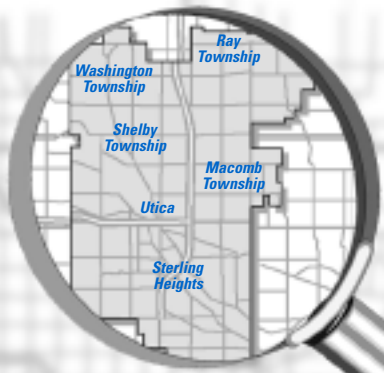


# FOCUS for the community



A Publication for the Residents of Utica Community Schools

## From the Superintendent...



by Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

### Achievements and challenges mark the school year closing

Our 2008-2009 school year is complete. And while I prefer to look ahead rather than behind, the summer provides an opportunity to assess where we started the year, even as we plan for the next.

The school year ended on a high note, as more than 2,000 outstanding young men and women received their high school diplomas. The Class of 2009 distinguished itself through its accomplishments – in academics and athletics, fine and performing arts and community service.

These newest graduates of this great school district face a world unlike any we have ever known. But they are prepared to take on any challenge, because their education has already provided them with the ability to solve problems and be adaptable, creative and persistent. Unlike any generation before, these young adults have the ability to recreate the world in which we all will live.

This school year has been filled with both achievement and challenge throughout the district. Six more of our schools have earned

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2009!

### Bright futures ahead –

Proudly representing this year's 2,163-member graduating class from the Utica Community Schools is this group of Henry Ford II High School seniors. Wearing spirit-themed shirts to celebrate the close of their high school careers, the graduates shared another common theme – the prospect of bright futures that are the result of their own hard work, plus the strong academic preparation they received in UCS.

Pictured are (l-r) **Jimmy Lawson, Rachel Wisniewski, Kevin Wojciechowski, Sana Ashraf, Michael Manzo, Crystal Tayah, Robert Binder and Melanie Hardin** – all of whom are bound for college.

Jimmy plans a career as a psychotherapist and will attend Siena Heights University on soccer and academic scholarships. Rachel will attend Wayne State University to pursue a career in the medical field. Kevin will study to become an emergency medical technician at Macomb Community College and later plans to complete a nursing degree. Sana wants to write for the New York Times and will major in communications and journalism at the University of Michigan. Michael plans to become a prosecuting attorney and will



study pre-law and criminal justice at Michigan State University. Crystal will pursue studies at Wayne State University to become a pharmacist. Robert will major in engineering and political science at Michigan State University with the goal of working in the federal government as a civil engineer. Melanie will pursue biology and pre-medical studies at Michigan State

University's Lyman Briggs Honors College and plans to become an orthopedic surgeon. Best wishes to them and to all of our graduates as they take their places as young adults in the global society.

Profiles of the valedictorians and salutatorians from Eisenhower, Ford II, Stevenson and Utica High schools, along with class highlights, begin on page 2.

## UCS Outstanding Teachers of the Year

### Istok named Macomb County's Junior High Teacher of 2009

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." So said Mark van Doren, Columbia University scholar and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet.

Three such artists – masters in the craft of assisting students to discover abilities within themselves – were named Outstanding Teachers of 2009 in Utica Community Schools. They are **Laurie Pritchard**, fourth grade teacher at Beacon Tree Elementary School; **Harry Istok**, Malow Junior High School drafting and woods teacher; and **Christopher Layson**, who teaches World Studies at the Utica Academy for International Studies, the district's International Baccalaureate World School.

They were honored this spring by the Board of Education and at an awards ceremony



Beacon Tree Elementary School's **Laurie Pritchard**, the UCS elementary-level Teacher of the Year, is lauded by colleagues and parents alike for her exceptional knack for giving each child just the right kind of attention he or she needs. Here she is working with students (l-r) **Andrew Ratiu, Delanie Miller, Owen Hoyt, Rebecca Zaleski and Katie Faloon** on a metric system unit. The fourth graders are learning to measure objects using meter sticks and convert centimeters to meters.

sponsored by the Macomb Intermediate School District, where Istok was also named Macomb County's Junior High School Teacher of the Year.

Teachers can be nominated for the annual award by their building principals, other teachers, parents and students,

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**Utica Community Schools**  
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## Utica Community Schools Class of 2009 leaves a proud legacy

After completing a rigorous academic program, this year's 2,163 graduates of the Utica Community Schools, our Class of 2009, received their diplomas on May 31 at the Palace of Auburn Hills to the applause of family and friends.

The graduates of the district's four high schools – Eisenhower, Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Utica – compiled an impressive educational record, distinguishing themselves in many ways, including:

- 376 were named Academic Scholars by the Board of Education for maintaining grade point averages of 3.67 or above in a rigorous academic program throughout their high school career while taking part in extracurricular and/or service activities

- 431 were inducted into the National Honor Society
- 54 completed advanced academic studies at the competitive Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology
- 95 percent of those surveyed plan to further their education
- scholarships totaling more than \$10 million were earned by members of the class
- 138 earned distinction as Advanced Placement Scholars for having attained a 3.67 GPA in four or more Advanced Placement classes
- 91 achieved co-valedictorian (4.0 GPA of higher) or salutatorian status at their schools and are profiled below.

Professional Assistantship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. He participated in the Key Club, German Club and Animal Welfare Club. Brian and Kathy Larsen of Macomb Township are his parents.

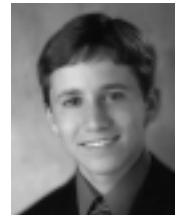
**Kathryn Lauzon**, daughter of Thomas and Sally Lauzon of Shelby Township, will study pre-medicine at the University of Michigan. An



Eagle Scholar, she received the President's Educational Excellence Award, Advanced Placement

Scholar Award and Michigan Promise Scholarship. Her activities included French Club, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society and Key Club.

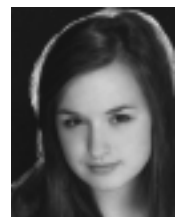
**Michael Lotito** plans to become a certified public accountant and will study business at Oakland University or the University of



Michigan. He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Eagle Scholar, Advanced

Placement Scholar and Presidential awards. A member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Club, he played varsity tennis, bowling and JV baseball. He is the son of Mike and Sandy Lotito of Macomb Township.

**Kaillie Meguiar** seeks a career in the medical or biomedical field and will pursue biology and pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. She attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science



and Technology and is a Michigan Mathematics Prize Round Two qualifier. Her honors include Advanced

Placement Scholar, Macomb County Class A All-Academic, Eagle Scholar and All Macomb County Academic Team for cross-country and track. She received the U-M Regents Scholarship and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. She participated in National Honor Society, varsity track and captained the varsity cross-country team. Shelby Township residents Michael and Tracy Meguiar are her parents.

**Elizabeth Messenger** will major in chemistry and pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan with the intent of becoming a physician specializing in oncology or

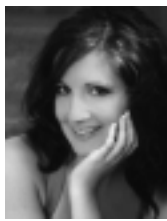


neurology. Her scholarships include STATES, Michigan State Professorial Assistantship, Michigan

Promise and U-M Regents. She received an Exemplary Citizenship Award and was named to the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Advanced Placement Scholars and Ike's Brightest. Her activities included National Honor Society, Spanish Club, cross-country and varsity basketball. Dr. Jeffrey and Patty Messenger of Shelby Township are her parents.

### Eisenhower High School Co-Valedictorians

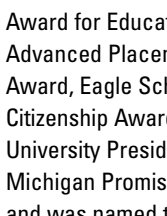
**Erica Avesian** is the daughter of Greg and Maria Avesian of Shelby Township. She will enroll in the



University of Michigan to pursue study in the fields of communication, business and French with the

goal of working for a magazine. Her awards include Eagle Scholar, Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Award, Advanced Placement Scholar and the Michigan Promise and Wesner Show scholarships. She was active in varsity dance team, Student Council, National Honor Society, French Club, French National Honor Society, Yearbook, Key Club and school musicals.

**Steven Bareis** resides in Shelby Township with his parents, David and Suzanne Bareis. He plans to study history and pre-law at Oakland University and wants to become a constitutional attorney, ideally for the Supreme Court. A National Merit Commended Scholar, he received the Presidential



Award for Educational Excellence, Advanced Placement Scholar Award, Eagle Scholar, Exemplary Citizenship Award, Oakland University Presidential Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship and was named to the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team. A violist in the school orchestra, he was also president of the German Club and a National Honor Society member.

