

# High Point Regional High School

## Department Highlights

### September 2007

#### STUDENT STARS

- Three FBLA students-**Ben Rose**, **Shannon Southard**, and **SS**, competed at FBLA Nationals in Chicago in June of 2007, accompanied by their advisor, Melanie LiTrenta. Ben competed in the Cybersecurity event, and Shannon and S worked as a team in the Desktop Publishing event. All three attended leadership workshops, listened to guest speakers at the University of Illinois-Chicago arena, and participated in an exciting awards ceremony. Other highlights of their trip included the following: attending the Taste of Chicago, a city-wide restaurant festival, cruising the Chicago River and Lake Michigan for an architectural tour of the city by boat, rock climbing at the highest indoor rock wall in the country, and cheering on Wayne Valley's Mike Yaroshevsky, who was elected FBLA's National President for '07-'08.
- High Point Junior **TD** received a Harmony Inc. full campership to study barbershop style singing this summer. Fine Arts Supervisor Diane Sorchik, teacher Theresa Riccardi, and Director of Curriculum Janice Mezier (Harmony In Motion member) coordinated the award. Director of Harmony In Motion, Pat Smith, reported that T was a wonderful representative from Sussex County and that she looks forward to working with High Point in future community-student endeavors.
- Students **KT**, **AG**, and **JL** took time this summer to explore careers in architecture by attending university-lead exploratory programs. KT traveled to Cornell University and took part in an intensive 6 week program, while JL and AG attended a similar program at the NJIT School of Architecture.
- Twenty-seven students represented High Point at this summer's TSA National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. They earned top ten recognition in five different events, including Electronic Research and Experimentation, Manufacturing Prototype, Cyberspace Pursuit, Animatronics, and CAD Animation Architectural. In fact, both teams High Point entered in the Electronic Research and Experimentation competition finished in the top ten, an unprecedented achievement in school history. We were the highest school in the nation with most awards in the top ten bracket.
- In August, **Ashley LeBelle**, PRIDE officer, attended the National Leadership Conference on Addressing Underage Drinking hosted by the US Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This four day event offered key note speakers (including the acting US Surgeon General) and workshops on programs across the country that are having a positive impact on reducing alcohol consumption among minors.
- **MD**, a participant in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, is spending the year in France.
- **RF** has received a full scholarship to Ramapo College.
- On September 28, the Guidance department presented **Will Porter** with the Letter of Commendation for outstanding performance on the PSAT/National Merit Qualifying Test in 2006.
- Senior **AL** has been named the editor of *Calliope*, High Point's literary magazine, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- The American Scholastic Press Association awarded *Calliope* (2006-2007) a first place award for excellence in high school literary and arts magazines.
- Sophomore **Kelley Schlesinger** had her poem "Drift" recognized in the Betty June Silconas Poetry Center Poetry Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Betty June Silconas Poetry Center at SCCC, was open to all residents of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey, Pike County, Pennsylvania, and Orange County, New York. The contest judge was Martin Farawell, Associate Poetry Director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.
- Senior **Tahir Adiguzelli** has been named the editor of *The Monument*, High Point's student newspaper, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Senior **MG** represented High Point REBEL at the REBEL Chapter Representative Board on Wednesday, September 26, at the Center for Prevention and Counseling in Newton.
- Senior **Lyndsay Hoffman's** colored pencil piece *Wonder Red Now* is part of the Sussex County Teen Arts High School Traveling Exhibit for 2007-2008.
- Forty-five students auditioned for the Chambers Singers Choir, and twenty-two were selected.
- Approximately 41 students auditioned for 10 parts in the Fall Drama.
- The quartet of **Kristen Kimble**, **JD**, **Lenny Wolf**, and **James McMaster** sang the National Anthem at Back to School Night.
- The trio of **Fehmi Yasin**, **James McMaster**, and **DM** performed for the staff on the first day of school.
- **MH** and **Elizabeth Ciccorella** participated in the Waksman Student Research program for the month of July.
- Congratulations to **LD**, who has applied for nomination to the Air Force Academy. She is currently taking Advanced Placement Calculus.

