

School News

National Scholastic Art Competition

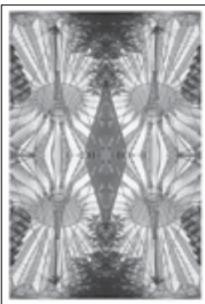
Stosik Awarded Silver Medal



Jolanthe "Jolly" Stosik, a student at Souhegan High School, was one of seven visual art students across the state to receive a national award for their outstanding artwork through The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

The 86 year-old national program that recognizes outstanding creative teenagers and offers scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors. Stosik's computer art piece, titled "Pink Miracle," earned a silver medal award. Stosik's teacher was Kathy Seward MacKay.

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the national nonprofit organization that presents The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, will honor the winners on June 4 at a gala celebration at Carnegie Hall in New



York City. These students join the ranks of artists and writers who have received Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, including Robert Redford, Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, John Lithgow, Bernard Malamud, Joyce Carol Oates, Tom Otterness, Philip Pearlstein, Zac Posen, Sylvia Plath, Richard Ave-

don and Robert Indiana. Since Scholastic, the global children's publishing, media and education company, founded the program in 1923, more than 13 million of America's most talented junior high and high school youth (grades 7-12) have participated in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and 2.5 million have been recognized and shared in \$30 million in cash awards and college scholarships.

Local Student Sails on Educational Adventure of a Lifetime

Ashley Zuorski participates in SEA Semester Program Aboard a Tall Ship

WOODS HOLE, MA - Ashley Zuorski of Amherst is enrolled in SEA Semester, a study abroad program through SEA Education Associate in Woods Hole, MA, while away from studies at Eckerd College. Ashley has successfully completed the SEA Semester's six-week shore component earning academic credit for curriculum in oceanography, nautical science and maritime studies.

At the program's Woods Hole campus, Ashley developed a research project that will be tested and completed aboard SEA's 134' sailing school vessel, the Robert C. Seamans, one of the most sophisticated research equipped vessel under sail in the United States. Ashley is sailing on the tall ship from Honolulu, Hawaii, with a port call at Christmas Island and a final destination of Papeete, Tahiti - a journey of approximately 3000 nautical miles and six weeks at sea. During that time, in addition to collecting data for a research project, Ashley will help provide weather observations to a national database, learn to chart the course of the vessel using celestial navigation and serve as the Junior Watch Office (JWO), taking full command of the vessel during a watch. Ashley's shipmates come from colleges and universities around the country.

Sea Education Association (SEA) headquartered in Woods Hole, MA was founded in 1971. It is the only full-credit undergraduate program in the United States that combines a rigorous academic and research curriculum with a voyage to the



Souhegan High graduate, Ashley Zuorski of Amherst

deep ocean under sail. Students of any discipline may apply to the 12-week SEA Semester program which combines both shore and sea components. At shore, all students live, study and work alongside professional researchers, scholars and mariners. At sea, each student is part of the ship's crew, participating in a watch team that will participate in every aspect of running the operations of the ship and scientific research. The shipboard experience provides the opportunity to develop teamwork and decision-making skills and a greater respect for others. For many students, SEA is an adventure of a lifetime.

For more information, visit <http://www.sea.edu>, where you can track progress of the vessel, updated daily each business day, and download podcasts from sea.

Souhegan Jazz Night Will Feature Saxophonist Marc Laforce

On Thursday April 23rd, Saxophonist Marc LaForce will bring his quartet to Souhegan High School for a great night of jazz. LaForce is a brilliant tenor player who has shared the stage with jazz giants like Clark Terry, James Moody, Bob Mintzer, Rufus Reid and Phil Woods. Joining LaForce at this jazz night concert will be jazz ensembles from Am-

herst Middle School, Hampstead Middle School, Nashua South High School, Souhegan High School and the NH Youth Jazz Ensemble. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and the concert begins at 6:00pm. Please contact Carl Benevides at 673-9940 x168 for more information.

From the Office of The Superintendent of Schools SAU 39

Adequate Yearly Progress Report for 2009



Friday morning, school districts across the state were given access to their 2009 Adequate Yearly Progress Reports (AYP). AYP reports are based on the annual state assessment (NECAP) facilitated in the fall at grade levels 3 through 8 and grade 11. Achieving AYP standards is part of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Schools make AYP by meeting targets set by the state as required by the act. AYP measures school-wide and sub-group progress in the skill areas of reading and mathematics.

Because AYP is based on NECAP results, which were released at the close of January, the school districts of Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan already completed some analysis of the assessment results. This analysis resulted in some action because the districts anticipated AYP would not be achieved by all sub-groups. Administration proactively developed and continues to develop plans to address the achievement gaps our local schools are experiencing.

