



GOING TONATIONALS... Zoe Rodriguez of Fanwood is among The University of Scranton's students in the mock trial team that will compete in the opening round American Mock Trial Association's national tournament in Central Islip, New York, on March 9 and 10. Pictured, front row, from left, are: team members Megan Bertrand, Veronica Sansone and Leticia Demps. Back row, are: team coach, Sidney Prejean, Esq.; team members Nicholas Velez; Margaret Westerman; co-captains Kimberly Shaw and Alexis Mergus; Zoe Rodriguez; Ryan Paolilli; and faculty advisor Jason Shrive, Esq., assistant professor in the sociology, criminal justice and criminology department.

Zoe Rodriguez of Fanwood Advances in Ntl. Competition

FANWOOD — Zoe Rodriguez of Fanwood was among The University of Scranton's mock trial team members who secured a bid to the opening round of the championship series of the American Mock Trial Association for the first time after competing in the Association's regional qualifier at Pennsylvania State University in February.

The American Mock Trial Association serves as the governing body for the intercollegiate mock trial competition and hosts 25 regional tournaments, followed by eight opening round championship tournaments and a national championship tournament. Each year, approximately 600 teams from more than 350 universities and colleges com-

pete in the tournaments.

Scranton's team, in just its fourth year of existence, was one of just seven teams to advance at the regional competition that included 21 teams from 15 colleges in Pennsylvania and New York.

Jason A. Shrive, Esq., assistant professor in the sociology, criminal justice and criminology department, serves as the team's faculty advisor. Sidney Prejean, Esq., is the team's coach.

Scranton's team will compete in the opening round of the championship series at the Suffolk County Courthouse in Central Islip, New York, on March 9 and 10.

Ms. Rodriguez is a junior criminal justice major.

Awareness Expo, Mar. 13, To Honor Lisa Wendel

WESTFIELD — The 26th Annual Awareness Expo is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 13, at Edison Intermediate School (EIS), located at 800 Rahway Avenue, from 7:15 to 9:45 p.m. Presented by the Westfield PTC - Special Education Committee, the Awareness Expo will provide parents and educators of special needs children with information and resources to aid in their ongoing education and growth.

Since 1993, the Awareness Expo has showcased distinguished speakers ranging from highly acclaimed psychologists and educators to financial experts and attorneys whose varied insights empower parents and educators to better serve their children and students.

With an estimated 300 attendees anticipated, each session at the Expo will be presented twice, allowing attendees of the event to participate in two presentations.

The Westfield PTC - Special Education Committee will award the "Make a Difference Award" to Lisa Wendel, who truly made a difference to parents, students, and educators alike in her various volunteer roles in the Westfield district for many years. This award is given annually to an individual or group

who displays exemplary efforts in support of Special Education.

Topics will include: F2F in Digital Space; Coping with Your Child's Use of Social Media, Cell Phones, and Video Games; Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: Not Just Hand-Washing; Deconstructing Reading Disabilities: The Differences and Similarities and How to Address Them; Special Education Advocacy from a Neurodiversity Perspective.

Speakers will include Dr. Michael M. Osit, Ed.D., Dr. Matthew Liebman, Psy.D., Nicole Liebman, LPC, Megan Cook, LPC, Dr. Robert Zambrano, Psy.D., Dr. Megan A. Brown, Ph.D., Dr. Megan A. Brown, Ph.D., Jaime Lehrhoff, M.A., LDT-C, Jaime Lehrhoff, M.A., LDT-C, and Robin Roscigno, M.S.Ed.

The Expo is open to the public and is free of charge; please pre-register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2k2sdn9>. A total of 1.5 professional development hours per session will be offered.

For more information, email: WestfieldSpecialEdParents@gmail.com, go on the Web: <https://www.westfieldnj12.org/apps/pages/specialparents>, or Facebook: www.facebook.com/WestfieldSpecialEdParents.

Seton Hall Univ. Fall 2018 Dean's List Announced

AREA — Seton Hall University has announced the following students who qualified for Fall 2018 Dean's list and congratulated them for their outstanding academic achievements.

