



# JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2016 • VOLUME 5, No. 6

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## PRATIMA PATIL SELECTED AS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AT SCVTHS

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

SkillsUSA is in full season here at SCVTHS. Early competitions for Career Pathways held on Friday, March 4th have resulted in GOLD for our three teams! More state-level competitions will be held on April 16. Wishing all our students the best of luck in their upcoming contests!

I hope everyone has an enjoyable, relaxing and safe Spring recess.

#### School Spirit Alerts:

- SCVTHS is proud to announce that seniors Kaycie Sconda and David Sosidko have been named our 2016 Scholar Athletes! Kaycie and David will be honored at a county-wide banquet to be held on May 11th.
- A special shout out goes to Ms. Pratima Patil who has been selected as our 2016 Educator of the Year!

#### On the Field:

Baseball and Softball seasons have begun so remember to check out our sports schedule on our website and come on out in a show of support and cheer our teams on. Go Jaggs!

This year's seniors on the fields:

**Baseball:** Sean Boland, Sam Bucek, Robert Camacho, Matt Feaster, Masood Karimi, Thomas Kelly & Eric Moeller

**Softball:** Gianni Cintron, Samantha D'Agostino, Millie Doshi, Kiran Raja & Kaycie Sconda

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Ziegler



Pratima Patil, a science instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2015-2016 Educator of the Year. Ms. Patil is known for being a giving, dedicated, and selfless instructor, who always puts the students first.

When Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft and Principal Diane Ziegler walked into Ms. Patil's classroom to announce the award, Patil was very surprised. "I was thrilled," said Patil. "The kids were also very excited." After sharing the announcement with some of her family and parents in India, Patil has been receiving countless calls congratulating her on the honor.

Patil graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in Zoology from the University of Bombay (currently the University of Mumbai). Since her graduation, Ms. Patil has served as a professor at the University of Bombay and for the past ten years as a science instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School. Patil also serves as an adjunct professor for Raritan Valley Community College, teaching SCVTHS students college level science courses. When asked what inspired her to become an educator, Ms. Patil stated, "I have a long history of educators in my family. My grandfather was a renowned Zoologist in India and my uncle was a professor at Boston University."

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Patil is involved as a SkillsUSA advisor and the advisor for the Science League at SCVTHS. Patil has also served as the school's advisor of the Bio Olympiad and NJ Envirothon. "I am thrilled to work with the students and encourage them in every way that I can. I love to challenge the students



Pratima Patil, the 2015-2016 Educator of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

and it is wonderful to see where they go with the challenges I give them," she said.

Pratima Patil is a resident of Edison, where she resides with her husband Shripad and their two sons. In her spare time, Ms. Patil enjoys gardening, painting and bird watching.✿

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

SCVTHS DANCE DEPT.  
TAP & DANCE INTENSIVE  
SUMMER PROGRAMS

Ages 10 to 14 - 9am to 3pm

• TAP - July 18-22

• DANCE INTENSIVE - July 25-29

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U.S. News & World Report

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# JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2016

## ANNUAL ROTARY LUNCHEON HELD AT SCVTHS

### SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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### JAGUAR NATION

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Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*  
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Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*



First Place Winner - Newsletter Category



SCVTHS Rotary Interact Club and Somerville/Bridgewater Rotary Club members. (Back row, left to right): Amethyst Milochik, Stephanie Machado of South Bound Brook; Ashley Gonzalez of Warren; Novena Petryk of Manville; Jason Dameo, Tara Davis of Bridgewater; Elizabeth Alpizar of Raritan; James Moore, Joy Jagiello, Andrea Thorne; and Rotary Interact Club Advisor Denise Gotti. (Front, left to right): Varsha Shrinet of South Bound Brook; Brianna Broderick of Flemington; Madison Hill-Glover, Harini Prayaga of Bridgewater; Julianna Kosty and Swati Patel of Somerset.

to develop relationships with district members which will foster humanitarian endeavors.

Denise Gotti, SCVTHS Science Instructor and Rotary Interact Club Advisor, reflected on the event saying, "Our Rotary Interact members rose to the occasion beautifully. Many Interact members shared heartfelt gratitude for the positive impact on their lives that comes from being involved in humanitarian programs. The common sentiment expressed by the interact members was gratitude for having a club that gives them a sense of belonging in the SCVTHS community. A spark of excitement was shared by the Rotarians and Interact members which will fuel the partnership for years to come."

Traditionally, the luncheon has been a social meet and greet with our school's Rotary Interact Club however it has since grown to enable the Rotary District 7510 and the SCVTHS Rotary Interact Club to learn about and enter into joint ventures.

"Overall the luncheon is a wonderful opportunity for Rotary Interact members to gain a better understanding of what being a Rotarian has to offer throughout their lives," said Gotti.\*

*For more information please contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or jstrickhart@scvs.net.*

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH Brian Turck

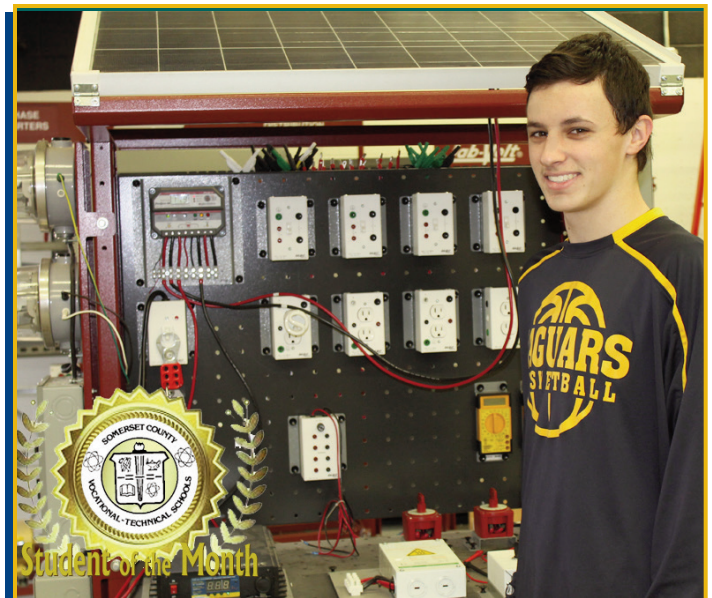
Brian Turck, a sophomore in the Electrical Construction Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for March 2016. Brian is the son of Barbara and Anthony Turck of Hillsborough.

Electrical Construction Instructor Mike McClain nominated Brian for the Student of the Month Award because he has "the highest grade for the second marking period in Electrical Construction. Brian shows respect for his teachers, coaches, and fellow students. He has never had a disciplinary infraction and has been a model student in my program."

At SCVTHS, Brian is a member of both the boys' varsity basketball and varsity baseball teams. Additionally, Brian has received the Most Outstanding Freshman Award for Electrical Construction last year, was on the Principal's Honor Roll during his freshman and sophomore years, and was chosen Stellar Student of the Month for Electrical Construction in March 2016.

Outside of SCVTHS, Brian enjoys spending time with his friends and family (especially on vacations)-- and plays for the Sweet Spot travel baseball team during the summer.

Brian's future goal is to work as an electrical apprentice, while attending Raritan Valley Community College in order to obtain a degree in business. One day, Brian hopes to own his own electrical contracting business.\*



Brian Turck