

Back to School

All schools in the District will have Registration Day on Monday, August 31. More information is available from the school websites and by calling the school.

Presidential Award Winning Science Teacher Reflects on D.C. Experience

By JEANNE STURGES

Souhegan teacher, Jenny Deenik, was recently honored in Washington, D.C. as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). These awards are the highest honor bestowed by the government on K-12 mathematics and science teachers in the U.S. As New Hampshire's honoree, Deenik received a three-day trip to Washington, D.C. during which she had the opportunity to reflect on her role and responsibility as a teacher, participate in conversations about the changing landscape of science education, and connect with colleagues from across the country.

In reflecting on her trip to D.C., Deenik referenced two recurring themes that emerged during the experience: "Whether in a professional development session, or a meal - whatever brought us together - two things came up: STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math] and the ever-present specter of high-stakes standardized testing. As a teacher in New Hampshire, Deenik says, she has "the luxury my colleagues from around the country lack. I do not have the pressure and constraint of high-stakes testing." While New Hampshire students do take a variety of standardized tests for a variety of purposes - from SATs to Smarter Balanced to the MAP test - the assessment landscape in New Hampshire, unlike most other states, is rapidly changing to reflect a more balanced approach to accountability.

Deenik noted the interesting dynamic at play between conversations around STEM and high-stakes testing. "As a STEM teacher, I am constantly thinking about how to make my curriculum rigorous and engaging and authentic for stu-



dents. In a high-stakes testing setting, my colleagues are pulled away from this focus toward accountability. For many of them, the conversation around teaching is, 'What can my students remember and repeat?' rather than, 'What can my students do and create; what problems can they solve?'"

This undercurrent of conversation prompted Deenik to consider how fortunate she is to be working with the state of New Hampshire on the PACE initiative (Performance Assessment in Competency Education), saying, "The work we are doing with PACE aligns to what this Presidential Award recognizes in good teaching." The Amherst, Mont Vernon and Souhegan School Districts that comprise SAU 39, along with the NH Department of Education and a handful of other innovative districts in the state, are working to create a nationally recognized system of assessment that strives to develop a "basket of assessments" to be used for instructional and accountability purposes.

Mostly, what Deenik returns with to Souhegan High School is a renewed appreciation for it as a supportive, yet high-standards district. "I am trusted and respected to make decisions on behalf of kids. I have choice in my curriculum; I teach with standards and expectations but without pacing guides, scripts and prescribed worksheets. I know my students well because of our commitment to personalization. I have a collaborative relationship with my administration where we all believe 'students come first.' Sadly, I did not hear these sentiments among my colleagues working in high-stakes testing states."

While the role of high-stakes testing was debated, the role of STEM was extolled. Inspired by speakers and presentations, Deenik realized the opportunity she, Souhegan High School, and indeed all of New Hampshire, has to forge stronger STEM education within her school and state. "The discussions of women and minorities in science stimulated in me a deeper

sense of responsibility toward future generations of STEM students and teachers," Deenik said. When asked about what duties accompany the award, Deenik said, "I am excited about the role I hope to play in collaborating and mentoring new teachers and encouraging young women and minorities to stick with it in the face of adversity. But I also look forward to advocating around STEM issues to help communities connect with schools to provide resources and collaborate." The Amherst and Mont Vernon communities, Deenik noted, are a rich STEM resource, with so many parents working in biotech, and other science and engineering related fields, adding, "My experience in D.C. opened my eyes to missed opportunities and further collaboration."

A highlight of the trip was a visit to the White House where Deenik was personally congratulated on her award by President Barack Obama. Other highlights included a series of professional development sessions, and a day at the National Science Foundation (NSF) to learn more about the agency's cross-cutting science and engineering research and education endeavors. Sessions ranged from The International Year of Light; Making and Learning; Big Data; Diversity and Inclusion; Understanding the Brain; to Exploring Earth and Cosmos. Awardees had the opportunity to hear from and speak to Nobel Laureate William Phillips from the University of Maryland; OSTP's Chief Data Scientist Dhanurjay "DJ" Patil; and nationally-recognized teacher workforce expert Richard Ingersoll from the University of Pennsylvania.



RISE Fall Courses Set To Begin September 8th

NASHUA - The Rivier Institute for Senior Education (RISE) Fall Information Session is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Reception Room of the Dion Center at Rivier University located on Clement Street (off South Main St), Nashua.

Seniors can choose from more than 60 five-week or ten-week courses with two start dates. First term begins September 8 and ends October 9; second term begins October 19 and ends November 20. No learning prerequisites! No tests! Membership for the five-week or ten-weeks of courses is \$130.00 and includes computer labs, the use of the Muldoon Health and Fitness Center, Regina Library, and Dion Dining Hall.

Members may participate in up to five courses each term. Course topics include literature, history, music, art, computer science, digital photography, religion, philosophy,

science, spiritual enrichment, writing, world cultures, current events, and bridge. Twenty six of the courses are new for Fall 2015. None are credit bearing. Also included in the fee are choices of moderate exercise and water exercise courses.

The RISE program, tailored for "learning in retirement", is in its eighteenth year. Individuals over age 55 are welcome to learn more about RISE, preview courses and register with a check for the Fall Term at the August 21 information session.

Course brochures can be obtained at the RISE office located in Room 237 in Sylvia Trotter Hall at Rivier University on Clement Street or by downloading from the RISE website. They also are at local libraries and senior activity centers. Call for registration information at 603-897-8623 or visit online at www.rivier.edu/riase and/or <http://www.facebook.com/RISE1997>.

Students in the News

Local Residents Earn Second Academic Honors from Clark University

WORCESTER, Mass. - The following local resident has been named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List: Sean Tatar, of Amherst

This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2015 semester. To be eligible for second honors, students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, of a maximum of 4.3 (all A+s).

