



No portion of this article may be reproduced without
express written permission of Style Publishing Group, LLC.
©2007 • All rights reserved.



Style Publishing Group
P.O. Box 1676
Frisco, Texas 75034
Phone: 972.335.1181
Toll Free: 877.781.7067
Fax: 214.722.2313

E-mail: info@friscostyle.com
Web: www.friscostyle.com

Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306



Steven Zhu
photo by Beth Robinson

and is teaching himself to play the guitar. His favorite things to read are books by philosopher Ayn Rand and science-fiction writer Frank Herbert. "And of course, Harry Potter," he says. Farsheed says Steven may be a serious student, but he also "spends lots of time 'talking' on-line."

The Zhu family is from Fujain, a medium-sized province in southeast China. Steven's father, Yang Yang Zhu, came to the United States in 1991 to work on his master's degree in telecommunications at the University of Louisiana. Steven and his mother, Mei Mei Wu, soon followed when he was almost two years old. Mr. Zhu, a computer software engineer, moved his family to Texas in 1993 and they settled in Frisco five years ago.

While only in third grade at Curtsinger Elementary, Steven was approached by the science and math coach at Staley Middle School to participate in an accelerated program. By the fifth grade, he was attending class at Staley in the morning, then returning to elementary school to attend his regular class. He first took the SATs while in seventh grade as part of Duke University's Talent Identification Program, and scored 1370 out of a possible 1600.

In 10th grade, he took the SATs again as part of the qualifications for attending the Texas Academy of Math and Science (TAMS) at the University of North Texas – a residential program for gifted students. Although he scored a 1570 out of 1600 and was accepted, he had a last-minute change of heart after evaluating his options.

While he may still be close to home now, Steven is preparing for a big move when it comes to college. His hope is to attend the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, where he'd like to study electrical and computer engineering. "A lot of it is influenced by my father (an engineer), and also the skills I've developed in math and my interest in science."

What does his mom want him to be? "Happy," she says. "And successful at whatever he does."

Susan Bland is a freelance writer living in Frisco.

2400 Points of Perfection

By Susan Bland

STEVEN ZHU is no stranger to perfect scores. However, by scoring a perfect 2400 on the SAT exam – and becoming the first student in Frisco ever to do so – the 16-year-old Frisco High School junior has left his family, teachers and fellow students in shock and awe of such a feat.

Alex Holton, a friend and fellow U.S. Academic Decathlon teammate, says Steven's perfect score was met with excitement by his cohorts. "Excitement, and a bit of jealousy," admits Alex, in jest. "Even though you see all the work that Steven puts in," he says, "getting a perfect score - it's just mind boggling."

Mind boggling, indeed. According to the College Board, which administers the exam, about two million high school students in the nation take the standardized test each year. The exam is meant to measure college preparedness and consists of ten sections - including a newly added 25-minute essay. Each section is timed separately. On a national average, students only manage to answer

50-60 percent of the questions correctly. Only 20 percent of the test takers even get to the point of finishing.

In a recent survey of surrounding cities no other school district has a student with perfect scores this year, if ever. Plano, which has a high school population of more than 15,000 – compared with a little more than 4,000 in Frisco – had only one "perfect" student this year.

Steven's parents say he's a great role model for his 6-year-old brother, Jason. His friends describe him as somewhat quiet in nature, but the type of person who "comes alive" around friends and takes charge when the need arises. Farsheed Fozouni, also a fellow "decathlete" and friend, says Steven isn't always as serious as most people think. "He's got this wry sense of humor and his timing is impeccable," says Farsheed.

When he's not studying, Steven enjoys music and reading. He's studied piano for six years, repeatedly placed first chair in the school band as a trombone player