

Gary Simon Scholarship Awarded



ATAD President, Marian Kobrin, presents the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship for Excellence to the 2004 winner, Gabriel Hurst at his church. Alicia Ward, ATAD Board Member, looks on at left, as does Gabriel's cousin, Michelle Nathan, at right.

This year's winner of the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship for Excellence is Gabriel Hurst, a junior at Wilson Magnet High School. Gabriel is in the International Baccalaureat program at Wilson and a superb foreign language student whose interest and facility in Spanish will enrich his homestay experience this summer in Peru.

Gabriel was born in Greensboro, N.C., and came to Rochester at the age of 12. He attended Douglas Middle School where he took Latin. He entered Wilson Magnet in the 9th grade and began studying Spanish. He was such a skilled student that he was promoted to Spanish II before the year was out. Since then he has taken the Regents Examination in Spanish on which he got a 98 and the Advanced Placement Examination, where he earned the top grade, a 5. Gabriel's Spanish teacher, Rosa D'Aiuto, observes, "Gabriel has a passion for Spanish. He goes out of his way to speak the language with natives. He helps other students with their lessons and has tutored after school. He even gets Spanish translations for books he is reading in English to further his knowledge."

Music is also one of Gabriel's interests. In addition to studying Portuguese

on his own, and regularly attending his church youth group, he enjoys Latin style dancing and music.

With his history teacher, Ms. Arvelo, he has started a Latin dance club. "Music helps me a lot," says Gabriel. He's currently working on an extensive essay on Cuban/African music.

Gabriel lives with his mother, two brothers, just across the street from his grandfather who plays an important part in his life. The combination of his language skills, his outgoing personality and his interests in the wider world will undoubtedly make him an outstanding exchange student.



Mayor Johnson greeted ATAD exchange students at City Hall in December. Students are from left: Iris Anliatamer from Izmir, Turkey; Deniz Akman, also from Izmir; Tanya Larionova from Novgorod, Russia; Mike Truszkowski, from Krakow, Poland; Dasha Prokhorova, from Novgorod, and Bart Sekiewicz, from Krakow.

Upcoming ATAD Events for international students and Host Families:

March 28 - Visit to Cumming
Nature Center

April 25 - Service at Aeon
Baptist Church

May 16 Visit to Letechworth
Park

June 6 - Farewell Picnic

ATAD

Check us out on the web!

www.atad.org

ATAD Cookbook in the works!

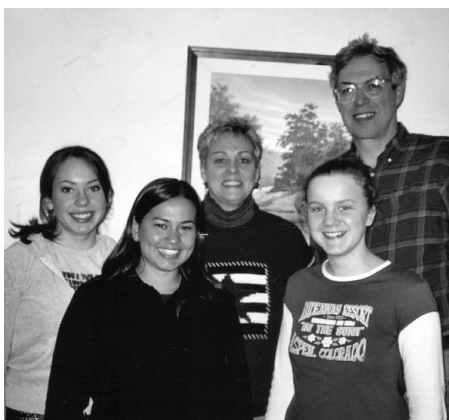
ATAD host parent, Betty Doyle, has volunteered to compile a recipe book by and for ATAD participants.

She has begun with recipes submitted at the February International Dinner, but would like more.

Please send her your favorite domestic or international recipes to:

5 Lanvale Park
Rochester, N.Y. 14617
or e-mail her at
badmom3259@aol.com

Massa Family Defines International Exchange



From left Mackenzie Welch with parents Pat and Dennis Massa, in foreground former ATAD exchange student Julissa Reatiqui from Peru and current ATAD exchange student from Russia, Dasha Prokhorova

Pat and Dennis Massa serve on the ATAD Board of Directors as co-vice presidents for American students going abroad. Their children, Liz and Jonathan, have traveled to Turkey and Peru as ATAD students, and they have hosted 6 international students

since 1996.

Recently they had a surprise visitor from Iquitos, Peru, a city in the southern hemisphere, 3 degrees south of the equator. After 8 years their first exchange student returned to Rochester for a visit. Julissa lived with the Massas and five of their 6 children, attending Pittsford Mendon High School.

Now nearly 25, she has graduated from a university in Lima and works there as a special accounts representative at a bank. She's interested in pursuing a master's degree in international business at the U of R or RIT.

In addition to hosting Julissa, as well as another student from Peru, a girl from Waterford, Ireland, and, a girl from Turkey, a boy from Caltanissetta, Italy, and their current student from Russia, they play a very important role on the Board, directing

the procedures which get American students into ATAD's various host countries.

Pat says, "We had no idea when we started on this path how dear the friendships would become between us and the students and families of students we have hosted. Weekly e-mails and frequent phone calls have continued over the years. Two years ago when our daughter Liz was married, she and her husband were given a two week honeymoon in Izmir, Turkey, by Liz's host family – six years after her visit there. What an experience! What a genuine friendship."

As the Massa's youngest child leaves for college this fall, their hopes are that they can start to visit each of their exchange students and their families in their home countries.

Association for Teen-Age Diplomats

23 Arlington Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534

