

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
MAY, 2017

Staff

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in partnership with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will be conducting a New Item Review for Science Grades 4 & 8 and a Data Review for Science in support of the PSSA Exams. Committee members are chosen from across the state and carefully selected to represent diversity throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Congratulations are extended to Pam Dillie, Elementary teacher and Science Curriculum Leader, for being selected by the PDE to participate on a committee on June 19 to June 21 and July 25 in Harrisburg.

High School

Two Upper St. Clair High School students recently earned Excellent Writing Awards from the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Western Pennsylvania. Junior Savannah Shaw and senior Victoria Norman were recognized for their intermediate-advanced level writing. The event was open to students in grades 6-12 who are studying the Chinese language. Students were able to write about any topic as long as it is related to their Chinese study. Winners were recognized at the CLTA-WPA Excellent Writing Award celebration event on April 1, 2017, at Sewickley Academy.

Several members of Upper St. Clair High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America were top finishers in Pennsylvania, qualifying to compete at the National Leadership Conference June 27 – July 3, 2017, in Anaheim, Calif. The State Leadership Conference was held April 3 – 5, 2017, in Hershey.

Upper St. Clair earned three first place finishes including Entrepreneurship, Hospitality Management and Management Decision Making; a third place in Network Design; and a fourth place in E-Business.

First Place:

Entrepreneurship: Amna Amin, Ariana Chiu, Raahema Durrani

Hospitality Management: Arushi Kewalramani, Macey Kaplan, Vicki Wang

Management Decisions Making: Sahil Doshi, Akshar Golakiya, Yash Lahoti

Third Place:

Network Design: Sanath Boddhula, Nadith Dharmasena, Jacob Lantzman

Fourth Place:

E-business: Nitesh Nagpal, Shivam Patel, Tushar Roy

Also placing was the Business Financial Plan team of Wyatt Keating, Elizabeth Walsh and Ammar Zafar.

Upper St. Clair High School junior Kevin Chen recently placed first in the Computer Science/Math category of the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair. As the top Computer Science award winner, he has also been awarded the Intel Excellence in Computer Science Award. Kevin's research project was titled, "An Unsupervised Deep Learning Approach to Cancer Gene." All first place category award winners attended the Carnegie Science Awards on May 12, 2017.

In addition to Kevin, senior Vedant Parekh finished second in the Earth/Space/Environment category and junior Sahil Doshi placed third in the Chemistry category.

Upper St. Clair High School students also earned a total of eleven 2017 Sponsor and Affiliated Sponsor Awards including:

Connor Byrnes: Air & Waste Management Assoc., W. PA Section; and CHEVRON, Honorable Mention; Eaton Corporation; American Meteorological Society;

Kevin Chen: Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association; INTEL Excellence in Computer Science;

Sahil Doshi: American Chemical Society; FedEx Ground, Inc.; PPG Industries, Inc.;

Vedant Parekh: CHEVRON; Eaton Corporation.

Upper St. Clair High School senior Osa Wheeler and junior Maddie McConaghy captured their second consecutive gold medal for their first place finish in the women's varsity 2X at the Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints on April 30. The duo dominated the event the previous week at the Dillon Lake Scholastic Sprints in Nashport, Ohio. The Upper St. Clair rowing team had additional successes at the Dillon Lake event with the men's 2X and women's junior varsity 4X advancing to the finals. At the Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints, silver medals were won by the men's varsity 2X of senior Kapil Sharma and junior Brendan Fortunato as well as the men's lightweight 2x of senior Andrew Caldart and sophomore Jack Shephard.

Upper St. Clair High School freshman Dana Loomis and senior Callie Jardine recently earned a collective six individual medals, a Compulsory A Team Event Bronze Medal, the team spirit award and a national team championship at the 2017 High School National Figure Skating Finals. The event was held March 31-April 2, 2017, in Dearborn, Mich.

The 2017 High School National Finals, sanctioned by United States Figure Skating, featured 14 high school teams from around the country.

Dana earned gold medals in Intermediate Ladies Free Skate and Intermediate Ladies Short Program; a silver medal in Bronze Solo Dance; and a bronze medal in the Pre-Silver Solo Dance

event.

Callie earned gold medals for her first place finishes in the Novice Dramatic Showcase and Junior Moves in the Field categories.

Upper St. Clair High School senior Claire K. Zalla has been named a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship recipient – one of only 2,500 in the country. Students entered the scholarship competition by completing the PSAT, the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, during their junior year. Claire will be attending Yale University this fall where she plans to study English and global affairs.