

Education News

National Honor Society Inducts 133 WHS Students

WESTFIELD - In recognition of academic excellence, leadership, service and character, 126 junior and seven additional senior Westfield High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Westfield High School Principal Dr. Robert Petix commended the students on their valuable contributions to their school and society.

Financial awards totaling approximately \$2000 were presented to five National Honor Society members for their service contributions.

In addition, the Parent-Teacher organization's award went to Emily Singer, a senior, for her large contribution of service hours in the school's office.

Nathan Margolin performed a musical presentation. The 2005-2006 president of the WHS chapter of the National Honor Society, Kaitlin Gorman, welcomed guests. Those elected as National Honor Society officers for the 2006-07 school year are president Jessica Cain, vice president Will Schwartz, secretary Satya Tagat and treasurer Ojus Patil.

Dr. Petix and National Honor Society advisor Les Jacobsen presented certificates and pins to the new members. Westfield High School PTO representative Cindy Goldman, congratulated the students, who included:

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| Angelina I Garneva | Allison Simon |
| Emily Gee | Jenna Skoller |
| Kelly Gelber | Leanne Skorge |
| Lindsay Goldberg | Arielle Smelkinson |
| Andrew Goldman | Jacqueline Snyder |
| Marissa Goldner | Jesse Solomon |
| Ilene R Goodman | Kate M Statton |
| William M Harbaugh | Caroline E Steller |
| Matthew Harris | Jack Stermal |
| Zachary Harris | Jacob Stevens-Haas |
| Ying He | Virginia Stroup |
| Jonathan Helfand | Satya Tagat |
| Christopher Kalis | Katherine L Taylor |
| Valerie Keil | Julie Tiedrich |
| James Kelly | William Uhr |
| Erika Kettleson | Ted Vincett |
| Elizabeth J Kline | Samantha Vitale |
| Bryan Knapp | Jason Waks |
| Anna E Koehler | Josh Wasserman |
| Julia Korn | Heather Welham |
| Kate Kovalenko | Robert Whitehead |
| Edward Langer | Maxwell H Wieder |
| Jennifer Lasparta | Molly G Williams |
| Neha Limaye | Ayn Carlee Wisler |
| Mary Kate Luker | Alexander Wronski |
| Caroline Yost | Benjamin Zakarin |

- Seniors**
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|-------------------|---------------|
| Stephen Caprario | Ryan Gundrum |
| Kevin Devaney | Alexander Kao |
| Margaret Driscoll | Jennifer Sipe |
| Kayla Vandervort | |

Cranford Teacher Receives Fulbright

WESTFIELD - Adrienne Morrison-Bishop of Orange/Hillside Avenue schools in Cranford won a Fulbright Teacher Exchange grant to teach in France.

Ms. Morrison-Bishop, a Westfield resident, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Political Science, as well as a Master's degree in French literature from Tufts University. She also has a Master's of Arts degree in Law & Diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

She has taught nine years in the Cranford school district and will be one of approximately 170 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2006-2007 academic year through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.

Area Students Make Lafayette Dean's List

AREA - The names of 857 Lafayette College students named to the 2006 spring semester Dean's List were recently announced.

Mountainside's Arda Margaret Hotz, Class of 2008, earned recognition.

Scotch Plains students, Benjamin Flath, Class of 2007, Tracy Salmon, Class of 2008 and Michelle Swick, Class of 2009, were placed on the Dean's List.

Westfield's Michael Feniger, Class of 2009, Whitney Laird, Class of 2007, Andrew Levy, Class of 2009, Daniel Rea, Class of 2007 and Christopher Velderman, Class of 2009, made the Dean's List.

Each of the students has achieved at least a 3.45 semester grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Career Days Held at Intermediate Schools

WESTFIELD - Both Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools in Westfield held Career Awareness Days this spring. More than 50 professionals visited the schools in morning sessions held in the classrooms.

The guidance departments of both schools arranged the Career Days. Edison Guidance Counselor Gloria White-James explained, "We feel it is our responsibility to provide as much information as possible to guide them (the students) in becoming productive and self-sufficient members of our society."

Each student had the opportunity of gaining knowledge of at least three careers. Guest speakers represented a variety of professions ranging from acting to genetic researchers, photo-journalists to doctors, chefs to engineers and many in between.

Eric Whyte Elected Deerfield President

MOUNTAINSIDE - Eric Whyte of Mountainside has been elected student council president at Deerfield Elementary School in Mountainside for the 2006-2007 school year. He will be entering the eighth grade in the fall.

He told class members that he would "do my best to fulfill the job of president. I promise to make next year's school year the most exciting and prosperous ever."

