

# CTE

THE MACOMB DAILY • MAKING THE CONNECTION

CAREER • TECHNICAL • EDUCATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2005 / PAGE 14A

## MCHS offers students real-world experience

Mount Clemens High School prides itself on offering multiple selections of classes in the engineering, manufacturing and industrial technology areas. These classes are offered as electives to students who desire to work with their hands and develop real-world experience that will help them become productive once they complete high school.

Among the courses offered are Woodworking I, Cabinetmaking and Millwork I, Cabinetmaking II and III, Drafting, Design I, Architectural Drafting I, II and III, Industrial Tech Leader, Mechanical Drafting I, II and III, Small Engine Tech-

nology and Automotive Technology I, II and III.

In general, most high school boys and some girls pride themselves on being able to repair their car when it breaks down. The automotive classes at Mount Clemens are offered to students in grades nine through 12. With three levels provided for student selection, Automotive Technology I classes are designed for students with an interest in engine service procedures. In this class students learn practical repair and maintenance of various engines and recreational vehicles through lecture, demonstration and labo-

ratory assignments.

The Automotive II class stresses service procedures and techniques, along with extensive work on automobiles. Students in this class learn automobile tune-up, engine rebuilding, brakes, chassis and front-end repair.

The third level of Automotive Technology emphasizes automotive repair techniques, including diagnostic work, changing systems, electrical repair, automatic transmission rebuilding and on-board computer operation.

**Next Week's CTE Page will feature Warren Woods Tower**

Not all students who enjoy working with their hands desire to work on automobiles. Those students may elect to take classes in woodworking, cabinetmaking, drafting and architectural drafting. These classes allow students to learn the proper and safe use of hand and machine tools. This class requires a hands-on pro-

ject that allows students to progress at their individual rate, based on ability and interest.

Leyland Ramsey, a 10th-grader, said,

"I have chosen architecture for my career. This class will help prepare me to be a great success in the future."

Another student taking the drafting class, Timothy Crosby, a ninth-grader at Mount Clemens who wants to become a mechanical engineer, said, "Drafting has shown me how to draw in 3D, and project things to show how they look in real life."

Both students highly recommend other students take these classes, and said vocational classes will certainly be useful to students in fulfilling future goals as well as assisting them with personal projects.

## BPA club offers student well-rounded experience

By Jacqueline Foisy

The chapter of Business Professionals of America at Mount Clemens High School is one of the school's largest clubs for the eighth consecutive year.

For the 2005-06 school year, the club consists of 51 members, including six officers and three advisers. With so many members this year, the students in the club are participating in a variety of activities, from Digital Media Production to different types of office skills, as well as events like Prepared Speech.

