

## Concepts & Thought



### Educator of the Week

## Margaret Strimple

World History Teacher,  
Terrill Middle School, Scotch Plains

By MICHELLE Le POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**Hometown/Home Life:** Margaret Strimple lives in North Brunswick with her husband, James, who is employed by the Montgomery Board of Education as the School Business Administrator. Her younger daughter, Meredith, is a junior at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at The University of Maryland. Her older daughter, Erin, is a biology teacher in East Los Angeles at an alternative high school and is a graduate student at Chapman University in Orange, Calif.



Margaret Strimple

**Education/Previous Experience:** "My first teaching job, after earning my degree in international studies and education, was at New Brunswick High School in 1972, where I was a permanent substitute teacher for a community outreach program," reported Mrs. Strimple. "The following year, I was hired by the North Brunswick Township Board of Education, where I taught at the Linwood Middle School as a world and United States history teacher for eight years," she said. "I left there when my second child was born. I returned to teaching seven years ago as a world geography teacher at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains. I presently teach world history."

**I Knew I Reached My Students When:** "On that first day of school each September, the siblings of former students remind me of what they remember hearing their brothers or sisters enjoyed doing in my class and then ask me if we can do those activities this year as well. That is always a thrill for me," she said.

**What I Love About the School District:** "The ability of our school

administrators who hire such a talented group of quality teachers and the spirit of our children at Terrill," said Mrs. Strimple.

**Favorite Topic to Teach:** "I enjoy teaching several topics including pre-historic man, the Middle Ages, and world religions," she noted. "I particularly enjoy teaching the history of a civilization through the art of the period by using slides and other computer-generated pictures. I feel this approach creates a greater understanding of a civilization for a number of students, many of whom are visual learners."

**The Future of Education in America:** "Ever-increasing demands are being placed on students by colleges and universities, and the state and federal government," stated Mrs. Strimple. "These demands are filtering down to the high schools and even middle schools. I believe they have the potential to outweigh important decisions educators and society as a whole must make about the future of a child's development."

"I think this trend will eventually change, however, as it always does in education and that, ultimately, it will be replaced by more humanistic approach to determining the future of our children," she concluded.

**My Goal As an Educator:** Mrs. Strimple said, "I recently heard Ron Clark, the National Teacher of the Year, address an audience of educators. I realized as I was listening to him that we share a common philosophy. That is, to stay passionate as a teacher and committed to our students above all else."

"Another goal of mine," she added, "is to always remember that each student is someone else's child and to treat them as I would want my child to be treated."

### DECA News

## Toy Drive, Dinner And Adopt-A-Family Told

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter, an association of marketing students, is sponsoring its 13th annual Toy Drive to benefit the needy and homeless during the holiday season.

DECA is currently collecting monetary donations to aid the purchase of toys, clothing and household items for the homeless of the Union County Interfaith Council.

These gifts will be distributed on Wednesday, December 17, when DECA will be holding its 13th Annual Holiday Party for the Interfaith children.

"At the party, we will be setting up a model of our own school store. Then, DECA members will hand out play money to the kids, with which they can 'purchase' the toy they want," said DECA Advisor Dan Margolis. "We've never simulated this sort of situation at past Interfaith parties, but I really think the children will enjoy it!"



**A FEAST TO REMEMBER...** Senior DECA members and adult supervisors load up plates with food to be served to attendees at a Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Black United Community Center in Plainfield.

Many of the families participating in the party live in temporary shelters and in various churches and synagogues throughout the county, until permanent housing becomes available to them.

In addition, DECA asks the community to consider its Adopt-A-Family program, where residents provide necessities for a specific family in the Interfaith Council network.

To contribute as an individual or organization to the Toy Drive, or to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program, please call DECA at (908) 889-8600 as soon as possible.

### Thanksgiving Day Dinner

DECA served hot food and warm hearts on November 27 at their 13th annual Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Black United Community Center in Plainfield. Nearly 275 guests were treated to a full sit-down dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, vegetable platters, and desserts.

"I think this year's dinner was the most successful one since I was a freshman," said Senior DECA member Matt Goldberg. "Despite the fact that this was largest group we've had in several years, we had plenty of food for everyone. They were even happier when our servers told them they could bring platters home."

Matt, his family, and their friends gave up their Thanksgiving Day to oversee the dinner and help with the preparations, as they have done in the past several years.

"It's an unbelievable experience to see the difference our chapter's involvement can make in so many lives," said Senior DECA member Mike Hessemer, who collaborated with Matt to organize the event. "The heartfelt gratitude the attendees expressed to us is what ultimately made the whole day worthwhile."

# Park Middle School Principal Lisa Rebimbas Announces Names of Honor Roll Students

SCOTCH PLAINS — Lisa Rebimbas, Principal of Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, has announced the names of sixth, seventh and eighth graders placed on the Distinguished Honor Roll and Regular Honor Roll for the First Marking Period of the 2003-2004 academic term.

