

# CTE

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2005 / PAGE 18A

In the dining area of his new Ferndale restaurant, Via Nove, chef Joe Beato, right, takes time to talk to his son, social studies teacher Bob Beato before the Sunday evening rush. Joe was recently honored with the Macomb Intermediate School District's Industry Partner Award.

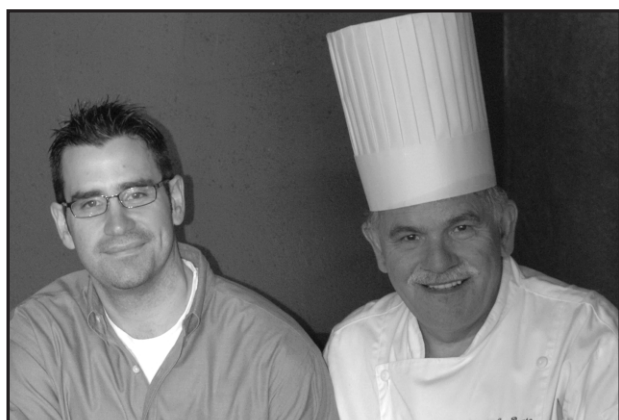


Photo by Maria Aubrey

## Leadership awards honor outstanding contributions

By Maria Aubrey

Seniors Ashleigh Meldrum and Brian Steinberger, along with social studies teacher Bob Beato's father, Joe, earned awards for leadership and outstanding work in career and technical courses at South Lake High School.

"I think they were proud and happy to be there," South Lake principal Tim Bearden said. "Ashleigh and Brian are both good representatives of our school. It was a really nice event to honor kids who have done well working in externships."

The Macomb Intermediate School District sponsored the awards, which included signatures of Michigan senators. The awards were presented at a breakfast at the new Macomb Intermediate School District facility on Garfield.

Each nominating teacher recommended one student, and a business and industry partner who excelled and deserved recognition.

Steinberger earned Auto's Outstanding Student Award, while Meldrum was named Outstanding Marketing Senior.

Meldrum is taking charge of all the marketing class' finances, including accounting records for the school store, netted her a nomination from marketing instructor Jim Bunting.

"She's always been really on top of everything," Bunting said. "She takes the initiative to collect all the bills and invoices that we have to pay and organizes them in Microsoft Excel."

Bunting said Meldrum also does a good job of selling.

"She works well in the school store," he said. "Classmates always look to her as a leader in the class. If they need help, they ask her. She's just a hard worker, a good kid who has good interpersonal skills."

He also cited Meldrum's high grade-point average and community service for the elderly and other volunteer work.

"I was very honored that he picked me out of all the seniors that are in

marketing," Meldrum said.

Steinberger, who plans a career in the auto industry, was recognized for his work in school and at his part-time co-op job.

"Brian is a really stable and hard worker," Bunting said. "He's learning a lot and just showing a lot of promise. He wants to go on after college to do something in the auto industry."

Steinberger said he enjoys being involved in something he loves.

"It's pretty cool because I want to be a mechanic," Steinberger said. "It was pretty sweet that I was nominated for something I love doing — working on cars."

For helping students perform better in vocational and technical classes, this year's Business and Industry Partner recognition went to chef Joe Beato, who owns an Italian restaurant named Via Nove in Ferndale.

He began his volunteer work at South Lake four years ago because his son teaches here and because former culinary teacher Connie Western asked him to help her students.

Bunting said Beato was nominated because he volunteers out of the kindness of his heart.

"He's a chef who comes in and shows students exactly how they need to prepare their dishes, including proper presentation, different ways to prepare meals and then he helps with recipes," Bunting said. "His volunteer work was a good resource for Ms. Lavendar and Mrs. Western in the past four years."

Beato said there are many chefs who do volunteer work, but it's up to teachers at schools to invite them to classes.

He enjoys working with students in the culinary classes.

"If it could spark one or two students, then you have put the spark in their head that says, 'Wow! I want to do that!' or 'I want to become that,'" Beato said. "That's a great achievement."

## Ice carver sculpts lighthouse for students

By Wendi Magee

Culinary Arts teacher Melissa Lavendar asked 1996 South Lake graduate and firefighter Chad Hyvonen to come to her fifth-hour class to demonstrate his hobby of ice sculpting.

While a South Lake student, Hyvonen was a member of the swim team. It was his swim coach, Jim Bunting, who tipped Lavendar to Hyvonen's ice-carving skills.

Hyvonen learned how to carve from a teacher at Macomb Community College, and he has entered competitions, including one in Frankenmuth.

