

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS  
JUNE, 2016

**High School**

Seven Upper St. Clair High School students participated in the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair held on April 1-2, 2016 at Heinz Field. Now in its 77<sup>th</sup> year, the competition invites students in grades 6-12 to submit research projects in various fields of science, mathematics, and engineering.

Sahil Doshi earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Place award in the Senior Physics category for his project titled "Phase Field Modeling of Dendritic Growth." Sahil also won the Perseverance Award-Associate Scientist and sponsor awards from Eaton Corporation, Innovation Works, and United States Steel.

Vedant Parekh earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Place award in the Senior Earth/Space/Environment category. Vedant also won affiliate awards from the American Meteorological Society and the ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, the sponsor awards from the Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, and the Perseverance Award-Associate Scientist. Vedant's project was titled "Breathing Battery."

Vashisth Parekh earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Place award in the Senior Chemistry Division for his project titled "eBatt: A Printable Battery." Vashisth won sponsor awards from Alcoa Technical Center, American Chemical Society, CMU Leonard Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach, Chemical Association of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, and United States Steel. Vashisth also won scholarship awards from Carnegie Mellon University, Chemical Association of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, La Roche College, and St. Francis University as well as the Perseverance Award-Associate Scientist. Vashisth and his teacher sponsor, Ms. Lynn Kistler, were invited to attend the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh/American Chemical Society Annual Awards Dinner held at Duquesne University on May 23.

Mahima Reddy earned a scholarship award from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Perseverance Award-Associate Scientist. Her project was titled "Determining if T-bet Overexpression Induces Immune Factors In Vitro."

Kriti Shah earned the Perseverance Award-Associate Scientist for her project "ULuminate—Human Light Bulb." Kriti worked with sophomore Alex Brufsky on the project.

Connor Byrnes earned a scholarship award from the Duquesne University Summer Undergraduate Research Program. He also won an affiliate award from the Stockholm Junior Water Prize/Water Environment Federation. Connor's project was titled "StreamDuino."

Sophomore Kevin Chen has earned first place in the Category S-First Year Chemistry, Large Schools event at the annual contest for secondary schools sponsored by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society. The purpose of the contest is to recognize outstanding achievement by students and their teachers as well as encourage interest in chemistry among school students. Kevin and his teacher, Dr. Dominic Frollini, attended the awards dinner at Duquesne University on May 23.

The USA Biology Olympiad is the premier competition for biology in the U.S. Six Upper St. Clair High School students put their skills to the test with a fifty-minute exam covering a wide range of biology topics including plant and animal anatomy and physiology, cell biology, genetics and evolution, and ecology. Congratulations are extended to freshman Sam Ding who scored in the top 10% nationwide.

Students from USC participated in the Region 7 PJAS Competition held at Duquesne University on February 6 sharing their scientific research to a panel of judges in a 10-minute presentation. Aditi Chattopadhyay, Mahima Reddy, and Tanvika Sriram, each earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place and the opportunity to attend the PJAS State Competition at Penn State University. Aditi and Mahima each earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place at the state competition that is attended by over 2000 students from across Pennsylvania. In addition, both girls interviewed and earned scholarship offers from the PSU Eberly College of Science. Mahima also was one of 3 students selected to attend an expenses paid trip to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) National Convention held in February of 2017.

High School junior Mahima Reddy's poem, titled "Monsoon Season," was published in the May 2016 issue of Teen Ink magazine. Mahima's previous work has also been published on Teen Ink's website including a book review of "Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World" by Jack Weatherford and a science fiction short story titled, "Evolving a Competition."

Sydney Closser, a sophomore at the high school is a Delegate of the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students passionate about science, technology, engineering, or math. Sydney was nominated to represent Upper St. Clair based on her academic achievement, leadership potential, and passion for science and technology.

A team of Upper St. Clair High School students recently finished among the top five in the Pittsburgh Data Jam. Team members included Aditi Chattopadhyay, Kevin Chen, Mary Lucas, Yash Lahoti, Pramod Narayanan, Mahima Reddy and Kriti Shah. The Pittsburgh Data Jam introduces Pittsburgh area high school students to big data and data analytics. The event offered students the opportunity to participate in a data analysis competition, data analysis exercises, data visualization tools, field visits to big data companies in Pittsburgh and seminars with data scientists. Students presented their findings to a panel of Pittsburgh Data Jam judges on April 22, 2016, in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

Upper St. Clair High School senior Saraj Quinto recently finished seventh in the nation in the Dramatic Performer category of the National Catholic Forensic League Grand Nationals in Sacramento, Calif.

Saraj, captain of the speech and debate team, along with 25 other Upper St. Clair High School students qualified to participate in the event, which was held May 28-29, 2016.

In addition, Raahema Durrani, a junior, went 5-0 in preliminary rounds becoming the first Upper St. Clair debater ever to do so at a national tournament and ended up placing 17th nationally.

### **Fort Couch**

Nine Fort Couch students placed in the top 30 in the first round of the 2016 Mathematics Council of Western Pennsylvania First Year Algebra/Integrated Math II Contest. Congratulations are extended to Eri Hayakawa who finished as the 3rd Place Winner in the 2016 overall competition.

A team of Upper St. Clair seventh graders recently finished third among 60 teams at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Iowa State University. The Fort Couch Middle School students competed in the division two Classics Problem. Team members include Victoria Cuba, Brianna Lin, Joseph Markovitz, Max Murtough, Sammie Seewald, Constantine Tripodes and Eric Wang. The students were coached by Laura Murtough, Stacey Seewald and Meredith Markovitz.

### **Boyce/Ft. Couch**

Three Upper St. Clair middle school students recently qualified to compete in the first ever Pennsylvania statewide Challenge 24 math competition on June 15, 2016, in Harrisburg. Sixth grader Daniel Wang and eighth grader Braden Yates won their respective grade divisions and seventh grader Christian Chiu was a finalist at the countywide tournament, sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

## **Boyce**

Boyce Middle School's accelerated math team earned the rank of Highest Team Achievement for the fifth consecutive year in the international Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle School program.

The team-score is the sum of the 10 highest total individual scores. Boyce's highest scoring students and winners of the Gold Pin indicating placement in the top two percent of all 86,436 registered students were Bear Bottonari, Phoebe Chen, Sophie Chen, Eden Ma, Alexander Todd, Daniel Wang and Adam Zheng.

In addition, sixth grader Sophie Chen achieved a perfect score of 25 and was awarded the George Lenchner Award, a special medallion named for the organization's founder, for her accomplishment.