



TECH TALK

A publication of SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Summer 2009

SCVTHS STUDENTS CAPTURE 45 MEDALS AT THE NEW JERSEY SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Student achievement was showcased at the NJ SkillsUSA Championships in May. Competitive occupational and leadership skill contests that ultimately qualified students for gold medals and an opportunity to compete on the national and international levels were held at the Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, Crowne Plaza, Double Tree Hotel, Holiday Inn, and DeVry University. Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School students captured 45 medals in the competitions.

The following students were victorious in their contests: Adam DeWitt, Carpentry-Gold; Julia Szaro, Cosmetology Advanced-Gold; Steven Hernandez & Josue Jimenez, Custom Car Painting-Gold; Michael Diacont, Collision Repair Technology-Gold; Mike Esquivel, Collision Repair, Post Secondary-Gold; Je'ahna Petties, Criminal Justice-Gold; John Alcaide, Motorcycle Technology-Gold; Cody Sobel, Welding, Gold; Health & Medical Sciences Academy Team: Maria Bender, Jaya Kanduri, Clarissa Lin, Transportation Distribution-Gold; Health Academy Team: Patick Wong, Edward Miller, Jonathon Curran, Manufacturing-Gold; Health Academy Team: Niki Mirzaei, Tiffany Romero, Krishna Shah, Agriculture & Natural Resources-Gold; David Mascia, Computer Maintenance-Silver; John Bassi, Diesel Equipment-Silver; Health Academy Team: Sandra Arora, Vivek



Several NJ SkillsUSA Gold medal winners visited the Vocational Board of Education meeting in May to receive congratulations. (Left to Right): Edward Miller, Cody Sobel, Patrick Wong, Niki Mirzaei, Clarissa Lin, Maria Bender, Anna Isachenko (Silver), Tiffany Romero, Krishna Shah, Nikhilesh Sangodkar and Advisor Evangeline Byrd.



RIGHT:
Adam DeWitt, Gold medal winner, completes his project during the Carpentry NJ SkillsUSA Championships.

LEFT:
Josue Jimenez (left) & Steven Hernandez (right), Auto Body Gold medal winners, stand by their Custom Car Painting entry.



Patel, Semon Rezchikov, Ambika Sharma, Donna Unke, Patrick Racine, Chapter Business-Silver; Health Academy Team: John Bender, Emad Madha, Pavan Mahankali, Nikhilesh Sangodkar, Entrepreneurship-Silver; Leah Geiser, Anita Wamakina, Michelle Santana, Law & Public Safety-Silver; Health Academy Team: Fatima Ali, Donna Unke, Anna Isachenko, Human Services-Silver; Health Academy Team: Divya Rao, Rebecca Guilloud,

Shweta Patro, Health Sciences-Silver; Rebecca Popik, Food & Beverage-Bronze; Timothy Zoda, Power Equipment Technology-Bronze; Jillian Mahon, Prepared Speech-Bronze; Health Academy Team: Spreeha Choudhury, Macauley Breault, Meina Karimi, Scientific Research, Engineering & Technical Services-Bronze.

MAUREEN GATELY SUCCESSFUL GRADUATE

Maureen Gately was selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's 2009 Successful Graduate by the New Jersey Council of County Vocational & Technical Schools. She is presently the Director of the Teelin School of Irish Dance and Director of the Teelin Irish Dance Company.

A 1993 graduate of the Performing Arts Dance Program at SCVTHS, Maureen's extensive dance training ranges from modern, ballet, tap & jazz and traditional Appalachian clogging and Irish step dance.

She was raised in Bridgewater, New Jersey where she became a highly competitive Irish step dancer. After graduating from the Dance Program at SCVTHS she continued her studies and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance at Towson University. She joined the Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble as a performer in 1997 and toured as a professional dancer in the United States, Great Britain, Finland, Africa and Canada. Maureen established the Teelin School of Irish Dance, and the Teelin Irish Dance Company in Maryland. There are currently four dance troupes, comprised of Teelin School of Dance artists, who perform regularly at various venues throughout Maryland and the metropolitan Washington D.C. area.

For more information call Sheila Buttermore, Coordinator of Performing Arts at 908-526-8900, ext. 7277.



Maureen Gately (far right), receiving 2009 Successful Graduate Award from Board President Dr. Alan Braun.

SIXTEEN STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

Sixteen students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society in a ceremony conducted by Advisor Miranda McMahon. Membership in NTHS is based on academic excellence and good citizenship.

The new members are:

Matthew Burtis, 12th Grade-Electrical;
Benjamin Caropreso, 11th Grade-Carpentry;
Crystal Condit, 11th Grade-Cosmetology;
Kelly Fauske, 11th Grade-Musical Theatre;
Emily Frank-11th Grade-Dance;
Katelyn Gaffney, 11th Grade-Dance;
Carissa Johnson, 11th Grade-Musical Theater;
Meredith Jordan, 11th Grade-Dance;
Christina Konysz-12th Grade-Office Occupations;
Mariel Nunez-12th Grade-Office Occupations;
Adetona Michael Ogunfowora, 11th Grade-Auto Mechanics; **Emily Parker**, 11th Grade-Acting; **Lauren Roche**, 11th Grade-Cosmetology; **Liliana Sanchez**, 11th Grade-Office Occupations; **Kristin Sarboukh**, 11th Grade-Acting; **Jack Schwarz**, 11th Grade-Auto Mechanics



GLADYS POKRYWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Gladys Pokrywa, a social studies teacher at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS), was selected as the 2009 Teacher of the Year in the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program. She has been a member of the SCVTHS faculty for sixteen years. Gladys was acknowledged for her philosophy of education that is best described in her own words: "I believe, each of my students is unique, yet share the need for a secure, structured and stimulating environment in which to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually and socially. My background as a special education teacher has made me sensitive to the individual needs of each student. I've always felt that it is my privilege as an educator to assist students in achieving to their fullest potential. It has also been my professional goal to consistently provide connections with what is being taught on a daily basis to that which is relevant in students' lives, thus providing a link with the intrinsic motivation to learn."

