, band, Spanish Club, Key Club, dance team. **Parents:** Kristine and Donald Hall and Chadwick Gerlach, all of Sterling Heights.

#### Brian Gingrich

**College/Course of Study:** Oakland University/accounting, plans to become a certified public accountant. **Academic Honors:** Academic Ace, Macomb Area

Conference All-Academic teams in tennis and bowling, President's Education Award, National



Honor Society, Michigan Merit Scholarship, Oakland University Talented Scholars Award. **Activities:** bowling, tennis, Spanish Club, marching and symphonic bands. **Parents:** Larry and Mary Ann Gingrich of Sterling Heights.

#### Cynthia Hurt

**College/Course of Study:** Saginaw Valley State University/fine arts.

**Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Who's Who Among



American High School Students (regular and sports editions), Utica Community Schools Arts Festival Award, United States Achievement Academy, Academic Aces, German National Honor Society, Social Studies Olympiad medalist, Michigan Merit Award, Saginaw Valley State University Scholarship. **Activities:** varsity track, Equestrian Team, Key Club, Scrapbook Club, Girl Scouts, Macomb County Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver. **Parents:** Reinhard and GERALYN Hurt of Sterling Heights.

#### Brad Jakubison

**College/Course of Study:** Grand Valley State University/pre-med, plans to become a doctor.

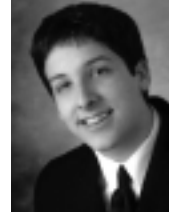
**Academic Honors:** Academic



Ace, Honor Roll, Michigan Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society officer. **Activities:** Spanish Club, football, track. **Parents:** Brian and Holly Jakubison of Sterling Heights.

#### Stephen Judd

**College/Course of Study:** University of Detroit-Mercy/computer



science, plans to become a business owner. **Academic Honors:** Michigan Promise Award, Talented Scholars Award, U-D Mercy Insignis Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society treasurer. **Activities:** Quiz Bowl, symphonic and marching bands. **Parents:** Harold Judd and Anna DiBerado.

#### Justin Kaczorowski

**College/Course of Study:** Oakland University/plans to become an



engineer. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Macomb Community College Macomb Scholars High School Scholastic Award, American Society of Body Engineers Manual Design Competition first place, Academic Ace, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Oakland University Talented Scholars Scholarship.

**Activities:** Skills USA, American Society of Body Engineers.

**Parents:** Douglas and Carol Kaczorowski of Sterling Heights.

#### Joseph Karpinsky

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University/pre-med, plans to become an orthopedic



surgeon. **Academic Honors:** Michigan Promise Scholarship, Honor Roll, MAC All-Academic Team, National Honor Society. **Activities:** varsity football, Varsity Club. **Parents:** Bo and Sylvia Karpinsky of Sterling Heights.

#### Michael Lee

**College/Course of Study:** Kalamazoo College/biology/pre-med. **Academic Honors:** attended



the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; UCS ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics 2006 World Champion Team, Spanish National Honor Society, Kalamazoo College Honors and Competitive scholarships, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship. **Activities:** Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club. **Parents:** Jae and Young Lee of Sterling Heights.

#### Vittorio Lovato

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/mathematics, plans to become a mathematics professor or an architect. **Academic Honors:**



Skills USA National Architecture Competition second place, National Honor Society, Academic Ace, Outstanding Academic Achievement, Student of the Month, Michigan Merit Award, LCC Foundation Scholarship. **Activities:** Skills USA, student tutor. **Parents:** Jim and Mary Lovato of Sterling Heights.

#### David Maceroni

**College/Course of Study:** Wayne State University/biology, plans a career in medicine. **Academic**



**Honors:** Academic Ace, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship. **Activities:** symphonic and marching bands, Key Club, French Club. **Parents:** Michael and Sharon Maceroni of Sterling Heights.

#### Patryk Mastela

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/medicine



or engineering. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society secretary, Academic Ace, Certificado de Merito, Young Authors Award,

Certificate of Outstanding Academic Excellence, Michigan Promise Scholarship, University of Michigan Regents Scholarship. **Activities:** Spanish Club, Key Club, tennis. **Parents:** Stanislaw and Danuta Mastela of Sterling Heights.

**Casey McLean**

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University/biology, plans a career in the health sciences.



**Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; National Honor

Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Academic Ace, Honor Roll, Michigan Promise Scholarship, MSU Honors College Scholarship.

**Activities:** Student Council, Spanish Club, senior class secretary, varsity volleyball team captain, Varsity Club vice president. **Parents:** Mick and Cathy McLean of Sterling Heights.

**Jeffrey Morgan**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/biochemistry, plans a career in research. **Academic Honors:** Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, Michigan



Mathematics Prize Competition Part II qualifier, American Invitational Mathematics Examination

qualifier, Academic Ace, Macomb Daily All-Academic Team, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society. **Activities:** Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club. **Parents:** John and Denise Morgan of Sterling Heights.

