

## Westfield Students Honored At Edison Intermediate School

WESTFIELD - During the annual Awards Night held at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield at the close of the 2001-2002 school year, the following students were honored with these recognitions:

**Student Government Award:** Casey Ackermann, Harrison Maxwell Fox, Samantha Mooney, Alexandra Psychojos, Holly Reed, Andrew Skibitsky, Zal Spialter and Julie Zenarosa.

**Class of 1959 Award:** Thomas Fringer and Julie Zenarosa.

**Class of 1962 Award:** Distinguished Honor Students Monica Doss, Alissa Eisenberg, Lindsay Elbaum, Allison Fleder, Sarah Godfrey, Kaitlin Gorman, Matthew Leong, Rachel Leopold, Jessica Moskowitz, Annie Peyton and Jennifer Zhu.

**Edison Wildcat Award Character Counts Award:** Eric Adams, Katharine Anderson, Charles Barber, Maurice Blackmon, Arielle Dance, Nicholas Brownstone, Alissa Eisenberg, Jessica Minsky, Gianna Pafumi, Holly Reed, David Schaffer, Nicholas Williams and Zal Spialter.

**Music Awards:** The Louis Armstrong Award to Benjamin Holt;

The John Phillip Sousa Award to Alan Tso;

The Alina Siegel Memorial Award to Sarah Degel. The award is dedicated to the memory of former Edison Intermediate School student and clarinetist Alina Lynn Siegel. The award is given to a student who demonstrates musical accomplishment, a strong work ethic, and dedication and leadership to the band;

The Director's Award for Orchestra to Charles Barber;

The National Orchestra Award to Andrea Gordon and Matthew Leong;

The Thomas Elmo, Jr., Memorial Award (Vocal) to Maurice Blackmon. The award is dedicated in memory of Thomas Elmo, Jr., an outstanding student, particularly in vocal music.

The Thespian Award for Musical Theatre to Andrea Gordon;

The Charles Barber Forensics Award to Arielle Dance, Sarah Degel, Sarah Godfrey, Jessica Graham and Gianna Pafumi;

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award to Allison Fleder and Patrick Daurio;

**Memorial Awards:** The Robbin Gillespie Memorial Award to Kyle Gillyard. The award is presented annually by the coaches

### Optimist Club Holds Membership Breakfast

WESTFIELD - The Optimist Club will hold a breakfast for potential members on Saturday, September 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the Westfield Diner on North Avenue. The Optimist Club of Westfield is a vibrant organization serving the youth of Westfield, assisting our fellow residents and having fun making new friends and strengthening old friendships.

Anyone interested in attending, please contact Steve Wearley at (908) 654-7663 or e-mail [steve.wearley@alcan.com](mailto:steve.wearley@alcan.com). For the official website of the Optimist Club visit [www.westfieldnj.com/optimist](http://www.westfieldnj.com/optimist).

## Darryl S. Weiss MD is pleased to announce the relocation of his Westfield office for the practice of Cosmetic Dermatology.

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## Concepts & Thought



The weekly column written by local high school students

## Confessions of A Die-Hard Fan of the New York Mets

By JORDAN ZARAKAN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Hi. My name is Jordan, and I am a Mets fan. Good. Whew. I got it off my chest. Now that you know that, I hope you can learn to accept me for who I am, although I am of the small minority of baseball fans.

When you see me walking down the streets of Westfield, say hello to me. I can use the comfort of friends, especially during this baseball season.

What was a season full of expectations, World Series dreams and pre-order playoff tickets has turned into a reason for me to see a psychologist. I'm clinically a Mets fan. It's as if I have some kind of disease and the cure, or so I have been told by many friends, is a large dose of Yankees, the Penicillin of baseball.

Being a Mets fan is like an addiction. Despite their occupation of last place in the National League East division, I still wrap myself in one of my four authentic Mets jerseys and shield my eyes from the sun in my royal blue Mets hat.

In fact, as I look down onto my chest, my 1999 NL Wild Card t-shirt reminds me of the few years of glory for the Mets in the 1990's. Even then, though, their ray of light was lost in the deep clouds of four World Championships for the New York Yankees.

As I look into my closet, I find my jerseys, proverbially bloodied from battles and debates regarding who was the better overall player, Mike Piazza or Derek Jeter? I would argue his more homers and had a higher average than Jeter. But of course, the masses would remind me, Jeter is cuter and has four more World Series wins than Piazza.

Of course I would remind them that greats such as Ted Williams never won a ring. But, when it's five pubescent teens with pinstripe driven hormones against one, your side of the story is quickly overlooked.

The nail in the coffin that buried any respect I had for cheering for the Mets was October 26, 2000 when Piazza's fly ball died and fell into the glove of Yankee centerfielder Bernie Williams to end the World Series.

But how could I just stop being a Mets fan, if I had the inclination? Of course I do not, but it makes for an interesting hypothetical question. Do I burn the photos of me wearing a Doc Gooden jersey at the tender age of six months old? Is it possible to wipe away the memories of my first allgame (a game the Mets lost, 12-0, against the expansion Colorado Rockies)? Maybe I can rip down the posters of Rey Ordonez, Piazza and Al Leiter from around my room?

