



**CULTURE SHOCK...** First graders at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, along with teacher Julie Morggia, learned about African textiles during a recent visit by Christa Clarke, curator of African Art at The Newark Museum (and a mother of one of the children in the class). Above, first graders in Class 1M get a close look at kente, a type of strip-woven cloth from Ghana once worn only by royalty.

## P.E.O. Announces Educ. Loan Fund For Women

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Chapter As of P.E.O. has announced the availability of a 2 percent low interest educational loan fund for Central New Jersey women entering their junior or senior year in college or pursuing graduate work. P.E.O., a philanthropic and educational organization, established the loan fund in 1907 to lend money to worthy women students to assist them in securing a higher education.

A local P.E.O. chapter must sponsor the recipients of the loan, which is available in installments totaling a maximum of \$9,000. The Westfield chapter initially has targeted up to two women to sponsor each year for this program. The chapter will make its sponsorship selection based on an applicant's financial need, academic excellence, outstanding contributions

to the community and a commitment to higher education. The international P.E.O. chapter must then approve the loan application.

Applications are processed year-round. The average processing time is approximately three months from candidate selection to financing. Candidates applying for the loan must be either a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or Canada. Eligible participants must have two co-signers for the loan and the applicant may not currently be involved in bankruptcy proceedings or discharged from bankruptcy within the last three years.

For further information, go to [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org). Interested women should contact the chapter to confirm eligibility at [asnipeo@yahoo.com](mailto:asnipeo@yahoo.com).

## WF Professor's Scholarship Honored By Rider Univ.

WESTFIELD - Dr. Stefan Young of Westfield, professor of music composition at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, will be recognized for his creative work at the Honoring Faculty Scholarship/Development Luncheon at Rider University on February 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the university's Student Recreation Center Lobby.

Dr. Young will be recognized for his work in musical composition. He has written an anthology of art song, which resulted in a CD, and a piano quintet. Currently is working on some etudes for orchestra.

This work was facilitated by fellowships and/or research leaves negotiated by the faculty union, the American Association of University

Professors, which is sponsoring the luncheon. More than 1,115 leaves, fellowships and reimbursements associated with scholarly/developmental work have been awarded to 279 individual faculty members in the past 32 years, since the formation of the union.

The event will celebrate the achievements promoted by these leaves, and more than 50 recipients will be on hand to demonstrate their work.

Also attending the event will be Rider's president Dr. Mordechai Rozanski. The public is invited to attend the display and talk with professors about their research. For more information, call (609) 896-0092 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Education Matters

### Not The Same Old Story

By DAVID DELLA FERA  
Westfield High School English teacher

There we were, the student and I, poring over her draft of a paper on Kafka's "The Metamorphosis," trying to determine how she could more precisely explain the nature of Gregor Samsa's relationship with his younger sister, when out of the blue the student asked me with the all the subtlety of the 7:20 a.m. warning bell:

"Don't you get sick of reading the same thing every year?"

It is a question that has been asked of English teachers ever since the word "curriculum" entered the language, and it is usually delivered in one of three ways: with utter bafflement, with heartfelt pity or with genuine curiosity. Having just finished a lesson on subtext with a class reading "Macbeth," I recognized the third in her voice, and answered as I always do, with mild amusement and total sincerity:

"No."

Something about the simple truth in that answer seemed to please her, and without any need of further explanation we carried on with our work.

Had I felt the need to continue, I would have said something like the following: Any novel, story, play or poem worth studying in class should be worth reading time and time again, not only because of its own merits but because of the possibilities it offers every new group of students. What one comes to realize as an English teacher is that each student, even the one who seems most resistant, approaches each novel, story, play, or poem with the expectation that it holds something for him or her, some truth or some reflection or some irresistible word-magic.

Everything a teacher does in the classroom should be designed to help the student discover what that some-

thing is. After all, each of us remembers making similar discoveries, and each of us understands the importance of continuing to do so. Otherwise, who could possibly care any longer about Gulliver's travels, Gatsby's greatness, or red wheelbarrows next to white chickens?

Helping students to make their own discoveries is not always an easy task. As an English teacher you try to present things in interesting, relevant and fresh ways; you try to stress that language is both an art form and a tool for communication; you try to elicit excitement, empathy, laughter, tears or outrage from the printed and spoken word. You try to do justice to the work and to your students, but the extent of your success is difficult to gauge or quantify outside of grades and test scores.

Thinking about sheer numbers, I decided to take a look through my record book to review what I had graded so far this year. The tally was 476 essays; 601 tests and quizzes; 439 short stories, poems, plays, and memoirs; and hundreds of homework assignments. I had held more than 200 individual writing conferences. Somewhere in all of that, I hoped, more than a few kids had made some important discoveries of their own.

I said none of this to the student diligently working on her "Metamorphosis" paper. In a little while she made a breakthrough. What's important, she said, is that Gregor, the main character, eventually becomes incidental, almost beside the point. We're supposed to focus on his younger sister, the girl who, in the end, stretches out with all the possibility and wonder her future holds.

"Good job," I said.

### Franklin Enjoys Chinese New Year

WESTFIELD - First grade students at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield took part in a Chinese New Year Celebration for 2006, the Year of the Dog. They learned about Chinese customs and traditions, making lanterns and practicing how to write Chinese symbols. The celebration was highlighted with their participation in a dragon parade throughout the school, which included ribbon dancers, Chinese drums and fan dancers. Students wore red and some dressed in traditional Chinese costumes. The Franklin PTO and Cultural Arts Committee organized the event.

