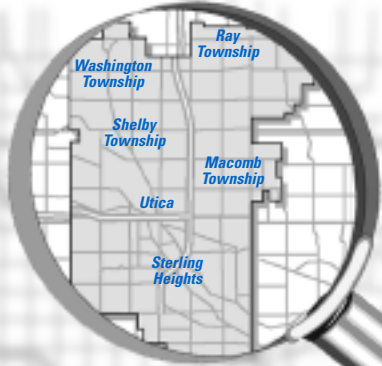


FOCUS for the community



A Publication for the Residents of Utica Community Schools

From the Superintendent...



by Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

Commencements mark a year of achievement

On June 7, Utica Community Schools once again celebrated a time-honored tradition – commencement ceremonies for our senior class. The day saw 2,129 graduates from Utica, Ford II, Stevenson and Eisenhower High schools celebrate their achievement with family and friends at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Perhaps the graduates also saw the principal from their elementary school or were greeted by their junior high school principal on their special day. This is because the principals of our 40 schools were in attendance, as they are every year, to assist at the day-long event and don caps and gowns themselves to proudly watch “their” students graduate.

That level of commitment was also evident at the commencement ceremony for this year’s Adult Education, Utica Learning Academy and Utica Center for Applied Learning graduates. The staff and administrators of those programs watched just as proudly as “their” 155 students crossed the stage at Stevenson High School to receive their diplomas.

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Best wishes to the Class of 2008!



Please turn to page two for class highlights and the pictures and profiles of each high school’s co-valedictorians and salutatorians.

Members of the Utica Community Schools 2008 graduating class typically spent their last few days as high school seniors by taking final exams, practicing for commencement and enjoying the camaraderie borne of time spent together in class, learning and growing.

On the afternoon this photo was taken, these Utica High School seniors (l-r) **Alex Campbell, Robert Wendt, Jessica Barwinski** (seated), **Lauren Histed, Jacob Wulbrecht** and **Jordan Johnston** – representing the district’s 2,129 graduates this year – were eagerly anticipating their next steps into adulthood. Although those steps will take them in far different career directions, the academic preparation they received in Utica Community Schools should serve them well.

Alex will enlist in the United States Marine Corps to receive security forces training. Robert is headed to Valparaiso University in Indiana to major in business and pre-seminary. Michigan State University is the next stop for Jessica, where she will pursue a degree in international relations. Lauren received an athletic scholarship to Ohio University, where she will study exercise science. Jacob will enroll in pre-medical studies at Michigan State. And Jordan’s choice is Central Michigan University, where she will major in accounting.

Congratulations to all UCS graduates as they step ahead to future success!

Malow JHS named a 2008 Michigan Blue Ribbon School

22 UCS schools have met the state’s Blue Ribbon standards for excellence

Malow Junior High School is the latest building in the Utica district to be awarded the title of Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School.

For the eleventh straight year, at least one UCS school has been selected for the designation that was established in 1982 by the Michigan Department of Education.

The program recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence and significant academic improvement over five years. To qualify, schools must document achievement

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UCS Outstanding Teachers of 2008

DeKeyser’s Russell Moore named Macomb County’s outstanding elementary teacher

“From a little spark may burst a mighty flame.”

– Italian poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)

Each day in the classrooms across Utica Community Schools, teachers ignite within their students countless little sparks of knowledge, which they fan into mighty flames of learning and achievement.

Three such academic torchbearers—**Melissa Kevonian**, Advanced Placement Literature and Composition teacher at Utica High School; **Marsha Sevek**, Shelby Junior High School art teacher; and **Russell Moore**, who teaches first grade at DeKeyser Elementary—have been chosen as the district’s Outstanding Teachers of the Year.

The three were honored at a Board of Education meeting and by the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) at a countywide awards

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Russell Moore, the Macomb County Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year, reads to a group of his DeKeyser first graders.

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Utica Community Schools

Saluting the Utica Community Schools Class of 2008

As proud parents, family members and friends looked on, a combined total of 2,129 graduates from the district's four high schools—Eisenhower, Ford II, Stevenson and Utica—received their diplomas at commencement ceremonies held on Saturday, June 7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

As a whole and individually, the Class of 2008 compiled an exceptional academic record, having benefited from the educational and extracurricular opportunities available to them in Utica Community Schools. The graduates distinguished themselves in many areas, including:

- 376 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

- 409 were members of the National Honor Society
- 68 completed advanced academic studies at the competitive Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology
- nearly 95 percent plan to further their education
- approximately \$12.6 million in academic and athletic scholarships were offered to members of the class
- 75 achieved the standing of co-valedictorian (4.0 GPA or higher) or salutatorian at their schools and are profiled below.

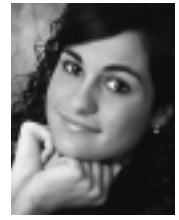
In addition to the graduates from the four high schools, 155 students from UCS adult education and alternative high school programs received their diplomas during a June 4 ceremony at Stevenson High School.

Chelsea Klaska will attend the University of Michigan to study education or kinesiology. She's on the 4.0 Honor Roll and is an Eagle Scholar and Macomb All-Academic



semifinalist. A member of the National Honor Society, she received the Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award, University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. Charles and Lisa Klaska of Macomb Township are her parents.

Kristin Mattia will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Oakland University. The daughter of Mark and Ghosoon Mattia of Shelby Township, she was



on the Honor Roll and received the Presidential Award, Oakland University Academic Achievement Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. She participated in National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Spanish Club.

Michael "Joey" Meyer plans to become a math professor and will major in mathematics at the Honors College of Oakland University. His honors include Macomb County Class A All-Academic Scholar, The



Macomb Daily Student of the Week, Eagle Scholar, Eisenhower Student of the Month, Avondale

Youth Assistance Outstanding Service Award, Oakland University Presidential Scholar Award, Macomb Scholastic Award Scholarship and University of Michigan-Dearborn Chancellor's Award. He was a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, president and founder of the Math Club, German Club president, STARS volunteer tutor and participated in band for seven years. Michael and Christy Meyer of Shelby Township are his parents.

Robert Ognjanovski, the son of Robert and Mimi Ognjanovski of Shelby Township, will pursue Biomedical Engineering at the



University of Michigan and plans to become an engineer. His awards include Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, Academic Letter, Eagle Scholar and Michigan Merit Exam Scholarship. He played varsity soccer.

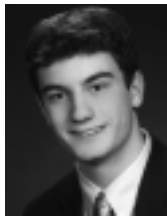
Kayla Pence will study chemical engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre



Haute, ID, with the goal of becoming a chemical engineer. Her awards include All-A Honor Roll, Eagle Scholar, Macomb County

Eisenhower High School Co-Valedictorians

Charles Andrews is the son of Clark and Beth Andrews of Shelby Township. He will attend Michigan State University and plans to become an engineer. His awards include National Merit Finalist, College Board AP Scholar, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part II Qualifier and he was a



Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST). He received the Michigan State Alumni Distinguished Scholarship, Michigan Merit Scholarship and Michigan Engineering Scholarship. He participated in Quiz Bowl, Project Outreach, Varsity Lacrosse, National Honor Society and was vice president of the UCMST Activities Council.

Lauren Andrzejewski will major in business at the University of Michigan. She received the following awards: National Merit Scholarship, Michigan Merit Scholarship, Presidential Award, Macomb All-Academic, Eagle Scholar



and Academic Letter. She took part in Student Council, National Honor Society, Varsity Track and Drama Club. Lauren is the daughter of Greg and Kathy Andrzejewski of Macomb Township.