**Kelly Nienaltowski**

**College/Course of Study:** will study theatre in college, plans to pursue a career in film acting. **Academic**

**Honors:** Academic Ace, Western Michigan University Dean's Award,



Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association Superior and Excellent Awards, State

Thespian Festival Superior Award, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Otterbein Endowment Scholarship, Webster University Scholarship, Viterbo Academic Scholarship.

**Activities:** Drama Club president, Satin Starlight Choir, International Thespian Society Student State Board member. **Parents:** Gary and Debbie Nienaltowski of Sterling Heights.

**Sura Peter**

**College/Course of Study:**



Wayne State University/plans to become an engineer. **Academic Honors:** Michigan Promise Award,

Wayne State Presidential

Scholarship, Oakland University scholarship, National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Academic Ace. **Activities:** Student Council, orchestra, Social Studies Olympiad. **Parents:** Yacoub and Bernadet Peter of Sterling Heights.

**Douglas Rottmann**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/mathematics and Japanese, plans to become a



mathematician or a mathematics professor.

**Academic Honors:** Utica Center for Mathematics,

Science and Technology; National Merit Finalist, Science Olympiad multi-medalist, Academic Ace, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Bronze Scholarship.

**Parents:** Glenn Rottman of Sterling Heights and Christine Badillo of Presque Isle.

**Simarjit Sidhu**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan or Wayne State University. **Academic Honors:**



National Honor Society, Academic Ace, Spanish National Honor Society, Michigan Promise Scholarship.

**Activities:** Key Club, Spanish Club. **Parents:** Jaswinder and Harjinder Sidhu of Sterling Heights.

**Alexandra Simmerson**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med, plans to become a medical doctor.

**Academic Honors:** Academic Ace, Who's Who Among American High



School Students, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Daughters of the American Revolution Good

Citizenship Award, Presidential Award, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society. **Activities:** Student Council treasurer, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) president, DARE role model, Spanish Club president, Relay for Life team member.

**Parents:** Ingrid Simmerson Fryia and Anthony Fryia of Sterling Heights.

**Kevin Surzyn**

**College/Course of Study:** Florida Institute of Technology/applied mathematics and computer



science, plans to become a computer games designer or a high school mathematics teacher.

**Academic Honors:** Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, MAC All-Academic Team for bowling, Academic Ace, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Florida Tech Scholarship, National Consortium for Specialized Schools of Mathematics, Science and

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**Board of Education honors UCS Academic Scholars for scholastic achievement and school involvement**

Graduating seniors who have maintained high school grade point averages of 3.67 or above in a rigorous program of study while participating in extracurricular and/or service activities are recognized by the Board of Education each spring as Utica Community Schools Academic Scholars. The following students received the honor this year:

**Eisenhower High School**

Tara Adamski  
Lauren Allen  
Christine Altermatt  
Megan Avesian  
Adam Barth  
Diana Basel  
Brittany Bayagich  
Robert Beckwith  
Zachary Beistline  
Christopher Blain  
Lauren Brent  
Gina Buffa  
Jennifer Buhaj  
Justin Burchett  
Kayla Butler  
Michael Chaney  
Andrew Cheng  
Andrew Cipa  
Sarah Colling  
Ashley Coppola  
Sara Craun  
Taylor Dereadt  
Julia Diegel  
Erika Dolowiec  
Sarah Ellerbrock  
Crystal Fisher  
Ashley Fournier  
Meghan Gallagher  
Kathryn Grabowski  
Gina Guzzardo  
Danielle Hardy  
Douglas Harrington  
Jonathan Haupt  
Gregory Heitmann  
Ashley Hines  
Melissa Hock  
Emily Horler  
Jennifer Jozefiak  
Amanda Kady  
Nicholas Katcher  
Christopher Kehoe  
Nicole Knoblock  
Megan Kole  
Sean Kristl  
Casey Krockta  
Richard Kwasnik  
Nicole Lapworth  
Erica Lee  
Daniel Lenders  
Maria Lipari  
Charles Machi  
Samuel Machi  
Meredith Manire  
Michael Mar  
Nicole Messenger  
Matthew Mieszczyk  
Maria Miriani  
Jenifer Moceri  
Christina Monolo  
Nathaniel Mooty  
Sara Muszynski  
Lauren Palmer  
Lanzio Palombo  
Andrew Para  
Joel Parker  
Chad Paulinski  
Chad Payne  
Kirsten Pingilley  
Mike Popovski  
Kevin Porcaro  
Jessica Powell  
Caroline Rauschendorfer  
Catherine Reichenbach  
Christine Renke  
Alyssa Roegner  
Kirsty Sadler  
Nicholas Sapiano  
Jillian Scarpace  
Diana Schreiber  
Brittney Smith  
Meredith Snyder  
Andrew Sonjeow  
Rebeca Steffen  
Zachary Stepp  
Racheal Stojanovski  
Laura Stuecher  
Stacia Thomas  
Jacob Thousand  
Colleen Tuohy  
Ross Tuscany  
Alycsa Valentine

