



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DUNN

Top scholars: Rotary Club president Harold Wolkind, left, and Bev Ellis, right, congratulated scholarship honorees Jillian Maxey, Stacey D. Wolff, Deepa Rengaraj and Andrea Coleman.

Rotary honors Ellis Scholarship winners

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Three Farmington area students have received scholarships given in memory of a Farmington Rotary Club member who dedicated much of his life to working with youth.

Deepa Rengaraj, Farmington High, Jillian Maxey, Harrison High and Andrea Coleman, North Farmington High, received the Jim V. Ellis Memorial Scholarship during a Rotary luncheon held June 5 at Hong Hua restaurant in Farmington Hills.

"It's a wonderful honor to Jim's memory and our family," said Bev Ellis, Jim's widow.

Jim was a district coordinator for the Rotary's Youth Exchange program and active in Little League with his children, Bev said. He was active and well-known in the community. Club president Harold Wolkind explained donations received after Jim's death led to the creation of the scholarship fund.

"Originally, it was one scholarship, and we selected the winner from among our

three public schools," he said. Funded by the club and the Rotary Foundation, three scholarships are now awarded. The Foundation Board selects finalists based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community involvement. Candidates submit an essay and then are interviewed.

"They have to present themselves in the best light they can," Wolkind said. "To say they're nervous is an understatement."

Still, he added, the process helps judges find out how wonderful the kids really are. An immigrant from India, Rengaraj has received a number of academic and athletic awards, was involved in Chemistry Olympiad, French club and SAAD, played on the tennis and basketball teams and received awards for participation in the Crop Walk and Volunteer Impact. She also volunteered more than 140 hours at Botsford Hospital.

She has been accepted at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor's School of Engineering, where she plans to study biomedical engineering.

Maxey received student excellence and achievement awards in academics, served as a representative to Girls' State, participated in student government, DECA and National Honor Society and has volunteered with the Goodfellows food drive, March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon and Quest Day (helping at nursing homes), among many other events. She played on the tennis and volleyball teams and works part-time.

She plans to attend Michigan State and has been accepted into their Honors program.

Coleman, who plans to attend her father's alma mater, Rhodes College in Tennessee, worked to help establish the Mayor's Youth Council in Farmington Hills, received a number of academic honors, participated in theater, Art Club, French Club and National Honor Society and competed with the softball and forensics teams.

A Girls State delegate, she has received awards from the Altrusa Club, YMCA and Farmington Youth Assistance program.

INKWELL

ESSAY CONTEST

Stephanie Weessies, Candace Childress and Jason McKenzie won first, second and third place, respectively for East Middle School for their participation in the American and Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. Weessies' first place essay advances to state competition, from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected.

Forest Elementary fifth grader Matthew McCullough recently won highest honors for a year-long achievement in this year's WordMasters challenge, a national language arts competition entered by more than 250,000 students annually. Another Forest student achieving outstanding results was fifth grader Lauren Tucker.

INTERLOCHEN BOUND

Sarah Morrison, 17, of Farmington Hills, daughter of William and Karen Morrison will study voice and violin at Interlochen Arts Camp this summer.

ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY

Ryan M. Ratzloff of Farmington received his diploma from St. Mary's Preparatory, an all-boys college preparatory school in Orchard Lake.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The following Farmington Public School students were awarded music scholarships at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp for summer study:

Emily Fisher, Power Middle School; Ryan Gendron, Power Middle School; Allison Schlick, Harrison High School; and Katherine Soave, East Middle School.

BEECHVIEW SCHOLAR

Emily Houser a recent graduate of Harrison High School, was the recipient of the 2001 Beechview Elementary School YTA Scholarship. She earned the scholarship for her essay *Lessons from Life's Journey: How they have made me who I am today*. Houser will attend Central Michigan University in the fall.

DENSO SCHOLARS

Ghassem Kiliu and Hong Weng, recent graduates of Harri-

son High School, both earned scholarships from DENSO International America, Inc. based in Southfield. Kiliu will attend the University of Michigan in the fall and Weng will attend Kettering University in the fall.

EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS

McKenzie Currie, Amy Lebeis and Don Wierwiczki of Farmington Hills have been selected by the People to People Student Ambassador Program to visit Europe this summer. The delegation will travel to France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

ESSAY WINNERS

Julie Wallis and Gunjan Sud, eighth graders from Power Middle School were winners in the Detroit Free Press Writing Contest. Wallis won first place for her essay *The Song That Stands for Love* and Sud won second place for his essay *A Whole New World*.

HISTORY BUFFS

Three Flagg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored outstanding senior history students Jaclyn Silver from Farmington High School and Magdalena Gudowski from Harrison High School. The students were presented with silver medals and certificates of achievement.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Lanigan Elementary School participated in the Junior American Citizens contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution and received two national awards. Mrs. Crawford's fourth grade class created a quilt depicting many national monuments that received a first place award and fifth graders Emily Lalonde & Jill Haspaniem created a group stamp design that earned them a second place award.

ACADEMY GRAD

John Trummer, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Trummer, Jr. of Farmington Hills graduated with honors in English and theater from The Culver Academies on June 3. He earned five Gold A's and two Silver A's.

YOUTH LEADER

Chris Kucio of Farmington was accepted to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, taking place in Chicago from July 8 to 17. This forum is a career development program for high school students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential and an interest in medicine.

WORDMASTERS CHALLENGE

Chris Kucio

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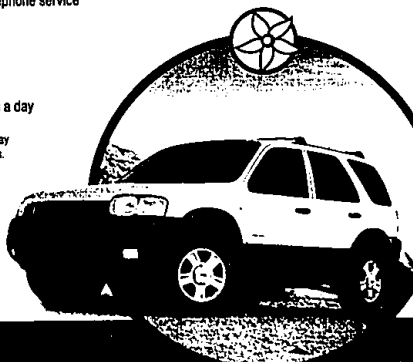
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