Lindsey Bird will enroll in the Michigan State University Honors College. The daughter of Wayne and Patricia Bird of Shelby



Township, she was on the Macomb County All-Academic Team and received the Michigan Promise MME Scholarship. She attained the Honor Roll every year and received an Academic Letter, Presidential Achievement Award and Eagle Scholar Award. Lindsey was the Student Council Executive Board Recording Secretary, a Spanish Club officer and a member of the National Honor Society.

Giulia Calimazzo will attend the University of Michigan to pursue pre-medical studies and plans to become a pediatrician. She took



part in the Human Rights Group, SADD, National Honor Society, Key Club and Spanish Club and received a Michigan Promise Scholarship. Her awards include Eagle Scholar, Presidential Education Award and Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten. Her parents are Domenico and Santina Calimazzo of Shelby Township.

Mark Costello, son of Victor and Mary Costello of Shelby Township, plans to become a chemical engineer and will attend the University of Michigan College of Engineering. He received the University of Michigan Alumni and Regents scholarships, Association



Diversity Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. His awards include Academic Letter, Varsity Letter, 2005 Thespian of the Year, Eagle Scholar and 4.0 Honor Roll. Mark took part in Varsity Tennis, JV Golf, Science Olympiad, Math Club, Spanish Club and was National Honor Society Treasurer.

Erin DelBene will study microbiology and genomics at Michigan State University. Her awards include the Michigan



Promise Scholarship, Presidential Award and Macomb County All Academic Team nominee.

She was Student Council Vice President, National Honor Society Secretary, Project Outreach Vice President and participated in Quiz Bowl and Spanish Club. Fred and Barb DelBene of Shelby Township are her parents.

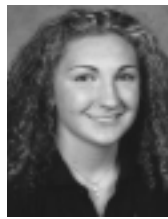
Jeffrey Fowler will study accounting at Michigan State University, Hillsdale College or Albion College. His goal is a career in business. The son of Steve and Betsy Fowler of Shelby Township, he was named to the All-Macomb County Academic Team for

Cross-Country. He earned MAC Red All-Academic Team honors,



as well as the President's Award for Academic Excellence, Eagle Scholar, Eisenhower Academic Letter and Cross-Country All-State Academic Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Hillsdale College Merit and Legory scholarships and Albion College Trustee Scholarship. He was co-captain of the varsity cross-country team and took part in varsity track, Student Senate, Spanish Club, National Honor Society and the St. Thomas Church Youth Council.

Natalie Galovska, the daughter of Nick Galovski and Jasna Galovska of Macomb Township, will study chemistry at Butler University in Indianapolis and plans to become an orthopedic surgeon. She earned Eisenhower Varsity awards for basketball in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Her awards include Student of the Week, Eisenhower Academic Achievement Award and academic and athletic scholarships for soccer. She took part in varsity soccer and basketball, Spanish Club and band.



Megan Haske is the daughter of Brian and Mary Haske of Macomb Township. She will study mathematics and secondary education at the Central Michigan University Honors College. Her goal



is to become a high school math teacher. Her awards include All-State Academic Team and MAC All-Academic Team for diving, 4.0 Honor Roll, Presidential Academic Award, Language Arts Award and Editorial Leadership Award. She received the CMU Board of Trustees Scholarship Award of Excellence, Oakland University Talented Scholar Award, Grand Valley State University Academic Merit Award and qualified for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship. She was captain of the diving team and yearbook editor-in-chief, and belonged to the National Honor

Society, French Club, French National Honor Society and freshman cheerleading.

Philip Hohnstadt will study mechanical engineering at Michigan Technological University with the goal of becoming an engineer. His academic awards include: Academic Letter, Macomb



County Class A All-Academic Team, Eagle Scholar, Michigan Promise Scholarship and Michigan Technological University Presidential Scholar of Excellence Award. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the varsity swimming team. His parents are Daniel and Shari Hohnstadt of Shelby Township.

Anna Jackow will attend the University of Detroit-Mercy and plans a career in architecture, eventually as a project manager. The daughter of Kaz and Dianne



Jackow, she earned an Academic Letter, President's Education Award, Scholarship Award, Citizenship Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship, UD-M Spiritus Scholarship, UD-M Pastor Scholarship and Macomb Community College/Eisenhower Scholar Award. She participated in Key Club, National Honor Society and the "Eagle Flava" dance club.

Lindsey Keine, daughter of Joseph and Berta Keine of Shelby Township, will attend Michigan State University and plans to study psychology or theatre. She is interested in becoming either



a therapist or an actor. Her awards are Eagle Scholar and Michigan Merit Scholarship. She was Drum Major

of the Marching Band, First Chair saxophone in Symphonic Band, President of the Drama Club and International Thespian Society, Show Choir Officer and Section Leader, Youth Group Senior Chair and belonged to the National Honor Society.

Class A All-Academic Team, Rose-Hulman Grant and Rose-Hulman Merit Scholarship. She was active in the National Honor Society, Marching Band, Varsity Band, French Club and Equestrian Team. Linda Appelt of Shelby Township and Michael Pence of Chicopee, MA are her parents.

Stephen Ragatzki, son of Michael and Paula Ragatzki of Shelby Township, will attend Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University. He earned the Michigan State University Distinguished Freshman Scholarship and the Michigan Promise Scholarship and was named to the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team. He was a Student of the Month and participated in varsity baseball, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club and Student Senate, and was a scorekeeper for Special Olympics basketball and a catechism assistant at his church.



Michelle Rogers plans to become an accountant and will pursue business studies at Tiffin University in Ohio. She was named to the MAC All-Academic teams for cross-country, track and soccer; Academic All-County and All-State



for cross-country and Academic All-District for soccer. She received the President's Award, was on the Honor Roll and received a Women's Soccer Grant, Presidential Scholarship and Michigan Merit Exam Scholarship. Her activities include National Honor Society, Spanish Club and varsity soccer (four years), cross-country and track. She is the daughter of Lloyd and Diane Rogers of Shelby Township.

Brooke Ropp, daughter of Vincent and Jorja Ropp of Shelby Township will major in physics at Oakland University. Her honors include Macomb All-Conference Academic



Team nominee, Eisenhower Academic Letter, Eagle Scholar, Academic All-State Academic team for swimming and diving and Presidential Full Scholarship to Oakland University. Her activities were choir, swimming and National Honor Society.

Jeffrey Trudeau plans to become a family doctor and will major in pre-med and human biology at Michigan State University. An Eagle Scholar, he earned an Academic Letter and the Michigan Promise Scholarship and was on the Macomb All-County Academic Team. His activities were National Honor



Society, tennis, Stand Up Christian Club, French Club and French National Honor Society. William and Ann Trudeau of Shelby Township are his parents.

Katherine Wasek will attend Oakland University to major in pre-medical studies in pursuit of a career in the medical field. The daughter of Kelly and Gregory



Wasek of Shelby Township, she received the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Eagle Scholar Award, Academic Letter, Outstanding Citizenship Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship and Presidential Scholar Award. She was active in the National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Drama Club and was set/props crew head for two theatrical productions.

Tiffany Wen, daughter of Cheng and Ling Wen of Macomb Township, plans a career in biomedical or pharmaceutical research. She will study biochemistry or pre-pharmacy at



the University of Michigan. She attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology. Her honors include Macomb County Class A All-County Scholar, National Merit Commended Student, Scholastic Scholarship and the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. She took part in National Honor Society, track and field, piano and tutoring.

Alena Wu will attend the University of Michigan and plans to achieve a doctor of pharmacy degree. Her awards are Eagle Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, Japanese Speech Contest



Honorable Mention, Japanese Quiz Bowl – Division II second place and Science Olympiad first place (food science) and second place (chemistry lab) medals. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship, Macomb Community College Olympiad Winner Scholarship, Mandarin Scholarship, Macomb Leadership Scholarship. She took part in Science Olympiad, National Honor Society, SADD – serving as secretary and treasurer, Key Club, track, Japanese Club and Math Club. Her parents are Te Chuan and Li Fang Wu of Shelby Township.

