

## LOCAL

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## Student takes learning beyond the classroom

**Christina Tzortzinis**

Age: 17.

**Family:** Parents, Angelo Tzortzinis and Lori Lowe; sister Sofia, a freshman at Huron High School.**Occupation:** Freshman this fall at the University of Michigan.**Education:** 2007 graduate of Huron High School.**Activities:** Youth Senate; Leap the Gap project; A capella choir leadership board; Young Democrats; tutor for Algebra Enrichment Project; bowling team.**Last books read:** "The Dante Club" by Matthew Pearl; "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell and "The Historian" by Elizabeth Kostova.

Huron graduate took tough classes, but she also got involved

BY DAVID JESSE  
News Staff Reporter

Senior year of high school is often viewed as a chance to coast to the end.

That wasn't the case for recently graduated Huron High School student Christina Tzortzinis.

"School was really big last year," she said. "Junior year was easier. Senior year was full."

Most people would consider her entire high school career full and busy.

There were the tough classes, the choir and musical involvement, the active role in the Young Democrats, the tutoring for the Algebra Enrichment Project and all the involvement in the various programs of the Youth



LEISA THOMPSON, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

**Recent Huron High School graduate Christina Tzortzinis talks with Prithvi Varma, a senior at Huron, before giving a report for Youth Senate at the school board meeting on Wednesday.**

Empowerment Project. She's the chair of the project's Youth Senate School Board Committee, which lands her in front of the school board at every board meeting, and

she's on the leadership team of the Youth Senate's Leap the Gap project.

Much of her extra-curricular work has focused on raising her voice in support of her

fellow students.

"I did it for all the kids who don't know it's out there," she said. "I feel like kids don't know how they can work the system."

"I do it because I can."

She's passionate about making sure students are heard.

"I think that because kids have a lack of experience, a lot adults discount everything they have to say. Our perspectives are the fresh ones that are going to carry through. It's such a shame when adults discount what kids have to say."

"I think some adults do that because when they were growing up, they were told not to talk, or were ignored and so they think that's how it should be. Others just have their selfish interests in mind and don't realize there are different opinions."

SEE TZORTZINIS, A5

TZORTZINIS FROM A3

## An extrovert, with all her interactions? Think again

Christina has been working to make sure students' viewpoints are heard for quite some time.

"Since middle school, she has always seen the layers in what is going on around her," said Ebba Hierta of the Youth Empowerment Project. "She is exceptionally insightful about her peers and motivated to see them receive and

experience the same advantages that she has benefited from. She treats everyone with equal respect."

All the public interaction and leadership might lead people to think that Christina's an extrovert.

Not so.

"I'm the most introverted person," she said. "A (perfect) day is a day that's raining and

I get to sit inside with a cup of coffee with my cats and read.

"It's only through the school board experience that I'm able to talk to strangers."

Christina is headed to University of Michigan. She's not sure exactly what she's going to end up doing but wants to be involved in the political process somehow.

That will help her accom-

plish her goals.

"I know it's a cliché, but I want to help make the world a better place. The world needs some more understanding, some warming up a little."

"I'm genuine about what I want to do."

David Jesse can be reached at djesse@annarbornews.com or at 734-994-6937.