Shae Valko  
Kimberly Van Vianen  
Elizabeth VanDenBrouck  
Michael Welch  
Matthew Williams  
Kelly Wilt  
David Winn  
Alyssa Wirth  
Andrea Yates  
Lawrence Young  
Ursula Zerilli

**Ford II High School**

Charlotte Barth  
Jarrett Berry  
Kristina Bezenah  
Amanda Black  
Stephanie Blocker  
Brooke Blower  
Rachel Burford  
Roger Chaaya  
Zachary Ciochetto  
Kristin Collard  
Brian Dagley  
Kara Dixon  
Alexandra Doan  
Michael Dupuis  
Maris Duvall  
Casey Dye  
Justin Freeman  
Kaitlyn Freeman  
Alisa Gjinari  
Aaron Hall  
Hannah Harris  
Nicole Kaleniecki  
Michael Kamenec  
Alyssa Kata  
Daniel Katschor  
Lia Kirk  
Amy Kirsch  
Andrea Kozikowski  
Kathryn Kucyk  
Shayna Kunz  
Brian Lademan  
Alex Lahood  
Gregory Lau  
Quoc Le  
Jerica Lenker  
Rachel Loria  
Lauren Magda  
Jamie Mattson  
Megan McConnell  
Kristen Moebis  
Andrew Nobani  
David Orban  
Michael Peers  
Ashley Presser  
Scott Price  
Desiree Randazzo  
Kela Robinson  
Michael Ross  
Alban Rushiti  
Anthony Schuller  
Stephen Sciacchitano  
Aleksandar Siljanovski  
Marisa Soave  
Kenneth Stempowski  
Alexandrea Surinck  
Jonathan Swoveland  
Paul Szymanski  
Nicholas Teshich  
Tiffany Vanderpool  
Ashley VanMaldeghem  
Maria Vata  
Aaron Vedolich  
Lauren Victory  
Patrick Webster  
Kyla Wojtas  
Scott Woodward  
Alexandra Zapinski  
Stephanie Zary

Lisa Bradley  
Julianna Brown  
Allison Capoferi  
Stephanie Carlson  
Carl Cayabyab  
Thomas Cerrone  
Rachel Chall  
Neel Chopra  
Anna Christoph  
Kimberly Cristobal  
Catherine De Luna  
Komal Desai  
Ryan Dickson  
Jennifer Dolan  
Edmon Georges  
Chelsea Gerlach  
Brian Gingrich  
Michal Godlewski  
Jonathan Goike  
Jacob Good  
Dominic Hanna  
Michael Hein  
Jacqueline Heron  
Cynthia Hurt  
Brad Jakubison  
David Jezusek  
Jissa Johnson  
Michael Joy  
Stephen Judd  
Justin Kaczorowski  
Joseph Karpinsky  
Daniel Kelly  
Laura Kremer  
Matthew Kristoff  
Kristina Kunze  
Jeremy Justin Lapak  
Erica Laubach  
Michael Lee  
Vittorio Lovato  
Cecilia Lönström  
David Maceroni  
Nicholas Macioce  
Suleena Mahajan  
Tricia Makin  
Leslie Martin  
Ptryk Mastela  
Amanda Mazur  
Ryan McClain  
Casey McLean  
Gina Mendola  
Despi Minitsios  
Kelly Molinar  
Jeffrey Morgan  
Bridgette Nanni  
Geoffrey Ng  
Kelly Nienaltowski  
Brent Ogden  
Chikezie Okeagu  
Michelle Osipoff  
Chelsea Owens  
Alex Jong Park  
Ketan Patel  
Mital Patel  
Raquel Pence  
Roberto Perri  
Rebekah Perry  
Sura Peter  
Ryan Pettibone  
Lisa Puzzuoli  
Amy Rinscheid  
Douglas Rottmann  
Tessy Samuel  
Joseph Seta  
Simarjit Sidhu  
Alexandra Simmerson  
Alin Sipos  
Lukasz Skowronski  
Lindsay Smith  
Sarah Stanley  
Matthew Steck  
Ashley Steffes  
Nidhi Sura  
Kevin Surzyn  
Zachary Swartz  
Heather Talcott  
Annie Tan  
Jaclyn Tash  
Michael Tash  
Maria Tocco  
Bartlomiej Tokarz  
Stephanie Touchette  
Sarah Trojniak  
Veronica Van Hulle  
Jennifer VanSparrentak

Jesse Verstraete  
Chelsey Webber  
Scott Weigel  
Stephen Wu  
Catherine Zbrozek

Jesse Verstraete  
Chelsey Webber  
Scott Weigel  
Stephen Wu  
Catherine Zbrozek