Eisenhower Salutatorian

Alyssa Schafer will major in sciences at Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University and plans to become a secondary-level teacher. The daughter of Thomas and Renee Schafer of Shelby



Township, she was an Honor Roll student and president of the senior class. She participated in National Honor Society, Student Council, Show Choir, Student News, basketball and Powder Puff football.

Henry Ford II High School Co-Valedictorians

Fulla Abdul-Jabbar is the daughter of Mohammed Abdul-Jabbar and Khiloud Kadhim of Sterling Heights. She will attend the University of Michigan and plans to become a medical researcher. Her awards include All-A Honor Roll and Advanced Placement Scholar. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Book Club, SADD, Key Club and Ecology Club.



John Bui will pursue a medical career and is considering attending Brown University, the University of Notre Dame or the University of



Michigan. The son of Paul and Maria Bui of Sterling Heights, his awards include All-A Honor Roll and Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten. He was a member of the 2008 World Champion ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics team and belonged to the National Honor Society, Key Club and STRIVE.

Ryan Duffy is the son of Glenn and Karen Duffy of Macomb Township. His college choices are the



University of Notre Dame, University of Virginia or Michigan State University. He was a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology for three consecutive years. His other honors include All-A Honor Roll, Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Michigan Mathematics Prize Finalist, first place in local and state Destination Imagination competition and Michigan State University full tuition scholarship. He was active in National Honor Society, Destination Imagination and was a STRIVE tutor.

Janelle Fiebelkorn plans to become a registered nurse and will attend Grand Valley State University, Oakland University or Wayne State University. She received scholarships to Macomb



Community College, Oakland University and the University of Detroit-Mercy. Her other awards are All-A Honor Roll (three years), All-Academic in softball and volleyball, All-County Second Team and All-District in softball, All-Conference Honorable Mention in softball and All-Conference Honorable Mention in Volleyball. She was active in National Honor Society, Interact and varsity softball and volleyball. Jeff and Debbie Fiebelkorn of Sterling Heights are her parents.

From the Superintendent...

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Support such as this by the Board of Education, district administrators, teachers and other staff underscores the dedication of each member of our educational team, whose efforts are aimed at making sure a Utica Community Schools diploma will open the doors to further achievement and future success.

In speaking of academic success, the UCS class of 2008 has much to celebrate! Six of our graduates this year are National Merit Finalists. The class also boasted 376 Academic Scholars, named so for maintaining a 3.67 grade point average or above throughout high school while engaged in school activities.

Of all the county's graduating seniors named to the 2008 Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, nearly half are from Utica Community Schools. Hundreds of our 2008 graduates earned awards and recognition for their achievement in academics, the fine arts and career and technical education. This year's graduates have been accepted to a total of 118 different institutes of higher learning throughout the United States and as far away as Japan!

But success is not limited to our graduates. Over the past year, we have made the district's academic curriculum even more rigorous through the application of our Indicators of Excellence in all grades and subject areas.

As you may recall, the Indicators of Excellence were implemented by the Board of Education at the start of the 2007-2008 school year as our district blueprint for increasing student achievement. The Indicators clearly articulate how a Utica Community Schools education will prepare our graduates for successful futures.

One example is the increased number of secondary-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses now available to UCS students. As a result, more of our students are rising to meet this exciting academic challenge, with enrollment in AP courses in the past school year double that of the year before – a direct indicator of academic growth.

Another example can be seen in the district's elementary and junior high school scores in reading, writing and mathematics on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). Our scores continue to show a trend of improvement, the result of intensified instruction. We anticipate improvement at the high school level as well, once the state releases the scores for those students.

This year, Malow Junior High School became the 22nd school in our district to be named a Blue Ribbon Exemplary School by the State Board of Education – another indication that ours is a school district of high achievement.

Our celebration of student success is tempered somewhat by the ongoing economic difficulty gripping our state. In response, the Board of Education has approved for fiscal year 2008-2009 another in what has become a succession of austerity budgets necessitated by uncertain state funding. The budget, which took effect July 1, can be viewed on the district website, www.uticak12.org.

While we will be able to maintain student programming and avoid layoffs this coming school year, the volatility of state funding for schools has certainly limited our budget options.

Despite the challenges, public education has a vital role in the recovery of our state's economy. Therefore, in Utica Community Schools, we will continue to do as our taxpayers and our community expect – provide our students the best education possible while operating in a prudent fiscal manner.

As educators, we often do not know the result of our dedication to students once they leave us at commencement. But as citizens, we can readily see and value the result, for our students are the intellectual capital that will bring economic growth and prosperity back to our state – and our nation.

Points of pride

Eisenhower High School senior **Nathan Bynum** placed first in the 2008 Michigan Japanese Speech Contest sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan, the Japanese Teachers Association of America, the Japanese Business Society of Detroit and the Japan-America Society of Greater Detroit and Windsor. Nathan presented his speech, "Real Japanese Culture," to an audience of native-Japanese speakers.

Eppler Junior High School seventh grader **Adam Bonner** created a graphite drawing of a Porsche automobile that was featured in the national magazine *RMS Porsche News*.

Several UCS teams captured top awards at this year's regional and state FIRST Lego League elementary and junior high tournaments. Students used higher-level thinking, problem solving and teamwork skills to solve this year's Power Puzzle, "Energy Resources – Meeting the Global Demand." Team names and awards follow:

- **Beck Centennial Thunder-Bots (Regional Second Place, Teamwork):** **Bradley Eichhorn, Christian Gilbert, Robert Schaffner, Jacob Livingston, Nicholas Davis, Thomas Simmons, Victor Mondine, Matthew Wiegand**
- **Crissman Green Miners (Regional First Place, Creative Presentation; State Second Place, Research Quality and Fourth Place, Team Spirit):** **Courtney Sturza, Ryan Sturza, Marissa DeLang, Jacob Gould, Sean Blake, Isabella Palazzolo, Brent Wodtke, Ryan Burke, Evan Bradley, Jeffrey Weiss**
- **Schuchard ThunderStallions (Regional First Place Overall and Second Place, Research Presentation):** **Nick Miller, Joshua Rzeppa, Yashas Vaidya, Julien George, Nick Koons, Jack Steinhel, Samantha Miller, Manvir Sandhu, Ruhi Jawanda**
- **Schwarzkoﬀ Lego Lightning (Regional Rising Star):** **Nick Austin, Tristan Cappel, Mark Krauzowicz, Justin St. Peter, Tyler Zelinski and Steven Sayers**
- **Switzer Power Lines (Regional Judge's Award; State Top Five Finalist, Creative Presentation):** **Emerson Lawrence, Max Ames, Eric Gilkey,**

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Jordan Kornack is considering attending the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Grand Valley State



University or Bowling Green State University. The daughter of Karl and Vicki Kornack of Sterling Heights, she plans to study business administration and business marketing. Her awards include All-A Honor Roll (four years), French National Honor Society, Journalism Award, a scholarship to Macomb Community College and Most Improved Player in volleyball. She participated in National Honor Society, French Club Executive Board, DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), Interact and Kick-Off mentor program, soccer and was the newspaper's sports editor and varsity volleyball captain.

Claire LeGuen of Sterling Heights is the daughter of Luc LeGuen and Okmin LeGuen, both deceased. She will pursue pre-medical studies in college and plans to become a physician specializing in infectious



disease and working in the Doctors without Borders program. She was a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST), scored in the top ten percent of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition and is on the All-A Honor Roll. Her activities were French Club Executive Board, UCMST Activities Council, Executive Board, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society and SADD.

