

# TECH TALK

Winter 2011

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH OPEN HOUSE



Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School celebrated Career & Technical Education Month in February with an Open House that emphasized “You Can Have it All!” Dr. Joseph Petrosino, Director of Pupil Services, organized the event which featured career information about the academic and technical programs and organizations that are available for students.



Visitors were invited to tour the facilities and view the career majors in skills competitions and demonstrations in the technical shops. Members of the faculty and staff were available to answer inquiries about the career training at SCVTHS. Students in the Ambassador Corp



conducted tours, while the Culinary Arts students offered refreshments in the cafeteria. The Parents’ Advisory Committee and members of the Technical Advisory Committees met with visitors and offered information about the district. Despite the inclement weather members of the Pupil Services Department were able to interview many prospective students.



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EDITORIAL &  
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# STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Twenty-six students were inducted into the SCVTHS Chapter of the National Honor Society in February. Catherine Fortunato, Mathematics teacher and NHS advisor, presented the candidates and their accomplishments at the ceremony. Students were selected based on their “high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.”



New Members in photo are: Kathryn Addabbo, Kimberly Anne Gaspar Balao, John Vito Bender, Lauren Nicole Bengivenga, Robert G. Canuel, Jr., Maria Catherine Chiaffarano, Erica Choi, Peter Falk (not shown in photo), Pankhuri Garg, Suma Gondi, Kimberley Hausheer, Brianna Holman, Brittany Gloria Judson, Emad Suleman Madha, Larissa-Helen A. Mahaga-Ajala, Michael Brian Murphy, Aarti Patel, Zoe Pettitt, Patrick Jordan Racine, Siddarth Santhebennur, Ambika Sharma, John A. Tamas, Seth A. Twombly, Garielle Wagnac, Philip Wang, and Maria K. Waterhouse



(left to right): Pat Walsh, Brian Seymour, Dylan Page & Evangeline Byrd

## SCVTHS CELEBRATES CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced Career & Technical Education Month in the County in February. Patricia Walsh, Deputy Director of the Somerset County Board of Freeholders presented the Career Month Proclamation to Brian Seymour from Raritan, a sophomore in the Law & Public Safety Program and Vice President of SkillsUSA; Dylan Page from South Bound Brook, a senior in the Auto Body Program and President of SkillsUSA; and Evangeline Byrd, Advisor, SkillsUSA.

In recognition of Career Month SCVTHS held an Open House in February and local SkillsUSA contests in preparation for the New Jersey SkillsUSA Championships on April 2. More than 50 SCVTHS students, representing technical and academic programs, will participate in the Championships at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset and the high school. They will have a chance to compete among the “best” technical and academic students in the state for gold, silver and bronze medals. First place winners will qualify for the National SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, Missouri.

## CATHERINE FORTUNATO NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Catherine Fortunato, a Mathematics instructor at SCVTHS, was selected as the 2010 Teacher of the Year. She was chosen because of her successful methods of teaching and her extracurricular advisory positions.

Ms. Fortunato is advisor for the National Honor Society, the local SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl Team and the Math League. This year the NHS members have participated in numerous service projects and have offered a Peer Tutoring Program, a first for our high school. Her students continue to excel in competitions at the state and national level. Her Quiz Bowl Team captured gold medals at the NJ Skills USA Championships last year and placed fourth in the National Championships held in Kansas City, Missouri. One year, one of her math team students scored a perfect score on contests and was subsequently published on the NJ Mathematics League website. Last year, two students received honor roll pins for their scores on the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC-10 and AMC-12). One student qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination and earned a certificate of distinction.

“I am proud to teach at SCVTHS. I utilize the NTHS motto: ‘Success Favors the Prepared Mind.’ My job is to offer a solid preparation and foundation in mathematics with expectations to generate thinking and reasoning in students of mathematics. I am dedicated to providing opportunities for students to enrich their high school experience with programs outside of the classroom” said Ms. Fortunato.



Catherine Fortunato



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## JACK MAZELLAN NAMED FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Jack Mazellan of Branchburg, a senior student in the Law & Public Safety program at SCVTHS, received the Fire Fighter of the Year Award from the Neshanic Fire Company, where he serves as a volunteer firefighter.



Jack Mazellan

Jack is also an Emergency Medical Technician for the Branchburg Rescue Squad. He was recently recognized for his dedication and service to the community and for the successful resuscitation of his Fire Chief who went into cardiac arrest at a fire scene.