**Utica High School**

Jared Allen  
Krystal Ankawi  
Megan Ball  
Carly Ballantine  
Dayna Benoit  
Jaimie Biermann  
Marissa Carr  
Sarah Cauley  
Donato Cercone  
Gordon Chaffin  
Simran Chawa  
Cassandra Chetosky  
Adam Cook  
Derek Crescenti  
Jonathon DiCicco  
Peter DiGregorio  
Valentina Djelaj  
Chelsea Dominski  
Gregory Domsic  
Alyssa Fejer  
Joseph Garofalo  
Allison Gates  
Maevae Gleason  
Eric Granowicz  
Cheryl Green  
Chloe Green  
Mark Gruca  
Amanda Guerriero  
Tara Hackel  
Gillian Hall  
Jacob Harding  
Mark Harkiewicz  
Michelle Harper  
Annette Hauswirth  
Jessica Heacock  
Amy Hefter  
Nicole Henige  
Stephanie Hennigan  
Ashli Hogan  
Grant Hubert  
Ashley Khoury  
Samantha Kizy  
Ryan Knapp  
Evan Koleda  
Bianca Korkis  
Alexandrea Kotch  
Samantha Kraemer  
Kristen Langlois  
Renee Lee  
Jay Lonski  
Alexandra Lord  
Revan Marogy  
Arantxa Martinez  
Megan Matz  
Adrianna McIntyre  
Stephanie Menard  
Christopher Moon  
Lisa Myroniuk  
Tresel Nafsu  
Randy Najjar  
Rachael Nye  
Andrew Panoff  
Eni Pojani  
Rebecca Pranger  
Vincent Procopio  
Austin Pytlowany  
Catherine Quagliotto  
Kara Ratowski  
Mia Schiappacasse  
Michael Schulz  
Nicole Schummer  
Erin Seavoy  
Autumn Sellers  
Kassandra Semrau  
Donald Sparks  
Samuel Stelmach  
Rachel Stelpowski  
Jamie Stilwell  
Kathryn Strong  
Lisa Szczubialka  
Nichole Ternes  
Laura Wizniuk  
Sara Wojciehowski  
Brandon Yousif  
Leah Zerilli  
Horatui Zglimbea

## UCS reduces spending by some \$8 million in 2007-2008 to cope with ongoing losses in operating funds

As Michigan's school districts continue to be impacted by the deepening economic decline and the lack of a stable revenue source, the Utica Community Schools Board of Education has approved spending reductions of some \$8 million, effective for the 2007-2008 school year. They are in addition to some \$28 million that has been cut over the past four years. Additionally, the Board of Education earmarked \$7 million of its fund equity to avoid further impact on programs and services.

"These reductions were not easy to make and our Board of Education is very aware of the effect they will have on the district and its staff," said Dr. Christine M. Johns, Superintendent of Schools. "Our Board has a tradition of care and concern for its students, residents and employees. But ours is a people business and the reductions in spending that have been forced on us can only be made through reduction of staff—which impacts our program offerings."

A four-pronged approach to reductions drove decision-making. They included revenue enhancements such as increased fees, reductions in certain programs and services, employee reductions, elimination of selected services and further use of the district's fund equity. A detailed listing appears at right.

Since voters approved Proposal A in 1994, school operating funds are controlled by the state legislature. Our local property taxes are sent directly to the State of Michigan, where they are combined with other tax dollars, including state income tax and sales tax, for redistribution to local school districts through the School Aid Fund. When the legislature determines how many dollars will be returned to local schools for operating purposes, they are sent to local districts on a per-student basis, called the State Foundation Grant. Utica Community Schools' allocation is \$7,624, the seventh lowest of the county's 21 school districts and just ahead of Clintondale and New Haven.

In good economic times, local schools were able to operate sufficiently with the funding it received. But over the past four years, two realities have become clear. First, the State School Aid Fund has not kept up with increasing school operating costs. Job losses and the

accompanying reduction in consumer spending have resulted in lower income and sales tax revenues, decreasing the dollars available for schools. And while lottery funds comprise part of the total operating budget for the state's schools, they amount to just over five percent of the state's total school budget.

Secondly, parent and community expectations for what schools will provide have increased. State graduation requirements have become more rigorous and school districts have responded with support for students and improved training programs for teachers and other staff. All of these improvements are desirable but costly. And, like other businesses, health care, retirement and salaries are increasing, even as revenues decline.

Over the past four years, the Utica Community Schools Board of Education has dealt with funding decreases through

prudent management, reducing the district's operating budget by more than \$28 million. The district has already eliminated 215 employee positions, sold property and closed a building. Employees have agreed to health care options that reduced district costs. An energy conservation program is in place. An aggressive student recruitment program has been implemented to help increase revenues since operating funds follow students when they enroll in a new district. The high school schedule has been reduced from seven to six periods, class size is increasing, a one-year moratorium on new textbook purchases was imposed and instructional supply purchases have been reduced or kept flat.

A complete update is available on the district's website, [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) – click on UCS News.