Liana Raggio lists the University of Michigan, University of Miami, the University of Southern California and the University of Pittsburgh as her college choices. She plans a career in medicine, possibly in neonatology.



A student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology, her awards include All-A Honor Roll, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Division I medals and National Honor Society. She received scholarships from the University of Miami and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Michigan Technological University Presidential Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. She took part in the UCMST Activities Council Executive Board, German Club, marching band, jazz band and diving. James and Sharon Raggio of Macomb Township are her parents.

Emily Seidel will study engineering at the University of Michigan. She was a Student of the Month, on the All-A Honor Roll and received a University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. The

daughter of Richard and Linda Seidel of Macomb Township, she served as secretary, vice president and bulletin editor of the Key Club and was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, marching band and tennis team.



Sarah Smith is the daughter of Joseph and Lynn Smith of Sterling Heights. She will attend the University of Michigan to study law or journalism. Her honors include National Merit Commended Student, Advanced Placement



Scholar, Macomb County Class-A All-Academic Team, The Macomb Daily Student of the Week, All-A Honor Roll, Key Club–Michigan District Most Efficient Secretary and Perfect M&Ms Award, National Honor Society and scholarships from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. She was president and past secretary of the Key Club, newspaper Editor-in-Chief, TV co-anchor and past head writer and Kick-Off mentor. She also took part in Spanish Club, International Thespian Society, Peer Mediation, SADD, Ecology Club and the Principal's Student Advisory Board.

Ford II Salutatorian

Breanne Swift is the daughter of William and Diana Swift of Sterling Heights. She was a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology, a Falcon Scholar, on the All-A Honor Roll and received Presidential Academic Awards.



Adlai E. Stevenson High School Co-Valedictorians

Alexis Altier will attend Central Michigan University to pursue studies in athletic training. She received the Centralis Gold Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Biology Achievement Award,



Academic Excellence Certificate and President's Award. She was active in the National Honor Society, JV basketball, varsity track, and as Student Council president in eleventh and twelfth grades and Key Club president as a junior. Daniel and Sharon Altier of Sterling Heights are her parents.

Michele Barton is the daughter of David and Kathy Barton of Sterling Heights. She will major in pre-med and biochemistry at Wayne State University and her goal is to become a



pediatric oncologist. She attended the Utica Center for Mathematics,

Science and Technology. Her honors include Academic All-Conference Team, two-time Academic All-County for cross-country, Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. Cross-country, track, National Honor Society, German Club and German National Honor Society were her activities.

Katrina Berishaj will attend the University of Michigan to study political science and law. She plans to open her own law firm. The



daughter of Alex and Sharon Berishaj of Sterling Heights, she received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and participated in Spanish Club, basketball, track and field, National Honor Society and the Student Alliance Committee.

Michael Best plans a career in aerospace engineering and will attend the University of Michigan to major in aerospace or mechanical engineering. His honors include first place at the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society



(MITES) state competition, Academic All-County Team for cross-country, Michigan Promise Scholarship and University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. He was involved in the National Honor Society, varsity cross-country and track and community service. He is the son of Curt and Kathy Best of Sterling Heights.

Lauren Ciemiak is the daughter of Marvin and Lydia Ciemiak of Sterling Heights. She will attend the University of Michigan and



plans to pursue a doctorate in communications and eventually work in the industry in California. Her awards include Academic Aces, President's Award, Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Michigan Promise Scholarship. Her activities are varsity dance team captain, Spanish Club president, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Key Club, and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA).

Jillian Cooper will attend Macomb Community College and plans to become a registered



nurse, working in a hospital emergency room. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Academic Aces Award and participated in Quiz Bowl, track, Color Guard and Spanish Club. Her parents are Cheril Cole of Sterling Heights and Rod Cooper of Charlotte, Michigan.

Amy Copeland, daughter of Jim and Cindy Copeland of Sterling Heights, will pursue studies in medicine at Michigan State University and plans a career as a physician assistant or forensic pathologist. She received the Michigan Merit



Award and President's Award and was active in Student Council, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and yearbook, and was junior class secretary, senior class vice president and an elementary Science Olympiad event coach.

Lindsay Frost will attend the University of Michigan where she plans to complete a graduate program in biomedical engineering.



She is the daughter of Brian Frost and Kathleen Gesinski of Sterling Heights. She attended the

Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology and received the Rensselaer Medal, Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Award, Rensselaer Medal Scholarship, Michigan Competitive Scholarship Award and Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Scholarship. She was a National Honor Society officer and participated in Key Club, marching band, symphonic band, Spanish Club and Spanish National Honor Society.

Angela Hellow will attend the Central Michigan University Honors College to study medical therapy and plans a career in speech



pathology or occupational therapy. She received these awards: French National Honor Society, National

Honor Society, President's Education Award, Academic Aces, Michigan Promise Scholarship, Central Michigan University Award of Excellence and Centralis Valedictorian Scholarship. She was active in Key Club, National Honor Society, French Club, Driven, The Vanguard newspaper and JV cross-country. She is the daughter of Joseph and Kimberly Hellow of Sterling Heights.

Amanda Hessling plans to study biology at the University of Michigan. The daughter of Kevin and Bonnie Hessling of Sterling



Heights, she received the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. She participated

in the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, Key Club and varsity golf and was Rookie of the Year in varsity swimming, Student Council vice president for the junior class and president of the Environmental Club.

Patrick Isaac will attend either the University of Michigan or Wayne State University, where he will major in biology and mathematics

and minor in Spanish. His goal is to become a reconstructive and plastic surgeon. He received a Sugihara Scholar Award and Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship and was active in the Diversity Club and National Honor Society. Antonio and Hilda Isaac of Sterling Heights are his parents.



Caitlin Litz is the daughter of Marianne and Albert Litz, Jr. of Sterling Heights. She will major in English at Wayne State University. She took part in varsity cross-country, varsity track and field, indoor track, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Key Club. The awards she received were Academic Aces, Honor Roll, All-County Academic Team for cross-country and Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship.



Shama Patel plans to become a physician and will study medicine at the University of Michigan. She received the Academic Aces Award



and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. She served as Student Council treasurer and belonged to the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Key Club. Hasmurh and Bakula Patel of Sterling Heights are her parents.

Stephanie Perlaki will attend Oakland University. A member of the Academic Aces, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Spanish National Honor Society, marching band, wind ensemble, jazz band and symphonic and pit orchestras, she was on the Honor Roll and received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award. She is the daughter of James and Susan Perlaki of Sterling Heights.



Samantha Selleke plans to become a physician assistant and will enroll in pre-medical studies at Grand Valley State University. She received awards for academic excellence in French and Mathematics, the Michigan Merit Scholarship and Grand Valley State University Award of Excellence. The daughter of John and Pamela Selleke of Macomb Township, she was in the Student Council, National Honor Society, varsity dance team, French National Honor Society and French Club.



Manisha Singh will attend Michigan State University to pursue pre-medical studies. Her goal is to become a pediatrician. She received the Macomb Scholar and Michigan Promise scholarships,

Academic Ace award and first place in Disease Detectives, second place in Health Science, third place in Forensics and fourth place in Experimental Design at the



regional Science Olympiad. She was active in varsity tennis, Student Council, Science Olympiad, Key Club, National Honor Society, Environmental Club, Spanish National Honor Society and was vice president of the Spanish Club. Her parents are Inderpal and Arvinder Singh of Sterling Heights.