Lavendar wanted the students to see a fun element of culinary arts.

"It's a different aspect for the students to understand about the industry," Lavendar said. "You can make good money if you do it."

The students enjoyed the experience. "It was interesting, and he could do it so fast," junior Sharon Glanert said. "I've never seen an ice carver before."

Lavendar agreed that this was a good experience for the class and liked how Hyvonen got involved with the students. "He took the time to explain what he was doing," Lavendar said.

Hyvonen sculpted a 4-foot-tall lighthouse. Then he carved the South Lake logo into a block of ice.

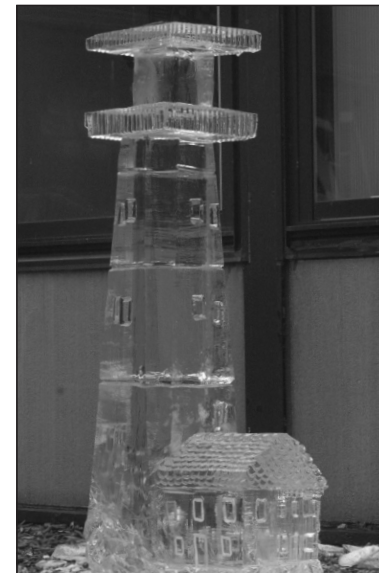
Sarah Kamlay, his soon-to-be sister-in-law, has also enjoyed seeing his detailed work at other events.

"I liked his Spongebob village," Kamlay said. "He and the other people in his class made a Bikini Bottom [the city in which Spongebob lives] scene at Plymouth."

"He has a lot of fun with it and it keeps him busy," Kamlay said. "As long as the person has fun doing it, it's a great hobby."

Hyvonen also enjoys the fact that people appreciate his artwork.

The best thing is "having people come up to your carving and actually know what it is," Hyvonen said. "It's great how people want to walk around in the cold and look at these carvings."



One of two sculptures carved by former student Chad Hyvonen was displayed in the courtyard for students. Photo by Wendi Magee

## Students return to teach the teacher

By Danielle Sellers

What could better than having former students visit because they want to teach a teacher a thing or two? That's exactly what happened last week to graphic arts teacher Don Cook.

A few students who were once in Cook's graphics arts classes visited to check out the state of the graphic arts program and to make suggestions to help it better correspond to the standards of today's printing industry.

Cook was eager to hear from his former students not only for their insight, but to see their familiar faces and to remember the good times they shared in class.

"The whole purpose was to get help to better improve the program," Cook said. "And to see what my former students have been up to."

Cook gave them a tour, explaining the equipment and what he covered in class regarding each machine.

"I was overall impressed," former student Rob Bastian said. "I did tell Don that it would be a good idea to update his computer software and machinery to improve the program."

Cook agreed with the suggestion, but noted that funding is an issue.

"I have made attempts to get funding for new software," Cook said, "but it takes time."

John Williams, a consultant with the district for Technology Education, said

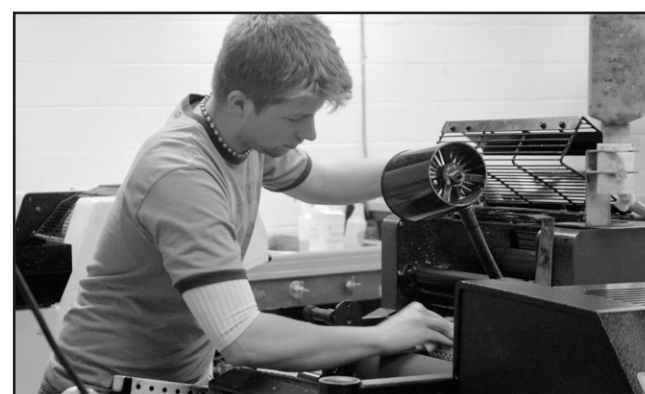


Photo by Danielle Sellers

Operating the printing press is one of the jobs senior John Stuard is required to perform during his third-hour graphic arts class.

that getting insight from people who are part of the industry is a big first step in perfecting the program. He, too, took the tour.

"Keeping the kids and teachers up to date is important," Williams said, "not only to help them in the real world but to open up more opportunities for their futures."

Cook, although lacking new software, impressed most of his former students with his drive to keep up with the industry.

"I think that although the graphic arts program can be improved," Bastian said, "it is still a great opportunity and a fun class that can open many doors for young people."

Cook said that there is always room for more students, especially because of the career opportunities graphic arts

offers. "The printing industry is the second largest manufacturer in the USA," Cook said. "There are so many different plateaus that one can enter. Someone can go to study the more artistic side of graphics or study the basics."