### Steps the Board of Education has implemented to offset state funding reductions in the 2007-2008 school year:

#### Revenue Enhancements:

- Increased fees for preschool and school age care programs as well as athletic ticket and pass prices
- Increases in field trip costs; charging all costs for extra band field trips
- Instituting pay to participate fees for athletics
- Implementing shared-time programs with parochial schools
- Increasing transfers from some other accounts such as Community Education

#### Program/Employee Eliminations:

- Eliminate elementary foreign language and string instrumental music
- Eliminate North Central Accreditation (NCA) participation
- Eliminate secondary media center teachers and replace, in part, with non-teaching personnel
- Eliminate curriculum technology trainers and relocate Instructional Resource Center student activities back to schools; the UCS Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) will remain in full operation at the IRC

#### Employee Reductions:

- Teachers – 41 positions; additional reductions will result if enrollment decreases for 2007-2008
- Support – 18 positions
- Administration – one position

#### Program Reductions:

- Limit elementary band to sixth grade
- Consolidate high school bus stops
- Convert the English Language Learners (ELL) program from a single site to the home school/satellite school
- Other reductions will include reducing support services; additional staff reductions through attrition; reduction of overtime and substitute allocations; ending multi-year administrator contracts; and purchased service and supply accounts

The district will also utilize \$7 million of its fund equity, which will reduce the fund balance to 12 percent of budgeted expenditures. General business practices recommend that a fund balance be kept at 15 percent, which the district's independent auditing firm, Plante-Moran, supports.

#### Total Reductions for 2007-2008:

\$15.3 million in cost reductions/avoidance and fund equity

#### Total Reductions over four years:

\$43 million

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Technology Scholarship, United Auto Workers General Motors Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society. **Activities:** varsity bowling, Spanish Club.

**Parents:** Lawrence and Donna Surzyn of Sterling Heights.

#### Maria Tocco

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/double major in biochemistry and neuroscience,



plans to become a neurosurgeon.

**Academic Honors:** National Honor Society officer, Spanish National Honor

Society president, Academic Ace, President's Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Loyola Damen Scholarship. **Activities:** tutoring, volunteerism and Spanish Club.

**Parents:** Jack and Teresa Tocco of Sterling Heights.

#### Jennifer VanSparrentak

**College/Course of Study:** Central Michigan University/broadcasting, Spanish and leadership, plans to become a sports broadcaster.

**Academic Honors:** Social Studies



Olympiad second place, National Honor Society, Academic Ace, Spanish National Honor Society,

All-A Honor Roll, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Leader Advancement Scholarship, Academic Honors Scholarship and Michigan Competitive Scholarship.

**Activities:** Student Council president, Key Club vice president, yearbook photography editor, Thespian Troupe #33 secretary, International Thespian Society State Board, theatre, Spanish Club, basketball and soccer. **Parents:** Norm and Jan VanSparrentak of Sterling Heights.

#### Stevenson Co-Salutatorians

#### Jeremy Lapak

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/biomedical engineering. **Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Academic



Ace, MAC All-Academic Team in bowling.

**Activities:** Skills USA, American Society of Body Engineers, Key

Club, varsity bowling, varsity tennis. **Parents:** Romeo Lapak of Sterling Heights and Sonia Lapak of North Las Vegas, NV.

#### Despi Minitios

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan or Michigan State University/



biomedical engineering, plans a career in biology or

engineering. **Academic Honors:** Academic Ace, Presidential Award, National Honor Society, Michigan

Promise Scholarship, Spanish National Honor Society vice president. **Activities:** Student Council, Spanish Club, varsity volleyball and varsity basketball.

**Parents:** Jean Minitios and Tony Minitios, both of Sterling Heights.

#### Utica High School Co-Valedictorians

#### Jaimie Biermann

**College:** Grand Valley State University. **Academic Honors:**

Honor Roll, National Honor Society,



Spanish National Honor Society, Michigan Promise Award, Chieftain Scholar, Grand Valley

State Scholarship and Exceptional Student awards in theatre, Spanish and forensics.

**Activities:** marching band, International Thespian Society, plays, musicals, chorale, dance, Key Club, Book Club and S.T.A.N.D. (Students Taking A New Direction).

**Parents:** Robert and Donna Biermann of Utica.

#### Simran Chawa

**College/Course of Study:** Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Medical Scholars



accelerated program/plans to become a medical doctor.

**Academic Honors:**

attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology; Siemens Westinghouse Research Semi-finalist, National Merit Commended Scholar, Science Olympiad first place medals, Outstanding Biology Student, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Scholar, Case Western Reserve Trustee Scholarship, Wayne State Presidential Scholarship, AJ Drexel Scholarship, University of Miami Scholarship, Chieftain Scholar, National Honor Society Senior Executive Board. **Activities:** founder and president of Utica Students for Organ Donation, co-captain of Quiz Bowl and Science Olympiad teams.

**Parents:** Charanjit and Ravinder Chawa of Sterling Heights.

#### Derek Cresenti

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/double major in dance and medical science, plans to become a dancer/choreographer



for dance companies and musical productions.

**Academic Honors:** Honor Roll, Michigan

Promise Scholarship, Chieftain Scholar, National Honor Society.

**Activities:** theatre, plays, musicals, chorale, International Thespian Society. **Parents:** Joseph and Veronica Cresenti of Shelby Township.

**Peter DiGregorio**

**College/Course of Study:** Oakland University/secondary education, plans to become a teacher.  
**Academic Honors:** Chieftain Scholar, Oakland University Talented Scholar and National Honor Society.  
**Activities:** tennis, Chieftain Chorus and Mixed Choir, tutored younger students.  
**Parents:** Fiorino and Norma DiGregorio of Rochester Hills.