## Colby College Welcomes Westfielder Margaret Smith

WESTFIELD - Margaret M. Smith of Westfield enrolled at Colby College in Waterville, Me. this fall.

She took part in a weeklong orientation that included an introduction to Colby's academic program, as well as a four-day orientation trip.

With about a dozen other pupils,

including returning students who were trip leaders, Margaret participated in a canoeing and camping trip on the Moose River in the Moosehead Lake region of northern Maine from August 28 to 31.

A graduate of Mount St. Mary Academy, Margaret is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Smith of Westfield.

## Union Catholic Will Present 'Hollywood Night Gala'

SCOTCH PLAINS - The 40th Anniversary Committee of Union Catholic High School (UCHS) will host "The Hollywood Night Gala" on Saturday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at UCHS, 1600 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

The event is one of several activities celebrating Union Catholic's 40th Anniversary. Proceeds from the event will benefit anniversary activities and the school's Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, followed by an entertaining comedy and cabaret show.

During the cocktail reception, The Celebration Singers, a popular local community chorus based in Cranford, will perform songs from their show "American Fare," which features Broadway, gospel, spiritual and patriotic songs. Following the cocktail reception,

Richie Byrne, who was recently seen on ABC's former "Rosie O'Donnell Show" and on VH1's "Stand-Up Spotlight," will entertain guests with a comedy show.

The cabaret show will feature Diane Foster, who will perform "Hollywood Through The Ages." A native of Union, Ms. Foster has extensive theatre credits, including performances at The Papermill Playhouse in *Follies* and the American Premiere of *Children of Eden*. She has also performed Off-Broadway at the award-winning *Six Gounbas and A Wannabe*.

The evening's performance will be followed by dessert and a silent auction. The donation for a ticket is \$100. Tickets can be purchased by calling Anne Wischusen, UCHS Director of Institutional Advancement, at (908) 889-9475.



NEW OFFICERS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Alumni Association, which awards scholarships to Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students and works for the betterment of the school system, recently installed new members for 2002-2003. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Newsletter Editor Marie Leppert; Recording Secretary Kristi Hawkins; President Laura Swidersky and Trustee Josephine Perucci; back row, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee & Trustee Robert Carboy, Trustee Diane Carboy, Treasurer Kathy Van Horn, and Trustee Elena Harper. Not pictured, are: Bernice Montagna, Corresponding Secretary and Vice President James Checchio. For more information about the SP-F Alumni Association, please call (908) 889-2084.

## Annual Open Houses on Tap At Pingry School Campuses

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP - The Pingry School opens its doors this fall to all families who are interested in sending their children to the co-educational, K-12 independent country day school.

Pingry, with an annual enrollment of approximately 1,008, serves its students through two campuses, a Lower School (K-6) campus located in Short Hills and an Upper School (7-12) campus located in Bernards Township.

The Open Houses offer prospective parents an opportunity to tour the school, learn about Pingry's academic, athletic and extracurricular programs, speak with students, faculty and staff, and receive information about the school's financial aid program. Interested families can also find information about the school at the school's website, [www.pingry.org](http://www.pingry.org).

The Lower School will hold its Open Houses on Wednesday, October 16, November 13 and December 4. All three Open Houses begin at 8:30 a.m. Each day's program will

feature an overview of the school by administrators, tours of the building, a question and answer session, and the chance for parents to sit-in on classes.

The Upper School Open Houses will take place in October and November. The Open House on Sunday, October 20, will focus on Pingry's middle school (7-8) program. Pingry's high school (9-12) program will be the focus of the Open House that takes place on Sunday, November 17. Both events begin at 2 p.m. and will feature campus tours, a presentation about academic and student life at Pingry and panel discussions.

Pingry's Upper School is nationally recognized for its academic excellence based on a solid liberal arts curriculum, including 16 Advanced Placement and 16 Honors courses, enriched by extracurricular activities and athletics.

The Lower School's curriculum is designed to aid each child's academic, social, emotional and physical growth. At the Lower School, foreign language instruction begins in the first grade and computers are introduced in kindergarten.

The Lower School campus is located on Country Day Drive in Short Hills, just off Hobart Gap/White Oak Ridge Road, by way of Briarwood Drive.

For directions and information, please contact Sheila Ramirez, Director of Admission at (973) 379-4550.

The Upper School campus is on Martinsville Road in Bernards Township, two miles south of Exit 33 off I-78.

For directions or more information, please call Sara Boisvert, Director of Admission, at (908) 647-6419.

### Sarah E. Round Enters Colgate's Class of 2006

WESTFIELD - Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. announced that Westfield resident Sarah E. Round is among the more than 700 students who entered Colgate's Class of 2006 in late August.

A graduate of Westfield High School, Sarah is the daughter of Drs. Philip and Elizabeth Round of Westfield.

[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)



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Admission tests will be administered on Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, and Jan. 11.

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