Bastian was grateful that he was honored with such great lessons from Cook, which is why he ended up in screen-printing.

"It has been a wonderful 20 years thanks to Mr. Cook," Bastian said.

Cook plans to press for funding to make the graphic arts program even more exceptional.

"If you are interested in a career in graphic arts," Cook said, "then find out what it's all about. What better way to find out about the graphic arts industry than by taking a class?"

## Chef donates time to help students find careers

By Sandy Burkhardt

For the past four years, world famous chef Joe Beato has visited South Lake High School's Culinary Arts program. He believes he might make a difference.

"What I like best about it is that I can open up their minds while they are young and teach them a thing or two," Beato said. "If you open up their minds they say, 'Look at what I can achieve. I can ... make a sculpture out of squash.' Hopefully, after they have this wonderful experience with a chef, they will be inclined to say, 'I could pursue this career.'"

Beato and the students make menus together and shop. Beato insists the students are responsible for everything, and he stays with them, slicing or cleaning.

"You know, I love teaching," Beato said. "I love it when people listen. When they are listening they are applying themselves. (After) they have learned something that they have applied, they feel good about themselves."

It takes a certain talent and a certain individual to lead a life in the culinary arts industry. Beato feels that it is up to him and

teachers to discover those people.

"I am hoping that the students learn a different way of cooking," Beato said. "Hopefully, that experience would inspire them to say, 'I have another avenue in my life. Maybe I am not so good in book work. Maybe I am not so good in math, but you know, I can be something. I could become a chef. Look at what he's done with his life.' It's up to us to give them that little push they need."

Beato started cooking as a teenager and offers advice for aspiring chefs.

"It's all about building a life and building a great resume when you start cooking," Beato said. "When you build an excellent resume, the doors open and you're always going to find a career."

Beato knows that not everyone he has taught over the years will choose to be a chef.

"I am hoping that if they don't become a chef, they at least feel good about themselves," Beato said. "Anything you learn in life is always good. You never stop learning. Life is one learning experience. I was learning when I was 14, and I am still learning at 57 years old."

## Morisette lands auto shop position

By Derek Ginzel and Siobhan LaFortune

After the previous auto teacher left, it seemed as if the auto shop class would become a relic — until administrators found instructor Don Morisette.

"I didn't really search for this job," Morisette said. "It actually sort of just came to me."

He was substitute teaching in the Flint area when he was contacted. He got home one day after work and sent his resume via e-mail, then went to sleep. Not 15 minutes passed when he got a phone call from principal Timothy Bearden to arrange an interview.

"We were excited to find someone so qualified," Bearden said. "And when we met him we were very impressed."

After graduating from Grand Blanc High School with two years of auto mechanics under his belt, Morisette got his automotive degree at the University of Northwestern Ohio and an education degree from Ferris State University.

"This is my first solo assignment," Morisette said. "I've been at a few different programs in the past year, and they gave me a successful model for this one."



Morisette

Morisette said his high school auto teacher was his role model and inspired his career.

"My high school auto teacher, Gary Cassette, had great stories," Morisette said. "He was a very good storyteller. He could explain things in such a way that you had a story that would acquaint with whatever he was trying to teach you. He balanced his class just right between bookwork and the shop. Somehow, somewhere along the line, he convinced me that I might make a good teacher. Almost from the get-go it was like I was his assistant; I was the project it seemed."

Morisette said going from a substitute to a full-time teacher is a big jump. It seems most of the students are slowly warming to him.

I wasn't sure at first how the kids were going to react," Morisette said. "But it turns out they're just great."

First-year auto students cover the basics of tools and simple parts, as well as learning how parts of the car function. In their second year they refresh the basics

and learn to diagnose problems.

For Morisette, auto shop isn't just about learning, it is about understanding and really getting in touch with the "inner mechanic."

He said that he has a lot of talent to work with. The administration really cares about what goes on and is supportive of what needs to be done to make the program work.

"Our vocational classes are very important," Bearden said. "They give students the knowledge and ability to earn jobs in those certain areas."

Morisette likes the shop, but admits that there are a couple things lacking. First, the shop is undersized compared to most others, and it needs vehicles less than five years old to test.

"The school has many resources," Morisette said. "We have the diagnostic machines and the equipment to get things done."

Morisette loves auto shop and most of the students do, too.

"If the students are serious about Auto, they'll take further classes," Morisette said. "This is just the beginning."

# MAKING THE CONNECTION

to Career Technical Education

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