**Allison Gates**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/medicine, plans to become a pediatrician.  
**Academic Honors:** Chieftain Scholar, MAC All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, President's Academic Excellence Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship.  
**Activities:** cheerleading, varsity band, marching band, senior-sophomore mentoring.  
**Parents:** Peter and Joanna Gates of Shelby Township.



**Eric Granowicz**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/pre-med, plans to become a doctor or a pharmacologist.  
**Academic Honors:** Michigan Promise Scholarship, Spanish National Honor Society, Chieftain Scholar, National Honor Society treasurer.  
**Activities:** Student Council, marching and concert bands, senior class treasurer.  
**Parents:** Pat and Marie Granowicz of Sterling Heights.



**Mark Gruca**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/sports medicine, plans a career in physical therapy.  
**Academic Honors:** Academic Ace, WXYZ-Channel 7 Best and Brightest, ACT Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Outstanding Proficiency awards in history, social studies, biology and physics.  
**Activities:** varsity tennis, Key Club.  
**Parents:** Mirosław and Danuta Gruca of Utica.



**Tara Hackel**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/nuclear engineering and radiological sciences.  
**Academic Honors:** Chieftain Scholar, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Michigan Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society Senior Executive Board.  
**Activities:** Key Club and Student Council.  
**Parents:** David and Susan Hackel of Shelby Township.



**Annette Hauswirth**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan.  
**Academic Honors:** Principal's Leadership Award, Chieftain Scholar, Michigan Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society.  
**Activities:** Key Club, varsity soccer team captain and four-year player, varsity basketball team captain and three-year player.  
**Parents:** Carl and Isabel Hauswirth of Utica.



**Amy Hefter**

**College/Course of Study:** Saginaw Valley State University/plans to become an occupational therapist working with preschoolers.  
**Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Outstanding Students of America, MAC All-Conference Award, Chieftain Scholar, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) national qualifier and state and regional high scorer, President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, Saginaw Valley State University President's Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship.  
**Activities:** varsity and studio dance, Key Club, Michigan Social Studies Olympiad.  
**Parents:** Martin and Patricia Hefter of Shelby Township.



**Kristen Langlois**

**College/Course of Study:** Wayne State University/pre-med and Spanish, plans to become a doctor.  
**Academic Honors:** MAC All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Chieftain Scholar, Presidential Gold Award, Wayne State Presidential Scholarship, Science Olympiad regional first place.  
**Activities:** Science Olympiad team captain, varsity swimming team captain, track and field, Key Club, Students for Organ Donation.  
**Parents:** Andrew and Deborah Langlois of Shelby Township.



**Renee Lee**

**College/Course of Study:** Northwestern University in Illinois/journalism, plans to become a print journalist.  
**Academic Honors:** has written two free-lance articles published in the Detroit Free Press, Journalism Education Association Michigan High School Journalist of the Year, Michigan Interscholastic Press Association All-Star Journalist Competitor, All-MIPA (Michigan Interscholastic Press Association) Newspaper Student of the Year Finalist, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Northwestern University scholarships, Michigan Promise



Scholarship.  
**Activities:** National Honor Society vice-president, editor-in-chief and copy editor of the UHS Arrow student newspaper.  
**Parents:** Kai Fang and Man Fang Lee of Sterling Heights.

**Jay Lonski**

**College:** University of Michigan.  
**Academic Honors:** Chieftain Scholar, National Honor Society, German Student of the Year, Michigan Promise Scholarship.  
**Activities:** German Club.  
**Parents:** Gerald and Exerine Lonski of Shelby Township.



**Alexandra Lord**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/psychology plans to become a psychologist.  
**Academic Honors:** Macomb All-Academic Team in softball and tennis, Chieftain Scholar, National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, President's Academic Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Outstanding Student in theatre II, French, English and global studies.  
**Activities:** Students Against Destructive Decisions, International Thespian Society, Key Club, theatre, swing choir, varsity tennis and softball.  
**Parents:** Ursula Lord of Sterling Heights.



**Adrianna McIntyre**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/cognitive science and English, plans to become a pediatrician.  
**Academic Honors:** Macomb All-Academic Team, National Honor Society, Outstanding Chemistry Student, Honor Roll, Quill and Scroll Honor Society, published work in National Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans, AP Scholar with honor, Michigan Interscholastic All-Star Journalist Team, University of Michigan Regents Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship.  
**Activities:** Equestrian Team, National Honor Society publicist and yearbook section editor and editor-in-chief.  
**Parents:** Kenn and Nada McIntyre of Sterling Heights.



**Kara Ratowski**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Detroit-Mercy/physician's assistant program, plans to combine a career as a physician's assistant with operating her own bakery and pastry shop.  
**Academic Honors:** All-A Honor Roll, Channel 7 and McDonald's High School Scholar Athlete of the Week, Chieftain Scholar, Quill and Scroll, U of D-Mercy Insignis Scholarship, Grace Sharon Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor



Society vice president.  
**Activities:** volleyball team captain, yearbook index editor, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Key Club.  
**Parents:** Rod and Kathy Ratkowski of Sterling Heights.

