



Wilson Cheung



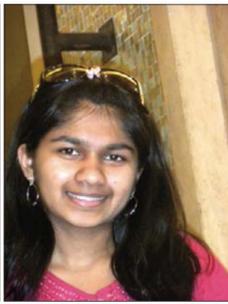
Ryan Elliott



Alexa Geltzeiler



Alex Goldschmidt



Kavita Mehta



Sarah Ramiré



Kaitlyn Johnson



Rory Fitzpatrick

The Woman's Club of Westfield Announces Spring 2012 Scholarships

WESTFIELD – At the May general meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW), held at the Masonic Lodge in Westfield, the 2012 spring scholarships were awarded to eight Westfield High School (WHS) seniors. Each winner will receive a \$5,000 one-time freshman grant.

Scholarships were awarded to: Wilson Cheung, Ryan Elliott, Alexa Geltzeiler, Alex Goldschmidt, Kavita Mehta, Sarah Ramiré, Kaitlyn Johnson and Rory Fitzpatrick.

Wilson Cheung is the son of Kit-Mui and But-Sung Cheung. Wilson is a conscientious and very capable young man whose motivation makes him a dedicated student. He is part of the WHS cross-country track team and co-creator/president of the Odd Jobs for Charity Club. Wilson also worked on weekends and is a member of the National Honor Society. He will attend Rutgers University

and plans to major in Engineering.

Ryan Elliott is the son of Mary and Richard Elliott. Ryan is the oldest of five children and an exceptionally hard worker. His work ethic is highlighted by being inducted into the National Honor Society and elected its vice-president. Ryan also proved himself on the football field, leading the WHS team as captain, and more leadership was shown contributing to the WHS Transition's team. His work includes youth umpire/referee and youth sports coach. Ryan plans to attend The College of the Holy Cross with an undecided major.

Alexa Geltzeiler is the daughter of Karen and Steven Geltzeiler. Alexa is a creative, free-spirited person who enjoyably excels in the classroom. She combines academics and the arts and achieves a high degree of success. Alexa has done very well in Honors and AP courses and is a mem-

ber of the National Honor Society. She plays the flute in the WHS Marching Band while holding the title of flute leader. Alexa is very involved in the Theater Department at WHS. She will attend New York University, looking at a Genetic Counseling major.

Alex Goldschmidt is the son of Beverly and Edward Goldschmidt. Alex is a naturally bright student who has challenged himself by taking a great many honor and advanced placement courses. No one was surprised when he did exceedingly well. Alex truly loves music, especially the piano, and currently is president of the Westfield Jr. Musical Club, plus a WHS tennis player ranked 16th in the state. Alex tutors students in five subjects and still has time to win awards in astronomy. He will attend Tufts University with a major in Astrophysics.

Kavita Mehta is the daughter of

Jayshree and Mukesh Mehta. Kavita is a very strong student academically and has proven her ability by taking many honors and advanced placement courses. She is a focused, well-organized student who has a great determination. Kavita was captain of the Federal Challenge, staff writer for the *Hi's Eye*, the WHS newspaper, and ran WHS winter track. She is a member of the National Honor Society, volunteers at Children's Specialized Hospital and is a Westfield Recreation Counselor. Kavita will attend Carnegie Mellon University to further her interest in business.

Sarah Ramiré is the daughter of Margaret and Leon Ramiré. Sarah is a mature, hard-working young woman who has served as representative and vice-president for the Westfield High School Student Government. Through the years, Sarah has always shown a great interest in

talent for dance. She has been a transition leader, reader for blind dialysis patients, crocheted hats for ill babies in hospitals, read to the congregation of a local church, babysat and served food for Clyne & Murphy Caterers. Sarah will attend Providence College and major in Marketing.

Kaitlyn Johnson is the winner of the WCW Erma Sloane Chambers one-time freshman merit scholarship. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Christine and Stephen Johnson. Kaitlyn is a highly motivated, determined and enthusiastic young woman. She participated in and was captain of two Westfield High School track teams and captain of the school's gymnastics team. Kaitlyn is a member of the National Honor Society, has worked as a lifeguard and taught gymnastics to young children. She also has been a transition leader, peer minister and community service volunteer, assist-

ing in repairing ravaged homes in Florida. Kaitlyn will attend Georgetown University to major in Engineering.

Rory Fitzpatrick is the winner of the WCW Ruth L. Quadenfield Antiques Department one-time freshman scholarship. She is the daughter of Kristen and Scott Fitzpatrick. Rory is an enthusiastic, strong student who has been gifted with a true love of learning and a high academic ability. At the same time, she is very well rounded. Rory has earned the respected Girl Scout Gold Award and played the position of catcher on the WHS girls' softball team. In addition, she plays the alto saxophone and is the only girl in the WHS Jazz Band. Rory is a member of the WHS Wind Ensemble and is woodwind captain in the WHS Marching Band. Rory will attend Princeton University with an interest in math and science.