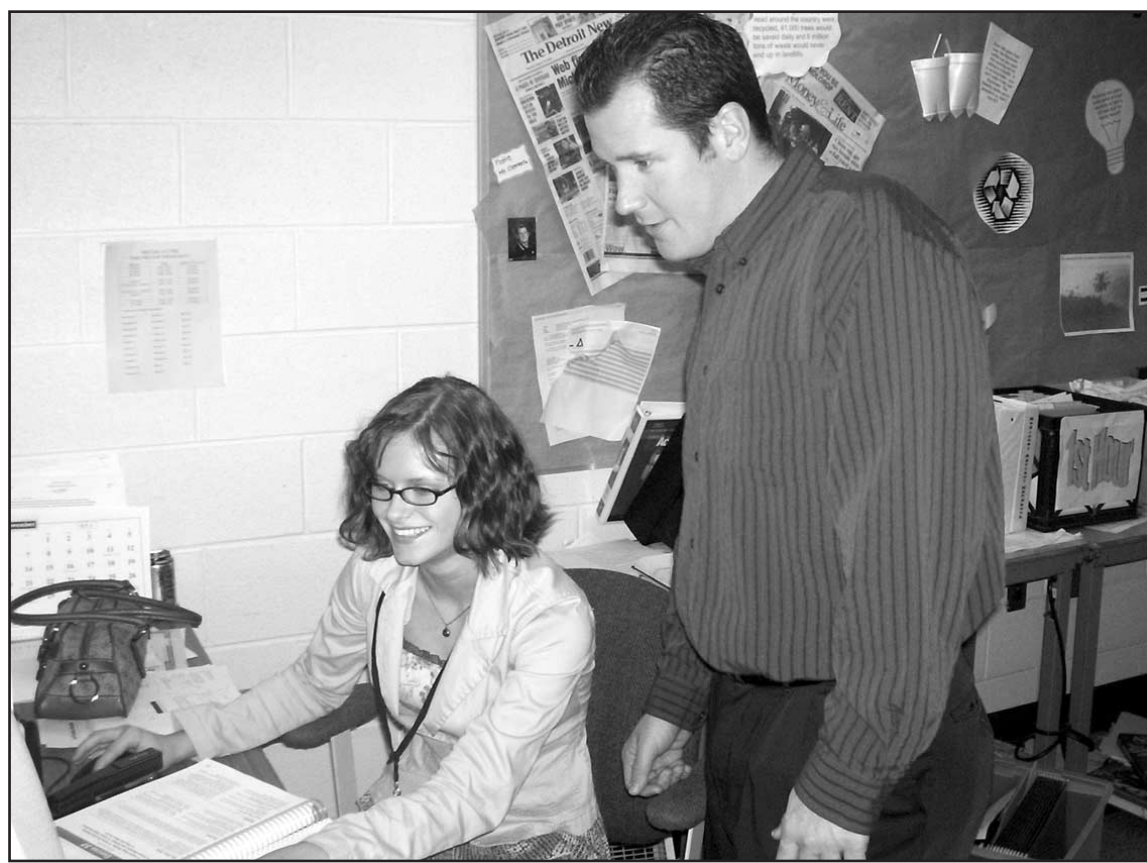
The club advisers are James Wagner, John Bourdeau and David Binkley. Working with them are the 2005-06 officers: President Allen Jackson, Vice President Kari Zafarano, Secretary Sabrina Finnegan, Treasurer Rhianon Rosinski, Historian Jacqueline Foisy and Parliamentarian Christopher Lucier.

Wagner, who has been the club adviser for eight years, said, "Each year my enthusiasm for BPA grows, especially when I see how much fun the students have in their different events, and how much it helps to prepare them for their futures. The competition aspect really drives all of the technology they have learned in the classroom and allows them to apply it with hands-on experience."

Bourdeau said, "I love working with this year's BPA students because it gives them some hands-on experience to prepare them for the business world."

The chapter meets every other week to discuss community service projects, as well as discussing the status of everyone's events and keeping track of progress. Club officers also stress getting involved in Torch Awards. Members can receive torch award points and recognition for numerous activities, including community service, academic achievement or participation in varsity sports. This particular group also meets weekly for two hours after school to practice different business events.

The group has been preparing for regional competition in which they will compete against other schools. Regionals will be held at Baker College in Clinton Township the first week of January. The Mount Clemens High School BPA members are dedicated and enthusiastic, and everyone is planning to place at regionals, and move



Jacqueline Foisy, 12th grade BPA historian, and adviser James Wagner.

on to state competition in Grand Rapids.

"It gives me a lot of pride to be part of a club with so many other kids who are dedicated, because that way we do well in competition. We get to know one another a lot better, and we have tons of fun along the way," said Foisy, a second-year member. Last year, more than 75 percent of the club's members advanced to state competition.

The group also diligently works on fund-raising each year so that the club has sufficient funds to get items it needs, and to be able to do fun things together. The club's

major two fund-raisers are selling entertainment books at the beginning of the year and a bowling fund-raiser night in the spring.

This year the chapter has shown an impressive amount of dedication from its members, and everyone has worked extremely well together. With such a wonderful group, there is no doubt the BPA chapter will do big things. Perhaps some of the students will even make it to national competition, which will be held in the spring 2006 in Orlando, Fla.

