



# MASS ACADEMY MATTERS

NEWS FROM THE MASS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE AT WPI

## STUDENTS LAUDED AT SENIOR MEETING

Michael Barney, Director of the Mass Academy of Math and Science at WPI in Worcester, announced today that fifteen students at the Academy have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the Director to these scholastically talented seniors. The seniors (listed alphabetically), and their home communities are: Derek Bain (Shrewsbury), Anna Brill (Worcester), Stefan Cepko (Worcester), Rebecca Church (Northborough), Jeffrey Copeland (Jefferson), Cai Debenham (Weston), Christian DiMare (Uxbridge), Paul Harrington (Peabody), Eva Jaskoviak (Gilbertville), Zachary King (Shrewsbury), Richer Leung (Winchendon), Ryan Nutille (Oxford), Conor Pappas (Oxford), Amy Rockwood (Walpole) and George Slavin (Douglas).

The College Board is pleased to announce that Megan McHugh of Worcester and Adan Rivas of Clinton, have been recognized in the 2011-12 National Hispanic Recognition Program. Adan has been named a 2011-2012 NHRP Scholar and Megan has been awarded NHRP Honorable Mention for Excellence in Academic Achievement. They are in the top 2% of over 235, 000 students requesting consideration. Jessica Latta, of Hubbardston, was recognized as an outstanding participant in the 2012 National Achievement Scholarship Program, scoring in the top 3% of more than 160,000 Black American high school students requesting consideration. "Mass Academy is very proud of these young men and women. Credit goes not only to the hard work put in by our students, but to the teachers of their sending schools who worked with them along the way to prepare them well for this exam. Through a collective effort and tremendous work ethic, they have reached a high level of achievement", comments Mr. Barney.



### ACADEMY STUDENTS ACHIEVE NATIONAL MERIT STATUS

Five Mass Academy students received recognition as semi-finalists in National Merit Programs for Academic Excellence.

Grace DiFrancesco was named a semi-finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program in recognition of outstanding black high school students. Grace was one of 1600 students recognized nation-wide.

Juliana Kew, Ryan Kutzko, Curtis Belmonte and Linda Xu were named National Merit semi-finalists, and will all continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. Approximately 16,000 students nationwide received this honor, or less than one percent of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT exam as juniors.

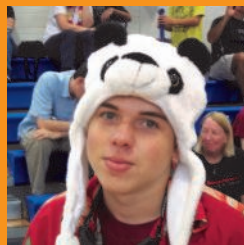
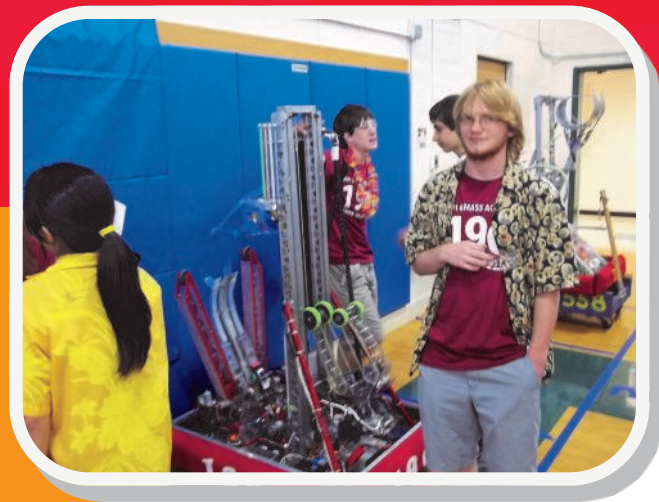
We are extremely proud of our students and wish them well as they all continue in their quest for scholarship. They have certainly distinguished themselves already!

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

-Steve Jobs (in memoriam)

**FLY LIKE AN EAGLE:** Kudos to Senior Vincent Capone who passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on his 18th Birthday and achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout! Congratulations Vinnie!



### TEAM 190 WINS MAINELY SPIRIT

Mass Academy's team 190 won the First, FRC Robotics competition in Oakland, Maine on Saturday September 24, 2011. Mainely Spirit (<http://offseason.team2648.com>) was hosted by team 2648. Our team went undefeated for 13 rounds. Mass Academy students attending the competition were: Cai Debenham, Paul Harrington, Derek Harney, Angelica Heeny, Julie Kew, Amy Rockwood and Aaron Hammond. The team also competed at Bash on the Beach at Old Lyme CT, placing second overall (see pictures above). Upcoming events include River Rage October 29 in Manchester New Hampshire. Follow the team on their website (<http://users.wpi.edu/~first>). Go Gompei and the H.E.R.D. Thanks to Ken Stafford, Brad Miller and Colleen Shaver for their support!

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MASS ACADEMY

Over 90 Massachusetts math and science teachers met at the Academy on Saturday, October 1st for professional development, an integral part of the mission of Mass Academy. The topics included writing for science fairs (everything from researchable questions and abstracts to scientific methodologies), to utilization of new technology to support math instruction.

Math teachers from around the region gathered for a Super Saturday to learn some new Texas Instrument technology. Educators explored how to use this new technology in their classes to improve student outcomes. Sessions included Beginners, Navigator, Science, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Calculus. The next session is scheduled for December 3rd.

Working with Dr. Sumner and the curriculum that she has developed at the Academy, the science teachers learned how to improve their students' literature reviews, data presentation, final papers, and presentation boards.

The feedback on the day was outstanding. For more information about professional development offerings or outreach, contact Jackie Bonneau at [bonneau@wpi.edu](mailto:bonneau@wpi.edu).



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- WED OCT 12 PSAT EXAM 8 AM  
FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
- FRI OCT 14 HALF DAY FOR JUNIORS  
START OF SENIOR VACATION
- MON OCT 17
- TUES OCT 18 MONSON COMMUNITY SERVICE TRIP  
LEAVE MAMS 7:30 AM  
RETURN 4:00 PM

WEAR: LONG SLEEVE SHIRT, LONG PANTS, STRONG SHOES OR BOOTS

BRING: LUNCH, WATER, GLOVES, BUG REPELLENT

### COLLEGE VISITS

- TUES OCT 11 BABSON 8:30 AM
- WED OCT 12 BENTLEY 12:00 PM
- THU OCT 13 SMITH 1:00 PM
- TUE OCT 25 CASE WESTERN 8:30 AM
- THU OCT 27 FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 1:30 PM

