

## Gary Simon Scholarship Awarded

Crystal Pullings, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Rochester's School of the Arts, was recently surprised in her Spanish III class by balloons, family members, and ATAD President Marian Kobrin who was there to present her with the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship for Excellence. The scholarship provides a City School District student with a summer exchange experience in one of ATAD's exchange countries.

Crystal, who has studied Spanish at SOTA since grade 7, saw it as a great opportunity to get to a Spanish speaking country. She will travel to Iquitos, Peru, this summer. About the upcoming trip, Crystal says, "Through my family, I have met people of different cultures who speak other languages. I want to try out my Spanish and see people in real life doing things in different ways from what I'm used to." A stay in Iquitos, which is located in the Amazon jungle, will undoubtedly provide some new experiences.

Crystal plays the flute in the junior band at SOTA. She is also active in the youth group at Calvary Chapel of Rochester where her father is the assistant pastor.

Buena suerte, Crystal!



*ATAD President Marian Kobrin presents Gary Simon Scholarship to Crystal Pullings at the School of the Arts.*

### Simon Scholarship Recap

Gary Simon was an administrator at Wilson Magnet H.S. from 1983-1997. He facilitated many student exchanges and encouraged foreign travel and foreign language study.

Previous winners of the scholarship are:

Leah Stormo, SOTA, 1997

Catherine Zettek, SOTA, 1998

Dalia Falu, SOTA, 1999

Martrisha Atkins, Edison, 2000

Jenny Le, Wilson, 2001

No award in 2002

Jermaine Thompson, Marshall, 2003

Gabriel Hurst, Wilson, 2004

## Letter From Wurzburg

Vedrana Cirkovic is an ATAD student from Rush Henrietta who is spending this school year in Wurzburg, Germany. She wrote this letter in the fall to Otto and Edie Fuchs who are the co-chairs of the Wurzburg-Rochester Sister City Committee.

Dear Edie and Otto Fuchs,

My first month in Germany has gone by fairly quickly. School's a bit of a challenge because it's hard to understand some of the more complex words. I got 100% on the first math quiz, but I only had 3 out of 20 on our first history quiz. The history teacher didn't even bother to give me a grade. Other than that, everything's good. The kids at school are very friendly and helpful. They always make sure that I know what's going on. Although sometimes I think they're afraid to talk to me because they don't know if I can understand anything. So they're constantly asking me if I understand and telling each other that sometimes foreign people say they understand when they really don't. The buildings here are so pretty. I love the way everything looks. I also like the weather. I hear it's very cold in Rochester. But most days the weather is very pleasant here. For the most part, everything's new for me, especially the food. So every day is an adventure. Also, every day I hear more words that I don't know, so it sort of feels like every day I know less and less. Yet somehow, I seem to be picking things up very slowly. My host family thinks I'll know fluent German by Christmas. I really hope so.

Sincerely,  
Vedrana Cirkovic



*Family Power: at left Theresa Mills, Crystal's mother; in front of her sisters Markeeta and Moriah; and next to Crystal at right, her sister Tondreka. Crystal has a brother, Mitchell, who graduated from SOTA in 2003.*

### ATAD Needs a New Logo

#### Design a logo that:

- looks good on brochures & t-shirts
- teens can relate to
- has no more than 3 colors
- most of all, represents international exchanges

*If your submission is selected,  
you will receive \$50!*

Send your logo design by April 4th to:

Marian Kobrin  
23 Arlington Drive  
Pittsford, NY 14534

# The Tie That Binds

Families and students who take part in foreign exchanges often keep in touch and reunite after a few or many years have passed. In the summer of 2004 two such meetings took place here.

During the 1999-2000 school year Allison Crossley, of Webster, lived with the Ribardiere family and attended school in Rennes, France. Her host sister, Judith, visited the Crossley family

in Webster last summer. With the Crossleys she enjoyed Webster Park and Lake Ontario and took time to do some Breton cooking for the family. Allison is finishing her undergraduate degree, with a triple major in history, religion, and international studies. She has traveled in West Africa, studied Arabic in Morocco, and is now studying at Bosphorus University in Turkey.

Andrew Dutcher is a long-time ATAD Board member and was an exchange student to Finland in 1967. The Dutchers visited Andy's host brother and his family 15 years ago in Finland. Last summer Ilmari Hokkanen, 16, the son of his host brother, came to the U.S. for a 3 week visit with the Scott-Dutcher family. His visit included a trip to Yosemite National Park where he celebrated his 16th birthday. Andy, in recalling his days as an exchange student, said, "It was the best experience of my high school years."



*L-R, Ben Scott-Dutcher, Ilmari Hokkanen, Jessica Scott-Dutcher at the Scott-Dutcher home in Rochester*



*Judith Ribardiere and Keith Crossley make gallettes at the Crossley home.*

## Association for Teen-Age Diplomats

23 Arlington Drive  
Pittsford, NY 14534