**Nicole Schummer**

**College/Course of Study:** plans to study marketing and Spanish in college.  
**Academic Honors:** Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) regional winner, President's Education Award, National Honor Society, Chieftain Scholar, Spanish National Honor Society, Talented Scholars Award and Michigan Promise Scholarship.  
**Activities:** varsity cheerleading, marching and concert bands, Key Club.  
**Parents:** Richard and Therese Schummer of Sterling Heights.



**Erin Seavoy**

**College/Course of Study:** James Madison College at Michigan State University/government and public affairs, plans a career in influencing public policy or political advertising.  
**Academic Honors:** National Honor Society, Chieftain Scholar, first division ratings at Michigan School Band Association Solo and Ensemble district and state competitions, Advanced Placement exam scores of 3 and 4, forensic awards, Michigan Promise Scholarship.  
**Activities:** marching and varsity bands, percussion chamber ensemble, French Club.  
**Parents:** Andy and Cathy Seavoy of Utica.



**Kassandra Semrau**

**College/Course of Study:** University of Michigan/genetics, plans a career in research and development.  
**Academic Honors:** attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology, Chieftain Scholar, Macomb All-County Academic Team, National Merit Commended Scholar, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, President's Award, Outstanding AP Government Student, Michigan Promise Scholarship, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship.  
**Activities:** marching and varsity bands.  
**Parents:** Cheryl and John Schuerman and Steven Semrau, all of Shelby Township.



**Utica HS Salutatorian**

**Dayna Benoit**

**College:** Michigan State University.  
**Academic Honors:** Chieftain Scholar, Michigan Promise Award, National Honor Society.  
**Parents:** Christopher and Michele Benoit of Utica.



**Graduates of the Utica Community Schools Class of 2007 will attend these and other colleges and universities**

- Adrian College
- Albion College
- Allegheny College
- Alma College
- Aquinas College
- Arizona Community College
- Arizona State University
- Baker College
- Baltimore Community College
- Bob Jones University—Greenville, SC
- Bowling Green State University
- Brigham Young University
- Brigham Young University—Idaho
- Bryant University
- Carnegie Institute of Technology
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case-Western Reserve University
- Cedar Crest College
- Cedarville University
- Central Michigan University
- Central Piedmont Community College
- College for Creative Studies
- Columbia College Chicago
- Davenport University
- Davenport—Grand Rapids
- Defiance College
- DePaul University
- Drexel University—Pennsylvania
- Eastern Michigan University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Ferris State University
- Full Sail Real World Education
- Grand Valley State University
- Grossmont College—San Diego
- Hanover College
- Harvard University
- Illinois Institute of Art
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Indiana University
- International Academy of Design and Technology—Chicago
- Johnson and Wales
- Kasturba Medical College
- Kendall Art and Design
- Kendall University
- Kettering University
- Lake Superior State University
- Lawrence Technological University
- Lee University
- Loyola University—Chicago
- Macomb Community College
- Martin Methodist College
- Marygrove College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Menco College—California
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Technological University
- Neumont University
- Northern Michigan University
- Northwestern University
- Northwood University
- Northwood University—Midland
- Oakland Community College
- Oakland University
- Ohio State University
- Penn State University
- Prairie View A & M—Texas
- Purdue University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Scottsdale Community College
- Sienna Heights University
- Southwest Minnesota State University
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Coast Guard Academy
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Central Florida
- University of Dayton
- University of Detroit—Mercy
- University of Florida, Miami
- University of Houston
- University of Michigan
- University of Michigan—Dearborn
- University of Nevada—Las Vegas
- University of Northwestern Ohio
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- University of Toledo
- Wabash College—Illinois
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University
- Yavapai College

## Important dates of the 2007-08 school year

### September 4, 2007

First day of school for all students; elementary half-day

### October 31, 2007

Elementary half-day

### November 6, 2007

No school; staff professional development

### November 7-15, 2007

Parent-teacher conference window

### November 15, 2007

All students half-day; P.M. conferences

### November 21-25, 2007

Thanksgiving break; classes resume November 26

### Dec. 22, 2007 - Jan. 2, 2008

Holiday break; classes resume January 3

### January 17, 2008

Secondary exams; secondary half-day

### January 18, 2008

Secondary exams; all students half day

### January 21, 2008

No school; staff professional development

### February 11-17, 2008

Elementary parent-teacher conference window

### February 18-24, 2008

Mid-winter break; classes resume February 25

### March 3-7, 2008

Secondary parent-teacher conference window

### March 21-30, 2008

Spring break; classes resume March 31

### May 23, 2008

No school; staff professional development

### May 26, 2008

No school; Memorial Day

### June 11, 2008

Secondary exams; secondary half day

### June 12, 2008

Secondary exams; all students half day

### June 13, 2008

No school; summer recess begins

## Outstanding Teachers of 2007

continued from page 1

to enabling children to learn is very simple—never give up!