**Brieanne Bartneck** will take engineering and pre-medical courses at the University of Michigan and plans to become a biomedical engineer or an



anesthesiologist. She received the Michigan Promise, Michigan Merit and U-M School of Engineering scholarships. Her awards include Eagle Scholar, Above 4.0 GPA, Exemplary Math Award, President's Award for Educational Excellence and Advanced Placement Scholar. The daughter of Bryan and Janice Bartneck of Shelby Township, she took part in theatre, varsity dance

team, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Student Council and Student News.

**Michelle Blain** is the daughter of Mary and Michael Blaine of Shelby Township. She will major in pre-medicine and French at the University of Michigan.



Her activities included three years of varsity basketball and track and field, National

Honor Society parliamentarian and French Club executive board. An Advanced Placement Scholar, she was also an Eagle Scholar and member of the French National Honor Society and received the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

**Daniel Buhlinger** plans to become a medical doctor and will study chemistry and biochemistry



at Michigan State University. The awards he earned were Advanced Placement Scholar with

honors, President's Award for Academic Excellence and Eagle Scholar. He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Macomb Community College Scholarship. He took part in National Honor Society, French Club, French National Honor Society and JV soccer. His parents are James and Patricia Buhlinger of Macomb Township

**Kaitlyn Buhlinger** plans a career in pharmacology or research and will study chemistry and biology at Michigan State University Lyman

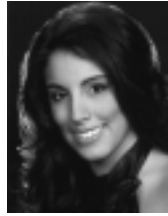


Briggs honors college. The daughter of James and Patricia Buhlinger of Macomb

Township, her awards include President's Award for Educational Excellence, All-State Academic swimming and volleyball teams, Student of the Month, Advanced Placement Scholar, Eagle Scholar and Macomb County All-Academic Team nominee. Her activities were varsity swimming and volleyball, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Spanish National Honor Society.

**Whitney DebRoy**, daughter of Donna DebRoy of Shelby Township, will pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan.

A member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Key Club,



she received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Advanced Placement Scholar,

Exemplary Citizenship, academic and Ike's Brightest awards.

**Kaitlyn DeIBene** resides in Shelby Township with her parents, Frederick and Barbara DeIBene. She will attend the University of



Michigan or Loyola University of Chicago. She received the following honors: National Merit Commended

Student, Advanced Placement Scholar with honors, Eagle Scholar and Macomb County All-Academic Team. She took part in Student Council, National Honor Society and Project Outreach and earned the U-M Regents Scholarship and Loyola University's Presidential Achievement Scholarship.

**Melissa Diliberti**, daughter of Thomas and Rhonda Diliberti of Shelby Township, will attend the University of Michigan where



she will study international relations and pre-law. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

Her honors include Eagle Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, Macomb Student of the Week, LeadAmerica, Eisenhower Student of the Month, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association State Solo and Ensemble Division I. She was Student Council president, National Honor Society secretary, marching band section leader and a member of the French Club Executive Board, French National Honor Society, Principal's Advisory Board and orchestra pit for school musicals. She was also a tutor and childhood cancer volunteer.

**Simone Fabiilli** will attend Wayne State University on scholarship and plans a career helping others.



The honors she received are Editorial Leadership and High School Leadership awards, Advanced Placement Scholar and the President's Educational Excellence

Award. A member of the National Honor Society, Drama Club and International Thespian Society, she appeared in several school theatre productions and received ratings of excellent and superior at the Michigan Thespian Festival. She participated in yearbook, Student News, track and cross-country, earning a varsity letter and conference, county and regional medals in track. Gennaro and Adelaide Fabiilli of Macomb Township are her parents.

**Elisa Fusco** resides in Shelby Township with her parents, Ray and Rita Fusco. She plans to become a teacher and will attend Oakland University's honors college to major



in elementary education. She received the Oakland University Distinguished Scholar Award

and the Michigan Promise Scholarship, as well as Advanced Placement Scholar, Outstanding Citizenship and President's Scholar awards. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the French National Honor Society and a Future Educator and feature editor of the school newspaper.

**Jessica Lapworth**, daughter of Michael and Yvonne Lapworth of Shelby Township, plans to become an orthopedic surgeon and will



pursue pre-med studies at the University of Michigan. An Eagle Scholar and Advanced Placement

Scholar, she earned the Michigan Promise Scholarship and the Community Choice Credit Union Scholarship. She took part in Student Council, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Spanish National Honor Society and played varsity basketball.

**Dane Larsen** plans a career in pharmacology or biotechnology research and will attend Michigan State University to major in



biotechnology or microbiology. A Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and

Technology and an Advanced Placement Scholar, he was named to the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team. He earned the MSU Honors College State Scholarship and MSU

**Sandy Ng**, daughter of Kin On and Wan Ming Ng of Shelby Township, will attend the University of Michigan, majoring in biochemistry.



Her awards include Eagle Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar with honor, Michigan Promise Scholarship and Macomb Community College Leadership Scholarship. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Spanish National Honor Society and the school orchestra.

**Alyssa Nowak** will major in pre-medicine and biochemistry at Florida State University and seeks a career in the medical field in



pediatrics. She received these honors: Utica Community Schools Academic Scholar, Spanish

Student of the Year, Advanced Placement Scholar, National Honor Society and Outstanding Citizenship. Her scholarships include Michigan Merit Award, Drexel University Dean's Scholarship and Trustee Award and Florida State University Tuition Reduction and 21st Century Scholarships. She was active in Student Council, Spanish Club and varsity cheerleading. Keith and Sandy Nowak of Shelby Township are her parents.

**Sarah Nutt** is the daughter of Ken and Judy Nutt of Shelby Township. She plans a career in teaching



and will pursue a degree in education, majoring in English at the University of Michigan.

She was an Eagle Scholar and an Advanced Placement Scholar and took part in Spanish Club and cross-country. She received the Michigan Promise, Gleaners and University of Michigan Regional Merit scholarships.

**Marisa Pacella** will attend the University of Michigan. She received the President's Award for Academic Excellence, Eagle



Scholar Award, Advanced Placement Scholar Award, University of Michigan Regent's

Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship and was named to the Macomb County All-Academic Team for cross-country and track. She was active in National Honor Society, French Club, French National Honor Society, cross-country and track and field. Joe and Nancy Pacella of Shelby Township are her parents.

**Megan Para**, daughter of Bill and Kathy Para of Shelby Township,



will attend the University of Notre Dame, where she will enroll in pre-medical and biological

sciences in preparation to become a medical doctor. She received

these honors: Macomb County All-Academic Team, National Merit Commended Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, Academic Scholar, Citizenship Award, President's Award for Educational Excellence, Scholarship Award and Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society First Place. Her scholarships include Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, Michigan Merit Scholarship, Notre Dame Club of Detroit Scholarship, University of Michigan Regents Scholarship, Michigan State University Honors College and Alumni Distinguished Scholarships. She was captain of the varsity dance team, an officer in the French National Honor Society, editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and took part in National Honor Society, Student Council, Performing Company, varsity all-star dance and tutoring.

**Larysa Radlowski** will attend the University of Michigan or Cornell University to pursue pre-medical and creative writing with the



career goals of psychiatry and book author. Her awards include Eagle Scholar, Scholastic Writing National

Gold Reward, Stellar Scholars Writing Award, Advanced Placement Scholar with distinction and Poetry Publications Finalist. She received the Michigan Merit Award and U-M Regents, LSA and Shipman scholarships. Her activities were Science Olympiad, Social Studies Olympiad, varsity swimming, Spanish Club officer, Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, yearbook and writing. She is the daughter of Washington Township residents Jack and Evana Radlowski.

**Lauren Rossi** will study psychology at Wayne State University. The daughter of Dennis and Julmarie Rossi of Washington Township, she was in the National Honor Society and French Club and received the



President's Award for Educational Excellence, Advanced Placement Scholar, Eagle Scholar, several A+ awards and the Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship.

**Adam Rothstein** will study medicine at the University of Michigan and plans to become a physician. An Eisenhower Academic Scholar and an Advanced Placement Scholar,



he received the President's Award for Educational Excellence and was named to the Macomb

County All-Academic Team and the All-State Academic Team for ice hockey. He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship and played varsity ice hockey. Larry and Brenda Rothstein of Shelby Township are his parents.

**Anthony Sanna**, son of Anthony and Pamela Sanna of Shelby Township, plans to attend medical

school and will enroll in kinesiology at the University of Michigan. He took part in Show Choir, lacrosse, the Drama Club sound and stage crews, National Honor Society and was German Club secretary. He was selected



for the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team and received the President's Award for Educational Excellence, the Michigan Promise Award and U-M Regents Merit Scholarship.