Eric has served on the student council for the past three years.

WF Students Win Awards at Delbarton

WESTFIELD - At the June 4 commencement exercises for Delbarton School, David Weinstein of Westfield was recognized for his outstanding performance and contribution to the school with a Delbarton Medal.

David won the medal for his excellent achievement and dedication to the Deaneary Program.

Delbarton eighth grader John Descalzi of Westfield also received an academic award for his outstanding performance in religious studies.

John's award, as well as many other underclassmen academic awards, was given at the Delbarton awards convocation for underclassmen on May 22.

Page-Katz Graduates Loyola Cum Laude

WESTFIELD - Caroline Page-Katz graduated cum laude from Loyola College in Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree on May 20. She is the daughter of Patricia Page and Robert Katz of Westfield.



CARDS FOR KATRINA... Under the guidance of Westfield public schools art teacher Alison Hooper, the students at McKinley School designed a personalized note card, which was professionally printed and sold to raise money to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The project raised more than \$1,000, which was sent to a school in Louisiana to help replace the many books and other school supplies destroyed in the hurricane. Displaying the original note cards are McKinley students, from left to right, Gregory Inamine, Danisha Field, Megan Mulrooney and Michael Kirkland, back row; Andrew Li, Sabrina Cavanagh and Dalton Herzog, front row.



FOUR FOR FOUR... Scholarships of \$1000 for four years were awarded to four seniors of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School at the Pantagis Renaissance restaurant on June 7. The Rotary-Garbe Foundation Chairman, Robert Kraus, left, stands with Dr. David Heisey, high school principal, right. The recipients, from left to right, are James Alfano who will be attending Villanova; Daniel Graham, John Hopkins; Emily Wallden, Rutgers; and Andrew Goldberg, Rutgers.

Seniors Named Bloustein, National Merit Scholars

WESTFIELD - Thirty-nine members of Westfield High School's (WHS) class of 2006 were named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. The Bloustein Scholars are David Ackerman, Miriam Becker-Cohen, Kevin Block, Christopher Byrne, Rachel Charatan, Lisa Chen, Raymond Chen, Jesse Cohn, Patrick Daurio, Christine DeSerio, Gianna DiFrancesco, Monica Doss, Jane Eilbacher, Alissa Eisenberg, Lindsay Elbaum, Allison Fleder, Thomas Fringer, Alan Futran, Jesse Garfinkel, Kaitlin Gorman, Erica Greene, Ben Harel, Matthew Leong, Rachel Leopold, Kevin Liang, Rachael Louie, Caroline Luppescu, Jonathan Maimon, Joann Mathew, Jennifer Metz, Jessica Moskowitz, Carly Oliff, Carrie Palumbo, Anne Peyton, Rich-

ard Scialabba, Lauren Sinenberg, Michael Yee, Yuchen Zhang and Jennifer Zhu.

Twenty-three students were recognized as Commended National Merit Scholars. These students are Kristin Aguiro, Katharine Anderson, Dana Barrasso, Miriam Becker-Cohen, Kevin Block, Rachel Charatan, Lisa Chen, Jesse Cohn, Jesse Garfinkel, Kaitlin Gorman, Jessica Graham, Kevin Liang, Matt Liebowitz, Jonathan Maimon, Joann Mathew, Jennifer Metz, Kimberly Milan, Kyle Murray, Anne Peyton, Caitlin Reilly, Lauren Sinenberg and Brian Yee. Two WHS students, Rachel Leopold and Jennifer Zhu, were named as National Merit Scholarship Finalists, and Yuchen Zhang is a National Merit Scholarship Winner.

Wardlaw-Hartridge Fifth Graders Graduate D.A.R.E.

SCOTCH PLAINS - Armed with the knowledge that drugs and alcohol are harmful, habit-forming substances, fifth grade students from The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison were awarded diplomas and t-shirts from Edison police officer Steve Miller and fifth grade teachers Ellen Colandrea and Debbie Kendall, marking their graduation from D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Program).

At the graduation on May 24, the AP Room was filled with proud parents and faculty members who listened to essay winners Meghan Reddy of Scotch Plains, Amrit Walia of Edison, Katie Buchbinder of Scotch Plains and Wesley Spear of Bridgewater discuss their research on drug and alcohol abuse, and eloquently express their commitment to maintaining a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Each of the essay winners was given a special medal from Officer Miller.

"The worst part of smoking is that it hurts everyone around me," said Wesley. "I should always be able to walk away from situations that make me uncomfortable."

He added that it was important to him to keep his body fit and healthy. "I will be a leader, not a follower," he said.