In the Amherst School District, the educational disability sub-group did not achieve AYP in mathematics at the Wilkins or Amherst Middle School. Because this was the second consecutive year Wilkins did not secure AYP in that sub-group in mathematics, they will now be designated a School in Need of Improvement (SINI).

The Mont Vernon School District did not achieve AYP in the same sub-group in mathematics either. This too was the second consecutive year MVVS missed AYP by this sub-group in the area of mathematics. Like the Wilkins School, MVVS will also be designated a SINI. Because MVVS is a single school district they will also be designated a District in Need of Improvement (DINI). This additional designation will likely bring more funding.

2008 marked the second year of the NECAP assessment at the secondary level. This year, Souhegan did not achieve AYP in mathematics and reading by the educational disability sub-group.

Because it was the educational disability sub-group that did not achieve AYP in all three districts, these results have leaders questioning what role full access to the regular education curriculum plays in the growth and development of students with educational disabilities. This question is one that has been under investigation for some time and will need to be examined more fully in the immediate months. Plans are already underway for the 2009-2010 academic year to provide greater intervention in the regular education classrooms for students who struggle.

For the schools of SAU 39 not all news was disappointing. Many of our sub-groups made progress and did so in significant ways. At the Wilkins School, our Hispanic and Latino population made notable strides in both mathematics and reading. A similar trend was noted in our economically disadvantaged population at the MVVS. Lastly, Souhegan demonstrated an increase in their whole school index in mathematics. While there was some disappointment it is important to highlight that achievement gaps are also closing due to the hard work of faculty and staff in our buildings. Additionally, SAU 39 continues to be a high performing school district indicated by a variety of measures, including NECAP.

In closing, NECAP and AYP are single measures, and single indicators of a school's growth and progress. Though NECAP is a valuable indicator our schools use a variety of standardized and non-standardized tools to more fully measure the progress of individual students, groups of students, the schools, and the districts as a whole.

Mary Athey Jennings, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools, SAU 39

Students in the News

Local Amherst Students Named to Rivier College Dean's List

NASHUA —The following students from Amherst were named to the Rivier College Dean's list for the Fall 2008 semester: Angela Avery, Kristen Beauchesne, Jillian Grenier and Kate Schulze. From Mont Vernon: Brian Joaquim, Jesse Richardson and Anna Szkok.

Kent School Announces Honor Roll

Yifeng Huang, a sixth form student at Kent School in Kent, Connecticut, was named to the High Honor Roll for the Winter Term of 2008-2009. Yifeng is the son of Jin-Biao Huang and Yawen Wang of Amherst.

Stonehill College Announces Fall 2008 Dean's List

Stonehill College recently named the following local resident to its Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester: From Mont Vernon, Brittany Daniels, a member of the class of 2012. To qualify for the Dean's List at Stonehill, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

SNHU President's List

Christa Cavanaugh of Mont Vernon has been named to the President's List for the fall 2008 semester at the Southern New Hampshire

University in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement.

Cedarville University Dean's List Announced

David J. Cianci, son of Elizabeth and Michael Cianci of Mont Vernon, was named to the Cedarville University Dean's list for the 2008 Fall Semester. David is a freshman majoring in International Studies. Cedarville University is a Christ-centered Baptist university of arts, sciences, professional and graduate programs. Located in Cedarville, Ohio, the University offers 100 area of study to more than 3,000 students. To be named to the Cedarville University Dean's List, a student must earn a 3.5 GPA.

Marissa R. Goodman recognized for academic achievement at Brandeis University

WALTHAM, Mass. - Marissa R. Goodman, daughter of Jory and Carola Goodman of Amherst was named to the dean's list at Brandeis University for academic achievement during the fall 2008 semester. Dean's list honors are awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Roger Williams University Announces Dean's List

Roger Williams University has released its Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester. Students who completed 12 or more credits per semester and earned a grade point average of 3.4 or higher made the

Dean's List. From Amherst: Carolyn Brown, a senior majoring in architecture and Daniel Shearholdt, a freshman majoring in management. From Mont Vernon: Benjamin Anibal, a freshman majoring in engineering.

Boston University Graduates Amherst Resident

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,536 students in January 2009. Among the graduates was Amherst resident, Nicholas A. Barraford, who received a Master of Science in electrical engineering.

Local Student Makes MCLA Dean's List

Steve Green, vice president for academic affairs at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts has announced that Jon-Ryan Cavanaugh of Mont Vernon was placed on the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester. To be eligible for the dean's honor list, students must be enrolled in six or more credit courses, attain a grade point average of 3.25 or better and have no incomplete grades.

