

From the President

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending an orientation for American students selected to participate in the ATAD exchange program. The energy in the room was almost palpable as the teens and their parents listened attentively and asked many questions. Thirteen outstanding young men and women are eagerly anticipating their upcoming adventure in France, Ireland, Italy, Peru or Poland. We are confident that they will be excellent representatives of American and local culture and will return home with a better understanding of themselves, our culture and the culture of their host country.

Following the orientation, the American students and their families joined ATAD's International Students, their Host Families and several ATAD Board Members for what has become one of the highlight activities of the year – our International Dinner. Over eighty-five people attended, and the energy level of the day stepped up even more as teens and families chatted over a fabulous feast of dishes from many lands. No peanut butter and jelly here! The response was so overwhelming that we are gathering the recipes and creating a cookbook. We hope to add to the collection with recipes from the upcoming picnic in June and subsequent picnics and International Dinners until we have enough to publish a fundraiser for ATAD. Many thanks to Betty Doyle, mother of an American going overseas this summer, for volunteering to type up the recipes.

It is heartening to see a fourfold increase in the number of American students interested in participating in our exchange program this year, due in large part to the diligent efforts of Pat and Dennis Massa, Co-Vice Presidents for Americans Overseas, and the teachers they contacted to spread the word about ATAD. We are encouraged that young Americans and their families see the importance of international family living experiences in our world today, and we hope that we will find the same commitment and enthusiasm as we

seek Host Families for the coming summer and academic year. We live in troubled times, and I firmly believe that if all the leaders of the world had been exchange students or had hosted an exchange student, the world would be a more peaceful place today. Each and every one of us can play a part. If you would like to learn more about hosting an International Student, or if you would like to invite an International Student to speak to your group, or if you would like to invite an International Student to your home for dinner, please contact Karen Grover at 385-3639. We can get to know our world, one person at a time.

Marti Eggers



Newly arrived in Rochester for the spring semester are two Peruvian students, Rosa Martinez Villanueva from Iquitos and Hernan Del Carpio from Arequipa. Rosa is a student at Wayne Central H.S. Hernan is studying at Pittsford-Sutherland H.S.



Americans looking forward to exchange trips abroad are from left: Erika St.James, Pittsford Mendon H.S.; Daniela Vasan, Pittsford-Mendon; Jermaine Thompson, John Marshall H.S.; Laila Marchini, Pittsford-Sutherland H.S.; Aidan Rich, School of the Arts; Gloria Lara, School of the Arts; Matthew Galetto, School of the Arts; Lindsay Mulgrew, Pittsford-Mendon; Monica Doyle, Irondequoit H.S.; Rita Pecora, Churchillville-Chili H.S.; Will Shiel, Pittsford-Sutherland. Missing from photo: Charlotte Drew, Pittsford-Sutherland.

ATAD on the Web

We are happy to announce that ATAD is now on the web! An ATAD web site was the dream of the late Dave Penley, former ATAD President, who envisioned its usefulness several years ago. In 2000-2001, two Internet-savvy International Students (Eryk Druszkiewicz from Krakow, Poland, and Frank Schinzel, from Wurzburg, Germany) under the supervision of ATAD Board Member Keith Crossley, framed the site. For the past year, Keith, now our Webmaster, has worked diligently to finish the construction and fill in the blanks with the help of the Policies and Procedures Committee and a number of other Board Members.

The domain is supported through the generosity of the kind people of Leveraging Technology in memory of Dave.

What will you find on the web? There are colorful photos of participants, activities and our Partner Cities, links to the cities' web sites, a calendar of ATAD meetings and events, The Top Ten Reasons to Host an International Student and information on how to apply.

Members (Host Families, Americans Overseas Families, Board Members and Overseas Liaisons) have access to up-to-date rosters, while Board Members and Overseas Liaisons also have access to the Policies and Procedures Manual, which contains the most current version of ATAD's policies and forms at their fingertips.

As we had hoped, prospective student applicants are using the web site to learn about our program, further spreading the word about ATAD in the 21st century. Visitors can even send e-mail directly to ATAD from the web site.

Check us out at www.ATAD.org!

ATAD
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Spring Activities for Students and Host Families

Anne Gray, Chair for ATAD Activities, has announced the following events for exchange students and their host families.

In March, exchange students will be invited to participate as volunteers at Asbury Church's weekly Sunday meal for community members in need. They will help prepare the food, serve it and clean up. In April, exchange students and family members will be invited to attend the Sunday service at Aenon Baptist Church.

This opportunity, made possible by ATAD Board Member Alicia Ward, will let them experience music and spiritual expression in the African-American tradition. In May, a trip to Letchworth Park is planned. The purpose of all the events is to let the participants enjoy each other's company while becoming acquainted with Rochester's important locales, its community groups and their work.

Share your home and your heart

If you're interested in becoming an ATAD Host Family, know someone who might be, or just want to learn more, phone Karen Grover

385-3639

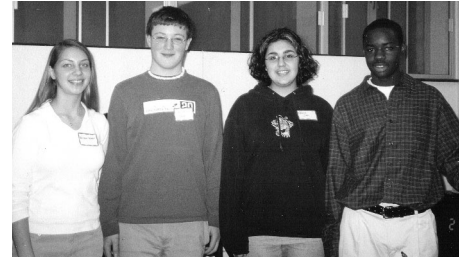
Simon Scholarship Winner Selected

Jermaine Thompson, a junior at John Marshall High School, is the 2003 winner of the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship for Excellence. ATAD makes the award yearly to a City School District student, providing an all expense paid exchange trip to one of our exchange destinations. The award is named for the late Gary Simon, a former administrator at Wilson Magnet High School who fostered international learning experiences for students by bringing foreign students into Wilson and helping American students take advantage of travel and exchange programs.

Jermaine Thompson was born in Jamaica and came to America as a six year old. Since then his only foreign travel has been to Canada. Now he will be going to Caltanissetta, Italy, for six weeks in Summer 2003. He is the oldest of four children, takes part in the school chess club, and enjoys basketball and football. He has wanted to experience foreign travel for some time. He applied for the Gary Simon Scholarship as a ninth grader and was not selected. With his mother Lydia Francis' encouragement he tried again as a junior and found success.

Jermaine is eager to learn about other countries and to see them first hand. So far television documentaries, particularly about World War II, have interested him, but he would like to see for himself how people live in the present.

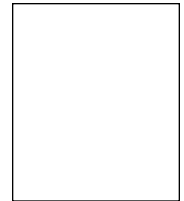
Present in Marshall Principal Munno's office when the award was made by ATAD President Marti Eggers were Alicia Ward, Chair of the Scholarship Committee; Jermaine's mother, Lydia Francis; his grandfather, Edward Francis; and an adult friend and mentor, Stanley Rose. His mother, grandfather, and mentor all spoke about the ways they have encouraged and supported Jermaine. Jermaine has another reason to celebrate lately. He just became an American citizen. He displays a quiet confidence in his upcoming trip, a confidence which is shared by his mom. Mrs. Francis says, "Everywhere Jermaine goes people like him."



2003 scholarship winners pose at the annual Potluck Dinner in February. They are from left: Alison Wahl, Founders' Award; Will Schiel, David Penley Award; Gloria Lara, Marcia Payne Award and 2nd place, Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship; and Jermaine Thompson, winner of the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship for Excellence (see article on Jermaine).

Association for Teen-Age Diplomats

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