**Rashmi Satapathy** will study international relations, foreign languages, communications and economics at Michigan State University. The daughter of



Bijay and Uma Satapathy of Macomb Township, she was an Eagle Scholar and received the

German Gymnasium Letter of Appreciation. She participated in Youth for Understanding as an exchange student to Germany and volunteer. She was vice president of the German Club, and belonged to the National Honor Society, Spanish Club and National Spanish Honor Society.

**Sarah Smolinski**, daughter of Stephen and Margaret Smolinski of Shelby Township, will major in chemistry or biology at the University of Michigan.



An Advanced Placement Scholar, she attended the Utica Center for Mathematics,

Science and Technology and was named to the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team and recognized by the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search. She received Michigan Merit Exam and U-M Regents Merit scholarships, and was active in National Honor Society, Key Club and Spanish Club.

**Dana Szymkowicz** will study chemistry on a volleyball scholarship at Macomb Community College with the goal of becoming



a pharmacist, lab technician or pathologist assistant. She was an Advanced Placement Scholar and an

Eagle Scholar and took part in Drama Club, International Thespian Society, National Honor Society and Spanish Club and captained the volleyball team. She is the daughter of Patrick and Christine Szymkowicz of Shelby Township.

**Rosa Tolomello**, daughter of Salvatore and Vincenza Tolomello of Macomb Township, will attend



Oakland University. She received the OU Distinguished Scholar Award Scholarship and Michigan

Promise Scholarship, as well as Eagle Scholar Award, Scholastic Award, Language Arts Award and President's Educational Excellence

Award. She was active in volleyball, National Honor Society and Spanish Club.

**Michael VanHall** will attend the honors program at the University of Michigan to study biochemistry with the goal of becoming a



surgeon. He received the Michigan Merit Exam Scholarship and attended the Utica Center for

Mathematics, Science and Technology. His honors include Eagle Scholar, Macomb County All-Academic Team and Advanced Placement Scholar. He participated in National Honor Society, Key Club, French Club and French National Honor Society. Macomb Township residents Dennis and Kim VanHall are his parents.

**Kelley Van Maldeghem** plans to become an oncology nurse and will major in nursing and minor



in English at the University of Michigan. The daughter of Shelby Township residents Gary and Rose

Van Maldeghem, she received the President's Award for Educational Excellence, National Society of High School Scholars Award, All-A and National Honor Roll, United States Achievement Academy Academic Award, Advanced Placement Scholar, Eagle Scholar and Who's Who

Among American High School Students. She received scholarships from Oakland, Loyola and Western Michigan universities and the Michigan Merit Award. She was active in tennis, Student Senate, yearbook, Key Club, Project Outreach, National Honor Society and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

**Tanu Verma**, daughter of Dr. Ravi and Hardish Verma of Shelby Township, will pursue biochemistry and premedical studies at the



University of Michigan and plans to become a physician, surgeon or anesthesiologist. She was in the

Top Ten at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology and received the Michigan Merit Scholarship and the U-M Regents Merit Scholarship. Her awards include Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Eagle Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part II, National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She was vice president of Students Against Destructive Decisions, and took part in Project Outreach, Key Club and Spanish Club

**Kayla Werner** plans to become a pediatric nurse and was accepted to the Direct Admit Nursing Program at Oakland University. The daughter of Kevin and Jacqueline

*continued on page 4*

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

*Michigan Exemplary School status, bringing to 28 the number to achieve this prestigious academic designation.*

*One of our students attained a perfect score on the ACT, the national test which colleges and universities use to assess college readiness. Both the Utica Center for Science and Industry and the Utica Academy for International Studies (International Baccalaureate) opened this year, providing outstanding new learning opportunities for our students.*

*And, after less than a year since its opening, the Academy has been named an International Baccalaureate World School – the first in Macomb County to receive the designation – attesting that it meets the rigorous standards set by the International Baccalaureate Organization.*

*The College Culture we have diligently worked to develop in Utica Community Schools is taking hold. Academic achievement continues to improve, the result of our emphasis on preparing our students to pursue studies after high school graduation.*

*Our residents supported our efforts by approving a \$112.5 million bond issue to provide funding for enhanced classroom technology, maintenance and security upgrades and projects such as an electronic collaboration classroom at Stevenson High School and a new media center at Utica High School to bring educational parity to students.*

*There were challenges this school year, as well. The greatest of these is our continued state funding crisis. Michigan and the rest of our nation face the most significant economic challenge since the Great Depression. Here in Macomb County, long-established companies like General Motors and Chrysler are changed forever.*

*Although Utica Community Schools has a long history of measured and meaningful budget practices, we, too, have been forced to make difficult financial decisions. Because our work with children involves people and is so labor intensive, we have had to make very painful decisions to reduce our staff and do more with less.*

*Still, one thing will remain the same for the coming school year – our dedication to our students and the effort we make to provide for them the very best educational program in Macomb County and the state of Michigan.*

## Points of pride

This spring, 176 students from the district's Adult Education, Utica Learning Academy and Utica Center for Applied Learning alternative education programs received their high school diplomas.



At the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association tournament, **Samantha Mitchelson**, a Malow Junior High ninth grader, placed first among 24 students state-wide in her category and was one of eight competitors (of 381) to earn a perfect score. Utica High senior **Aaron Pickett** captured first place in the most rigorous category, Interpretation Pentathlon, which requires mastery of five literature selections.



Following a competitive state-wide audition, two Eisenhower students – trumpeter **Justin Makarewicz** and cellist **Megan Chartier** – were named to the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association All State Band and Orchestra.



Five UCS teachers have been chosen by the College Board to join educators from around the globe as national readers of this year's Advanced Placement exams: **Maury Allmacher** (Henry Ford II – AP U.S. History), **Mary Blain** (Eisenhower – AP French), **Steven Domke** (Utica HS – AP U.S. Government), **Christopher Layson** (Utica Academy for International Studies – AP World History) and **Travis Mulhaupt** (Eisenhower – AP Biology).



Three Eisenhower students were admitted to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choir – sophomores **Danielle Ogden** and **Joshua King** and junior **Mary Mattingly**.



For her use of classroom technology, Jeannette Junior High teacher **Patricia Murray** received a \$5,000 Best Buy Teach Award to provide students with additional learning opportunities.



Forty three UCS students were honored at the annual regional Macomb/St. Clair/Lapeer Scholastic Art Competition, earning 29 Gold Keys, 21 Silver Keys and 13 special awards.



Volunteers **Dorothy Drake** (Schwarzkoﬀ Elementary), **Linda Johnson** (Crissman Elementary, Malow and Eisenhower) and **Stan Maksymiuk** (Eisenhower football) were recognized by the Board of Education for each providing 20 years of service to "their" schools, helping to enrich the educational experiences of countless students.

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Werner of Macomb Township, she was an Eagle Scholar and took part in Student Council and National



Honor Society. Her scholarships include Oakland University Distinguished Scholar, University

of Detroit-Mercy Insignis, Wayne State University Presidential, Macomb Community College High School Leadership Award and Michigan Promise Scholarship.

**Julie Wilt** will enroll in pre-pharmacy at Michigan State University and plans to become a pharmacist. She received Advanced Placement Scholar and



Eagle Scholar awards and was named to the Macomb County All-Academic Team for cross-country. She also

participated in soccer and was a Spanish National Honor Society member, National Honor Society treasurer and an officer in the Spanish Club. She is the daughter of Chuck and Sue Wilt of Macomb Township.

### Eisenhower Salutatorian

**Jillian Tacia** will study at Grand Valley State University to become a physician's assistant. She was an Eagle Scholar, Advanced Placement



Scholar and a member of the Macomb County All-Academic Team. She received the

Michigan Merit Award and Grand Valley Award of Excellence and Award of Distinction scholarships. The daughter of Ronald and Carol Tacia of Shelby Township, she took part in Students Against Destructive Decisions, Key Club, National Honor Society, band, Spanish Club and JV tennis.

### Henry Ford II High School Co-Valedictorians

**Jonathan Bezenah** will attend Wayne State University, majoring in biomedical engineering and pre-medical study. His goal is to



become a surgeon. He was a student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and

Technology (UCMST), an Advanced Placement Scholar, member of the world champion Utica Community Schools ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics team and scored in the top ten percent in the Michigan Mathematics Prize competition. The son of Robert and Renee Bezenah of Sterling Heights, he received the Wayne State Presidential and College of Engineering scholarships, Kettering University Presidential Scholarship and Macomb Community College Scholastic Award. He was vice-president of engineering and manufacturing for the ThunderChickens, co-president of the UCMST Activities Council and participated in varsity tennis, National Honor Society and Spanish Club.