In 2008 he was selected as the Young Entrepreneur at SCVTHS for his business acumen. Jack won a gold medal in the 2010 New Jersey SkillsUSA

Championships, Law division that qualified him for the National Championships in Kansas City, Missouri.

## ADAM FULMORE RECEIVES APPOINTMENT TO WEST POINT

Adam Fulmore, a senior student in the Law & Public Safety Program at SCVTHS, received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he plans to pursue a career in the Military Police and Special Forces.

Adam is an Honor Roll student at SCVTHS and serves as President of the National Honor Society. He is also a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for the Branchburg Rescue Squad and the Finderne First Aid and Rescue Squad. Recently he had an opportunity to use his EMT knowledge at SCVTHS when a construction worker went into cardiac arrest. Adam was first on the scene and initiated CPR.

Adam's accomplishments are numerous. He won a silver medal in the 2010 NJ SkillsUSA Law & Public Safety competition. He also received a NJ Congressional Citation.



Adam Fulmore

## EMAD MADHA & JOHN BENDER ELECTED TO NJ SKILLSUSA OFFICERS TEAM

John Bender, a third year student in the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences at SCVTHS, was elected Treasurer of the NJ Skills USA organization by members of the state officers' team. He will join his Academy classmate Emad Madha, President of NJ SkillsUSA in planning events which will expand the membership of the state organization and promote leadership among its student members.

John has been active in NJ SkillsUSA since he enrolled in the Academy program. He is the recipient of a gold medal in Entrepreneurship and a silver medal in the Tech Prep Showcase, awards he won competing against students from schools throughout the state.

After he graduates from the Academy he will have earned his high school diploma from SCVTHS and an Associate's Degree in General Science from Raritan Valley Community College. He intends continue his education to pursue a career in medicine.

John is the son of Dr. John Bender and Dr. Josephine Bender of Hillsborough.



John Bender, NJ SkillsUSA Treasurer

Emad Madha, a third year student from Bridgewater who is in the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, was elected President of New Jersey SkillsUSA. In

his new position as president Emad will oversee the state officer team and assist local chapters in accomplishing their goals.

In 2009 Emad received the National Entrepreneurship Champion Award presented by NJ SkillsUSA. He was also a silver medalist in the 2010 Tech Prep NJ SkillsUSA Championships. Emad's interests include volunteering on the Green Knoll Rescue Squad and playing soccer on the SCVTHS team. After he graduates from the Academy he intends to pursue a career as a surgeon.



Emad Madha, NJ SkillsUSA President



# COLLEGE AND CAREER INFORMATION CENTER OFFERS MANY SERVICES

Karen Long, Guidance Counselor, is the new coordinator of the College and Career Information Center at SCVTHS. She is available to meet with students to provide them with information about colleges and universities.

The Center is located on the first floor of the high school, across from the Business Office Entrance. Students are able to use the computers in the Center for research.

In addition, the Center is currently offering resumé, cover letter and job search assistance to SCVTHS Alumni.

If you would like assistance with career services, please contact Karen Long at 908-526-8900, ext. 7296 or [klong@scvts.net](mailto:klong@scvts.net).



Karen Long

# ALUMNI: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you are a graduate of SCVTHS and would like to get back in touch, please contact us and give us an update on what you have been doing. We will be featuring alumni stories and information in this section of the newsletter as well as on our website.

Please email your alumni information to:

Bernice Wicks, *Director of Community Information*  
[bwicks@scvts.net](mailto:bwicks@scvts.net).

## NEW RECYCLING PROGRAM AT SCVTHS



Dr. Louise Tokarsky-Unda placing a plastic bottle in the newly marked recycling bin at SCVTHS

Dr. Louise Tokarsky-Unda, Social Studies Teacher, and several of her senior students, are applying for the 2011 Somerset County Environmental Awareness Grant for a new Recycling Program at the school. The students made and posted signs that were labeled for plastic, glass and aluminum next to six new recycling bins which were placed in various buildings on campus.

Dr. Tokarsky-Unda has applied for the 2011 Environmental Awareness Grant so that SCVTHS can purchase a four yard dumpster for the new Recycling Program and is currently waiting to hear from the Somerset County Solid Waste Division for the outcome of the application.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CLASSIC CAR SHOW  
& FLEA MARKET  
SATURDAY – April 2, 2011

8am to 1 pm



For information call: (908) 526-8900, ext. 7270, 7263, 7248

### SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 6350 • 14 Vogt Drive  
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*Remember that our nation's first great leaders  
 were also our first great scholars.*

—President John F. Kennedy