

**Denton Independent School District
Board of Trustees
Certificates of Recognition
Tuesday, June 10, 2008**

DENTON ISD

13 students compete in state UIL competition

Thirteen high school students in Denton Independent School District competed at the University Interscholastic League's state competition for 4-A schools in Austin with four capturing a top UIL academic award.

From Denton High, the computer science team members placed third: Taerim Kim, senior; Trevor Davila, sophomore; Somak Das, sophomore, and Jackson Zhou, senior. The computer science team coach was Barry Wagner.

Patrick Burke, also a sophomore at Denton High, participated in social studies at state for UIL Academics. His coach was Michelle DeAngelo.

Justis Phillips, Ryan High senior, placed second in poetry. Justis was coached by Jeannene Abney and Karen Gossett.

From Guyer High, Tiffany Lewis, a junior, qualified for state as an extemporaneous speaker. She was coached by Coby Wilbanks.

Guyer sophomores Chelsey Yamashita and Sam Bruce served on the speech honor crew.

The following Guyer students participated in the State UIL cross examination debate competition: Andrew Ivory, senior; Tiffany Lewis, junior; Skyanne Hamilton, freshman; Allison Parker, freshman, and Jaimie Warner, junior. Cody Wilbanks is the director for the Wildcat Forensics team.

DENTON HIGH

Student rocket team wins in world's largest rocket contest

Two students from Denton High competed in the finals of the Team America Rocket Challenge, the world's largest model rocket contest, on May 17 in Great Meadow, Virginia.

Bregg Reedy and Eric Thompson finished as the best of 13 Texas teams that made it to the finals. Reedy and Thompson finished tenth out of 643 teams and won \$3,000 in scholarships plus other prizes for being one of the Top 10 teams in the nation.

Over 6,000 students in 643 teams attempted to meet the contest's rigorous requirements, but only the top scoring 100 high school teams qualified to compete in the national contest finals.

The contest required that students design, build and test a model rocket to fly at a maximum altitude of 750 feet with total flight duration as close to 45 seconds as possible. They were required to complete the flight with a payload of two raw eggs and parachute them back to the ground unbroken.

Denton High JROTC instructor, Michael Dash, was the team supervisor.

DENTON HIGH

Students place in state fine arts competition

A Denton High student recently received the highest UIL music honor at the 2008 Texas State Solo and Ensemble Vocal Solo Contest conducted May 31 in Austin.

Julia Difiore was selected as an outstanding performer at the contest. Of the approximately 85,000 students participating in the regional UIL music contests and the 22,000 musicians who performed at TSSCE, only 256 students earned this recognition.

Mark Baker is the Denton High choir director.

DENTON HIGH

Teacher invited to Oxford roundtable

Kimberly Thaggard, Denton High IBO History of Europe and AP European History teacher, has been invited to Oxford University's 20th Annual Summer Round Table Discussion this summer.

She will present a paper to the group titled: "Foreign Aid: Providing Justice or Justification." Only 40 teachers and scholars are chosen from the United States to attend the annual event that provides a forum for educators and philosophers to discuss issues of current global concerns. Thaggard has received sponsorships from several local businesses to attend the event.

RYAN ELEMENTARY/ PECAN CREEK ELEMENTARY

Staff chosen for Fulbright scholarships

Nancy Walkup

Nancy Walkup, art teacher at Ryan Elementary School, was chosen as one of 200 teachers to go to Japan for three weeks in June to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program for 2008.

The Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program provides American primary and secondary school teachers and administrators with fully-funded short-term study tours of Japan.

Lou Aguilar

Lou Aguilar, Pecan Creek's EXPO teacher, was a recipient of the same Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program last summer. She was one of only 200 who were selected for the 2007 program.

Last month she and her EXPO students hosted an Interactive Japanese Festival. Students in the EXPO program throughout the district attended this outstanding educational cultural event. This exemplifies what happens when the staff of Denton ISD has the opportunity to study abroad.

The Japanese program is designed to increase understanding between the people of Japan and the United States by inviting U.S. elementary and secondary educators to visit Japan and share their experiences with fellow Americans upon their return.

These JFMM participants travel to Japan with other educators, learn about Japanese culture and education, and return to implement a self-designed plan to share their knowledge and experience with their students, colleagues and community.

ANN WINDLE SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Mendoza receives full scholarship to Japan

Oscar Mendoza, a preschool teacher for Ann Windle School for Young Children, has been offered a full scholarship to International University of Japan in Tokyo to pursue his Master's in Finance degree. This scholarship is the equivalent of a Fulbright scholar, with monthly living expenses and roundtrip airfare.