## ATHLETICS

- The Girls' Cross Country team is currently undefeated at 6-0 and tied with Pope John for the lead in the SCIL. **Stacey Lepes** (Jr.) has been our consistent #1 runner and should challenge for the individual league title this season. She is also currently undefeated. **Danielle Czohla** (Sr.) adds a strong second runner to the squad and has only been beaten by Stacey this season so far. **SJ** (Sr.), **Samantha Brummell** (Sr.), and **KS** (So.) are the rest of the top 5 and have traded the #3, 4, & 5 spots among one another this season. **AP** (Jr.) and **Erin Miller** (Fr.) round out our top 7 Varsity and all have contributed greatly to our success thus far. Following closely behind are **Michelle Tracy** (So.) and **Jamie McCloskey** (Sr.). These girls (and the entire team of 22 girls) have done an incredible job already this season and face Pope John and Lenape Valley at Pope John's Abbey course on Tuesday, October 9. The Pope John-High Point match up should be for the league title and will leave just Sparta remaining on October 16. Please wish them well on their accomplishments so far in their quest for an SCIL title!

## STELLAR STAFF

- Dan Muller taught a graduate course at Buffalo State College as part of the Engineers of the Future Grant. This course was designed for NY state teachers to be introduced to Biotechnology. Our program is said to be one of the best on the East coast.
- High Point's Co-op program under the tutelage of Janet Hayzler received the "Training and Workforce Development Award" For Outstanding Contribution to Sussex County Economical Development by the Sussex County Economical Development partnership, Inc. Mark Wallace applied for this competitive award.
- Brian Drelick represented Sussex County as County Teacher of the Year at a summer workshop sponsored by NJEA in Trenton to promote teacher leadership.
- After 33 years, Mr. Ronald Hoffman will be retiring from education. He started our FBLA Chapter, participated in the NJ Council on Economic Education's Stock Market for 29 years (placing first in the state in 2000) and had a team in the top ten in the state for 25 out of 29 years. Mr. Hoffman's Entrepreneurship Team competed in FBLA, having placed 5th, 3rd and 1st over his tenure of 19 years in FBLA. He has had regional winners and state competitors all 19 years. He has had students qualify 7 times for the National FBLA competitions.
- In August, Lisa Frisbie, SAC, attended the National Leadership Conference on Addressing Underage Drinking hosted by the US Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This four day event offered key note speakers (including the acting US Surgeon General) and workshops on programs across the country that are having a positive impact on reducing alcohol consumption among minors.
- Joanne Koch attended the Sussex County School Counselors Association meeting hosted by Berkeley. At that meeting, Joanne became the Vice President of the organization.
- Four new teachers join the English department this year. Tricia Woodhead is teaching 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders after several years as a middle school teacher. Laraine Reedy joins us after a 15 year career at Saddle Brook High School. She is teaching 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Heather Gonzalez is a first year teacher, who is working with 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. John Shoemaker, teaching 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders and Journalism students, is Jill Schafer's replacement while she is on maternity leave.
- Jill Schafer is the proud new mother of a baby boy, Ross Robert Andrew, born on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Madelaine Travaille and Liana Heller participated with two students in the summer research program for the month of July at Rutgers University.
- Madelaine Travaille and Liana Heller both received tenure.
- Ed Blevins, Kevin Fenlon, and Mark Veltri wrote curriculum and started their new courses for this year. All three courses are based on General Education courses that are currently running but have been adapted for our students. The courses are Physical Science, Media Technology, and Senior Statistics. There are more courses that will be suggested for next year.
- Christina Puzio has completed a Master's Degree in Educational Technology.
- Brian Feuer has filled the position of Detention Supervisor for the fall term.
- Christina Puzio is now running the High Point school store.
- Susan Moss is a co-advisor of the Unity Club.
- Dave Hesselgrave and Gene Emering are supervising the weight room this fall.

### MEDIA RECOGNITION

The New Jersey Herald, September 17, 2007: "High Point downs Pope John"  
The New Jersey Herald, September 16, 2007: "High Point holds on for 14-13 Victory"  
The New Jersey Herald, September 16, 2007: "High Point gets much needed win"  
The New Jersey Herald, September 6, 2007: "Wildcats made history in 2001"  
Advertiser-News South, August 30, 2007: "High Point Regional"  
The New Jersey Herald, August 29, 2007: "New coach brings new attitude to Wildcats"

### OVER THE SUMMER

The New Jersey Herald, August 6, 2007: "A Royalty Dream Come true"  
The New Jersey Herald, August 6, 2007: "Miss Wantage is Queen of the Fair"  
The New Jersey Herald, July 15, 2007: "Local Beauties Head for the Fair"  
Advertiser-News South, June 21, 2007: "High Point Class of 2007"