Bradley Smith, the son of Gregg and Peggy Smith of Sterling Heights, will study engineering at the University of Michigan. He is an Academic Ace and National Honor Roll member and received the



Michigan Promise Scholarship and Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship. His activities were National Honor Society, varsity football, varsity baseball and Spanish Club.

Ann Marie Srodon will attend Oakland University and plans to become a registered nurse and later, a nurse anesthetist. She received the President's Education Award, Academic Ace, Oakland University Talented Scholar Award and University of Detroit-Mercy



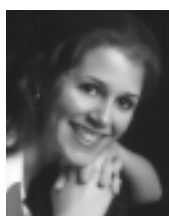
Insignis Scholarship. She is the daughter of Don and Albina Srodon of Sterling Heights and was active in marching band, wind ensemble, National Honor Society, Key Club, dance, Future Nurses Club and volunteered at Troy Beaumont Hospital.

Julio Taormina will study accounting at Northwood University with the goal of becoming a certified public accountant. He attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology. He received the Northwood University Presidential



Scholarship and was involved in Key Club, National Honor Society and choir and was Student Council treasurer. His parents are Barbara Taormina of Sterling Heights and Salvatore Taormina of Shelby Township.

Molly Waggamon will attend Wayne State University and will choose a career that involves helping others. The daughter of Jerry and Stephanie Waggamon of Sterling Heights, she was a Macomb County Youth Violence Prevention Council Peacemaker Award recipient in 2005. She



Academic Scholars earn Board of Education recognition 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

Justin Albrecht
Charles Andrews
Lauren Andrzejewski
Gabrielle Artymovich
Amanda Bacon
Jessica Bensinger
Shannon Beyer
Christina Bildson
Lindsey Bird
Michelle Borza
Melissa Brode
Jessica Bronicki
Elizabeth Brown
Michael Budzyn
Stefanie Burdalis
Ryan Burke
Hardie Butts
Nathan Bynum
Gregory Cairns
Giulia Calimazzo
Anton Camaj
Jillian Cherniawski
Alexandra Cipa
Riley Collins
Ryan Connolly
Mark Costello
Grant Cox
Daniel Cummins
Dominic Czarnota
Sarah Daniels
Timothy Dekker
Erin DeBene
Natalie Deraedt
Gregory Diedrich
Jonathan Diedrich
Brittani Dodd
Lindsay Ducharme
Amanda Dufoor
Dominika Faszczewski
Michelle Fedoruk
Daniel Feldmann
Anthony Ferro
Robert Finta
Jeffrey Fowler
Meghan Gallagher
Natalie Galovska
Adam Gamalski
Nicholas Giannetti
Marcelina Guzzardo
Mitchell Haba
Ashlee Hansinger
Megan Haske
Amanda Henshaw
Sara Hiegel
Joanna Hinde
Philip Hohnstadt
Julie Marie Howey
Anna Jackow
Gordon Johns
Lauren Kaiser
Kaitlyn Karie
Christopher Kehoe
Lindsey Keine
Chelsea Klaska
Jennelle Komosinski
Ashley Krause
Casey Krockta
Theo Kyprianides
Lauren Lambert
Elizabeth Landru
Dana Lange
Molly Loftis
Adam Lucassian
Amanda Machowicz
Donald Mackay
Mackenzie Majeske
Melissa Manning
Matthew Marcat
Leslie Matievich
Kristin Mattia
Morgan McGregor
Rachel McKay
Mattia Melone
Michael Meyer
Matthew Mieszczak
Jessica Misich
Christina Mrukowicz
Thomas Nicholls
Jennifer Nytko
Robert Ognjanovski
Ashley Ostrowski
Brianna Pace
Kayla Pence
Lisa Persichetti

Stephen Ragatzki
Kaitlyn Rivard
Kevin Roberts
Jennifer Rock
Jonathan Rock
Michelle Rogers
Brooke Ropp
Stefan Rucins
Natalie Runson
Emily Rutkowski
Leann Sabo
Alyssa Schafer
Jennifer Schuette
Bianca Schwager
Rachel Smolarek
Meredith Snyder
Alyssa Stoner
Stephanie Talan
Adam Townsend
Jeffrey Trudeau
Jacob Valentic
Timothy Vandenberg
Leah Vandoorne
James Varchetti
Jaclyn Ventimiglia
Alisa Vermeulen
Matthew Viscomi
Kathy Waliczek
Brittany Walsh
Elizabeth Wandrei
Katherine Wasek
Lauren Weber
Tiffany Wen
Kelly Whitson
Janelle Wolf
Lindsey Wright
Alena Wu
Kyle Yaxley
Laura Yestrepky
Stephanie Zerafa

Ford II High School

Fulla Abdul Jabbar
Daniela Antovski
Michael Berta
John Bui
Sherree Camillo
Randall Ceccanese
Jonathan Chastain
Elizabeth Danaj
Samantha Dewald
Anton Dirnberger
Brittney Dodge
Scott Donahue
Ryan Duffy
Samantha Fawaz
Janelle Fiebelkorn
Tittu Francis
Daniel Gegic
Adam Geml
Frank Gibbs
Kayla Greenwald
Jessica Habbouche
Richard Hackman
Katherine Hanser
Marissa Havers
Nichole Hoeltzel
Christopher Hopfner
Holly Jenkin
Lea Jones
Sara Kilgore
Kari Kilpela
Nathaniel King
Lauren Knox
Jordan Kornack
Dawn Kosal
Jonathan Kozak
Morgan Laidlaw
Claire Le Guen
Valerie Leah
David Leathers
Chelsea Maraldo
Joshua Marvin
Brett Marx
Cynthia Nelson
Viktor Nikolovski
Hannah Novak
Jerry Orlovski
Lauren Padgett
Rebecca Poronto
Michelle Powers
Liana Raggio
Kyle Rising
Lauren Ritchie
Adam Ross
Besi Rrumbullaku
David Said

Kaitlin Scharra
Andrew Sciacchitano
Jacob Sciacchitano
Emily Seidel
John Serwick
Abigale Shamblin
Sarah Smith
Luis Sordo
Kaitlyn Swiderski
Breanne Swift
Aaron Taylor
Jamie Tomasko
Jeffrey Trupiano
Sarah Uglum
Vipin Varghese
Maria Yonan
Jennifer Zagorski

Stevenson High School

Lauren Abro
Jacob Adler
Alexis Altier
Melanie Asman
Esmeralda Azizi
Michele Barton
Elmira Bejtovic
Nathan Benoit
Katrina Berishaj
Michael Best
Matthew Blacker
Caitlyn Bourdeau
Kimberly Bryce
Kristina Caris
Marichelle Ching
Frankie Chiu
Alyssa Chrisman
Lauren Ciemniak
Katie Connelly
Jillian Cooper
Amy Copeland
Krystin Coulter
James Courtois
Jonathon Dameron
Alyssa D'Angelo
Elise DeLuca
Nipun Dhanraj
Aglaiia Didaskalos
Jason D'John
Matthew Evans
Donna Finn
Lindsay Frost
David Grabb
Darrell Gudenau
Lauren Gurnow
Nicole Hamameh
Spencer Heileman
Angela Hellow
Amanda Hessling
Jonathon Hohner
Ali Imtiaz
Patrick Isaac
Kaitlin Kaurich
Kathryn Kowalczyk
Samantha Kurzawa
Kristopher Kutskill
Caitlin Litz
Heather Lynn
Daniel Markovski
Alison Martineau
Danielle Mazur
Erin McBain
Jacklyn McFall
Samantha Meader
Fadi Michail
Rachel Morgan
Caitlin Mulligan
Bailey Neubauer
Amanda Newood
Ramanpreet Oberoi
Sara Pace
Jihee Park
Bhavdeep Patel
Shama Patel
Stephanie Perlaki
Amanda Photenhauer
Mohsin Qazi
Jessica Reading
Nicole Reedy
Erin Roberts
Sabrina Rose
Bruce Rottmann
Sebastian Saladiak
Alexandra Scofield
Samantha Selleke
Sarah Siemiontkowski