Local Residents Named to Simmons College Dean's List

BOSTON, Mass - The following local residents were named to the 2015 spring semester dean's list at Simmons College in Boston.

Taylor Cordts, an Amherst resident. Her major is Exercise Science.

Julie Kellendorfer, an Amherst resident. Her major is Undeclared.

Kaitlyn Maloney, an Amherst resident. Her major is Int'l Relations and Economics.

Tori Wenzel, an Amherst resident. Her major is Marketing.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

Local Residents Receive Degree from Simmons College

BOSTON, Mass - The following local residents recently received a degree from Simmons College.

Tori Lynn Wenzel, an Amherst resident, received a B.S. in Business Admin degree from the School of Management.

Taylor Joan Cordts, an Amherst resident, received a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Courtney Elizabeth Jameson, a Mont Vernon resident, received a M.S. in Behavior Analysis degree from the School of Social Work.

Local Students Graduate From Bates College

LEWISTON, ME -The following student graduated from Bates College at the school's 149th commencement ceremony on May 31, 2015:

Amherst native, Christopher Almeida, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Manuel C. Almeida of Amherst, N.H., graduated after majoring in economics at Bates. He is a 2011 graduate of Souhegan High School.

Nicholas King Earns Spring 2015 Dean's List Honors at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, RI - Nicholas King, a resident of Amherst has been named to the Spring 2015 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Nicholas is an Architecture major. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or

higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Paige Ruland named to Dean's Honor List (3.6 or above) at Gettysburg College

Paige Ruland from Amherst, New Hampshire has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's Honor List (3.6 or above) for the in the Spring 2015 semester. Ruland is majoring in psychology. She has completed her psychology honors research.

Roger Williams University Announces Spring 2015 Dean's List

BRISTOL, RI - Select students have been named to the Spring 2015 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Corey Annunziata of Amherst majoring in Undeclared

John Christopher of Amherst majoring in Finance

Riley Connor of Amherst majoring in International Business

The Derryfield School Announces Spring Honor Roll

MANCHESTER - Head of School Mary Halpin Carter is pleased to announce that Nicole Anthony '15, Samantha Carbery '15, Eric Anthony '16, Jessey Bryan '16, Ryan Quinlan '17, Isabell Plotsker '18 and Anna Quinlan '18 of AMHERST received Academic Highest Honors for the spring term at The Derryfield School. Highest Honors are awarded to those students who maintain at least an A- average, with no grade below a B. Jonathan Devine '16, Victoria Imbriano '17, and Lauren Rohlf's '17 of AMHERST received High Honors for the spring term. High Honors are awarded to those students who maintain a B+ average, with no grade below a B-. In addition, James O'Brien '15, Alexander Kaufman '16, and Ethan Chen '17 of AMHERST received Academic Honors for the spring term at The Derryfield School. Honors are awarded to those students who maintain a B average, with no grade below a C.

Meghan Bedard Named To Spring 2015 Dean's List At Stonehill College

Stonehill College has recognized Meghan Bedard for earning a spot on the Dean's List during the Spring 2015 semester.

Union College Announces Annual Dean's List Honorees

SCHENECTADY, NY - Students with at least a 3.50 grade point average were honored with the academic achievement.

Douglas Lens of Amherst, NH; Lens is a member of the Class of 2015, majoring in Neuroscience.

William Prescott of Amherst, NH; Prescott is a member of the Class of 2016, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

SOUHEGAN CLASS OF 2016
Book Your Session By Sept 15
Receive A FREE Smartphone App
To Show Off Your Photos!

CARLEN IMAGES
WEDDINGS - PORTRAITS - FINE ART
AMHERST, NH
673-1274
www.carlenimages.com
facebook.com/carlenimages

Click. Swipe. Tap.

MAIN STREET

www.mainstreet-nh.com

Preschool, ages 3-5
Morning or Afternoon extended Kindergarten offered from 8:15 a.m. drop off, until 3:00 p.m. walk to Clark or pick up

- Social & emotional readiness
- Learning through play
- Family events
- Nonprofit
- Est. 1995

THE PRESCHOOL IN THE VILLAGE
www.preschoolinthevillage.org
Now enrolling for 2015-2016
Please call 672-3168 today or register on our website!

11 Church Street, Amherst, New Hampshire

LICENSED + PLUS Find us on Facebook

Subscribe to our e-newsletter:
www.amherstcitizen.com/e-news/index.html

Next Issue: September 8
Deadline: September 2

VOULDANCE

Fall 2015 at VouliDance

Find Our Schedule Register for classes Visit Our Stunning New Website

Preschool to pre-professional programs and adult classes

Come to Our Open House
10:30am--12:00pm and 4:30--6:30pm each day

Wednesday ... 8/26 Thursday..... 8/27 Friday..... 8/28
Monday 8/31 Tuesday 9/1 Wednesday ...9/2

And Don't Forget:
NUTCRACKER 2015
Auditions: Sunday, September 13 starting at 2:00pm.

Online Registration is open and ongoing. Register now!
Visit www.vouldance.com to explore class options and audition times
www.vouldance.com • 71 Rte. 101A Amherst, NH
(603) 554-8626 • vouli@vouldance.com

Giorgio's RISTORANTE & BAR

KIDS EAT FREE!
Every Wednesday Night

Kids 12 and under eat free with the purchase of an adult entrée. One child per adult. Dine in only. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts.

WEDNESDAY

perfect SUMMER NIGHTS

MILFORD 524 Nashua Street | 603-673-3939
MERRIMACK/NASHUA Pennichuck Square | 603-883-7333
www.giorgios.com