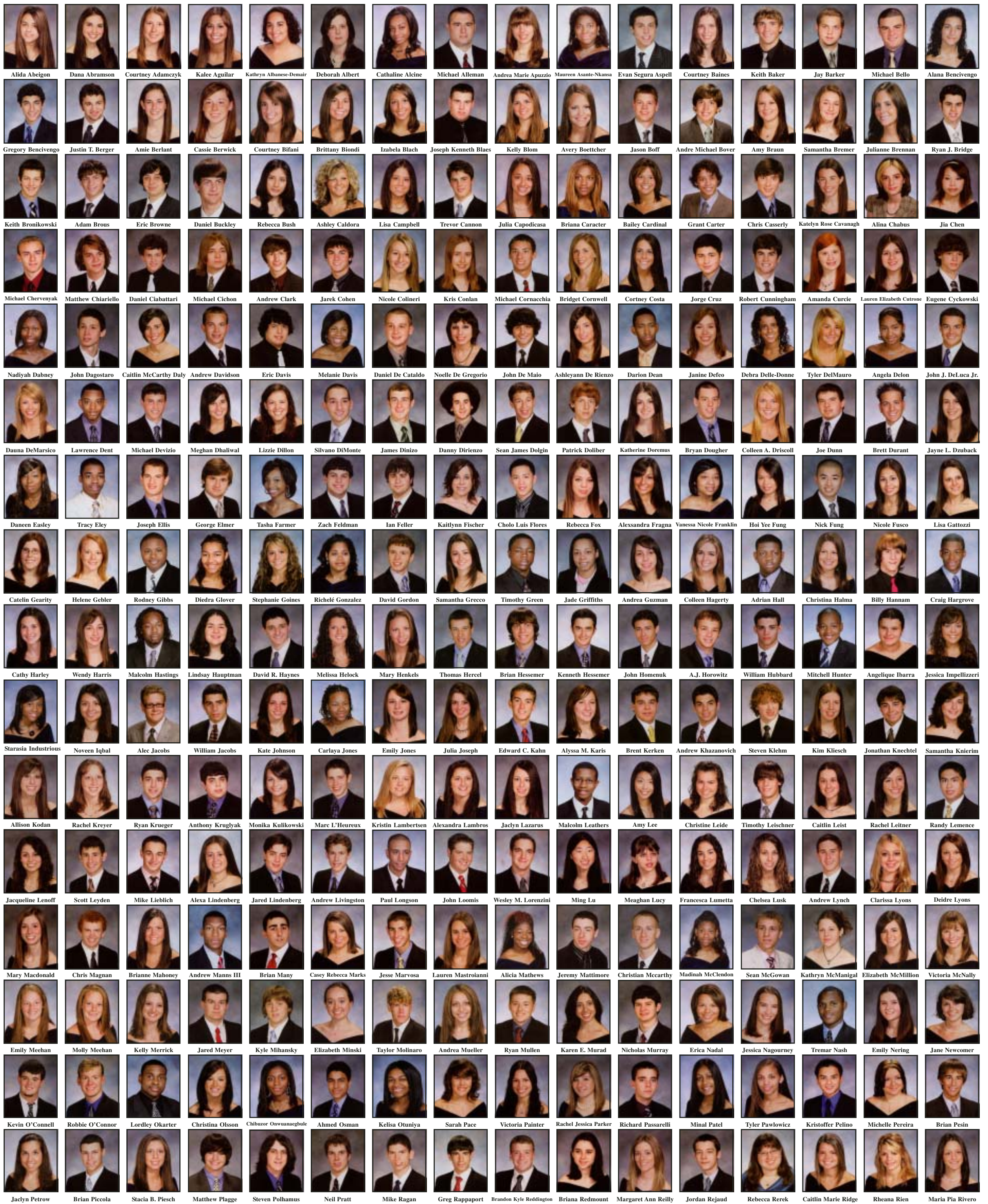


Congratulations to The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Graduating Class of 2008



Retiring WF School Employees Represent 440 Years of Service

WESTFIELD — Sixteen Westfield public school staff members were honored for more than 440 years of combined service by the board of education and colleagues at the 21st annual gala for school employees. The event was held on June 5, at the Westwood in Garwood.

The annual event brings staff members together to honor retirees and employees with 25 years of service.

Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan and Westfield Education Association President Michael Seiler addressed the honorees, thanking them for their dedication and service to the Westfield Public Schools. Board of Education President Ginny Leiz and Vice President Julia Walker formally recognized the retirees and 25-year employees, including retirees:

Lynne Gerber, a Spanish teacher at Roosevelt Intermediate School; June Gleason an Achieve teacher/reading specialist for Jefferson School; Elsa Gail Hahn, a music teacher at Franklin School; and Judy Hutchinson, a social studies teacher at Edison Intermediate School.

Likewise honored were Phyllis Johnson, an Achieve teacher at Washington School; Alan Lantis, a social studies teacher and Project '79 coordinator at Westfield High School; Carol Lettieri, guidance secretary at Roosevelt Intermediate School; Linda Mankoski, the resource center teacher at McKinley School; Barbara Mellen, a health educator/nurse at Roosevelt Intermediate School; and Marcia Sheldon, a special education teacher at Roosevelt Intermediate School.

Joseph Shepherd, Jr., the assistant head night custodian at Edison Intermediate School, and Susan Snuffer, a first grade teacher at Wilson School, are also retiring.

Celebrating 25 years of service are: Barbara Mellen, a health educator/nurse at Roosevelt Intermediate School, William Mellott a physical education teacher at Jefferson School, Michael Rivera, the head custodian at Roosevelt Intermediate School, Michael Seiler, a science teacher at Westfield High School and president of the Westfield Education Association, and Mary Ann Sepe, a kindergarten teacher at Wilson School.

Yearbook Staff Distributes Books at WHS and SPFHS

By LAURA MORTKOWITZ and KATHERINE VOWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA — Although high school has officially ended for the 2008 graduates, memories of their high school lives are forever preserved thanks to the countless volunteer hours of a select group of individuals.

At Westfield High School, work on the yearbook began in September and finished in early April. Students and staff dedicated four hours every week throughout this period.



MOVING ON UP... On the evening of Wednesday, June 4, eighth graders at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison officially entered the Upper School and became freshmen during a "Moving-Up Ceremony" on campus. Pictured above, from left to right, Brian Downing, Jessica Clarke and Milika Griffiths receive certificates from Andrew Webster, Head of School. Brian is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Downing of Scotch Plains. Jessica is the daughter of Michael Clarke and the Reverend Sheelagh Clarke of Scotch Plains. Milika is the daughter of Lorna Griffiths.

See it all on the web in color www.goleader.com

"All in all, a student who is on the staff throughout the year and attends all the meetings probably volunteers between 100 to 120 hours of their time," said Louis De Angelo, a WHS teacher and yearbook co-adviser.

The program used to create the yearbook is Josten's Yeartech Online, an Internet-based program that allows most of the work to be completed at home for designers and writers.

The yearbook theme is decided over a two-week period in which the staff holds meetings to brainstorm and

eventually vote on ideas. According to Mr. De Angelo, some ideas are more general, and some are specific to the time period. This year's theme was "memories in motion."

"The general setup of the book is generally the same from year to year, while the individual formatting of the pages is designed anew each year by the staff," Mr. De Angelo said.

Once the yearbook design is completed, there is still work to be done. The staff meets to discuss themes for the following year's book and create a design for the cover, which is formalized in May.

The final task for the yearbook club is distributing the book to students in June.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's yearbook is, in name, the "voice of the people" for the 2007-2008 school year. The 324-page book, "Vox Populi," was a yearlong process that 30 students put together under the watch of advisers Julie Whitty and Amy Rutkowski.

The yearbook is more than just an extracurricular activity; it is the last class of the school day so staff members can stay after school and work,

and every few weeks, the staff gathers for Late Night and works until 8 p.m., according to Scott Salmon, photography editor.

"We'll put anywhere from five to 10, or even more, hours per week into the yearbook," he said.

The juniors, who are now recently graduated seniors, chose the yearbook's theme at the end of the previous school year. The theme "Vox Populi" came from the words in an idea proposal by Meg Reilly, organizational and writing editor-in-chief. Although her proposal wasn't used, those words were in the opening paragraph, and they "became the overwhelming theme," Scott said.

Yet, even after the theme was chosen, Scott found keeping the theme intact the hardest part of putting together the yearbook. He added that it is easy to "stray" from the theme with how many pages needed to be filled. Scott had the opportunity to make the final call on the photos that made the yearbook as well as take pictures.

"If I had to estimate, I would say that at least 20 percent of the yearbook, maybe more, is my photos," he said. "And I'm really proud of that."