**Krista Bur** will study psychology at the Michigan State University Honors College and plans to achieve a research doctorate and become a university professor. She received a STATE scholarship and professional assistantship



from Michigan State. Her awards include All-A Honor Roll, National Honor Society, Advanced Placement Scholar, five-time Destination Imagination Global Finalist and Student of the Month. She was a Key Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions board member and active as a Kick-Off Mentor, and in Destination Imagination, Spanish Club, dance and swimming. Her parents are Beth Bur of Sterling Heights and Jim Bur of Macomb Township.

**Holly Godden**, daughter of Sterling Heights residents Kurt and Angela Godden, will attend the honors program at the University of



Michigan. She will major in English and plans a career in counseling. Her awards include National Merit

Commended Student, Advanced Placement Scholar, French National Honor Society, National Honor Society, All-A Honor Roll, Student of the Month, Falcon Scholar, United States Achievement Academy, National Society of High School Scholars, Macomb County All-Academic Team. She received the Michigan Merit Award and scholarships to the honors programs at Kansas, Minnesota, North Carolina and Northern Michigan universities. She was active in the Book, Drama, Ecology and Key clubs, pit orchestra and the French Club Executive Board.

**Beth Kuczma**, daughter of Richard and Joan Kuczma of Sterling Heights, will attend Wayne State University with the goal of becoming an occupational



therapist. A National Honor Society and Delta Epsilon Phi member and an Advanced Placement

Scholar and Falcon Scholar, she received a Phi Beta Kappa Certificate of Recognition and Wayne State University Presidential and Detroit Association Phi Beta Kappa scholarships. Her activities were marching band clarinet section leader; pit orchestra for musicals; musician for plays; Solo and Ensemble Festival; pep band; Michigan Youth Arts Festival Outstanding Soloist nominee; Dresh, Gonda and Demas instrumental music awards; Eastern Michigan University woodwind clinic, Key Club; German Club; Students Taking Action Together in Christ (STATIC) and Falcon Student Advisory Board.

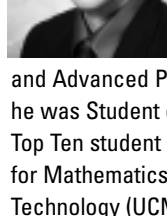
**Caitlin Leslie** will major in geology at Grand Valley State University with the goal of becoming an environmental scientist or geologist. The daughter of Kevin and Penny Leslie of Macomb, she received the Grand Valley State University Award for Excellence and

Presidential scholarships and these awards: National Honor Roll, Who's



Who Among American High School Students, Falcon Scholar and Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team. Her activities included freshman mentor, varsity dance team, elementary school psychology mentor, National Honor Society, Key Club secretary, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Spanish Club, tutoring and the Ford II TV show.

**Michael Maranzano**, son of Frank and Theresa Maranzano of Sterling Heights, plans to become a surgeon and will major in biomedical engineering at Duke University in North Carolina. A National Honor



Society member and Advanced Placement Scholar, he was Student of the Month, a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST) and scored in the Top 100 of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. His activities were ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics Team vice-president of public relations and marketing, co-president of the UCMST Activities Council, French Club executive board, varsity tennis, Lego Robotics mentor and tutoring.

**Christopher McMullen** plans a career in biochemical research or engineering and will attend the University of Michigan to study



biomedical engineering. A Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST) Top Ten

student, he received these awards: National Merit Commended Student, member of the ThunderChickens FIRST Robotics 2008 World Champion and 2009 World Finalist teams, National French Test bronze medalist, French National Honor Society Writing Contest finalist, Falcon Scholar and Advanced Placement Scholar. He received the Elks Foundation, Michigan Merit Award and U-M Regents scholarships and was the ThunderChickens' Chief Executive Officer and served on the French Club Executive Board and the UCMST Activities Council. Thomas and Maria McMullen of Sterling Heights are his parents.

**Bianca Nobani** will pursue pre-medical studies at Wayne State University with the goal of becoming a pediatrician. She



received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Wayne State Presidential Scholarship.

She's a Falcon Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, National Honor Society member, and All-Academic in tennis. Her activities included tennis team captain, track, Spanish Club board member, Key Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Fitness Club. She is the daughter of Theresa Nobani of Sterling Heights and Ahid Nobani.

**Jessica Page** seeks careers both as a medical doctor specializing in neonatology or oncology and as an art therapist. She will enroll in



psychology and pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. She received the Michigan Promise

Scholarship and earned the following awards: All-A Honor Roll, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Advanced Placement Scholar, Falcon Scholar and Scholastic Art Awards Gold Key. She belonged to the Key Club and track team and was active in numerous community service organizations.

**Anthony Valitutti** will major in biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan and plans a career in anesthesiology. The



son of Dale and Linda Valitutti of Sterling Heights, he attended the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and

Technology, and was a National Honor Society member and an Advanced Placement Scholar. He participated in varsity soccer.

### Ford II Co-Salutatorians

**Zlatan Cizmich** plans to become a neurosurgeon and pursue pre-medical studies at Wayne State University. He received the



Michigan Merit, Wayne State Presidential and Metro PCS scholarships. His awards include National Honor

Society, Falcon Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar and All-Academic Swimming Team. He took part in soccer, varsity swimming, Spanish Club and Student Against Destructive Decisions. He is the son of Sterling Heights residents Edin and Vesna Cizmich.

**Aerin Klump**, daughter of Roger and Laura Klump of Sterling Heights, will major in physics and mathematics at Michigan State University and plans an engineering



career. She was a Falcon Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, National Honor Society member and on

the All-A Honor Roll. She received the Michigan Promise and Sterling Heights Community Foundation scholarships. Her activities included the marching, jazz, concert and symphonic bands; symphonic orchestra, wind ensemble, school musicals and plays, Key Club and French Club.

### Stevenson High School Co-Valedictorians

**Haza Ahmed** will attend Oakland University to major in pre-medical



studies. He plans a career in internal medicine. The son of Yousuf and Farhana Ahmed of Sterling Heights, he

received the Academic Aces

award, Central Michigan University Academic Elite Honor Scholarship and Oakland University Academic Achievement Award.

**Elizabeth Bartz** is interested in becoming a book editor, actress or playwright and will major in English and theatre at Ohio Wesleyan University. Her awards include



Advanced Placement Scholar, Academic Aces, National Vocabulary Championship

competitor and National Honor Society, where she was on the Board of Directors. She earned the Trustee and Theatre Merit scholarships and Schubert Honors Award. She was active in drama, Satin Starlights choir, forensics, Gender Equality Club and Gay-Straight Alliance. Michael and Pamela Bartz of Sterling Heights are her parents.

**Lina Basal**, daughter of Dr. Abbott Basal and Omaira Yousef Basal of Sterling Heights, will major in pre-dental and French at Wayne State University with the goal of



becoming a pediatric dentist. An Advanced Placement Scholar and Academic Ace, she received

the Wayne State Presidential Scholarship and full tuition awards from Oakland, Michigan-Dearborn and Detroit-Mercy universities. She was a member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Face AIDS and French Club.

**Christopher Dolan** will pursue biochemistry at the University of Michigan and plans to become a pharmacist. He was a Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and



Technology, a National Merit Commended Student, on the Macomb Community College Dean's

List, a Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part I finalist and Stevenson Academic Ace and Advanced Placement Scholar.

He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and William Hamby George and Libbie Beck George Scholarship. He was involved in National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Key Club, wrestling and track. Shawn and Maria Dolan of Sterling Heights are his parents.

**Anca Fenesanu** will attend Michigan State University and pursue pre-medical studies. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National



Honor Society and Academic Aces. She received the Michigan State University Assistance

Grant and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. The daughter of Adrian and Marcela Fenesanu of Sterling Heights, she was active in varsity tennis, Spanish Club and Key Club.

**Matthew Hein** will attend Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, to major in electrical engineering, his career goal. A member of the National



Honor Society and Academic Aces, he was a Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top

Ten student, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part I finalist, Advanced Placement Scholar and Macomb County Class A All-Academic selection. He received a Rose-Hulman Institute Academic Scholarship and took part in Computer Club and Science Olympiad as a competitor and event coach. His parents are David and Julie Hein of Sterling Heights.

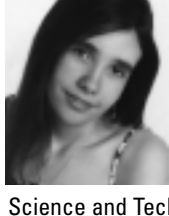
**Christopher Horton** will attend the University of Michigan to major in engineering with the goal



of a career in bioengineering or biotechnology. A Top Ten student at the Utica Center for

Mathematics, Science and Technology, he is a National Merit Commended Student, an Advanced Placement Scholar, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part I finalist, Academic Scholar and member of the Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team. He earned the Michigan Promise Scholarship and U-M Regents Merit Scholarship. He was in Chess Club and served as co-leader of the Computer Club. He resides in Sterling Heights with his parents, Wesley and Marria Horton.