HANDS ON LEARNING...Students participated in a Service Learning Project designed to help them apply civic principles in an active and reflective way at the Dyslexia Center in Scotch Plains. Pictured, from left to right are: Andrew Walker, Christine Soltesz, Derek Phansalker, Judy Shapiro, Justin Purvis, Beth Ruggieri, Abraham May and Lisa Purvis.

Scotch Plains Students Raise Dyslexia Awareness

SCOTCH PLAINS — Justin Purvis, a former student of the Children's Dyslexia Center in Scotch Plains, asked three of his classmates at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains to join him in his effort to raise awareness about dyslexia. The students are participating in a Service Learning Project designed to help them apply civic principles in an active and reflective way.

Justin, along with Abraham May, Derek Phansalker and Andrew Walker, gave an informative Power-Point presentation to the Dyslexia Center's teachers and staff May 1. The presentation emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, and it covered a variety of topics, including a section on why people should care about children with dyslexia.

One of the highlights of the presentation was when Justin spoke about his personal experience with dyslexia. He shared information about what has helped him deal with his dyslexia over the years, includ-

ing the help he received at this Dyslexia Center, exclaiming that his reading level jumped three grade levels after completing his program at the center. Justin passionately stressed to his audience that children with dyslexia need systematic, explicit instruction, help boosting their self esteem, parents who are supportive, teachers who are willing to use a multi-sensory approach and accommodations and modifications to help them succeed.

On May 10, the boys gave another presentation during the Dyslexia Center's closing ceremonies. This time the focus was on empowering the children who attend the center. The boys gave an inspiring presentation about famous people with dyslexia. They spoke about the accomplishments of Albert Einstein, Whoopi Goldberg, John Lennon and Walt Disney, emphasizing to the children that they, too, can be just as successful as all these individuals despite having dyslexia.

The Children's Dyslexia Center is located at 301 Forest Road in Scotch Plains. Director Judy Shapiro and Supervisor Christine Soltesz can be reached at (908) 322-6241.

WF Teachers Receive Outstanding Teaching Awards

WESTFIELD – Westfield Public School teachers Kristi Houghtaling and Stephanie Kwiatkowski were named Outstanding Intermediate School Teachers for 2012 by the Optimist Club of Westfield and will be honored by the Westfield Board of Education on Tuesday, June 5.

A reception sponsored by the Roosevelt and Edison Intermediate Schools' PTOs will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at 302 Elm Street. Resolutions will be presented to the teachers by Board President Richard Mattessich during the business portion of the meeting at 8 p.m.

Ms. Houghtaling and Ms. Kwiatkowski are the recipients of the 15th annual Optimist Award, established in 1998 to recognize the importance of teaching in the intermediate grades. The award is presented annually to two Westfield teachers – one each from Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools.

Ms. Houghtaling is in her 16th year as a science teacher at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield. She teaches both eighth-grade science and biology for eighth-grade students in the Gifted Program.

Ms. Houghtaling holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Cell and Molecular Biology and a post graduate degree in Biological Education from the University of Washington. She also holds a Master of Science degree in Biology from Montclair State University, where she was published in an academic science journal for her work in biology. In addition to her graduate work, Ms. Houghtaling has done research at Princeton University and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Commenting on receiving the Optimist Award, she said, "It is a great honor to be chosen to receive such a distinguished award. I am deeply moved."

Ms. Kwiatkowski is in her sixth year as an eighth-grade science teacher at Roosevelt Intermediate School (RIS) in Westfield. She also is the advisor for the Eighth Grade Service Project, which is responsible for a myriad of activities for the eighth graders during NJASK testing week. This year, eighth graders continued

the yearly beautification of the school grounds, worked collaboratively with the third graders at McKinley Elementary School on an electrical circuit project, created toiletry kits for the homeless and participated in cooking and Zumba classes. To fund a portion of the events, multiple fundraisers were held beginning in October, including this year's first RIS Spaghetti Dinner.

Ms. Kwiatkowski holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and teaching certification in Biology from Rutgers University.

In commenting on receiving the Optimist Award, she said, "Upon hearing the news, I was extremely overwhelmed and grateful to be considered among the deserving past recipients. To be considered among a group of individuals whom I admire as educational leaders is truly humbling."

Both Ms. Houghtaling and Ms. Kwiatkowski are members of the National Science Teachers Association.



Kristi Houghtaling, left, and Stephanie Kwiatkowski

MEF Accepting 'Outstanding Character' Nominations

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Education Foundation (MEF) is accepting nominations for its Outstanding Character Award, to be given to a graduating eighth-grade Deerfield School student.