Garwood: Yasmine Boto, Rachel Brooks, Sara Diwane, Justin Sousa, John Taylor, Diana White.

Westfield: Gabrielle Brennan, Kevin Campanello, Jenna Iorio, Nicholas Rizzi, Michael Rossi, Margaret Schantz, Joshua Schappel, Elizabeth Sottung, Danielle Vo.

Cranford: Amanda Brewster, Catherine Doolan, Savanna Gerlitz, Philip Halek, Lauren Infante, Brendan Kane, Julia Logiudice, Brittany

Markase, Sara Matlosz, Siobhan McGovern, Matthew Orsini, Carley Quirin, Keara Reilly, Timothy Romero, Delaney Trotter, Gabriela Valdes, Jenna Williams.

Mountainside: Natalie Calegari, Isabella DiCosmo, Benjamin Gillo, Christopher Karant, Alexandra Leontowycz, Alexander Lopez, Ava Manganiello, Conor McGlew, Raymond Menoni, Kristina Montesano, Kevin Pereira, Nicole Sforza.

Scotch Plains: Darby Debonis, Alexandra Gale, Samantha Hui, Cara Lamastra, Nina Mineo-Pankiewicz, Sierra Moorman, Erica Waltsak, Victoria Wilkins.

Colgate Univ. Announces Awards to Local Students

AREA — Alexandru Ionescu of Westfield, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2019, has earned the fall 2018 Dean's Award for Academic Excellence. Ms. Ionescu is a graduate of Westfield High School. Her current major is Molecular Biology.

McKella Sylvester, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2021, has earned the fall 2018 Dean's Award for Academic Excellence. Ms. Sylvester is a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School from Scotch Plains. Ms. Sylvester's current major is English.

Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.3 or higher while completing at least three courses earn the fall 2018 Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.

Colgate University has also announced the Fall 2018 Dean's Award with Distinction. Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher while completing at least three courses for a conventional letter grade during the fall 2018 semester earn the Dean's Award with Distinction. The following local stu-

dents have received the Fall 2018 Dean's Award with Distinction:

Westfield High School graduate, Courtney Casale of Westfield, is a member of the Colgate Class of 2020 and is currently a Neuroscience major.

Kent Place School graduate, Kathryn Robinson of Cranford, is a member of the Colgate Class of 2022 and is currently a Political Science major.

Cranford High School graduate, Keith Brown of Cranford, is a member of the Colgate Class of 2022 and is currently a Political Science major.

Most Likely to Succeed Says Students Ill Prepared

By SARAH McGRAIL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Westfield parents turned out in hundreds to see what the schools of the future may look like, if Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg have anything to do with it.

Westfield Education Fund screened *Most Likely To Succeed*, a film by documentarian Greg Whiteley about a revolutionary new school in San Diego, as a fundraiser for its work supporting education in Westfield.

The award-winning documentary starts by highlighting the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence on job prospects for graduates.

Then it goes on to interview several experts who say the public school system is not preparing students for the requirements of the 21st century job market. Their verdict on the public education system was that students spend huge amounts of time memorizing rather than learning, and the testing conditions were unrelated to real life where people can access all the information they need and collaborate with other people.

High Tech High, a school funded by \$11 million from The Gates Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, claims to teach students the critical thinking and soft skills that will be needed by future graduates.

Teachers who have a real passion for their subjects are employed at High Tech High on one-year contracts and are allowed to teach whatever they want in whatever way they want to teach it.

Students were shown working collaboratively in groups and seeking out and learning the information they needed to complete their projects.

A panel of local educators, moderated by Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle, gave their opinion of the film after the screening to the audience at Edison Intermediate School (EIS).

EIS Principal Matt Bolton, Ed.D., was joined on the panel by Westfield

High School Engineering and Design Teacher Laura Doyle; Mary Montes, who teaches first grade at Tamaques Elementary School; and Brian Baldwin, Ed.D., Professor of Science Education at Kean University.