**Amelia Lamkin**, the daughter of William and Mary Lamkin of Sterling Heights, plans to become a general physician and will pursue pre-medical studies at the University



of Michigan. An Advanced Placement Scholar, she attended the Utica Center for

Mathematics, Science and Technology, and was a member of the Spanish Club and the Spanish National Honor Society. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

**Dana Litz** will attend the University of Michigan to major in biomedical engineering, a field she plans to make her career. A National Honor Society Board of Directors member



and Advanced Placement Scholar, she received the U-M Engineering Scholarship of Honor, General

Dynamics Scholarship, Frederick C. Matthaei Scholarship and Bathanti-D'Agostino Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Sterling Heights, residents Albert and Marianne Litz, and was active in Key Club, Spanish Club, cross-country and track.

**Abbey Long**, daughter of Mary Anne Long of Sterling Heights, plans to become a registered nurse and will pursue nursing at Baker College of Clinton Township. A Top Ten student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and

## Academic Scholars meet achievement mark

Each year, the district's graduating seniors who have maintained grade point averages of 3.67 or above in a rigorous academic program throughout their high school career while taking part in extracurricular and/or service activities are recognized as Academic Scholars by the Board of Education. Following are the students who received the distinction this year:

### Eisenhower High School

Nicole Achs  
Erica Avesian  
Megan Backhus  
Steven Bareis  
Brienne Bartneck  
Amanda Basel  
Christopher Beauvais  
Ryan Berry  
Brooke Bielaniec  
Michelle Blain  
Eric Booser  
Mark Buckner  
Daniel Buhlinger  
Kaitlyn Buhlinger  
Mary Burke  
David Busacca  
Kaitlin Carnaghi  
Patricia Cashen  
Amy Ceranowicz  
Ryan Chandler  
Lauren Chaney  
Katherine Chartier  
Megan Chartier  
Stefana Ciraulo  
Diana Covalschi  
Linda Cunningham  
Lauren Davis  
Whitney DebRoy  
Kaitlyn DelBene  
Melissa Diliberti  
Megan Donovan  
Simone Fabiilli  
George Fakhouri  
Cassandra Ferguson  
Vincent Ferro  
Brendan Franklin  
Troy Frisby  
Elisa Fusco  
Shyneth Galicia  
Ashley Gallerani  
Dean Genuit  
James Graves  
Dana Hilden  
Cassie Hines  
Benjamin Hohnstadt  
Ryan Huber  
Christina Ihrke  
Griffin Jones  
Robert Jozefiak  
Leah Kaganac  
Jacob King  
Brian Klozik  
Christina Koch  
Stephanie Kolpacke  
Anne Koscierzynski  
Michael Kostiuik  
Melvin Kucway  
Laura Kwasnik  
Sarah Lange  
Jessica Lapworth  
Dane Larsen  
Kathryn Lauzon  
Jenna Lepkowski  
Rachael Lewandowski  
Michael Lotito  
Ross Macherzak  
Alyssa Marsack  
Kaille Meguiar  
Elizabeth Messenger  
Sharon Miller  
Whitney Myers  
Chandler Nash  
Sandy Ng  
Melena Nicholson

Alyssa Nowak

Sarah Nutt

Marisa Pacella

Sabrina Palombo

Megan Para

Katie Pittman

Elizabeth Prybys

Larysa Radlowski

Rebecca Rasmussen

Shannon Riley

Angela Rizzi

Jeffrey Roegner

Joseph Roncelli

Lauren Rossi

Adam Rothstein

Courtney Sackash

Anthony Sanna

Rashmi Satapathy

Gina Shkoukani

Olivia Sieracki

Victoria Smith

Sarah Smolinski

Andrew Snider

Daniel Sosnowski

Danielle Sredzinski

Alexia Stavropoulos

Miranda Szulborski

Dana Szymkowicz

Jillian Tacia

Carli Taylor

Alyssa Telang

Lynne Thomas

Rosa Tolomello

Kelley Van Maldeghem

Kimberly Van Vianen

Michael Vanhall

Tanu Verma

Melissa Wandrei

Alyssa Werner

Kayla Werner

Megan Williams

Julie Wilt

Joel Woznicki

Vanessa Yates

Simon Yousif

Amber Harchuk

Andrew Harris

Catherine Harris

Marla Hellings

Nicole Jablonski

John Jones

Ryan Jones

Kyleigh Keyes

Aerin Klump

Olivia Koselansky

Beth Kuczma

Phillip Kulha

Daniel LaFeir

Phuong Chi (Cecile) Le

Caitlin Leslie

Daniel L'Homme

Maidah Malik

Michael Maranzano

Benjamin May

Christopher McMullen

Florjan Merxhyshi

Kenneth Minicuci

Samantha Neiryneck

Rebecca Niedzwiecki

Bianca Nobani

Kristina Oberly

Jessica Page

Lauren Peabody

Ryan Posavetz

Amy Prael

Joseph Quesada

Zakary Rich

Morgan Rohan

Ashley Sack

Tyler Swift

Nicole Szymanski

Anthony Valitutti

Jason Vanmaldeghem

Lyndsey Versteegden

Raquel Wills

Jennifer Wolchok

### Stevenson High School

Tina Abraham  
Haza Ahmed  
Adam Altier  
Matthew Angelakos  
Anthony Anzell  
Kathleen Barrington  
Elizabeth Bartz  
Lina Basal  
Tiffany Binno  
Andrew Boni  
Kara Bonk  
Andrew Bowen  
Niel Brender  
Rachele Broughton  
Danielle Burelle  
Sara Cecchini  
Margaret Cocco  
Gregory Cook  
Lisa Coppola  
Shane Cousins  
Kara Daniels  
Jacob Dargis  
Joshua De Andy  
Kinjal Desai  
Christopher Dolan  
Brittany Doyle  
Tiffany Duplessis  
Rita Elias  
Anca Fenesanu  
Paulina Franzen  
Dayna Frost  
Amber Garr  
Adam Gasperoni Riddle

Marika Gaul

Elizabeth Grabowski

Nicholas Gregorich

Rachael Hare

Briana Harkiewicz

Austen Harrison

Megan Hart

Matthew Hein

Michael Henry

Carrie Hirsch

Yeji Hong

Christopher Horton

Sarah Hunton

Taylor Johnson

Justin Khami

Morgan Kochajda

Jessica Koczynski

Simon Koljcevic

Lydia Koring

Bryan Krall

Richard Kuhn

Tianna Lamb

Amelia Lamkin

Kevin Lay

Cassandra Leo

Tyler Letherwood

Dana Litz

Christopher Lloyd

Abbey Long

Brandon Markowski

Emily Martinez

Susan Massoud

Ryan Mattingly

Alyssa Mayer

Brandon McCullough

Max McLean

Anthony Minaudo

Jeffrey Mitchell

Milli Mo

Thomas Monette

Monica Morris

Pamela Mucay

Erica Murray

Jade Nichols

Emily Orlikowski

Stefan Papandreou

Samantha Paszkiewicz

Dave Patel

Brandi Patrick

Brianna Perosky

Jenna Peterson

Jessica Peterson

Sara Powrozek

Jean Quagliotto

Salomi Rami

Ashley Rathka

Kevin Redmond

Sara Rosenthal

Meena Sadaps

Tenny Samuel

Ryan Savine

Sarah Schwendeman

Rebeca Seta

Steven Sey

Kelly Shaffer

Sejal Shah

Engie Shammo

Sukhjit Sidhu

Sean Singer

Pallvi Singh

Andrew Smedley

Erin Smigielski

Justin Smith

Olta Sota

Jake Spaccarotelli

Sarah Spath

Tatiana Stearns

Brittney Steinwascher

Robert Strong

Joseph Tarczynski

Nina Tocco

Hannah Walsh

Dayna Wargo

Lauren Wietchy

Thomas Wittner II

Allen Wrubel

Goe Sheng Xiong

Carly Zacharias

Justin Zakrzewski

Shelby Zaremba

### Utica High School

Ashley Aragona  
Angela Bailey  
Daniel Baranski  
Colin Bianchi  
Jessie Biermann  
Jessica Boyd  
Rebecca Braga  
Vincent Caruso  
Ashley Cerku  
Leah Clisby  
Steven DeBoer  
David Dickson  
Dayna DiDonato  
Shelby Dominski  
Shelby Dosser  
Nicholas Drenchko  
Lori Erwin  
Julie Galazka  
Rachel Gates  
Carolyn Goettsch  
Mary Hauswirth  
Allison Hayes  
Jennifer Henige  
Marc Andre Henry  
Audrey Huth  
Miranda Irwin  
Michael Jagitsch  
Gabrielle Jaye  
Lauren Jeffcoat  
Andrew Johnson  
Joseph Johnson  
Hillary Jones  
Alexis Juncaj  
Brittany Kilbride  
Lindsay Kleinschmit  
Andrew Kuzner  
Julie Maiuri  
William Mathis  
Alison McDonald  
Amanda Mergaert  
Trevon Nafsu  
Nicholas Najor  
Daniel Nye  
Jane Paul  
William Piccirillo  
Aaron Pickett  
Keith Reid  
Olivia Roser  
Adam Sawyer  
Amanda Schneider  
Lauren Schurig  
Katie Schwark  
Violeta Slabakova  
Angela Smit  
Sherwin Thomas  
Oskar Ubysc  
Julie Varghese  
Brandon Vargo  
David Weyland  
Ashley Wilkie  
Cynthia Yelda  
Stefanie Younce

