

## School News

### Students in the News



Ryan Quinlan, an eighth grader from Amherst attending Applewild School in Fitchburg, will be going to the National History Day competition in June at the University of Maryland. He and his partner Ethan Oliver of Littleton, MA, won second prize in the Massachusetts State History Day competition held at Stoneham, Mass. High School on April 6. Ryan and Ethan created a documentary on the Transcontinental Railroad for the competition.



Eighth grader, Mary Francis Barowski of Amherst demonstrates how her Rube Goldberg machine works to put tooth paste on a tooth brush during the Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School Science Fair.

#### Timothy Andreasen of Amherst Inducted into National Honor Society

BURLINGTON, VT - Timothy Andreasen of Amherst was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Society during ceremonies conducted by the School of Business Administration at the University of Vermont earlier this spring.

Chartered in 1791, UVM was the first college or university in the United States that did not give preference to a religious sect in its charter. UVM now has nearly 10,459 undergraduates in seven schools and colleges, 1,540 graduate students and 449 medical students.

#### Felicia Weber Receives Academic Recognition at Clearwater Christian College

CLEARWATER, FL - Felicia Weber of Amherst received the Certificate for Academic Excellence in the Major Field of Humanities from Clearwater Christian College during a special presentation held on campus Monday, April 22. This recognition is based upon academic achievement and character. Felicia is a senior at CCC with plans to graduate in May 2013 with a degree in Humanities. Felicia is a homeschooled graduate and the daughter of James and Beth Weber of Amherst.

#### Local Residents Initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA - The following local residents recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Scott Trudeau of Amherst was initiated at Plymouth State University. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors.

#### 357 Students Graduate from UNH Manchester

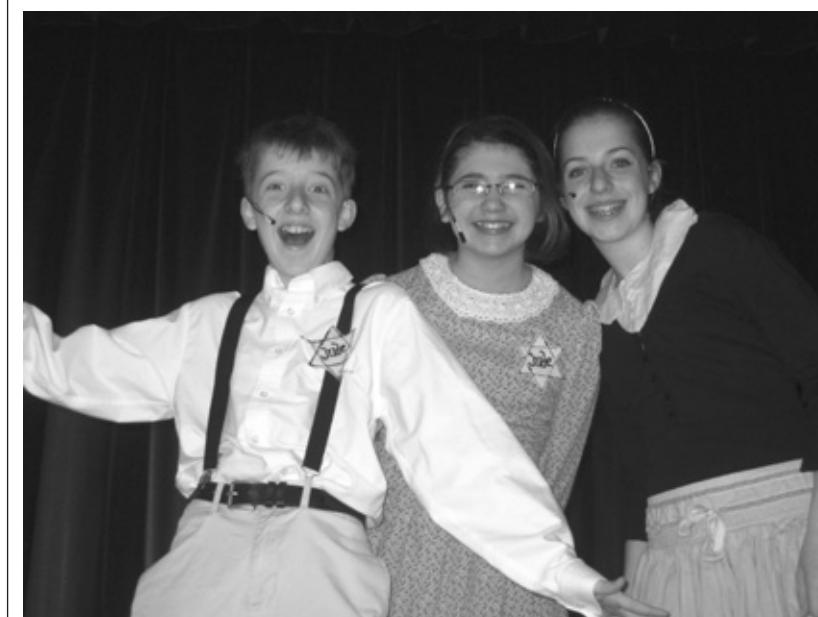
MANCHESTER - The University of New Hampshire at Manchester will celebrate the achievements of 357 graduates at the college's 28th annual commencement proceedings on Thursday, May 16, 2013 in the historic mill yard. The ceremony recognizes 265 undergraduate and 92 graduate students who have earned their associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree, or an advanced graduate certificate at the University of New Hampshire's campus in Manchester.

The following UNH Manchester graduates have earned an associate's, bachelors, or master's degree, or certificate of advanced graduate studies between December 2012 and September 2013 and will be recognized at the May 16, 2013 commencement ceremony.

#### AMHERST, NH

Naomi Gagnon, BA, Communication Arts (May 2013)  
Chakravarthy Gavini, MBA, Business Administration (May 2013)  
Michael Henenberg, BS, Computer Information Systems (May 2013)  
John Mock, MBA, Business Administration (May 2013)  
Jared Russell, BA, Business, Cum Laude (December 2012)

## "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" Presented by 7th Graders at AMS



Ben Wesenberg, Hannah Cohen, Alissa Rapino



Helen St. Cyr and Anna Quinlan

As a culminating activity to their unit on WWII and the Holocaust, a group of seventh grade students at the Amherst Middle School presented the play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" for their classmates on Wednesday, April 17th. It was a labor of love for these students as they relived life in the Terezin ghetto. Their compassion and empathy were evident in their stunning portrayals of a teacher and her students during this terrible time. The play written by Celeste Raspanti is based on the poetry written by the children when they were in captivity and the book by the same name.