### Rowan Announces Fall 2005 Dean's List

AREA - Several local students earned recognition on the Rowan University fall 2005 Dean's List for earning a 3.45 grade point average. The students include: Fanwood's Elizabeth Black, Jennifer Nigro, Matthew Ruggieri and Allison Williams majoring in Psychology, Communication, Law/Justice and Collaborative Education, respectively. Mountainside's Brian Wolford majoring in Mechanical Engineering, Scotch Plains' Erin Sullivan majoring in Education and Westfield's Robert Jahn and Justin Tullo majoring in History and Communication, respectively.



**EVENING OF POETRY...** Getting ready for The Children's Institute's (TCI) "Evening of Poetry" are TCI students Ian B. of Westfield, left, and James S. of Wayne with their teacher Jessica Valentine of Madison. The "Evening of Poetry" featured 50 original works by the TCI Middle-school students. This was a culmination of months of poetry style and creative writing classes.



## Will More People Watch The Olympics' Final Days?

By ELENA TINFOW  
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times

An athlete stands atop the podium and a medal is placed around his neck. Competitors from two other countries are on either side of him. The national anthem of his country plays as everyone cheers. Many tears are shed as life-long dreams come true.

Events such as this occur every two years for about 17 days, when either the summer or the winter Olympics is held. The sad part, though, is that here in the United States, the Olympics are not the most-watched program on television. Regular programming has held more viewers throughout the week. On certain days, the Olympics have held their own, but on other days, the normal programs have beaten them in the ratings.

This year in Torino, about 2600 athletes are competing in seven different sports: Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Curling, Ice Hockey, Luge, Skiing and Skiing to win 84 gold medals. Twenty-six-hundred people are all competing for eternal athletic glory, but only about 10 percent of them will actually earn a medal. About 3 percent of them will win gold.

The Olympics games have been around for over 2000 years, since the first were held in 776 BCE. Though the events have changed, and now there are summer and winter compe-

titions, the spirit of the games has remained intact. The competitors are still looking to go down in history as the best athletes in their event. They still strive for that moment when they will be able to claim that they are the greatest.

They always search for the time when they can stand atop the podium and hear their national anthem playing in the background. They hope that one day their entire country will be proud of them and how the country competed against the world. When they return home, they can come back to millions of people who cheered them on and who are proud of them.

One of the most desperate situations is that of well-known athletes who have emerged victorious in many competitions but have not won gold at the Olympics, like Michelle Kwan. This year, nothing did more saddening than seeing a great athlete have to give up her dream because of an injury.

The Olympics are over very shortly; the last day of competition is February 26. The finals of the ever-popular figure skating have still not taken place. Hopefully, in these final few days, more people will watch athletes fulfilling their dreams and going down in history.

*Elena, a sophomore, attends the Union County Magnet School.*

### Cognetti Graduates From Bloomsburg

WESTFIELD - Westfield's Elisa Cognetti recently graduated from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Elementary Education.

### Justin Tullo Earns Dean's List Status

WESTFIELD - Justin Tullo of Westfield was recently named to the Dean's List of Rowan University for the fall semester. Justin, a freshman, graduated from Westfield High School in 2005 and is majoring in Radio, Television and Film production.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have a grade point average of 3.4 or higher. Justin is the son of Stephen and Diane Tullo.

### DISCOVERING NEW WORLDS

**NEXT ADMISSION INFORMATION SESSION:**

April 12, 2006  
9 to 11 a.m.

R.S.V.P by calling  
(908) 754-1882 x 155

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DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES  
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625**

SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the NJDOT MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; until 10:00 A.M. on 3/23/06 and opened and read for:

**Median Cross Over Protection Contract #6, Contract No. SWI03162** Various locations on Rt I-78 & I-80, Townships of Springfield, Milburn, Mt. Olive, Jefferson, Rockaway, Wharton Borough, Montville & Fairfield Borough Union, Essex and Morris  
Federal Project No: STP-080-5(066)  
DP NO: 06103

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C.127 N.J.A.C. 17:27.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, For Federal aided projects; bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, prior to the time of contract execution. Appropriate proof of registration should be provided to NJDOT as soon as possible after receipt of the Notice of Award.

Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance.

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the contract award.

Drawings and specifications for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com). You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. The fee is \$35.00 per month for unlimited access to view and download the documents and additional \$95.00 per month for unlimited access to download the plans, directly payable to Bid Express.

Drawings, special provisions, and bid documents may be inspected (**BUT NOT OBTAINED**) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Stierli Court Mt. Arlington, NJ 973-770-5141	Route 79 and Daniels Way Freehold, NJ 732-308-4025	1 Executive Campus Rt 70 Cherry Hill, NJ 856-486-6624
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3 T - 2/23/06, 3/2/06 and 3/9/06, The Leader Fee: \$208.08

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**Rt. 1 & 9 (6) - Magnolia Avenue, Contract No. UNI961492; Bridge Replacement; City of Elizabeth, County of Union  
Federal Project No: BRM-7520(103)  
DP NO: 06104**

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C.127 N.J.A.C. 17:27.

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3 T - 2/23/06, 3/2/06 and 3/9/06, The Leader Fee: \$198.90

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