Ms. Doyle is probably doing the closest thing in Westfield to the approach advocated by the film. She teaches engineering in an interactive classroom where desks are on wheels and extension cords connect with the ceiling.

"What jumped out at me was something I've been trying to do for most of my teaching career," Ms. Doyle said. "That students learn best in context, when they have to take problems that they're trying to solve in an environment where they have to figure out a solution and test things out, learn from their mistakes and try again. And everything is really student-led."

Ms. Doyle explained that her students always worked collaboratively in teams, cooperating face-to-face in a flexible space that allowed them to move around in a new, and very different, way of working.

Mr. Baldwin said: "I would love my children to be in a school like that when they're old enough, but we are talking serious money for a learning environment like that. How can we make the most within the constraints that we have? Because we have a lot of constraints and all of them are money."

Ms. Montes thought it was easier to work in that way with younger children, using the example of the garden at Tamaques School that allows her class to pull up carrots and then use them to learn about weighing and measuring.

Westfield Education Fund is a group of parent volunteers who aim to support projects that enrich students' academic experience, but which the district cannot afford.

A meeting to discuss the film will be held at Boxwood, on East Broad Street, in Westfield, on March 7, at 7:30 p.m.



BE MY GUEST... Guest readers took part in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools Read Across America Week. Pictured, left to right, are: Al Smith, Scotch Plains Mayor; Officer Stomer, Fanwood Police Department; Dr. Karen Kulikowski, Board President; Steve Goldberg, Scotch Plains Business Association; Gail Moser, former School One parent; Dr. Karen Wetherell, Principal of Coles School; Deb Brody, Board Member and Dr. Sasha Slocum, Principal of McGinn School.

Read Across America Week Activities Celebrating Dr. Seuss in SP-F Schools

SCOTCH PLAINS — All five elementary schools participated in many exciting activities to celebrate Read Across America Week. Whether it was wearing pajamas to school, crazy hair day, performing random acts of kindness or taking part in a number of Dr. Seuss activities, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood elementary students, parents, teachers, Board of Education members, as well as members of the community, found fun ways to promote their love of reading.

Park Middle School's P.A.L.S. students (Peer and Leadership Sup-

port) walked over to School One and Terrill Middle School P.A.L.S. students visited J.A. Coles to read to the younger students.

WHS Strive Club to Hold Auditions

WESTFIELD — Calling all magicians, dancers, singers, actors, comedians...here's a chance at fame! The Westfield High School (WHS) Strive Club is hosting its fifth annual charity event on May 17. The Club is seeking local talent for auditions, which will be held April 10 starting at 3:30 p.m. and April 11, starting at 3:30 p.m. at WHS Cafeteria B.

The audience will come from all surrounding towns, and all of the proceeds will go to the Strive Scholarship Fund to help students across the globe to continue their education.

Come to audition with a brief preview of what you or a group of friends would like to perform on stage. It is a first come, first serve basis, but if you contact us beforehand, you will get priority. The auditions are open to all Westfield students and residents. For more information, email whsstriveclub@gmail.com.

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TOP PRIZE... Cara Argila won first place in a VFW essay contest. Pictured, left to right, are: Joe McCourt; Sarah Odum; Cara Argila; Mrs. Argila; Mr. Argila; Ralph Gerace, Assistant Principal of Terrill Middle School; Officer Arthur Bruschetti, SLEO for Terrill Middle School; Kevin Holloway Principal of Terrill Middle School, and Margaret W. Hayes, Superintendent of Schools.

Cara Argila Wins VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

SCOTCH PLAINS — On Thursday, February 28, Cara Argila, an eighth-grade student at Terrill Middle School, was honored in Ms. Odum's Language Arts class for her participation in the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

Chairman of the contest, Joseph McCourt of Memorial Post 10122 in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, visited the school along with Cara's family and Margaret W. Hayes, Superintendent of Schools, to present Cara with the honor of winning first place over 6,000 participants in grades 6 to 8. Cara achieved first place overall in Post 10122, Union County and the State. Cara was presented with a Certificate of Achievement and a monetary award for her essay. Kevin Holloway, Terrill Middle School Principal, was also presented with a

plaque honoring Cara's achievements, which will be displayed at Terrill until January 2020.