Cavanaugh Travels to Wisconsin for Conference

In April, four Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts students will travel with psychology professor Maria Bartini to participate in the 23rd National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Wisconsin. Among them will be psychology major Jon-Ryan Cavanaugh of Mont Vernon. He

was selected from thousands of submissions because his abstracts displayed a unique contribution to his field of study. The students will present their findings on social relationships and friendships in college students.

Area Resident Receives Dean's List Recognition at Paul Smith's College

Allan Powers of Mont Vernon has been named to the Dean's List at Paul Smith's College for the fall 2008 semester. Powers is enrolled in the college's Division of Science, Liberal Arts and Business and earned a semester average of 3.3 or higher to receive this distinction.

Amherst Resident is on Dean's List At Boston University

Christopher M. Unger, a resident of Amherst, has recently been named to the Dean's List at Boston University for the Fall semester.

Local Student Achieves Dean's List at University of Rochester

Gabriel David Unger, a freshman majoring in electrical engineering at the University of Rochester, has been named to the Dean's List for academic achievement in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering for the fall 2008 semester.

Unger, a resident of Amherst, is the son of Piyani and Mike Saowarattitada, and a graduate of Souhegan High School in Amherst.

Going Public

"Phooey"



Principal, Scott Prescott at 2008 SHS graduation

Deep sigh. We are about to change—again. We will put a good face on it, and we will undoubtedly learn and grow from the experience, but I am just plain old tired of change. Enough already. Stop turning, world. Scott Prescott is leaving. His announcement was unexpected, and recognizing that his work was robbing him of personal balance seems different somehow than wishing a leader well as he leaves.

Bob Mackin offered a whirlwind of change. He drew us into a different vision of what secondary education could be. We knew, though, that when it was time to think about evolution rather than revolution, Bob would move on. I wasn't ready to say goodbye to Bob, although I welcomed Ted Hall as our new school leader.

Ted's challenge was different from Bob's. We were no longer a start-up enterprise. We had to learn to adapt to rapid growth, and a new building to accommodate the change from 550 students to almost 1000. We always knew, however, that Ted longed to raise his family in Maine, so when Yarmouth called, we knew he had to leave.

Again, I was ready to welcome Scott Prescott as our new school leader. Scott had begun working with us as a math teacher on a 10th grade team, and had served as dean of faculty. We knew his work. We knew that he believed in our Mission Statement and our founding documents. He would be a good steward of our work in his quiet and gentle way.

Scott was always clear that his family life was essential to his spirit, and he questioned whether one could lead a school without compromising his involvement with his two young sons. Leading a complex school environment in the 21st century requires serving many masters in the world of supervision, evaluation, budgets, outreach, testing, an SAU, state and federal oversight, collegial relationships, parents, taxpayers, and a thousand sets of raging teenage hormones. Whew! It is no wonder that this good man wants a life with more balance.

When we were creating Souhegan, our curriculum committee stated that we wanted a principal with an established gift of walking on water. We knew that the work we were asking of one individual set an impossible standard. Seventeen years later, Scott Prescott reminded us that the human cost of those expectations can be too high.

Each new principal has helped us to ask new questions of our work, but Scott's resignation forces us to question the sustainability of leadership in a time of so many competing demands. It is a worthy question, but I am worried that we will not find another exemplary leader who is willing to pay the cost of leading in such a high-stakes era. Souhegan has enjoyed luxury of leadership richness, and I hope that our search continues to honor the values of a democratic school culture, a commitment to personalized learning, and a deep understanding of the demands of the 21st century. If such leadership exists, I promise to embrace the changes that push us forward in the intricate complexities of teaching and learning.

But today, just plain old 'Phooey.'

Peggy Silva is the writing coordinator and literacy coach at Souhegan High School

RECYCLE CAPS WITH AVEA

AVEA REALIZES THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE AN OPERABLE SYSTEM IN PLACE TO RECYCLE PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS.

Join Avea's initiative to begin the first cap recycling program in the US. Avea is announcing a new recycling initiative that will extend beyond the current boundaries of recycling and elicit participation from all corners of our community. With the help of our network of salons and stores, in partnership with our community schools, we are building a new recycling program for plastic bottle caps. Using collected caps, Avea has been able to work closely with our suppliers to develop ways to make new caps and containers. We hope to ship new products using this reworked, environmentally-friendly material later this year.

EARTH DAY
APRIL 22

Aveda Bottle Cap Collection ends May 17

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