Technology, she received Advanced Placement Scholar, Academic



Scholar and Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team honors. She was active in the Health

Occupations Students of America and earned the Baker College Board of Regents Scholarship and the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

**Emily Martinez** will study molecular genomics and genetics at Michigan State University and plans to become a genetic counselor or genetic engineer.

She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Michigan State University Alumni Association of Macomb County Scholarship and belonged to the National Honor



Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Advanced Placement Scholars and Academic Aces. She took part in

Spanish Club, varsity track and field, varsity cross-country, marching band and symphonic band. Catherine Martinez of Sterling Heights and Elliot Martinez of Royal Oak are her parents.

**Jeffrey Mitchell**, son of Mark and Jean Mitchell of Sterling Heights, will major in biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan. He



plans to become a biomedical engineer or a doctor. His awards were National Honor Society, Advanced Placement Scholar, French National Honor Society, Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team and Academic Aces. He received the U-M Regents Merit Scholarship, Michigan

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Promise Scholarship and Michigan Engineering Scholarship. He was active in French Club, golf team and JV baseball.

**Jenna Peterson** will study mathematics at Michigan State University and plans to become an educator. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and President's Educational Excellence Award. She was a member of the Academic Aces and National Honor Society. The daughter of Sterling Heights residents Tom and Marcy Peterson, she was active in Spanish Club and the symphonic and marching bands.



**Jessica Peterson**, daughter of Laurie and Gordon Lonie of Sterling Heights and Mark Peterson of Emmett, will attend Grand Valley State University to study to become a physician's assistant. She received the Grand Valley State University Award of Distinction Faculty Scholarship and Award of Excellence. She was a member of

the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Macomb County All-Academic



Team and received the President's Award for Academic Excellence, Academic Aces, Social Studies Olympiad Award and Beaumont Hospital 100 Service Hours Award. She was Student Council senior class secretary and active in Key Club, Driven, varsity tennis, marching band, Spanish Club and school musicals.

**Sara Powrozek** will major in elementary education at the University of Detroit-Mercy and plans to become a teacher. Her awards include Academic Aces, National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She received the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship, English Department Scholarship, Sterling Heights Community Foundation Scholarship



and University of Detroit-Mercy Insignis and Pastor Scholarship. She was president of the Spanish Club, on the National Honor Society Board of Directors, and involved in varsity tennis, Key Club and Student Council. David and Susan Powrozek of Sterling Heights are her parents.

**Salomi Rami**, daughter of Sudesh and Sandia Rami of Sterling Heights, will major in brain, behavior and cognitive science/pre-medical at the University of Michigan. She plans to pursue



radiology in medical school. Her awards were National Honor Society, Academic Aces, Advanced Placement Scholar, Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association Award of Excellence and Finalist, National Society of High School Scholars, Michigan Promise Scholarship and U-M Regents Merit Scholarship. She took part in French Club, Key Club, People-to-People Student Ambassadors and volunteered at Henry Ford Hospital.

**Kevin Redmond** will study medical laboratory sciences at Oakland University and plans to become a radiation therapist. He received the Oakland University Academic Achievement Scholarship and



Sterling Heights Community Foundation Scholarship, also these awards: National Honor Society; Microsoft Certification in Word, Excel and PowerPoint; Academic Aces and National Endowment for Financial Education High School Financial Planning Certificate. The son of Daniel and Tammy Redmond of Sterling Heights, he played varsity soccer.

**Meena Sadaps**, daughter of Sterling Heights residents Sam and Amutha Sadaps, will major in biology at Pennsylvania State University and plans to become a medical doctor. She was a Top Ten



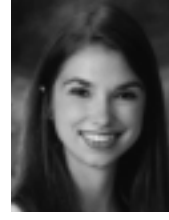
student at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST). Her other honors include WXYZ-TV Best and Brightest, Academic Aces, Macomb County Class A All-Academic, Highest Grade Point Average, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, *The Macomb Daily* Student of the Month, Advanced Placement Scholar and National Merit Finalist. She received the Academic Excellence Scholarship and was active in Student Council at Stevenson, UCMST Student Council, Key Club, Spanish Club, JV tennis and Diversity Club.

**Sarah Spath** is interested teaching or business and will attend the University of Michigan. She is an Advanced Placement Scholar and Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten



student. Her other awards were Macomb County Class A All-Academic and All-Conference teams, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Academic Aces. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and U-M Regents Merit Scholarship. Her activities were Spanish Club vice president, Key Club, varsity dance team and Science Olympiad. Her parents are David and Sheryl Spath of Sterling Heights.

**Lauren Wietchy**, daughter of Mark and Sue Wietchy of Sterling Heights, plans a career in public relations and will study communications at Saginaw Valley State University. She was a National Honor Society member and Outstanding Spanish



Language Student of the Year. She received the Saginaw Valley State University President's Scholarship and Michigan Merit Scholarship. She was active in the varsity dance team, symphonic and marching bands, Vanguard newspaper, Key Club and Spanish Club.

**Allen Wrubel** will major in biomedical physics at Wayne State University. He plans to attend medical school to become



a surgeon. He resides in Sterling Heights with his parents, Allen and Christina Wrubel. His awards include Advanced Placement Scholar, National Honor Society and Academic Aces. He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship, and played JV soccer.

### Stevenson Salutatorian

**Millie Mo** will pursue a career in pharmacy at the University of Michigan. The daughter of John



and Annie Mo of Sterling Heights, she was an Academic Ace, an Advanced Placement Scholar and belonged to the National Honor Society and French National Honor Society. Her activities were JV tennis, Key Club, Science Olympiad, French Club and track and field.

### Utica High School Co-Valedictorians

**Angela Bailey** will major in biology and psychology and minor in music at the University of Michigan with neurology her career goal. Her



awards include National Honor Society, Honor Roll and Advanced Placement Scholar. She received the Gonda Scholarship, Hogg Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship and Sterling Heights Community Foundation Scholarship. She was active in marching band, drum line, solo and ensemble competition, dance team, Young Republicans Club, musical theatre and track and field. Owen

Bailey of Utica and Tina Bailey of Sterling Heights are her parents.

**Rebecca Braga** plans to become a certified public accountant and will attend Oakland University or Michigan State University. The daughter of Shelby Township



residents Jeffery and Yvette Braga, she received the Presidential Gold Award for Educational Excellence; National English Merit Award; All-A Honor Roll; Distributive Education Clubs of America district and state finalist; Outstanding Student in Spanish I and II, accounting, business co-op, yearbook and Advanced Placement English; Academic Ace; JV volleyball coach's award; All-American Scholar; Who's Who among American High School Students and Michigan Promise Scholarship. She took part in National Honor Society, senior-sophomore mentoring, Raising Student Voice Participation (RSVP) and Book Club.

**Vincent Caruso** will attend the University of Michigan Honors Program. His awards are Macomb County Class A All-Academic Team, Macomb Athletic Conference



All-Academic tennis and track teams, Advanced Placement Scholar, National Honor Society, Automation Alley Global Trade Mission representative and Student Leader of the Year. He received the U-M Regents Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship and Principal's Leadership Award Scholarship. He was National Honor Society president, Student Council secretary, Key Club president and track team captain and was also active in varsity tennis, indoor track and National Hispanic Honor Society. He is the son of Maryann Caruso of Shelby Township.