Cara wrote about the topic, "Why I Honor the American Flag". She expressed her heartfelt appreciation and support for those who served in the many branches of the military, especially her father, uncle and grandfathers. She stated, "My father, uncle and grandfathers all served in the military and I am honored that they protected our country so we can have rights, freedom and privileges."

Cara's essay will be entered into the VFW's National Essay Contest, where she will have an opportunity to win a grand prize scholarship of \$5,000. Terrill Middle School and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District are incredibly proud of Cara on her accomplishments.

Saint Peter's Prep Second MP Honor Roll

AREA — James C. DeAngelo, '85, Principal of Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City, has announced that the following local residents earned honor roll status for the second marking period of 2018-2019:

Cranford: James Anderson, '19, Patrick Keenaghan, '19, Andrew Schmutter, '20, John Scheurer, '21, Ryan Cotter, '22, Brian Kealey, '22, and Alexander Puhak, '22 earned First Honors. Timothy Garcia, '19, Jacob Quinones, '19, Liam Concannon, '20, Andre Carcamo, '21, Michael Scheurer, '21, and Charles Dino, '22 earned Second Honors. Honorable Mention was attained by Nicholas Manganello, '10, William Pikus, '19, Christopher Larkin, '20, Colin Brancatella, '21, and Liam Mooney, '21.

First Honors is awarded to students with an average of A or higher (4.0) and no grade lower than a C. Second Honors is awarded to students with an average at or above the midpoint between A and B+ (3.7) and no grade lower than a C. Honorable Mention is awarded to students with an average of B+ or higher (3.5) and no grade lower than a C.

Fanwood: Aidan Christman, '20 and Patrick Corrao, '20 earned Second Honors. Honorable Mention was attained by Connor McElroy Barker, '21 and Russ StaRosa, '22.

Mountainside: Kyle Hess, '19 and Jay Post, '20 earned First Honors. Scotch Plains: Ethan MacMillan, '20 earned First Honors. Honorable Mention was attained by Aidan

Guarnuccio, '20.

Westfield: John Thorburn, '21 and Cyril Maliakal, '22 earned First Honors. Patrick Johnston, '19, Aidan Lezynski, '19, Andrew Cherry, '20, Colin Elliott, '20, Salvatore Imbomone, '20, Brian Mikovits, '20, Michael O'Neill, '20, Kevin Tierney, '20 and Henry Brown, '21 earned Second Honors. Honorable Mention was attained by Nicholas Manganello, '10, William Pikus, '19, Christopher Larkin, '20, Colin Brancatella, '21, and Liam Mooney, '21.

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Joe Nolan
former Westfield resident, Holy Trinity class of '76, traffic reporter for 39+ years and stadium announcer for Rutgers and the Jets
"Holy Trinity to Heavy Traffic"
You know his voice—now hear his story
Wednesday, March 20 7:00 pm



Timothy Boyle
Westfield native, WHS Class of '84, co-owner of 16 Prospect Wine Bar and Bistro
"From Paris to Prospect Street"
Hear about the business of bistros from a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu
Wednesday, May 8 7:00 pm



Stacey Farley
former Westfield resident and notable public artist
"The Art of Ceramic Tile"
Learn about public art from the creator of the ceramic tiles at our train station and the Reeve House
Wednesday, October 16 7:00 pm



Carol Tener
Westfield resident, Realtor, and member of Westfield Historical Society Board and Historic Preservation Commission
"Architectural Gems in Westfield-Part II"
The story continues—come hear more about the history of our homes and neighborhoods.
Wednesday, November 6 7:00 pm

Open to the public. Pre-registration required.
Register online at www.wmlnj.org or call 908.789.4090 ext. 0.



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