Katie commented on the many ways alcohol impacts the body. She also discussed the dangers of some of the most harmful drugs like cocaine.

"This program (D.A.R.E.) sends the right message to children," she said, adding that it is important to "say no for stronger, safer lives."

D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Students Graduate From Seton Hall Prep

AREA - Matthew Anderson and Juan-Anton Velarde, residents of Scotch Plains, received their diplomas at Seton Hall Preparatory School's 146th commencement exercises on Sunday, June 4.

Matthew received the French Studies Medallion and the Edward Jennings Medallion (literary achievement) as well as the Msgr. Thomas J. Tuohy Award, which is presented to those graduating seniors who have maintained a 4.0 average for four years. He will attend New York University in September.

Juan Anton Velarde will attend University of Scranton in the fall.

- Juniors**
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Randi Ackerman | Claire Macdonald |
| Amy Alszuler | Nathan Margolin |
| Philip J Anton | Michael Marks |
| Jillian Aronson | Kevin Maus |
| Stephanie Baeder | Natalia Mavrogianis |
| Luke M Baran | Erin McCarthy |
| Amy Behr | Lauren E McCurdy |
| Gregory H Boyle | Amanda McQuade |
| Emily S Bregman | Rebecca McQuade |
| Beth Budnick | Philip J Micele |
| Jessica Cain | Georgia Mierswa |
| Patrina Caruana | Katherine Morgan |
| Matthew S Carville | Stephanie Musat |
| Tiffany Cayado | Rachel Newberg |
| Julia P Cederroth | Julienne Niemiera |
| Brian Checchio | Caitlyn Oster |
| Lingbo Chen | Ojus Patil |
| Christopher Chou | Courtney Phillips |
| Theodore Chou | Tara Picaro |
| Anthony Cocuzza | Olivia Pomann |
| Catherine Cordeiro | Colleen E Psomas |
| Kathryn N Cronen | Sarah E. Queller |
| Jennifer Danielsson | Ellen Ramage |
| Nicole Di Benedetto | Daniella Regencia |
| Kristen Dilzell | Nicole A Reich |
| Aaron E Eisenberg | Matthew T Renart |
| Casey Elkoury | Jessica Riegel |
| Samaa El-Sherbini | Nathaniel Roquet |
| Elizabeth M Falzon | Adam L Rubin |
| Rachael Feeney | Lindsay Ann Sauerwein |
| Lauren Finestein | Melanie Schor |
| Alena Fleming | Ian Schwartz |
| Andrew K Ford | William Schwartz |
| Claire S Fox | Julie Anne Shelman |
| Joshua Friedman | Marlena Sheridan |
| Jason Frost | Daniel Shorrock |
| Kelly Furlong | John-William Sidiom |

Local Residents Graduate from Pingry

AREA - Headmaster Nathaniel Conard, Pingry Board of Trustees Chair Vicki Brooks and Upper School Director Jonathan Leaf conferred diplomas upon 126 graduates of the Pingry School. The commencement exercises took place on Sunday, June 11.

Nicholas Kasten of Fanwood graduated as a National Merit Commended Scholar.

Rachel Van Wert of Scotch Plains graduated as a member of the Cum Laude Society and was named a National Merit Commended Scholar. She earned an Elizabeth Allan Smith '83 Memorial Pingry-Duke Scholarship and a Union College Casimir A. France Award for Excellence in English.

Westfield resident Julianne DiLeo also graduated. In addition, Westfield's Sam Blum was named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist and National Achievement Scholarship Finalist.

Westfielder Caitlin Jennings earned Cum Laude Society, AP Scholar, National Merit Commended Scholar and John R. Whittemore '47 Biology Award recognition.

Westfield resident Kelly Peeler was named to the Cum Laude Society and earned recognition as an AP Scholar, Bloustein Scholar and National Merit Scholarship Recipient.

Nadine Reitman, a Westfield resident, was named to the Cum Laude Society and AP Scholar.

Bucknell University Awards Degrees

AREA - Bucknell University conferred nearly 800 bachelor's and master's degrees during commencement ceremonies May 21. Degrees were awarded for studies in liberal arts and professional programs in engineering, education, management and music.

Local graduates include: Fanwood's Meredith Davis, daughter of Orville Davis and Sherry Ortiz-Higgins, and a 2002 graduate of New Providence High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies.

Scotch Plains' Michael Heinrich, son of Roger and Beverly Heinrich, and a 2002 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry; Westfield's Elisabeth Salemme, daughter of Joseph and Karen Salemme, and a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and College Major and departmental honors in Political Science.

Scotch Plains' Renee Souris, daughter of Nickolaus and Eileen Souris, and a 2002 graduate of Mount Saint Mary Academy, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Philosophy.