The purpose of this award is to recognize a student who has demonstrated a continuing commitment to character and self-development, and to emphasize the importance that these attributes play in a child's growth to adulthood. The core principles of the MEF Outstanding Character Award Program are Courage - Taking risks and following your conscience; Integrity - Being truthful and trustworthy to oneself and others; Responsibility - Conveying an attitude of commitment and conviction and Concern - Demonstrating compassion and a caring attitude toward others.

Nominations for the award may come from any member of the Mountainside community, who is not related to the nominee, including teachers, school staff, coaches and scout leaders.

Completed applications for the MEF Outstanding Character Award must be submitted to the MEF mailbox at either Deerfield or Beechwood School, or emailed to jwargaski@verizon.net, no later than Friday, June 8, in order for the candidate to be considered.

All award applications will be reviewed by the Mountainside Education Foundation Board of Trustees. One recipient will be selected based on the criteria listed above and the information provided in the application. The award will be presented to the recipient at the Deerfield School graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 21.

The application can be found on the MEF website, mountainsideeducationfoundation.org.



SPARKING CURIOSITY...Westfield High School physics students learned to wire four switches and four bulbs in any way they chose, as shown here by students Elizabeth Connolly, left, and Zoe Korunow.

WHS Physics Students Design Electrical Circuits

WESTFIELD – Students in both Josh Garodnick's and Rudy Scipione's Westfield High School physics classes experienced hands-on electrical circuit design this spring.

"These projects require logic, problem solving, understanding DC cir-

cuits, and it applies to real life when it comes to wiring your home," explained Mr. Garodnick. "This is something you can use," remarked student Adam Greene. Fellow student Elizabeth Connolly added, "It's really cool to see how the circuits work, not just draw it, and to see the lights go on."

The physics teachers pointed out that the project also ties into the school district's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiative. Supplies for the classroom project were donated by Jose Moradas, assistant manager of the Garwood Home Depot.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Maldiner Honored by Newhouse School

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Jenna Maldiner of Westfield, a graduating senior at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, received the Newhouse Advertising Student of The Year award, for a senior advertising major with demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding service and extracurricular activity.



PERFECT...Dara Maguire of Scotch Plains, a junior at Union Catholic High School (UC), scored a perfect 800 on the math section of the SAT. A particularly involved student, Dara is a UC Ambassador, Executive Board member for Student Movement Against Cancer, and is a member of the varsity lacrosse team.



SENIOR OF THE YEAR...Jessica Clarke of Scotch Plains was named Senior of the Year for The Wardlaw-Hartridge School by the Edison Rotary Club at its 15th Annual Senior of the Year Awards Dinner on May 10. Jessica was chosen from a group of 11 classmates who were selected Student of the Month. All nominees and winners were selected for selflessly giving back to the community in a myriad of significant ways.



Bornstein Earns Graduate Degree From Quinnipiac

HAMDEN, Conn. – The following area resident received a master's degree from Quinnipiac University during a commencement ceremony held May 13 at the TD Bank Sports Center: Joshua B. Bornstein of Westfield earned a Master of Business Administration degree.



Layton Receives Law Degree from W&L

LEXINGTON, Va. – Kelli Ann Layton of Westfield received her juris doctor degree on May 5 from Washington and Lee University School of Law.

Evergreen Raises Money To Support Global Education

SCOTCH PLAINS – Imagine not having access to education. Imagine not having a teacher to guide you each day to help you learn. Imagine wanting to learn so much, but not being able to do so. For us in America, those things may be hard to understand, but around the world, that is not the case. Third-grade students at Evergreen Elementary School in Scotch Plains were given those prompts and asked to do something to help.

During the month of February, the students participated in the global program, Pennies for Peace. The program was begun by Greg Mortenson, an American who raises money to build schools for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The basis of the program is that education, especially for the girls, helps to spread the value of education throughout communities. In addition, literacy for boys and girls allows for better economic opportunities in the future and neutralizes power of extremist leaders.

During the month of February, third-grade students collected pennies from neighbors and family members. In total, the students raised over \$180, which translates into 18,000 pennies.

For more information on the Pennies for Peace program, log onto penniesforpeace.org/. For more information on Evergreen School, log onto spfk12.org.



PENNIES FOR PEACE...Third-grade students at Evergreen Elementary School in Scotch Plains collected pennies for Pennies for Peace. Pictured, left to right, back row, are: Ethan Pawelec, Nicolas Ruggieri and Ian Joshua. Pictured, front row, left to right, are: JJ Dionisio, Allie Serio and Cadence Weiss.



BIRDS OF PREY...Lincoln School in Westfield received a visit from Bill Streeter, director of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, who brought with him a variety of live birds of prey. Pictured here is a hawk perched on Mr. Streeter's hand. An owl, falcon and eagle also were on display. The presentation included an explanation of the Raptor Center's dedication to the preservation and conservation of birds of prey and its humane professional care for orphaned, ill and injured birds so they can ultimately be returned to the wild.