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Brian Drelick and Steve Peltier participated in a two week summer underwater robotics workshop at Stevens Institute of Technology. This program provided the school with \$1400 worth of new materials and the opportunity to work on a national grant project geared to promote technology education. This project will be pilot tested, this year, in the Power, Energy and Transportation Technology 1 course.
- Fine Crafts instructor Erin Meyers invited local sculptress Jean Kawecki to High Point to talk about her work with the Fine Art Sculpture class on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- High Point hosted the Sussex County Teen Arts High School Traveling Exhibit for the month of September.
- Carolyn Acker attended a speaking engagement featuring Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone: Story of a Boy Soldier*. This memoir, which is read in many senior classes, tells Beah's story of life in Sierra Leone, Africa, where he was forced into the role of soldier at age 12, until his rescue and rehabilitation by the Red Cross. Mrs. Acker will use this unique opportunity to enhance the reading experience of her students.
- Cari Bodnar-Keimel and Mary Hassenplug visited Southern Regional High School in Manahawkin, NJ, to assess strategies used to achieve AYP.
- Heather Strout and Lisa Hodgins, High Point's REBEL advisors, attended a statewide REBEL training conference on Monday, October 1, at Raritan Valley Community College.
- English teachers Laraine Reedy and Heather Strout and Fine Arts teacher Lisa Hodgins attended the Warren County Poetry Festival on Saturday, September 29, at Blair Academy. The event included panel discussions, poetry readings, open readings, and musical interludes.
- Heather Strout is currently enrolled in the graduate program in literature at Centenary College, Hackettstown, NJ.
- Noah Klimas attended a five-day Advanced Placement English Literature workshop at Taft Academy in Connecticut.
- Nancy White is enrolled in a graduate class through Marygrove College.
- Noah Klimas is enrolled in NJCU's Masters in Educational Technology program and is currently taking a course in Authoring Tools.
- Seamus Campbell and Jon Tallamy attended a Coaches Clinic in Newark, NJ.
- Jon Tallamy completed two graduate courses this summer in technology and is currently taking a third course from NJCU. Mike Langan is currently taking a supervisory course in Human Resource Management.
- David Kientzler attended the AP Chemistry Summer Professional Development in Vermont.
- Stacey Zaremba and Tom Costello attended a science conference at Liberty Science Center.
- Jesse Strehl attended a Basketball Coaching Clinic.
- Marie Walsh and David Hesselgrave attended a one day seminar on June 28. The seminar was held at Montclair State University, and explained the use of NspireData. NspireData will allow students to make connections between data and its different visual representations. A focus of the seminar was to have teachers learn techniques that allow students to interpret information, solve problems, develop critical thinking skills, and make connections.
- Marie Walsh completed an on-line graduate course this summer that explored advanced uses of Geometer's Sketchpad, and received thirty professional development hours.

- Brian Feuer and Christina Puzio will be attending a series of HSPA and AYP related workshops held at Rutgers University. The series begins in November.
- Brian Feuer and Susan Moss will attend the AMTNJ Mathematics Conference in late October.
- Gene Emering went on a professional visit for AYP purposes to Southern Regional High School on September 28.

#### WHAT'S NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY (CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT)

