



JAGUAR NATION

MAY 2013 • VOLUME 2, No. 5

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Mastrobattista Selected as SCVTHS Teacher of the Year

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

It is our privilege to formally acknowledge the year-long hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff – first on April 24th with Administrative Professionals Day, and on May 8th for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day. Thank you for all you do for our students!

In addition, our TOPS students and staff are to be commended for an outstanding display of community service as they recently visited with residents of Compassionate Care Hospice.

Also, our Carpentry, Electrical & Plumbing students have joined forces in the construction of a demo house on campus to be used for practical experience for themselves as well as future students. What a great display of cross curricular education.

School Spirit Alert:

On the fields: Games for baseball and softball are in full "swing". Please come on out and support the teams! Additional information on game dates and locations are available on our school web calendar.

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler



Diane M. Ziegler

Mark Mastrobattista, a Culinary Arts Instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Mastrobattista is known for being a hardworking and dedicated instructor, who has selflessly devoted countless hours to his program and community.

Mr. Mastrobattista holds an English degree with a teaching option from Ithaca College. He enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) to pursue a career in the food services industry. After graduating from the CIA in 1998, no matter what job he took, Mastrobattista was always teaching in some aspect. In fact, Mastrobattista took multiple food service jobs, ranging from Line Cook at the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island to Executive Chef at the Wood Company, just because he knew he would have the ability to teach others.

When Mr. Mastrobattista finally came to SCVTHS in March of 2008, he claims it was "like walking into a dream" and "one of the best programs" he had ever seen. Shortly after his arrival, Mastrobattista joined with his teaching partner Culinary Instructor John Vingara to create a brand new Dining Room Services Program with the establishment of TradeWins Restaurant.

In any given week Mastrobattista might be hosting as many as five events at TradeWins. From senior citizen brunches to seasonal sports banquets Mastrobattista services a wide variety of community groups while fitting in teaching a full curriculum to his students. Mr. Mastrobattista loves to infuse humor into his classroom but does not stray from his tireless pursuit of professionalism as he prepares his students for the workforce. By running the restaurant like a business, Mastrobattista provides his students with a real-world experience.

In his free time, Mastrobattista caters events and enjoys occasionally sitting down to watch a golf match on television. When Mr. Mastrobattista is able to get away, he loves to travel across America. He recently took an inspiring trip to Seattle, where he enjoyed seeing the architecture,



Mark Mastrobattista, the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

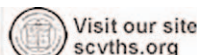
and of course, learning about the region's food preparation ingredients and styles.

Mr. Mastrobattista gives special thanks to SCVTHS Culinary Arts Instructor John Vingara for all of his guidance throughout the years. In addition, he thanked former Superintendent Michael Maddaluna and Administrative Assistant Carene Jegou for all their help, because without them he would not be here today. Mr. Mastrobattista truly loves his job and where he is today, stating, "The best thing happened to me, so I'm going to make the best out of it."

For more information contact James Strickhart at (908) 526 - 8900 x7169 or jstrickhart@scvts.net.*



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
14 Vogt Drive • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • (908) 526-8900
A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!





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SHARE-TIME STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

Jessenia Scott

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*
James Strickhart • *Editorial*
Sharleen Leahey • *Graphic Production*
Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*

Jessenia Scott, a senior in the Health Occupations Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Share-Time Student of the Month for April 2013. Jessenia is the daughter of Juan and Paula Scott of Branchburg.

Jessenia was nominated to be Student of the Month by Guidance Counselor Irene Ives because she is "respectful and helpful and her sweet personality encourages people to want to be around her." Ms. Ives also remarked on how Jessenia "works hard in and out of the classroom."

In her school communities, Jessenia is an active member in many groups. Jessenia serves as the President of the Spanish Club, is a Somerville High School Peer Leader, a member of the Cultural Diversity Club and the National Technical Honor Society.

In addition, Jessenia was a Paul Robeson Youth Achievement Award Nominee. Outside of school, Jessenia spends time working with her church.

Jessenia was quoted as stating, "Medicine is truly my passion and being in Health Occupations has truly helped me realize that." Jessenia also thanks Mrs. Vasaturo for her continued support and helping her to realize her passion.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Jessenia will be attending Oakwood University where she will be a Pre-Med student studying Biology. One day Jessenia hopes to become an OB/GYN.*



Jessenia Scott, the April 2013 Share Time Student of the Month at SCVTHS.

*For more information contact
James Strickhart: (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or
email: jstrickhart@scvts.net*

FULL-TIME STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

Brandi Gill

Brandi Gill, a junior in the Auto Body Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Full-Time Student of the Month for April 2013. Brandi is the daughter of Jami Gill of Bradley Gardens.

Guidance Counselor Sarah Morelli-Stutz nominated Brandi because she has maintained an excellent GPA and is a "responsible, conscientious young lady." George Byrd, Brandi's Auto Body Instructor, described her as "persistent, consistent and inquisitive." Mr. Byrd went on to add that Brandi is a good student who is a pleasure to work with.*

At SCVTHS, Brandi is a member of the softball team and was recently inducted into the National Honor Society. In addition, Brandi is a member of SkillsUSA and is competing in the NJ SkillsUSA Championships in the Auto Body Custom Painting category.

Outside of school, Brandi is a member of the 4H-Go-kart Club, where she has served as the secretary for the past 3 years. In her spare time, Brandi holds a job working at Wendy's, where she is earning money so that she can buy a car. After graduating from SCVTHS, Brandi plans on furthering her education to pursue a business degree.*

For more information contact James Strickhart: (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or email: jstrickhart@scvts.net



Brandi Gill, the April 2013 Full-Time Student of the Month at SCVTHS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.scvths.org