

Avondale High School Students Sketch Out Potential Futures in Automotive Design

by Irena Granaas

Twenty Avondale High School art students participated in a four-week program (April 16 to May 14) working with GM's automotive design program and with faculty at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Leigh Wright, art teacher and Art Department chairperson at Avondale Schools, Avondale is one of only two schools in Oakland County to have art students working with GM and CCS.

The goal of the program was to help develop participants' art skills so they would have a shot at gaining one of 50 openings in the "You Make a Difference" program. The one-week summer workshop invites the top 50 students to attend an Advanced Sketching Workshop with training and curriculum provided by GM professional designers and CCS faculty.

"We have 16 students going on to Phase 2 at Cass Tech High School and College for Creative Studies (although a few have conflicts and will not participate)," said Wright.

Several students shared what they have gotten out of their participation in the program. Tenth grader Tyler Wayne told Wright he "never was into cars or even art" until he had the opportunity to take part in the "You Make a

Difference" sketching workshop.

"He came into the program a little uncertain but finished wanting to learn more," she said. "The instructors, Brian and Zach, gave constant encouragement and support and now he wants to see how far he can take it."

For Charles Connell, also in the 10th grade, cars have always been an interest, as his father worked for a car company, but Connell never really thought about car design until the YMAD drawing workshop.

"Once he has had this initial push, he feels he will continue to explore the opportunities available," said Wright.

She added that another workshop success story is ninth grader Zach Dushaj, who never really knew how to even approach drawing cars, but has become intrigued since taking part in the workshop.

"The instructors really helped to break down the basics and now he is very interested in learning more about design and the careers available to him in the field," she said.

For her part, Wright really saw the value to students in taking part in the YMAD workshop.

"All the students said that they are really noticing cars a lot more since the workshop," Wright commented. "This was a wonderful opportunity for my art students to see the design opportu-

nities available to them in the automotive industry.

"Brian Malczewski (GM creative designer) and Zac Parkinson (a junior in Automotive Design at CCS) did a great job instructing students on perspective, design concepts and answering questions regarding their work," she said. "They were very encouraging to the students. Many of my students involved in the program said that they are now seriously considering the field.

"I was very pleased with the experience provided by GM and the College for Creative Studies. I hope to participate again next year."

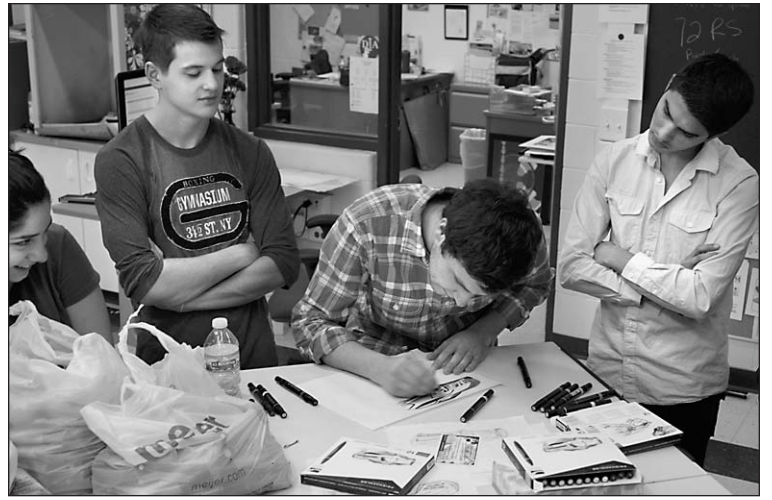
Malczewski said working with the students was enjoyable, being so close to them in age.

"It was a really good experience, especially for me, because I'm pretty fresh out of college," he said.

Malczewski said Avondale students who really want to pursue an auto design career are in the perfect area, being close to GM and to CCS, "so it really comes full circle for them.

"Their career is pretty much mapped out for them . . . They will go from high school to CCS and from there to GM.

"They're better off than the average person from some random high school who wants to get into the industry, like I was in high school," he said. "I knew I wanted to get into auto design, but didn't



From left: Avondale art students Shima Sadaghiyani, Zach Dushaj, GM Designer Brian Malczewski and student Andres Lopes.

have anything like this to guide me."

Malczewski said he definitely saw some good talent among the participants at Avondale. He added, right now, all these kids need is passion, creativity and the will to stick with it for them to have a future in the industry.

"All they need is the passion

. . . They can learn the talent later," he said.

"We are pleased," said Avondale Superintendent Dr. George Heitsch, "to be able to provide our high school art students a unique opportunity to help hone their skills and work one-on-one with top-notch professionals at GM and CCS."

Model As, Ts to be Shown in Durand

The Durand Union Station will hold a Model A & Model T Car Show on Sunday, June 9, rain or shine, from noon to 4 p.m., at the historic station and museum in Durand, Mich.

The event is open to Ford Model A and Model T cars, original or restored, model year 1931 or older. Awards will be given out for the top 25 cars, including Best of Show.

There is no entry fee, and trail-

er parking is available. Period attire is encouraged. Featured entertainment is by Bob Steel. Guests can enjoy food and refreshments, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and tag sale. Dash plaques and goodie bags will be given out.

For more information, contact dusi@durandstation.org. The Durand Station is located at 200 Railroad St., Durand, Mich.

Experts Discuss Best Hiring Practices At AH Chamber's Townhall Event

The Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce's recent Talent Townhall drew about 30 guests, representing a diverse group of employers to discuss the qualities that make an employee a good, long-term fit for the position into which his or her employer will place the new hire.

Key speakers were Ron Watson, assistant vice president of Human Resources at Oakland University, and Todd Lancaster, owner and president of YourSource Management Group, a human resources outsourcing and consulting firm based in Auburn Hills.

Watson and Lancaster walked guests through best practices for the different types of job interviews and the employee screening process. They also discussed the costs of a high turnover rate.

Said Lancaster in an interview, "The cost of turnover can be as much as 35 percent of the individual's annual salary, but that pales next to the . . . difference in performance between the right



Todd Lancaster

individual versus the person who isn't the right fit, which ranges from 18 percent for a low-level job to 150 percent in high-complexity or sales jobs."

The townhall was presented by OU, and sponsors included *Corp!* magazine, Snelling Staffing Services, Baker College and Oakland Community College.

OU Steps in to Prevent Bullying

Oakland University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School are teaming up to present "Working Together to Stop School Violence: A Statewide Summit on Bullying," on Friday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cooley's Auburn Hills campus.

The seminar focuses on what can be done to stop bullying and harassment in schools under "Matt's Safe School Law," named after Matt Epling, a freshman from East Lansing, Mich., who killed himself in 2002 after being bullied by an upperclassman.

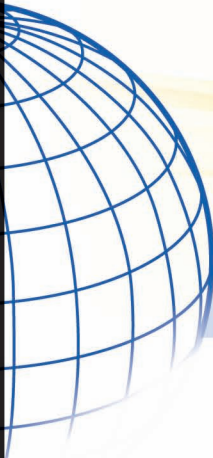
Program highlights include discussions with Kevin Epling, Matt's father, along with authors of *The Weekly Bully Beat Down*.

Key presenters are the Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr., district court judge, Saginaw County; Monica Nuckolls, professor, Cooley Law School; and Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, professor, Oakland University.

Those interested in attending should pre-register by contacting nuckollm@cooley.edu, or registering online at www.cooley.edu/events/stop_bullying_summit.html. The Cooley Law School campus is located at 2630 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills.

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