Terezin was a transit camp meaning that the people held there were eventually sent to death camps. Of the 15,000 Jewish children that passed through Terezin only about 100 were saved when it was liberated. This project was the fulfillment of a long time dream of teachers Debby Curran and Michelle Emmond who directed the 12 students, which included Olivia Cashman, Hannah Cohen, Sophie Doiron, Alex Dube, Annie Edvalson, Joe Guzman, Katie Peters, and Alissa Rampino. It featured Katie Giannakopoulos as Irena Synkova, the beloved teacher who gave the children an outlet for their fears and anxiety in music and art, Helen St. Cyr and Anna Quinlan as the younger and older versions of the main character Raja Engleiderova, the only survivor of the group, and Ben Wesenberg as Raja's close friend and first love. The students took charge of all aspects of the play with stu-

dents Michael Poisson, as lead of the lighting crew of Jacob Horrell, and Jack Arnold. Hannah Campbell was the sound manager. At one point Alissa Rampino and Hannah Cohen sang a poignant song and lyrics written by fellow actor, Ben

Wesenberg. The program was published by Hannah Cohen and Katie Giannakopoulos.

Special thanks went to Stan St. Onge who took time from his busy schedule as Souhegan High School technician to help our middle

schoolers with the technical aspects of the production and to Deb Elliott who helped with the costumes. All in attendance felt this amazing production was one that neither the students nor the audience will soon forget.



Back Row (L to R): Debby Curran, Joe Guzman, Sophie Doiron, Michael Poisson, Katie Giannakopoulos, Alex Dube, Ben Wesenberg, Michelle Emmond; Front Row - Hannah Cohen, Anna Quinlan, Olivia Cashman, Helen St. Cyr

## Mechanical Mayhem First Robotics Team World Finalists



With their robot Discobolus Rex, Mechanical Mayhem stands on the Championship Field as FIRST Robotics Competition World Finalists. Left to Right - Third row: Rachel Avery (New Boston), Pennee-lee O'Neil (Windham - mentor), Matt Simard (Lyndeborough), Ben Henry (Wear), Mike Volante (Merrimack), Tony Edvalson (Mont Vernon), Ben Avery (New Boston), Bryan Rose (Mont Vernon), Second row: Charlotte Gray (Milford), Jon Heinzel (Windham), Jackson Volante (Merrimack), Morgan O'Neil (Windham), Kaileb O'Neil (Windham), David Gray (Milford), Nick Garcia (Brookline), Olivia Edvalson (Mont Vernon), Bill Gray (Milford - coach), Front row: Aaron Peterson (Merrimack) Caleb Avery (New Boston), Faith Streeter (Bedford), Maxwell Landry (Merrimack), Hannah Simard (Lyndeborough), Nancy Streeter (Bedford - mentor), Ken Streeter (Bedford - coach), Connor Houghton (Amherst)

They hoped to do well, but making it to the finals match of a world competition was not the main intent of four Amherst and Mont Vernon students and their team mates as they set out to build this year's FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) robot. But Mechanical MAYHEM, a local Robotics team, did just that.

For three days the team battled it out against 400 of the best FRC robots in the world at the FIRST Championship Tournament, held

in St. Louis, April 25-27. In an alliance with 2 teams from Michigan, MAYHEM ultimately rose to the World Championship Finals Match winning the silver medal.

Mechanical MAYHEM, in its ninth year, is comprised of 21 students from 13 area communities, including Connor Houghton and Olivia Edvalson (Souhegan High School), Bryan Rose (Amherst Middle School) and Tony Edvalson (Academy of Science & Design),

along with several devoted coaches, mentors and supportive adults. "I'm so pleased by the hard work, perseverance, and teamwork by the students, parents, and coaches -- not just at the 2013 Championship event, but in the weeks, months, and years preceding it," says Coach Ken Streeter.

Each year FRC teams spend an intensive six weeks designing and building a robot. This year's challenge - Build a robot capable of

shooting Frisbees into goals and then climb a 9 foot steel pyramid. The MAYHEM team designed a bot capable of scoring Frisbee goals from 60 feet out. Through the building process, students participate in S.T.E.M. learning and hone their skills in entrepreneurship, leadership and collaboration. Caleb Avery, a sophomore on the team says, "Thanks to FIRST, I've learned a great deal about engineering and even more about teamwork."