She has been married to Ben Pokrywa, Electrical Construction teacher at SCVTHS, for thirty-six years. They have four children and two grandchildren, with a third grandchild expected in November. The Pokrywas reside in Andover Township.

For more information call 908-526-8900, ext. 7227.



Gladys Pokrywa



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JULIA SZARO & STEVEN HERNANDEZ NAMED SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Steven Hernandez and Julia Szaro were named the 2009 Scholar Athletes at SCVTHS. The students were recognized recently by the Somerset County Principals' Association. Edmund Jones, Principal of SCVTHS, presented the students with their awards at the annual dinner held in May.

In addition to maintaining high academic standards the students earned several varsity letters. Steven, an auto body major, earned four letters in soccer at SCVTHS. Julia, a cosmetology student, earned three letters in field hockey at North Plainfield H.S. Both won gold medals in the N.J. SkillsUSA Championships, Steven for custom car painting and Julia for advanced cosmetology.



Julia Szaro



Steven Hernandez

EIGHTEEN STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO FIRST NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AT SCVTHS

The first National Honor Society was established at SCVTHS in May 2009 with the induction of eighteen students. The members were selected based on academic standing, service, leadership and character. Advisor Catherine Fortunato is shown with the new members of NHS. They are Health & Medical Sciences Academy students, Mark Robert Ajala, Maria E. Bender, Brian Biglin, Beatrice Joyce Cayaban, Jonathon Michael Curran, Jaya Sannidhi Kanduri, Clarissa Lin, Pranamy Mahankali, Paul Meyers, Edward John Miller, Robin Marie Poyer, Nikhilesh Sangodkar, Henry Wang, Patrick Wong, and Gifted & Talented Musical Theater student Kelly Fauske, CISCO Academy students Robert J. Hlavaty and Jonathan Rodriguez, and Office Occupations student Toni L. Quagliato.

After the induction ceremony the students and their guests attended a reception in the cafeteria hosted by Mark Mastrobattista, Culinary Arts teacher, and his students.



The First SCVTHS National Honor Society 2008-2009 Inductees

SEMON REZCHIKOV SCORES IN TOP 10% AT USA BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Semon Rezchikov, a 9th grade student from Hillsborough who is in the Health & Medical Sciences Academy at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, scored in the top 10% of the students who participated in the 2009 USA Biology Olympiad. The exam sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education "encourages excellence in biology education throughout the United States."

Semon was among 6,290 students worldwide who participated in the Olympiad. Students from 41 states, and China, Hong Kong and Japan were represented. The exam consisted of 50 multiple choice questions and Semon with his 27/50 score was in the top 10%, qualifying him for the semifinals. The semifinals were held earlier this year and 526 students took the exam. Semon, scored 106.75. The average score was 95.43.

For more information call Maria Johnson, Supervisor of Academics, at 908-526-8900, ext. 7155.



Semon Rezchikov

2009 SCTI COMMENCEMENT PRESIDENT OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE



(Above, left): SCTI Director Dr. Michael Illuzzi addresses the graduates while Superintendent Michael Maddaluna presents an honorary degree to Josephine Hernandez. (Above, right): SCTI graduates wait to receive their diplomas.



(Above): Technology Office Professional graduates with Dr. Arleen Urban (right) who is retiring on June 30th after 41 years of service to the district.

Josephine Hernandez received a 2009 Honorary Degree from Somerset County Technology Institute at the commencement ceremony held at SCTI on Thursday, May 14, 2009. Ms. Hernandez, Vice President of Passaic Community College and President of the NJ State Board of Education, shared her insights and experiences about her career in higher education which spans more than three decades.

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One hundred and fifty-two students received diplomas in Practical Nursing, Medical Assistant, Computer Technology, Technology Office Professional, Cosmetology, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Air Conditioning Refrigeration & Heating, Automotive, Construction and Diesel Technology.

Rick Fontana, Director of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, congratulated Dr. Arleen Urban, Supervisor of Office Administration Programs on her retirement after 41 years of service to the school district. He also wished the graduates success in the future as they met the challenges in their new careers.

The graduating class received encouragement from Denise Sites of Hillsborough, a graduate of the Practical Nursing Program. Denise is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women. Married with three children, she plans to continue her education and become a Registered Nurse.

A reception was held in the cafeteria following the ceremony. For more information call 908-526-8900, ext. 7227.

IN MEMORIAM

Adrienne Willard

1949 - 2009

Colleague, Advisor, Mentor, Friend

(Administrative Assistant to Ed Jones, SCVTHS Principal and Advisor, NJSkillsUSA)

"Let nothing dim the light that shines from within."

- Maya Angelou