YOU'RE A GRAND OL' FLAG... Tamaques Elementary School students gather last Wednesday as girl scouts and boy scouts retired the school's old flag and raised a newer, larger flag.



HEAVY MEDAL... Student, Peter Durning and Scotch Plains' Matthew Anderson were honored with the Edward Jennings Medallion for Literary Achievement on June 3 at Seton Hall Preparatory School's Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony. Matthew was also the recipient of the French Studies Medallion. Presenting the award were English Department Chairperson William Casey, left, Creative Writing teacher Marty Berman and Headmaster Msgr. Michael E. Kelly.



BACCALAUREATE TO THE FUTURE... Patrick Muldoon, resident of Westfield, was honored with the Computer Technology Medallion on June 3 at Seton Hall Preparatory School's Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony. Presenting the award were Computer Technology teacher Diane Costantino and Headmaster Msgr. Michael E. Kelly.

Westfield HS Students Awarded PTC Scholarships

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Parent Teacher Council (PTC) awarded the 14 scholarships totaling \$19,500 on Thursday, June 1. The PTC hosted a breakfast reception for the recipients and their families.

Each year, the PTC raises funds through donations solicited by the various Parent Teacher organizations at each of the nine schools in the district. The scholarships are awarded to seniors who plan to further their education and continue to demonstrate scholarship, community service and integrity.

David Ackerman will attend Northwestern University in the fall and study astronomy. While at WHS, he was involved in cross country, winter and spring track, French Club, Science Club and National Honor Society. He has volunteered as a transitional leader at the high school and as a math tutor. David has also worked at Trillside Nature Center.

Lauren Bentivegna will attend Seton Hall University. She is a member of the Color Guard and track and field and is also active in the Christian Awareness Club. She is involved in the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains, teaching Sunday school classes. Lauren has also held part time jobs after school and during the summer months.

Stephen Caprario is planning to attend Arizona State University, where he will study business. He has been a member of the cross country team and winter and spring track. He has volunteered in the Transition Project and is active in his church. He received the Eagle Scout Award and participated in painting a storybook character mural in the Wilson School library.

Dakota Carey will attend the University of Rhode Island in the fall. She was involved in cross country at the high school and active in Peer Ministry at Holy Trinity Church. She also works at the Westfield Y in the aftercare program.

Arielle Dance will attend Spelman College with an interest in women's health. She has been involved in the Awareness Club, cheerleading and is a co-captain for Making Strides against Breast Cancer. She is also involved in her church.

Thomas Finger will attend the Col-

lege of William & Mary, where he will pursue a degree in History. He has been on the Varsity Soccer and swim teams while at WHS and is active in Peer Ministry at St. Helen's Church. He has also worked as a soccer referee and lifeguard.

Jason Kealy will be attending LaSalle College with an interest in Criminal Justice. He has been a NJ Demolay State Jurisdictional Officer, captain of Westfield Police Explorers and on the Varsity Rugby team. He has also volunteered in the NJ battered woman's shelter and worked as a photo lab technician.

Kari LoBrutto will attend College of New Jersey with an interest in Nursing. Kari is a member of the New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble and has worked as a teacher's assistant in dance classes and raised money for Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Aaron Moore will attend William Paterson University. He is a member of the Westfield Y Black Achievers group and active in Bethel Baptist Church. He also volunteers at the Westfield Community Center and works as a camp counselor at the Y.

Victor Nolasco will be attending NJIT with an interest in computers. At WHS, he has been involved in soccer and track. He has also participated in the Transition Project, providing support to incoming freshman.

Sarah St. Lifer will be attending Bennington College. She has been the Photo/Art director of the *Hi's Eye* and a member in the Model UN, where she represented Westfield High School in the regional conference. She has also worked as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Giovanna Pafumi will be attending Seton Hall University, where her interest lies in language and international studies. She has been a Varsity Softball player and member of the Key Club.

Elizabeth Riddle will be attending Costal Carolina University. She has been a captain of the varsity cheerleading squad and working in a children's party planning company.

Jacqueline Wendel will be attending DeSales College. She has been Co-Captain of the JV Softball Team, plays the viola in the orchestra and is active in volunteer work at her church. She also works part-time in a women's clothing store.



WALK THE LINE... Tamaques Elementary School held its annual "Walk to School Day" on May 31 in conjunction with its Spirit Week. Christina Psychojos, above, a fourth grader, won a raffle to walk with Principal Michael Cullen and was joined by neighborhood friends. Anne Marie Petriano's class received special Spirit Week prizes for having the highest percentage of walkers in the school.