**Steven DeBoer** will study engineering at the University of Michigan with the goal of becoming a biomedical or aeronautical engineer. The son of David and



Karen DeBoer of Shelby Township, his honors include Advanced Placement Scholar, All-Academic Team, Presidential Gold Award for Educational Excellence, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honors Society and Honors Band. He received scholarships from Wayne State University, Lawrence Technological University and the University of Michigan, the Gonda Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. He took part in varsity track and cross-country, jazz band, pit orchestra, Chess Club and soccer. He was also a marching band section leader and earned multiple first division awards at regional and state Michigan School Band and Orchestra solo and ensemble competitions.

**David Dickson** plans to complete undergraduate study in biotechnology at Michigan State University and pursue a medical degree. He was a Top Ten student

## UCS Teachers of the Year

continued from page 1

based on their demonstrated expertise in classroom planning and preparation, creating and sustaining an optimal learning environment, keeping current with evolving knowledge of instruction and building relationships that advance student learning.

**Laurie Pritchard** is described by fellow educators as a shining example of what a great teacher should be. Her classroom mantra is a quote attributed to Henry Ford, "If you think you can do a thing, or think you can't do a thing, you're probably right," – meant to illustrate to students that a positive attitude makes all the difference. But, setting high expectations only works if the teacher understands the need to be flexible in meeting the diverse needs of all students – and that's where Pritchard really excels.

She demonstrates an exceptional knack for giving each child just the right kind of attention he or she needs, especially those with special challenges or gifts.

Watching Pritchard's class in action, you see a true spark of learning excitement and discovery. Where else would you hear students refer to homework as "home fun?" Learning is a measured process in her class, where students quickly come to understand that failure leads to success, allowing them freedom to make mistakes while gaining confidence. She possesses incredible powers to motivate. She accepts no excuses, especially from herself – spending countless lunch times and

non-school hours working with struggling students who need more time or more ways of being shown a concept before they reach that ah-ha moment.

By purposefully modeling the behaviors she wants from the children, she gently leads them to respect their own worth and that of others and feel acceptance in their classroom "family." Her depth of caring extends to the students' homes, for she is able to tell parents what they need to hear, but in a way that forges a partnership for the child's benefit.

A fellow educator, whose son is a former student of Pritchard's, shares this: "Matthew speaks of teaching as one of his possible future aspirations. But, he clarifies he wants to be just like Mrs. Pritchard, not mom! He also maintains to this day that fourth grade was his best year ever."

**Harry Istok's** drafting students receive hands-on learning experience in modern manufacturing processes – from concept to finished product. To effectively teach, as Istok has, for 37 years in a field that continually evolves to meet new industry standards means that he, too, has had to constantly "re-tool" his knowledge. In doing so, his programs have earned the respect of manufacturing professionals year after year.

Mike Carollo, president of RCO Engineering Inc., called Istok "a dynamo" for consistently holding students accountable to

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at the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology all four years, twice named to the Macomb County All-Academic Team and a three-time finalist in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Other awards include Advanced Placement Scholar and Outstanding AP English Student. He received the Michigan State University Honors College STATE Scholarship, MSU Professorial Assistantship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. His activities were JV soccer team captain, Spanish Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and theatre department. John and Michelle Dickson of Shelby Township are his parents.



**Rachel Gates**, daughter of Peter and Joanna Gates of Shelby Township, will pursue pre-medical studies at Albion College and plans a career in hospital administration. Her awards include: National Honor Society, President's Education Award, Macomb Area Conference All-Academic Team, Advanced Placement Scholar, Outstanding Medical Health Science Student and Mathematics Award. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship, Albion Trustee Scholarship and Distinguished Albion Scholars Program Scholarship. She was active in Student Council, German Club, Health Occupations Students of America, senior-sophomore mentoring and varsity swimming team captain.



**Mary Hauswirth** plans to become a doctor and will major in pre-medicine and biology at the University of Alabama, where she will join the Crimson Tide gymnastics team. Her awards include Macomb County All-Academic Team, Advanced Placement Scholar, National Honor Society, Outstanding Chemistry Student, Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Part I finalist and Outstanding Performance in Mathematics. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship. Her activities were tutoring, mentoring, Spanish Honor Society, president of HEART (Health Education and Awareness Regarding Teens), track, vice president of Students Against Destructive Decisions and Key Club. Utica residents Carl and Isabel Hauswirth are her parents.



**Marc-Andre Henry**, the son of Mario and Carole Henry of Shelby Township, will pursue mechanical and electrical engineering at the University of Michigan. A National Honor Society member and Advanced Placement Scholar, he received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and



the Ferris State University Founders Scholarship and Honors Program Scholarship. The daughter of Utica residents, Robert and Nancy Kleinschmit, she was active in the German Club and Science Olympiad.



**Trevon Nafsu** will attend Wayne State University with plans to pursue admittance to law school. She was an Advanced Placement Scholar and member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Spanish National Honor Society. She received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Wayne State University Presidential Scholarship. She is the daughter of Basil and Janan Nafsu of Sterling Heights.



**Aaron Pickett** will pursue theatre arts and acting at Central Michigan University with the goal of becoming an actor, director or stage manager. An Advanced Placement Scholar, he received several Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association first place awards, Michigan School Band and Orchestra solo and ensemble first division ratings, was named *The Macomb Daily* Student of the Week, received Destination Imagination (DI) Da Vinci and Renaissance awards and was a multi-qualifier for state and global DI finals. He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and Central Michigan University Outstanding High School Student, Academic Excellence and Michigan Creativity scholarships. He was National Honor Society publicist, International Thespian Society president, active in theatre production and JV tennis, and as orchestra concert master, forensics team co-captain and marching band drum major. Martha Pickett of Utica and David Pickett of Ray Township are his parents.

**Miranda Irwin** will major in pre-medicine and minor in Japanese at Oakland University. She plans to become a doctor or surgeon. She was in the National Honor Society and received the Michigan Merit Scholarship and a scholarship from Oakland University. The daughter of Shelby Township residents Kevin and Lea Irwin, she was active in Health Education Awareness Regarding Teens and tennis.



**Michael Jagitsch**, the son of Steven and Sandrina Jagitsch of Shelby Township, will study accounting at Saginaw Valley State University with the goal of becoming a certified public accountant. A National Honor Society member, he received the Saginaw Valley State University Dean's Scholarship, Foundation Scholars Program Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship. He was active in the Key Club, senior-sophomore mentoring, varsity baseball and Health Education Awareness Regarding Teens.



**Joseph Johnson** will pursue a career in pharmacy at the University of Michigan. His awards include Advanced Placement Scholar, MAC Conference All-Academic for ice hockey, baseball and cross-country and Macomb County All-Academic in cross-country. He received the Michigan Promise Scholarship and took part in National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, senior-sophomore mentoring, Young Republicans, baseball and cross-country and was assistant captain of the hockey team and publications editor of the Key Club. He parents are Michael and Lisa Johnson of Shelby Township.



**Hillary Jones** will attend Wayne State University. She was selected for the WSU Healthpro Start pharmacy program and plans to become a hospital pharmacist. The daughter of Jeffrey and Laura Jones of Shelby Township, she was a National Honor Society member, an Academic Scholar, an Advanced Placement Scholar and received the Wayne State Presidential Scholarship. She took part in track, cross-country, marching and concert bands, pit orchestra for the school's production of "Annie" and Science Olympiad.



**Lindsay Kleinschmit** plans to become an optometrist and will major in biology and pre-optometry at Ferris State University. Her awards were National Honor Society and Advanced Placement Scholar with honors. She received



the Ferris State University Founders Scholarship and Honors Program Scholarship. The daughter of Utica residents, Robert and Nancy Kleinschmit, she was active in the German Club and Science Olympiad.

**Katie Schwark**, daughter of Shelby township residents Gary and Sandy Schwark, will attend Michigan State University. A member of the National Honor Society, she received the Michigan Competitive Scholarship and Michigan Promise Scholarship.



**Sherwin Thomas** will major in biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He plans to become an anesthesiologist. He attended



the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology. His awards include Advanced Placement Scholar with honors, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Automation Alley Global Trade Mission representative. He received the Blazer Elite Scholarship and took part in track and field, Technical Underwater Robotics Research Engineering Team (TURRET) and Quiz Bowl. Svresh and Susan Thomas of Shelby Township are his parents.