- Over forty parents of BSI students and all of the Language Arts, Math, Special Education teachers and supervisors attended the BSI Parent Meeting on September 27 at the High School. An overview of the BSI program was presented by Director of Curriculum, Janice Mezier. Parents and teachers had an opportunity to meet and discuss student progress in our program. Parents provided positive feedback regarding the program's effectiveness and its impact on student learning.
- Joe Portello has organized the creation of a School DVD for students to purchase at the end of the year titled: *Memories of High Point 2007-2008*.
- Students in Mr. Wallace's Communication Technology course have stepped outside the box and are pilot testing video game design to learn how VDG is used to communicate to the gaming audience.
- Mrs. Hayzler has established five new training sites for the co-op program. Sites are as follows: Mande's, Montague Tool and Supply, Wantage Rehabilitation, Quiznos, and the Law Dept. of Selective Insurance.
- The Guidance department hosted a very successful Freshman Parent Night.
- A letter was sent home to all sophomore and junior students and their parents to invite students to take the PSAT and the PLAN, practice college entrance exams.
- Junior and Senior Class meetings were held in the auditorium. Topics of discussion included taking the PSAT, SAT, and planning for college and careers.
- The entire English department staff met this summer to review and revise the four-year English sequence. Significant revisions were made, with a final sequence of the following: Grade 9 - World Literature; Grade 10 - American Literature; Grade 11 - British Literature/AP Literature; Grade 12 - Expository Composition/AP Language.
- The College Prep Chemistry B Curriculum was revised for 2007-2008 to include a new textbook, *Living by Chemistry*. This new series will enable the teachers and students to apply their chemistry knowledge to everyday problems.
- All of the Biology teachers met in August to align their curricula to the proposed new end of year course assessment.
- The Science Research Club at High Point conducts primary research in Molecular Biology. Students are working on the identification of genes from *Artemia franciscana* (brine shrimp). Students meet weekly for lecture from September – December. Students must also meet weekly during that time to perform DNA extraction and purification (mini-prep), restriction digests, gel electrophoresis, and bioinformatics analysis of sequence results. Students dedicate 2 or more hours a week working on their research in hopes that they discover a gene and ultimately publish their results in the National Centers of Biotechnology Information database. This database provides genetic information for scientists across the world. Rutgers remains the only university sponsoring a program which allows students to publish into the NCBI database. High Point is 1 of 20 schools participating in the program. This year, the club has grown from 5 members to 18 members. These students are working in teams of 2 or 3 students. The supplies for these experiments are provided by Rutgers University through a grant from the National Science Foundation and support from GE Healthcare. In addition, Rutgers has provided High Point with expensive lab equipment through a grant from Toshiba. The equipment consists of a Transilluminator, camera set up, and photo printer (to take pictures of DNA gels) and 6 micropipettors. The cost of the equipment alone is approximately \$4000.00.
- Gene Emering (Supervisor of Math), Mary Hassenplug (Supervisor of English), and Jennifer DeSaye (Director of Special Services) have been brainstorming and researching different approaches to improving HSPA scores, not only for our Special Education students, but also for our Basic Skills students. They have been working collectively with Janice Mezier (Director of Curriculum and Instruction) and Greg Youngman (Principal) to identify and visit regional high school districts similar to High Point. Both Ms. Mezier and Ms. DeSaye have made contact with two such districts and are planning site visits to both in October.
- The Advanced Placement Statistics course has twenty-one students enrolled, and is off to a great start.

- Summer curriculum work in the Math department included new textbooks, curriculum guides, and course outlines for the Algebra I A course, Geometry A course, and a Consumer Math unit for the Senior Math Review course.
- Individual student profiles were completed this summer for all BSI students.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bernadette Olsen has set up presentations by the Art Institute for Foods I and Foods II classes on November 7. The speaker will focus on college/careers in the foods industry, and will prepare a culinary demonstration for the students.
- Mark Wallace has asked NJIT to do a presentation on October 18, 2007 for the Technological Studies Department on Geology, Surveying, and GPS/GIS.
- Brian Drelick has organized a presentation by Universal Technical Institute for the Technological Studies Department to discuss the field of ASE Automotive Certifications: NASCAR Tech, and Ford Fact.
- During Period 3 on October 2, the entire freshman class will experience Making High School Count, an excellent presentation on how to make high school a very successful four years.
- College representatives will be in the cafeteria on October 16 during Periods 2 and 3 to offer Mini College Day to juniors and seniors.
- On October 18 at 7:00 PM, Pathways to Your Future, an evening program consisting of four workshops, will provide participants with information on college admissions and careers.
- On October 20, sophomores and juniors will be taking the PSAT here at High Point.
- During the October 8 Inservice day, the English department will be creating individual teacher blogs to augment the department webpage. Noah Klimas will also facilitate sessions on Windows Movie Maker, Photo Story, and Audacity, all free programs that can be used by students to write, create, and produce their own stories and films.
- Cari Bodnar-Keimel and Rena Mills will facilitate a session during the October 8 Inservice day for the Special Education department on using Inspiration, a graphic organizing program that is an excellent teaching aid for visual learners.
- Ed Blevins and Tom Costello will be presenting a workshop at the New Jersey Science Teachers Convention in October.
- The Biology teachers will be part of a pilot program with NJPAA for the End-of-Course Assessment.
- Gene Emering will facilitate a graphing calculator workshop for all Special Education Math teachers (time and date to be determined).
- Texas Instruments will provide a four hour workshop on NspireData and Ti-Navigator technology. The workshop will be given at no cost as part of the January Inservice day.