

Local Students Among Scholarship Semifinalists

AREA - Ten area residents are among the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 51st Annual National Merit Scholarship Program that were announced last week. These scholastically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards worth \$33 million that will be offered next spring.

Semifinalists from Scotch Plains include: Kazimierz Filus, Union Catholic Regional High School; Derek Anderson, Elise Coker, Meryl Coker, Xin Jiang, Elizabeth Katz and

Sara Kim, Union County Magnet High School.

Semifinalists from Westfield include: Rachel Leopold, Yuchen Zhang and Yue Zhu, Westfield High School.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award semifinalists must fulfill several requirements and advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.



OPENING ITS DOORS... Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains opened its doors to welcome the Class of 2009. In its 43 years of educating youths, the school continues to grow in education, technology and faith. Many improvements welcomed the 800 students on their first day of class. A \$250,000 new locker installation was completed, along with new lighting, landscaping and the painting of the exterior and interior of the campus.



IN THE PICNIC OF TIME... Franklin Elementary in Westfield held its annual family picnic sponsored by the PTO last Friday in the field behind the school. After eating dinner and sampling many delectable desserts donated by the families, children enjoyed face painting, temporary tattoos, sports and hula hoop activities. Franklin dad Brian Moynihan provided his DJ services with music that got the crowd dancing. Pictured are Franklin mom Trish Dulinski painting Julia Singer's face while kindergarten Charlotte Redman and her sister Laura look forward to their turns.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR... Tara Pignoli, a social studies and psychology teacher at Westfield High School in Westfield, has been named the New Jersey Council for the Humanities 2005 Teacher of the Year.

NJCH Announces Pignoli 2005 Teacher of the Year

WESTFIELD - Tara Pignoli, a social studies and psychology teacher at Westfield High School in Westfield, has been named the New Jersey Council for the Humanities 2005 Teacher of the Year.

The honor is bestowed annually on a teacher who possesses exceptional understanding of the humanities and whose approach to humanities education is multidisciplinary and creative.

A graduate of Princeton University, Ms. Pignoli has been teaching courses in Global Perspectives, Advanced Placement Psychology and Comparative Religions at Westfield for the past nine years.

In naming her, the Teacher of the Year Award Committee noted her role in the creation and success of an elective for ninth graders entitled *Humanities: Finding and Maintaining an Identity in the Global World*.

Dedicated to an interdisciplinary approach to the humanities, Ms. Pignoli led a team of teachers from the English and Social Studies departments to develop this cross-cultural

SP's Salisbury Helping Students Feel At Home

SCOTCH PLAINS - Allyson Salisbury of Scotch Plains is a student advisor for the class of 2009 at Susquehanna University. As part of the orientation team, student advisors are upper-class students who act as mentors to first-year students. They assist new students during orientation and throughout the first semester with registration, study hints and answering questions about life at Susquehanna University.

Allyson, a sophomore environmental science major, is a 2004 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and the daughter of Brian and Connie Salisbury.

course combining the study of art, drama, music, religion, literature, architecture and anthropology. Through rigorously planned thematic units, Ms. Pignoli challenges students to think critically and inclusively.

The committee was also impressed with Ms. Pignoli's drive to discover and develop each student's strengths through differentiated opportunities designed to hone higher-level thinking and reasoning skills.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Pignoli serves as Women's Studies Club advisor and has given a presentation at the Rutgers University-Douglass College Women's Leadership Conference, and other locations, on creating an effective Women's Studies program in a high school.

In her district, Ms. Pignoli has mentored new teachers, led professional development workshops on using technology effectively in the classroom, and developed new curricula for the courses she has taught.

This past summer, Ms. Pignoli again led a team of teachers in the process of developing the curriculum for a new American Studies humanities class for juniors.

Ms. Pignoli will receive her award at the annual NJCH humanities celebration luncheon on Sunday, October 23 at the Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren.

College Club Presents Total Of \$16,000 In Scholarships

SCOTCH PLAINS -The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains has awarded \$16,000 in scholarships to 11 young women, four of whom are attending college and seven who were high school seniors whom graduated in June.

This is the 69th year that female students, seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree, have been helped by the club's fundraising efforts, primarily through the club's annual fashion show and the production and sale of the club's community calendar.

College Club Scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year were granted to the following Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) seniors: Jeanette Franzone, Denise Horn, Lauren Perrotta, Mary Shashaty, Elizabeth Stampler and Michelle Swick.

Jeanette, the daughter of Joseph Franzone, received \$1,000 and is attending the St. Joseph's University. Denise, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Horn, received \$2,000 and is attending Howard University. Lauren, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Perrotta, received \$1,000 and is attending the University of Michigan.

Mary, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Shashaty, received \$1,000 and is attending the Catholic University of America. Elizabeth, the daughter of Jeanne Stampler, received \$1,500 and is attending Loyola University. Michelle, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Swick, received \$2,000 and is attending Lafayette University.

Nora Isack, the valedictorian and top female graduate, received an

award of \$500 in recognition of her academic excellence. She has begun her studies at Rutgers University.

College students Regina Cappio, Malina Milonnet, Christine Perrotta and Tara Shashaty were also awarded scholarships.

Regina, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cappio, received \$1,000 and is a senior at Villanova University. Malina, the daughter of Mrs. Donna Milonnet, received \$2,000 and is a junior at the University of Delaware. Christine, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Perrotta, received \$2,000 and is a senior at Indiana University. Tara, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Shashaty, received \$2,000 and is a sophomore at the Catholic University of America.

A special reception and dinner was held for the recipients at the Scotch Hills Country Club on May 23. Ginger Rachko, President, Rosemary Gousman and Maureen Corbin, Scholarship Co-Chairmen, made the scholarship presentations at the dinner and at the SPFHS Awards Assembly.

Edison Intermediate School Holds Carnival

WESTFIELD - Edison Intermediate School will hold its third annual carnival on Friday, October 7, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on the field behind the school on Rahway Avenue, as well as inside some areas of the school building. Pumpkin decorating, food and games are planned, along with "Dunk the Teacher." The carnival is open to the entire community. In the event of rain, the carnival will not take place.



Scholarship recipients, left to right, from upper left: Tara Shashaty, Jeanette Franzone, Michele Swick, Mary Shashaty, Lauren Perrotta, Denise Horn, Elizabeth Stampler, Regina Cappio, Christine Perrotta and Malina Milonnet

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Brighton Gardens of Mountainside
"Open House"
Saturday, September 24
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"Healthcare Products for Seniors"
Wednesday, September 28
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Sunrise of Westfield
"Open House with Weichert Realtors"
Sunday, September 25
11:30am-3:30pm

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residents involved in the familiar routines that marked their lives: gardening, sewing, office work, setting the dinner table, and even folding laundry. It's all designed to focus on each resident's strengths and abilities as well as to help them return to the comfort of a time that brought them much joy.

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AL=Assisted Living ALZ=Alzheimer's Care