Manisha Singh
Christopher Skierski
Lindsay Slobodian
Bradley Smith
Anxhela Sota
Angela Soyad
Ann Srodon
Christina Staniszewski
Amanda Stephens
Julio Taormina
Melissa Tarter
Tra-My Ton
Jimmy Tran
Justyna Troczynski
Michelle Trojniak
Brittany Trudeau
Molly Waggamon
John Wells
Ashley Wilk
Eric Wilkins
Erik Wolf
Daina Wolner
Chelsea Wolocko
Eleanor Wong
Jack Woodberg
Erin Yeip
Alan Yu
Katie Zacharias
Irene Zhu
Andrej Zlateski

Utica High School

Bailey Agattas
Christopher Allick
Alexander Baril
Nicole Block
Alexandra Boucher
Aaron Breslow
Emi Bulica
Stephanie Campbell
Michelle Candela
Jane Cerovina
Kelsey Connor
Dennis Corsi
Kevin Couchman
James DeBene
Patricia DeLuca
Alyssa Duhr
Amanda Franklin
Robert Germeroth
Kyle Gill
Martin Gruca
Cassandra Herman
Kristina Hermann
Lisa Herta
Jordan Hessell
Stephen Jurcak
Bavneet Kaur
Jasdeep Khabra
Pawel Kotlarz
Michelle Krason
Michelle Lepinat
Peter Ludwig
Lucas Mathew
Drew Matz
Kelly McDonald
Anthony Mentz
Joshua Meyer
Angela Moore
Bryan Muchortow
Colin Mulka
Elaina Navock
Jillian Peterson
Derek Plotkowski
Maja Ristova
Courtney Rix
Kyra Roberts
Caryn Rochfort
Derek Sabiston
Stephanie Scott
Christophe Sigler
Lauren Sterrett
Ashley Supinsky
Sean Thomas
Kathryn Thudium
Bridgette VanTuyle
Karese Warfield
Matthew Welch
Robert Wendt
Kara Witting
Jessica Young
Candice Yousif
Chantal Yousif
Jamie Zade
Matthew Zedro
Allison Zentz

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Points of pride

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Sean Lambert, Austin Southwell, Drew Flippo, Brennan Brown, Chuck Wytrychowski, Kevin Shaughnessy

- **Bemis/Shelby/Harvey/Havel Cyber Dogs Recharged (Regional First Place, Research Quality): Merrick Vogt, Robert Henigan, Ryan Henigan, Akshdeep Dhaliwal, Luke Fraylick, Melanie Yahr, Ben LaPage, Gabe Moore, Melanie Moore**
Team Mentor Award—**Gary Yahr**
- **Jeannette Junior High Patriots (Regional First Place, Robot Programming; Second Place Overall): Navjot Batra, Mauricio Guzman, Brendan Riley, Olivia Sargent**



The UCS ThunderChickens captured the FIRST Robotics 2008 World Championship — the second time in three years that the UCS team won the global competition. Team members included:

- **Ford II**
Grade 12: **John Paul Bui, Jessica Habbouche, Daniel Jacobs, Jacki Juday, Kari Kilpela, Lauren Ritchie, Aaron Taylor, Sarah Uglum**

Grade 11: **Jonathan Bezenah, Shawn Hanser, Ryan Jones, Michael Marazano, Christopher McMullen, Joseph Quesada, Jason VanMaldeghem**

Grade 10: **Ashley Arscheene, Nicole Black, Amanda Duffy, Amanda Orban, Hayley Schuller, Lorand Varga**

- **Eisenhower:**
Grade 12: **Grant Cox**
Grade 11 **Shaun Tobiczky**
Grade 10: **Eric Cai, Joe Ferro, Chelsea Fournier, Daniel Rodak**

- **Stevenson:**
Grade 12: **Brett Ankawi, Ryan Boyle, James Courtois, Michael Harrison, Anthony Kraus, Sara Pace, Irene Zhu**
Grade 11: **Neal Gandhi, Melissa Hartlage, Christopher Zieja**
Grade 10: **Ryan Brown, Peter Frankman, Anthony Kazyaka, Sam Moore, Rebecca Pace, Jenna Ross, John Gurnow**

- **Utica HS:**
Grade 10: **Breanna Meyer, Katherine Syms, Bradley Vogt**

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received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship with an invitation to the WSU Honors College.

Ashley Wilk will study bioinformatics at Michigan Technological University. Her goal is to become a genetic counselor. She was a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology and was accepted to Harvard



University. Her other awards include The Macomb Daily Student of the Week, Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Finalist, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Littlest Angel Award, Michigan Promise Scholarship and Michigan Technological University Leading Scholars Award. She was the Key Club president and marching band trumpet section leader, took part in Student Council, National Honor Society, symphonic and concert bands, Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club, Spanish National Honor Society and AYSO soccer and organized a toy and blanket collection for Children's Hospital of Michigan. John and Lynn Wilk of Sterling Heights are her parents.

Erik Wolf will major in biochemistry at Grand Valley State University. He received the President's Award for Academic Excellence, Stevenson High School



Academic Scholar, Macomb County Class A All-Academic, Award of Excellence Scholarship, Award of Distinction Presidential Scholarship and Arend D. and Nancy Lubbers University Honors College Scholarship. He participated in Spanish Club, Spanish National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Key Club and Student Council. He is the son of Brian and Jeanne Wolf of Sterling Heights.

Irene Zhu will study engineering at the University of Michigan. She attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology and was on the



Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team and a Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Finalist. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship. She was a member of the 2008 World Champion ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics team and belonged to the Book Club and Environmental Club. Her parents are Guo Ping Zhu and Jing Wen Peng of Sterling Heights.

Stevenson Salutatorian

Bruce Rottmann is the son of Glenn Rottmann of Sterling Heights and Khrys Mainhardt of Alpena. He will major in business and management at Oakland University



with the goal of becoming an independent business owner. A student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology, his honors include the President's Award for Educational Excellence, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Academic Aces, the Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award and Michigan Promise Scholarship. He took part in Science Olympiad, Social Studies Olympiad, Spanish Club and was an elementary Science Olympiad mentor.

Utica High School Co-Valedictorians

Christopher Allick plans to study architecture at the University of



Detroit-Mercy with the goal of owning his own architectural firm. The son of Brian and Laura Attick of Sterling Heights, he received Outstanding Student awards in trigonometry and

architecture, the Michigan Merit Scholarship and the University of Detroit-Mercy Insignis Scholarship. He participated in the National Honor Society, golf and baseball.

Emi Bulica was admitted to the Medical Scholars program at Michigan State University and will major in biology with the goal of becoming a physician. Her honors include Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, Outstanding Mathematics Student,



Outstanding AP U.S. Government Student, Outstanding AP U.S. History Student, Honors English Student of the Year, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Michigan Merit Exam Scholarship and University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. Her activities were Key Club, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Peer Mediation, Macomb Teen Court, HEART (Health Education and Awareness Regarding Teens) and tutoring. Petrit and Edlira Bulica of Shelby Township are her parents.

Stephanie Campbell, the daughter of Joseph and Michele Campbell of Shelby Township, will pursue pre-medical and genetics studies at the University of Michigan. She plans to become

Malow named Blue Ribbon School

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in key criteria for school effectiveness and undergo an extensive site assessment of their programs and facilities.