She has developed her classroom into a “no fail zone” for students, regardless of how much of her time and effort it requires or the number of different teaching strategies she must employ. All students—those of high ability, those who sometimes struggle and those with special needs—tend to respond eagerly. As one child put it, “I love that she makes math easier for me by making it fun!”

Hyslop calls herself “the luckiest person in the world, because I get to do what I love every day.” And it shows. Creativity, energy and humor are her trademark skills in leading students to think independently, take responsibility for their actions and respect others and themselves.

She can often be found working through her lunch with a student needing extra help or staying long past dismissal to polish lessons or design new material. A student teacher working in Hyslop’s room this year praised her as a role model of professionalism, saying, “She demonstrates everything I have learned about best practices. She has high expectations, but more importantly, she gives each child the tools he or she needs to succeed. She is what a good teacher is supposed to be.”

Lori Wetzel touches and teaches every Eppler Junior High student, both in the school media center and as a co-teacher in the classrooms. When she is instructing a class in the use of instructional technology—helping them become more fluent in critical thinking and problem solving—you can hear a pin drop as all eyes and ears focus on her. The learning is palpable and a joy to watch taking place.

She works with classroom teachers to implement programs such as a virtual geographical scavenger hunt where students navigate their way through the world’s continents, or the “Big Six” writing program where they learn to compose research papers.

Wetzel helped design the media center as a comfortable learning space where students readily come to experience the wonder of discovery and have access to the world through the use of laptop computers, multi-media programming and computerized reference kiosks, as well as a presentation center and some 9,000 books.

An educational pathfinder and active learner herself, she keeps abreast of new ideas and opportunities for students. She

*“It is an honor to represent such an amazing body of teachers both in this district and throughout the county. To be recognized for doing something you love makes that honor more satisfying.” - Tom Lietz*

then shares that knowledge with other teachers through what many appreciatively refer to as the “Lori Wetzel network.” She also finds time to maintain the school’s web site, produce a CD of the educational program for parents at curriculum nights and last year alone secured \$17,500 in grants to advance innovative learning experiences for students.

Tom Lietz is respected statewide and nationally for his work with the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association, the Michigan Speech Coaches Association and the National Federation of High Schools National Wording Committee, which determines curriculum for debate teachers around the country.



Lori Wetzel of Eppler Junior High School UCS Junior High Teacher of the Year



Tom Lietz of Eisenhower High School UCS and Macomb County High School Teacher of the Year

Since his first year at Eisenhower, where he was named Rookie Teacher of the Year, Lietz has proved to be a gifted educator, as well. While his debate and forensic classes have yielded state champions and nationally-ranked competitors, his positive and reassuring manner empowers

respect, dignity, safety and caring. A former student, now an attorney, said, “...he saw the best in each of us, and pushed us all to be our best—he would accept no less. It was this mentality that motivated me...he never stopped believing in me, even if I had my doubts... Without his guidance, I would not have achieved my goal of entering the legal field.”

A current student had this to say: “Mr. Lietz is a friend when students need him, a disciplinarian when they need it more and an encourager when they need it the most.”

It is for these and many more reasons that Tom Lietz was not only honored as the district’s Outstanding High School Teacher of 2007, but was also selected as the Macomb County High School Teacher of the Year.

students of all abilities to think and express themselves on higher levels.

His classes are some of the most sought after, due to his dynamic teaching style and ability to establish an atmosphere of

## Newly elected Board of Education members take oath



Board of Education President **Dr. Carol Klenow** (right) congratulates newly elected members **Daniel J. Meyers** and **Jennifer L. Prybys**, after both took the oath of office prior to the May 29 Board meeting.

Meyers and Prybys were elected from a field of three candidates at the annual Board of Education election held on May 8. Their terms of office extend from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011.

Prybys, a Sterling Heights resident, first joined the Board last fall when she was appointed to serve out the term of resigning member, Stephen Truman. She is a purchasing specialist at Behr America Incorporated and holds a master’s degree in international administration. She and her husband, Marc, have two children, Stephen and Morgan, who are students at Schwarzkoff Elementary School.

Meyers is a newcomer to the Board. He is employed by Credit Union ONE as Regional Manager, Metro Detroit, and resides in Macomb Township with his wife, Gabriella. Their children, Jacob and Kaitlyn, attend Beacon Tree Elementary School.

Kevin Lohmeier, a thirteen-year veteran of the Board of Education as well as its long-time vice-president, did not seek re-election.

### NOTICE OF

#### NONDISCRIMINATION

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Utica Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.



586.797.1000



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#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Jennifer L. Prybys, *Trustee*

Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

Visit [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) for information on programs and curriculum, school news, district calendar, annual reports and employment opportunities.

Information about the district is also available on UCS Television, which broadcasts on cable channels 15 and 22.

#### FOCUS for the Community

Editors: Hildy Corbett  
Fran Schokora



2006 Commended Award  
Michigan School Public Relations Association



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