To qualify for the Distinguished Honor Roll, students must receive "A"s in all subjects. Pupils placed on the Regular Honor Roll must earn "A"s and "B"s in major subjects such as mathematics, science, social studies, language arts and reading, as well as no grade lower than "C" in other subjects.

### DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL GRADE 6 - 31 STUDENTS

Nikki Appezzato  
Stephanie Baier  
Stephanie Baliko  
Ulises Barros  
Remy Bernardo  
Sarah Canfield  
Sophie Chou  
Aditya Dahiya  
Alexander Davis  
Michael Demmel  
Robert Frazee  
Melissa Goldberg  
Lauren Hirschhorn  
Leigh Kwasny  
Nivedita Malik

Joseph Del Prete  
Antonio Di Nizo  
John Domanski  
Rebecca Dorlus  
Alexander Ebeling  
Josef Ellis  
Michael Ferrara  
Ronald Fields  
Matthew Fitzpatrick  
Brian Flood  
Marisa Fortes  
Richard Fung  
Ciera Gano  
Nathan Ghabour  
David Gigiel  
Elisabeth Greenberg  
Colin Grimm  
Gabriella Guzzo  
Alison Haggan  
Ashley Harrison  
Timothy Hauser  
Kelly Henderson  
Daniel Jones  
Cody Kalebota  
Courtney Kolb  
Timothy Kolterjahn  
Jonathan Kosenick  
Jaclyn Law  
Samuel Lee

### REGULAR HONOR ROLL GRADE 6 - 79 STUDENTS

Robert Ayala  
Andrea Barone  
Rachel Blom  
Rebecca Brand  
Sarah Brumfield  
Danielle Bryan-D'Aleo  
Alessandri Bubnov  
Karolyn Buckridge  
Michael Burke  
Colleen Campbell  
Michael Campbell  
Timothy Carroll  
Indigo Castle  
Jeremy Cimafonte  
Zachary Cimafonte  
Peter Citera  
Shai Cohen  
Jessica Colineri  
Joseph D'Auria  
Michael Del Sordi  
Brian Dempsey  
Jack Diaz  
Adam DiBattista  
Yangelis Dimopoulos  
Marisa Dolan  
Brian Dunn  
Robert Evans  
Jerenly Fernandez  
Jawan Gaines  
Katrina Gans  
Anthony Gartman  
Jennifer Geoghegan  
Matthew Glassett  
Kyle Hambor  
Stephen Hansen  
Lauren Harnett  
Edward Heavey  
Noorene Helm  
Daniel Herczak  
David Watson

### DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL GRADE 8 - 22 STUDENTS

Izabela Blach  
Julianne Brennan  
Ryan Bridge  
Lisa Campbell  
Katelyn Cavanaugh  
Bridget Cornwell  
John De Maio  
Christina Halma  
Lindsay Hauptman  
Jacob Lavenhar  
Ming Lu

### REGULAR HONOR ROLL GRADE 8 - 82 STUDENTS

Courtney Adamczyk  
Deborah Albert  
Andrea Apuzzio  
James Barker  
Courtney Baines  
Casandra Berwick  
Avery Boettcher  
Jason Boff  
Daniel Buckley  
Rebecca Bush  
Julia Capodica  
Bailey Cardinal  
Julian Cespedes  
Nicole Colineri  
Kristen Conlan  
Robert Cunningham  
Lauren Cutrone  
John Dagostaro, 3rd  
Dauna Demarsico  
Patrick Doliber  
Joseph Dunn  
Dylan Farrall  
Rebecca Fox  
Nicole Fusco  
Helene Gebler  
Stephanie Goines  
Jade Griffiths  
Andrea Guzman  
Wendy Harris  
Melissa Helock  
Thomas Hercel  
Thomas Holt  
Jessica Impellizzeri  
Alec Jacobs  
Alyssa Karis  
Samantha Knierim  
Allison Kodan  
Marc L'Heureux  
Jaclyn Lazarus  
Amy Lee  
Robert Leeper

### DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL GRADE 7 - 37 STUDENTS

Antonio Albano  
Kerilyn Bartley  
Kristyn Berger  
Kristin Betau  
Ryan Brown  
Caitlin Campbell  
Michelle Carroll  
Michelle Conway  
Thomas Cristiani  
Tyler Della Badia  
Nicole Desando  
Kristina Kalkstein  
Emily Ann Katz  
Allison Killeen  
Karthik Krishna Kumar  
Erika Kueck  
Thomas Leong  
Sean Lockier

### REGULAR HONOR ROLL GRADE 7 - 89 STUDENTS

Christopher Lestarchick  
Rebecca Lipke  
Roger Liu  
Bernadette Lopez  
Jessica Loshavo  
Valerie Luby  
Teausha Matthews  
Jenna McGarry  
Daniel Michalak  
Nicole Mineo  
Lester Nare  
Saxony Nielsen  
Darwin Nitro  
Erin O'Brien  
Narihan Osman

### Scott Benjamin Satkin Named to Dean's List

WESTFIELD — Scott Benjamin Satkin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Satkin of Westfield, has been placed on the Dean's List for academic achievement for the spring 2003 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, M.O. in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He is a graduate of Westfield High School.

## THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

## WHS Pupil Brings to Light Importance of DREAM Act

By LISA BASILE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Is America still a nation that is considered a cultural melting pot, a nation that welcomes all into a land of education and possibility?

In the ever-worsening state of today's world, can we allow ourselves to be the land with arms open wide to an array of people with dreams and aspirations? It appears that America is now defined by our economy — not necessarily a bad thing; but are we forced to forget that we once were a mother nation?

We are now facing struggles with the debate concerning illegal immigrants, more specifically, illegal youth. Can the aliens receive a proper education here in America, or must they be subject to the confines of poverty and tribulations in their own countries?

A recent proposal before Congress is now attempting to open the door to freedom for illegal immigrants. The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, (DREAM) is now being presented in an attempt to give undocumented youth the opportunity to achieve their dreams of becoming legal U.S. citizens.

If the bill is passed, legal residency could be achieved if the immigrant entered the United States before they were 16 years old, graduated high school, and have lived in the U.S. for a minimum of five years.

There are two sides of the coin. Many American people see illegal aliens as potential members of society, traveling into our country to better their lives. Many can sympathize with the alien's desires to climb the social ladder, make lives for themselves in the land of the free. But the detractors state otherwise.

Opponents of the DREAM Act say that this could only be for America's worst, that the aliens would take the place of the paying U.S. college students, and would steal jobs from hard working Americans.

According to the an article on CNN.com regarding the DREAM Act, a 20-year-old Mexican illegal immigrant, Yesena Sanchez is among the thousands of illegal aliens who are risking deportation by lobbying for the bill, stating, "I would just like people to understand what we're going through... We're not coming here to take advantage of the country. We love it... and want to make it better."

Perhaps there are certain threats Americans may face if illegal immigrants come in. However, the past has proved that aliens can become significant parts of our economy, aside from the abuse the Americans put them through with unfair labor.

If the American government wishes to place tighter restrictions on illegal immigrants filtering into our coun-

try, then they must think about the extent of their actions. By neglecting to pass the DREAM Act, the American government would be loosening our grip on evolution, condoning the diminution of education and eliminating the possibilities for unfortunate youth.

It is sad to think that a mere nine-digit number can establish the right to somebody's education. All youth deserves a proper education, one that will ensure that future generations are well-apt members of society. By turning down young illegal immigrants, we will isolate our nation. It is an unfortunate and perhaps necessary incident when aliens are deported, after using our system illegally.

But refusing an education to youngsters who have nothing but their goals and dreams would be feeding a world of despair and selfishness. Although America may be at fault for certain outward events, there is still the sense that we may be a land that will nurse and aid others, because in many ways, we are the most fortunate.

Let us give what we can to the desperate, who have just as much potential as anyone with a social security number. If America fails to be generous to young students, then we are surely doomed to fall apart. The act should leave us questioning a quote said by Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

There is no-one more faithful than those who know the pain of poverty and wish to surpass its grasp. These are the illegal youth. Let us be appreciative of the fact that somebody truly wants an education.



**AWARD RECIPIENT...** Katherine DeMarco, a second grader at Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains, was named Outstanding Seven Year Old for 2003 by the Pre-Teen New Jersey Scholarship and Recognition Program. The award was based on academic achievement, volunteer service, school activities, development of personal abilities, general knowledge, and communication skills.



## OWEN BRAND

**Your Home Town  
MORTGAGE BANKER**

 **IVY MORTGAGE**

**Residential - Construction  
Commercial - Bridge Loans**

Local (908) 789-2730  
Toll Free (888) 489-9680  
Pager (908) 552-5007  
obrand@ivymortgage.com

Licensed Mortgage Bankers - NJ Dept. of Banking  
Equal Housing Lender

## Unlimited Communications

15 East Broad St. Westfield, NJ  
908.654.6440

**Unlimited verizon wireless**  
**Night & Weekend**  
**Airtime Minutes**  
on the America's Choice™ network

Plus  
**1000** anytime mobile to mobile minutes  
to call any of our 30 million customers nationwide on our national mobile to mobile network

**EVERY MONTH FOR LIFE**  
All when you sign a new 1 or 2 year Customer Agreement and remain on the America's Choice plan.

Unlimited nationwide long distance  
No roaming charges coast-to-coast

All when on the America's Choice Network

**SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 9:30 am to 6:30 pm • Thursday: 9:30 am to 8:00 pm  
Friday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm • Saturday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Sunday: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Network not available in all areas. Calls placed while off the America's Choice network \$ .69/min. Mobile to mobile not available throughout the America's Choice network. Requires CDMA tri-mode phone with updated software.

## DARE to achieve...

- 100% college placement
- 90% of graduates enroll in at least one Advanced Placement course
- 25% of graduates earn National Merit Scholar recognition



# DELBARTON

An independent day school for boys in grades 7-12  
administered by the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey

Admission tests  
will be administered  
on January 10.



DELBARTON SCHOOL  
230 Mendham Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
www.delbarton.org  
(973) 538-3231, ext. 3019