In addition, schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the federal No Child Left Behind law and received a grade of A or B on the Michigan school report card program known as Education YES!

According to Kathleen Straus, President of the State Board of Education, "Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools are models of both excellence and equity. These schools must demonstrate a strong commitment to education excellence for all students."

The Malow staff, students and parents could not agree more. Principal Robert Hock said, "The entire Malow community is extremely proud... This award simply validates the

collective effort we put forth each and every day. Now, we must all accept the responsibility that comes with being an exemplary school and continue to adapt what we do to best meet the needs of our students in a rapidly changing world."

"Malow is like a second home to us, added student Shealyn Nosal. "Knowing that our home is one of the best just makes us even more thankful and proud to be a Malow Mustang."

Malow's addition brings to 22 the total number of Blue Ribbon schools within the Utica Community Schools district. The others are Crissman, Browning, DeKeyser, Ewell, Flickinger, Graebner, Harvey, Havel, Magahay, Messmore, Monfort, Roberts Schuchard, Schwarzkoff, West Utica and Walsh Elementary schools; Bemis and Shelby Junior High schools and Eisenhower, Ford II and Stevenson High schools.

Malow is Blue Ribbon proud!

Students (forefront) **Liz Diliberti, Shealyn Nosal, Sydney Machesky, Luke Valutis** and **Brandon Bartneck** were active on the school's Blue Ribbon Team that was led by (standing) assistant principals **Janice Settlemoir** and **Tom Yaw**; parents **Betty Nevitt, Annette Lepri** and **Deb Brown**; teacher **Kirstin Carolin**, Blue Ribbon report author; principal **Robert Hock** and teacher **Stacey Gierman**, Blue Ribbon chairperson. Student **Christina Nagel**, also a team member, was absent.



a doctor specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. Her honors include Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten, Macomb County Class A All-Academic, Notre Dame Scholar,



admittance to the honors programs at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan,

Michigan State University Distinguished Freshman Scholarship, Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship, Michigan Merit Scholarship and Michigan Achievement Award. Her activities include National Honor Society vice president, marching band, varsity band, All the World's a Stage, school musicals, school play, International Thespian Society, Key Club and AYSO soccer.

Dennis Corsi will attend Michigan State University. He was among the Top Ten at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology and received the



Rensselaer Medalist Scholarship, Michigan State University full tuition Alumni Distinguished

Scholarship and Presidential Scholarship for Hope. He was president of the International Thespian Society, National Honor Society president, and was active in drama productions, Book Club, Science Olympiad and Destination Imagination. His parents are Dean and Kim Corsi of Shelby Township.

Kevin Couchman will major in accounting at the University of Michigan with the goal of becoming a certified public accountant. The son of Robert and Paula Couchman of Shelby Township, he was on the



Honor Roll and received the Michigan Merit Scholarship, All-County Academic honors in

baseball and ice hockey and All-State All-Academic honors in ice hockey. He participated in varsity ice hockey, varsity baseball and Senior-Sophomore Mentoring.

Martin Gruca plans a career in dentistry or pharmaceuticals and will attend the University of Michigan, majoring in biochemistry. His awards include Outstanding Student in mathematics, Spanish, physics and Advanced Placement



U.S. history, Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Outstanding web design, Academic Ace, President's

Educational Excellence Award, Michigan Merit Scholarship and University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. He participated in JV and varsity tennis, Key Club and National Honor Society. He is the son of Miroslaw and Danuta Gruca of Utica.

Peter Ludwig will pursue computer science and electrical engineering at the University of Michigan in preparation for a career in advanced systems design.



The son of Howard and Esther Ludwig of Shelby Township, he has won numerous Science

Olympiad awards in regional and state competitions and was a finalist in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. He received the Regents Merit Scholarship from the University of Michigan. His activities include Science Olympiad, Business Professionals of America, Key Club and National Honor Society.

Derek Plotkowski will study biological sciences at the University of Notre Dame. His career goal is biological research. He was a Top



Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology and member of the Macomb County

and MAC Class A All-Academic teams. He is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and the University of Michigan Regents Scholarship. He was captain of the swimming team, Quiz Bowl team captain, and took part in track and field and Science Olympiad. Mark and Linda Plotkowski of Shelby Township are his parents.

Maja Ristova will attend Wayne State University or the University of Michigan to study pre-law and political science. She plans to become a lawyer. She received the Michigan Merit Scholarship,

Outstanding Medical Health and Science Award, Presidential Award



for Academic Excellence and is listed in the National Honor Roll and Who's Who Among American High

School Students. Key Club and National Honor Society were her activities. She is the daughter of Stojan and Suzana Ristova of Utica.

Derek Sabiston is interested in the engineering field and will attend the Michigan State University



Honors College to study engineering or business. The son of Shelby Township residents Michael and Jill

Sabiston, he received the Michigan Merit Scholarship, Michigan State University Honors College Scholarship, MSU Professional Assistantship and was named to the Macomb County All-Academic in ice hockey, cross-country and track and the State All-Academic in ice hockey. He participated in varsity ice hockey, track, cross-country and National Honor Society.

Christopher Sigler is the son of David and Judy Sigler of Shelby Township. He will pursue engineering at Michigan State



University. He is a National Merit Finalist, a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and

Technology and ranked 28th statewide in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. He received the Michigan State University Distinguished Freshman full tuition scholarship, National

Merit Scholarship, ASM International Scholarship and Regents Scholarship from the University of Michigan. His activities included National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl and varsity tennis.

Bridgette VanTuyle will study business at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and plans a career in sports marketing.



Her honors include Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team and Outstanding Calculus Student

of the Year. She received the Michigan Merit Scholarship and University of Illinois Achievement Scholarship. She was active in varsity tennis, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Sophomore-Senior Mentoring and German Club. She is the daughter of Jeffrey and Monica Van Tuyle of Shelby Township.

Matthew Welch will major in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan. His goal is a career in the practical application



of scientific knowledge. He received Student of the Year awards in biology and history and the

Michigan Promise Scholarship. He participated in varsity cross-country and track, jazz band and marching band. Shelby Township residents Timothy and Ingrid Welch are his parents.

Jessica Young plans to become a pediatrician and will major in biology at Saginaw Valley State University. The daughter of Douglas and Sheryl Young of Shelby Township, she was awarded

The Macomb Daily Student of the Week, All-Academic Team in swimming all four years, Saginaw



Valley State University Presidential Scholarship, Foundation Scholars Scholarship and

Michigan Promise Scholarship. She was a member of the National Honor Society and served as Student Council secretary, president of the Spanish National Honor Society and captain of the varsity swimming team.

Allison Zentz will enroll in pre-medical studies at the University of Detroit-Mercy in pursuit of a career as a physician



assistant. She received the University of Detroit-Mercy Insignis Scholarship and Michigan Merit

Scholarship. She was active in Health Education Awareness Regarding Teams (HEART) and the National Honor Society. Her parents are George and Susan Zentz of Shelby Township.

Utica Salutatorian

Joshua Meyer will study engineering at the University of Michigan. The son of Jeffrey and



Linda Meyer of Shelby Township, he attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and

Technology, was on the All-A Honor Roll and received the President's Award for Academic Excellence. He participated in Key Club, National Honor Society, JV baseball and Quiz Bowl.