## Army helps former Mount Clemens High student fulfill culinary dream

By Kathrin Rhodes

Family & Consumer Science teacher

Nutrition and Foods classes at Mount Clemens High School are filled with enjoyable times, especially when students prepare and eat their favorite meals.

For some students, this experience can become a lifelong career.

Many students who enroll in these classes choose them as part of their career path.

DuJuan

Sims is a former graduate at Mount Clemens High School. He chose to take the skills he learned at home, combined with those obtained in the classroom, to jump start his career.

Sims graduated in 2005 and decided to join the U.S. Army National Guard in lieu of going to a college or university. When asked why he decided to join the Army, he said, "I decided to join the Army because I got bored with life and decided the Army would add some spice to my life."

Since joining the Army National Guard, Pvt. Sims has completed boot camp and is now enrolled in a culinary school to become a food service specialist. He advises high school students to stay motivated and listen to their teachers. He attributes his success to having been in the Nutrition and Foods class. "Without it I wouldn't be head of my class right now."

When Sims was asked what inspired him to become a cook he responded, "Well, I've always been what you call greedy. I always stuck around the kitchen while my mother cooked. Since we have a large family, she allowed me to help her cook. I put a new twist on the food and I watched my family enjoy it."

Sims was a member of the Macomb County Culinary Cooking Club at Mount Clemens for three years. During his tenure, he competed against several local schools and won more than five competitions.

When asked what impact the Culinary Cooking Club had on his decision to pursue his dreams he replied, "While I was in the culinary cooking club, I learned many cooking techniques, as well as how to be competitive."

Sims said his lifelong dream is to have his own restaurant once he leaves the military.



SIMS

## Mount Clemens' award-winning media studies program

By John Kotarski

Mount Clemens Community Schools has found an innovative way to teach high school students 21st century media skills. The district recently received a 2005 Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Association of Computers Users in Learning for its outstanding use of cable television to enhance learning.

The district has partnered with the City of Mount Clemens to develop the school's cable TV station. The city pays the district to provide community news and manage the city's cable access channels. The added revenue allowed the district to hire a professional production staff and teach students to be television reporters and video editors.

These student reporters cover community events like the Mount Clemens Grand Prix, new businesses and library renovations. Last year the school's cable

TV station produced more than 200 hours of programming that would have cost the city \$500,000 to produce independently. The school can do this for a fraction of the cost while teaching students career skills that will lead to jobs in an ever-expanding community television industry. Additionally, students who choose to go to college have been able to receive waivers for upper-level media production classes. It is a win-win for everyone.

These student reporters on Bath City Beat are local celebrities while they learn research, storytelling, digital camera and desktop editing skills. Because their work is seen every day by their neighbors and friends, the motivation to excel is built in.

Students also learn live, multi-camera skills. The high school is the location of choice for city-wide town hall meetings because the meeting can be aired live on



Bath City Beat reporter Melanie Jearlds interviews Rep. Fred Miller at the Capitol Building in Lansing.

television and participants can take phone calls from viewers. The staff has four years experience producing live television with call-in viewers, and it has trained students to assist. This particular production skill is a unique opportunity for students. Live television requires a production team working in tan-

dem. There are no "do-overs" in live television.

The cable station staff has expanded on these real-world practices by offering a curriculum class that produces school announcements, Bath Babble, on a CD, which is played back over the school's public address system twice a day. Students write

and edit the announcements, record them to a hard drive, add music and sound effects, then burn it to a CD. Bath Babble has proved extremely popular, and the media students are getting immediate feedback from peers and teachers.

These students get to work with the latest equipment and software, but technology changes rapidly and what students learn most is that media matter. Words, pictures and sounds are powerful persuaders wherever they come from. When combined, multi-media has a grammar and language all its own. Inattention to detail, even the smallest detail, can have unexpected consequences, and producers of the media will be held accountable. Creativity and accountability are stressed in the program, and the challenge of meeting a deadline is a skill that can be transferred to any task, academic or career-related.

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For more information about CTE or to share your thoughts about the "Making the Connection" series, contact Karen Johnston at 586/228-3469 or email kjohnston@misd.net

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