**Brandon Vargo**, son of James and Deanne Vargo of Shelby Township, will major in pre-medical at the University of Michigan. His goal is to become a cardiac surgeon. A National Honor Society and Macomb Area Conference All-Academic Team member, he received the Michigan Promise Scholarship. National Honor Society, Key Club, varsity football and basketball and



**Alison McDonald** plans a career in anesthesiology and will pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. The daughter of Thomas and Kim McDonald of Shelby Township, she was in the National Honor Society and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. She took part in varsity dance team, Health Education Awareness Regarding Teens, senior-sophomore mentoring and was vice-president of the Hispanic Honor Society.



**Utica Salutatorian**



**Alison McDonald** plans a career in anesthesiology and will pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. The daughter of Thomas and Kim McDonald of Shelby Township, she was in the National Honor Society and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. She took part in varsity dance team, Health Education Awareness Regarding Teens, senior-sophomore mentoring and was vice-president of the Hispanic Honor Society.

**Dr. Carol Klenow** and **Dr. Robert A. Ross** (right), are congratulated by Board vice president **Gene Klida** after being sworn in to begin new six-year terms of office. Klenow and Ross were unopposed in seeking reelection on the May 5, 2009 election ballot, which also included a \$112.5 million bond issue proposal that was approved.



**Proceeds from the bond sale will provide enhanced classroom technology and upgrades in maintenance and security across the district, also projects such as an electronic collaboration classroom at Stevenson High School and a new media center at Utica High School to bring educational parity to students.**



**Schools of Choice enrollment available**



**Non-resident kindergarten through twelfth grade students living in Macomb County can enroll in any Utica Community Schools building where space is available under the Schools of Choice program. Information and enrollment applications are available on the UCS website – [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) – or by calling 586.797.1120.**



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senior-sophomore mentoring were his activities.

**Dave Weyland** will study biomedical engineering at Michigan Technological University. A Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Top Ten student,



he was a finalist in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, an Advanced Placement Scholar,

Outstanding Advanced Placement U.S. History Student and Michigan Tech Leading Scholar. He received the Michigan Technological University Presidential Scholarship. He was active in varsity ice hockey, Engineering Enterprise Team, Raising Student Voice Participation (RSVP) and Automation Alley Global Trade Mission. He is the son of Shelby Township residents Raymond and Susan Weyland.

### Utica Salutatorian

**Alison McDonald** plans a career in anesthesiology and will pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Michigan. The daughter of Thomas and Kim



McDonald of Shelby Township, she was in the National Honor Society and received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and the Michigan Promise Scholarship. She took part in varsity dance team, Health Education Awareness Regarding Teens, senior-sophomore mentoring and was vice-president of the Hispanic Honor Society.

## Board of Education incumbents returned; bond issue approved



*Board of Education incumbents, Dr. Carol Klenow (center) and Dr. Robert A. Ross (right), are congratulated by Board vice president Gene Klida after being sworn in to begin new six-year terms of office. Klenow and Ross were unopposed in seeking reelection on the May 5, 2009 election ballot, which also included a \$112.5 million bond issue proposal that was approved.*

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## Teacher of the Year... continued from page 6

national standards in computer-aided design and manufacturing and for teaching them “what’s actually out in the real world.”

Indeed, much of Istok’s preparation takes place outside the classroom, where he works directly with local firms to design assignments taken straight from industry sources as well as validate students’ work.

Among his work-world connections are RCO, General Motors Design, Joint Production Technology, Proper Mold, Shelby Mold, Ford Motor Product Development Center; Macomb Sheet Metal, P-Ess Sheet Metal, Advanced Machining and International Hardcoat. Engineers, designers and scientists routinely come into his classroom to share their expertise. He even created and operates an after-school program for students wishing to learn more.

Under his guidance, Istok’s students, including those with special needs, demonstrate clear academic growth in mathematics, science and technology. Regardless of supposed barriers, they gain work ethic, respect for collegial partnerships, appreciation for safety procedures and awareness of the importance and complexity of the manufacturing industry.

He sees his work as a pipeline for any interested student to begin the path to a solid career – a goal affirmed by RCO’s

Carollo, who said, “Our industry is desperate for people with skills in the technical arts.”

Istok’s influence is felt far beyond his Malow classroom. For the past 15 years, he has served as industry liaison on the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society (MITES) Board of Directors. He oversees annual MITES state-level student competitions and collaborates with trade agencies, including the Precision Metal Forming Association, Automation Alley and the National Tool Association.

While Istok merited many prestigious awards throughout his career, including from the International Technology Education Association, Chrysler, Automation Alley, TechDirection magazine, the United States House of Representatives, MITES and the Michigan Education Association, his focus remains fixed on developing each student. As he said, “True validation comes from seeing the kids learn.”

**Christopher Layson** creates meaningful learning experiences that impact his students long after they’ve completed his class. The Advanced Placement (AP) World History course he developed earned accolades from students, teachers, parents, college instructors and state school officials during the eight years he taught at Eisenhower High School and now in his current assignment with UCS

**Harry Istok** (right) has devoted his own long career to introducing students to career paths in manufacturing technology. Istok – named Junior High Teacher of the Year both in Utica Community Schools and all of Macomb County – works directly with industry professionals to validate his program at Malow. Students such as **Tom Golonka, David Jones, Jessica Matthews, Jacob Smolarek, Anthony Bongiorno** and **Arlena Williams** gain science, mathematics and technology skills in the workplace-like learning environment he creates in his classroom.



**Christopher Layson** (below) is the district’s High School Teacher of the Year. His dynamic instructional style leads students at the Utica Academy for International



Studies – like ninth graders **Sandra Bugariu, Chesleah Kribs, Taylor Patrash, Kyle St. Peter, Josh Barthel, Samantha Ross** and **Meg Syms** – to think and process ideas beyond peer expectations. The students are shown engaging in a multi-chapter review and discussion in their Advanced Placement World History class, utilizing cards containing key words, people and places from a unit on the post-classical period (600 – 1450 CE).

International Baccalaureate students. In fact, more than 80 percent of his students pass the AP exam, earning college credit before ever setting foot on campus.

Much like that of a college classroom, Layson’s dynamic instructional style leads students to think and process ideas beyond peer expectations. For example, while studying early Islamic civilizations, he had the students read the book, *What Do Muslims Believe?* The dialog that followed opened the door for Muslim students to discuss their heritage in class and helped other students learn from a firsthand perspective.

A nationally recognized educator, he is certified as a Reading Apprenticeship trainer, College Board AP exam reader, Caines’ Brain-Mind Institute Natural Learning trainer and works with the Alliance for

Academic Excellence Adult Learning Network.

Beyond mastery of his subject area, former students credit his influence for helping build their confidence and prepare them for success at the next level.

Former students credit Layson’s help in preparing them for college and life. Julia Diegel, a University of Michigan sophomore, cites his compassion. “He was the go-to teacher for problems, school-related or otherwise. He really listened to us,” she recalled.

Raelynn Buczkowski, now attending the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service at Albion College, affirmed his depth of instruction, “Based on other people’s opinions, the political theory class I’m taking must be quite difficult. But after a few classes, I realized that

Mr. Layson taught us at the same level of difficulty as this professor, so for me it was an easy transition from high school to college.”

Todd Lambka, a junior at the United States Military Academy at West Point, adds that, “He took a great deal of time out of his own schedule to help me apply to the Academy. The process was time-consuming and rigorous, but he pushed me to plan ahead and get all the interviews, physical and medical tests and recommendation letters in on time.”

On track to become a teacher himself, Ross Tuscany said, “It was his class that sealed my desire to become a teacher. He made history come alive while treating me with the respect of a fellow intellectual. I hope I can engage my students and have meaningful relationships with them like he does.”

## 2009-2010 District Calendar

### September 8

Students report – elementary half day, AM kindergarten only

### September 9

Full day for all students, PM kindergarten only

### October 30

Half day for elementary

### November 3

No school – teacher professional development

### November 12 – 20

Parent/teacher conference window (two evenings)

### November 19

Half day for all students, PM conferences

### November 25 – 29

No school – Thanksgiving break, classes resume November 30

### December 23 – January 3

No school – Holiday break, classes resume January 4

### January 18

No school – Martin Luther King Day

### January 21

Half day for all students, secondary exams

### January 22

Half day for all students, secondary exams

### February 13 – 21

No school – Mid-Winter break

### February 22 – 26

Elementary parent/teacher conference window (one evening)

### March 8 – 12

Secondary parent/teacher conference window (one evening)

### High school ACT/MME exam

### April 2 – 11

No school – Spring break, classes resume April 12

### May 28 – 31

No school – Memorial Day break

### June 16

Half day for secondary students; secondary exams

### June 17

Last day of school – half day for all students; secondary exams

### 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

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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.