Members of the Utica Community Schools Class of 2008 have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Adrian College

Albion College

Alma College

Aquinas College

Aquinas University

Arizona State University

Art Institute of Michigan

Augusta State University

Baker College

Ball State University

Benedictine University

Bethany Bible College

Boston University

Bowling Green State University

Brigham Young University

Brown University

Butler University

Calvin College

Carnegie Mellon University

Carthage University

Case Western Reserve University

Central Michigan University

Central State University

Clark Atlanta University

Clover Park Technical School

College for Creative Studies

Colorado School of Mines

Concordia University

Cornell University

Davenport University

DePaul University

DigiPen Institute of Technology

Duke University

Eastern Michigan University

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Fashion Institute of Design

and Merchandising

Ferris State University

Florida International University

Full-Sail University

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Valley State University

Harvard University

Heidelberg College

Hillsdale College

Hope College

Howard University

I.T.T. Tech School of Criminal Justice

Illinois Institute of Art

Illinois Institute of Technology

International Academy for Design

and Technology

Kalamazoo College

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Kent State University

Kettering University

Kirtland Community College

Lake Superior State University

Lawrence Tech University

Lawrence Technological University

Loyola University of Chicago

Macomb Community College

Madonna University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Miami University of Ohio

Michigan State University

Michigan Technological University

Middle Tennessee State University

Montana Technology University

Morehouse College

Morgan State University

New York University

Northern Illinois University

Northern Michigan University

Northwestern University

Northwood University

Oakland Community College

Oakland University

Ohio State University

Ohio University

Oklahoma State University

Olivet College

Penn State University

Princeton University

Providence College

Purdue University

Rochester College

Rollins College

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Saginaw Valley State University

School of Visual Arts

Siena Heights University

Southwestern Assemblies

of God University

Spring Arbor College

Tallahassee Community College

Temple University of Japan

Tiffin University

University of Central Florida

University of Chicago

University of Dayton

University of Detroit-Mercy

University of Hawaii at Hilo

University of Illinois

University of Michigan

University of Michigan-Dearborn

University of Mississippi

University of Nevada-Las Vegas

University of New Mexico

University of Northwestern Ohio

University of Notre Dame

University of Pennsylvania

University of Portland

University of South Carolina

University of Toledo

University of Vermont

Valley Forge Christian College

Valparaiso University

Vanderbilt University

Wayne State University

Western Michigan University

Outstanding UCS Teachers of 2008

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ceremony where Russell Moore was also named the Macomb County Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year.

The MISD annually sponsors the awards to recognize excellence in teaching at the elementary, junior high and senior high school levels. Teachers are nominated by their building principals, colleagues and parents of students, based on their demonstrated expertise in areas such as classroom planning and preparation, sustaining an environment for optimal learning, keeping pace with evolving knowledge of instruction and building relationships that advance student learning.

Melissa Kevonian is lauded by students and colleagues at Utica High School as both thorough and creative in her teaching methods. She stresses that learning must always be the goal, while managing to also make learning interesting and fun. She takes great care to adjust her approach to meet students' varied learning styles and abilities.

Her love for English and history shines through as she connects the two, bringing additional meaning and relevance to both. Kevonian encourages students to express their own feelings and views as they relate to Shakespearean literature, yet be analytical in recognizing structure, meaning and transition.

According to fellow Utica teacher, Kelly Watchowski, Kevonian leads students to not only better grasp AP course work, but to better understand the world outside their classroom as effective thinkers and more thoughtful, sensitive human beings.

Kevonian lends her time and talents freely so that students can excel. She sponsors the school's Quiz Bowl team and book club and is often found working with students after class. Said student Melissa Young, "Ms. Kevonian really takes time to help us... When

the senior English students had college essays to submit, she stayed after class for several days to read our papers and give us feedback so we could submit well-written papers. ...she really wants us to do our best, so that is what we try to give her."

Former student Amanda Thompson praised Kevonian's influence, and said she was "always trying to push us to see outside the box and ...explore how we personally could relate to people, prose or ideas. ...I would not be as confident a writer, or a person, for that matter, if I had not had Melissa Kevonian as my Advanced Placement English teacher."

Marsha Sevek is constantly in motion, whether working with students in her Shelby Junior High School art classes or attending classes to broaden her knowledge of art curriculum and add new skills to her teaching repertoire. On a district-wide level, she helped to develop a new 3-D Forms and Design class for eighth graders.

Sevek works to incorporate activities that demonstrate to students the relevancy of art in today's world. She has her ninth graders do an on-line research project on art-related careers. Correlating assignments might be designing a cover for a restaurant menu or a CD jacket for a favorite band. By exposing students to the higher education possibilities, they can envision the potential career value of their talents.

Sevek believes in showcasing her students' artwork outside of the classroom. For example, this past Christmas, her students in the Shelby JHS art club joined students from Utica High School in decorating a tree for the Festival of Trees fundraising benefit for Children's Hospital.

Embracing an art history theme, the students handcrafted detailed miniatures of iconic paintings, such as DaVinci's *Mona Lisa* or Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, as ornaments for their tree. So beautiful was the result that the tree sold for \$3,000 on opening day and placed second



Utica High School's **Melissa Kevonian**, (forefront) the district-wide Outstanding High School Teacher of the Year, leads a group of her Advanced Placement English Literature/Composition students through a reenactment of the final act of *Hamlet*. The students, all seniors, are (l-r) **Lucas Mathew, Robi Scarbrough, Stephanie Campbell, Helena Murphy** (kneeling), **Jake Wulbrecht** and **Derek Sabiston**.



UCS Junior High Teacher of the Year, **Marsha Sevek**; flanked by Shelby Junior High School ninth grade art students **Hunter Elie, David Tracy, Colleen Clark** and **Rebekah Thomas**; prepares to mat David's work in oil pastel.

in its category for creativity and excellence. It was also displayed at the hospital to cheer the young patients during the holiday season.

All ideas are welcome and worthy of consideration in Marsha Sevek's classroom, a place where students, including those with special needs, are made to feel valued and comfortable in expressing themselves. The comment of one student says it all, "I love her art class because I have so much fun with the projects and can make them however I want to make them."

Russell Moore has the distinction of being Macomb County's Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year, in addition to receiving the district's award. Moore's well-deserved accolades stem from both the model first grade classroom he creates at DeKeyser Elementary and his stature as a master teacher and mentor of other teachers. He has also authored a teachers' resource handbook on the use of early reading techniques and was instrumental in DeKeyser's process in becoming a Michigan Blue Ribbon School.

Drawing on his 33 years of experience as an educator in the United States and Great Britain, Moore is exceptionally skilled at instructing very young learners of different abilities and needs – know how that he readily shares, not only with teachers in our district, but at teaching seminars across North America through the Bureau of Education Research.

Each year, Moore creates in his classroom a child-centered environment geared to the learning styles of that particular group of children. But year to year, certain expectations remain his classroom trademarks – that of making laughter and fun part of every lesson; building a sense of honor, respect and community among his students; and having each child experience a leadership role.

Students take turns being classroom "advisor" for the day, wearing a special visor to signify their position. Moore gently models the behaviors he wants students to learn, including appropriate personal interactions and sensitivity toward others.

Learning to read and write take center stage in first grade, and Moore is adept at holding the children's interest by weaving someone's lost tooth, a family's new baby, a special visitor or other occasion into the lessons. DeKeyser parent Siobhan Whitehead credits her children's love of reading to Moore. "His innovative teaching techniques are such that both boys were able to become extremely successful readers, writers and learners," she said.

Russell Moore's impact is such that parents hope to have him as their child's teacher, fellow teachers seek his advice and he becomes so much a part of his students' lives, that, long after first grade, many return to show him their accomplishments.

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.



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Visit 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.

Schools of Choice enrollment available for the 2008-2009 school year

Utica Community Schools is offering the advantage of its quality programs to every student residing in Macomb County through Schools of Choice enrollment.

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

Schools of Choice students do not pay tuition because the school district receives the state per-pupil foundation grant of approximately \$7,700 for each child enrolled.

Call 586.797.1120 to apply for enrollment.