

in

south  
colonie  
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schools

# focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

June, 2010

## Fallen soldier first inductee into new military wing of CCHS Hall of Fame



Amy Seyboth Tirador - CCHS Class of 1998

Colonie Central High School graduate Staff Sgt. Amy Seyboth Tirador, who died in November from non-combat-related injuries while serving in Iraq, is the first inductee into the new military wing of the CCHS Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to honor South Colonie alumni who can serve as role models and a source of inspiration for students based on their variety of accomplishments following high school. Amy was a member of the CCHS Class of 1998.

This year, the new military wing was added — dedicated to those who have lost their lives while on active duty. Seyboth Tirador was honored during the high school's annual Memorial Day observance in May. For a brief look at this military wing inductee, please turn to page 2 of this newsletter.



CCHS English teacher, Thomas Kachadurian, (left) was keynote speaker at May's Capital District YMCA Outstanding Student and Educator Recognition Breakfast. (L-R) are CCHS student award winners, Nicholas Deady and Kelsey Roberts (James Fox, not pictured), and 2010 Educator Award winner Math teacher Douglas Rosenberg.

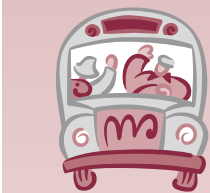
## Local YMCA honors CCHS teacher/students

A Colonie Central High School teacher and three students were honored at the Capital District YMCA's fifth annual Outstanding Student and Educator Recognition Breakfast at Siena College in May.

Colonie High Mathematics teacher, Douglas Rosenberg, was recognized during the ceremony as recipient of the 2010 YMCA Educator Award. Colonie High juniors Nicholas Deady, James Fox, and Kelsey Roberts were all presented with 2010 YMCA Student Recognition Awards. Colonie High English teacher Thomas Kachadurian, the 2009 YMCA Educator of the Year Award recipient, delivered the keynote address.

### IMPORTANT! Attention new parents

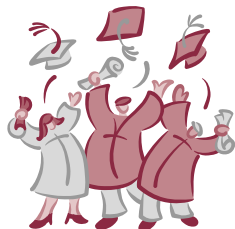
Enclosed in this newsletter is a census form which must be completed and mailed back free of charge so the district can begin planning for future enrollment.



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## '10 Military Wing inductee

### Amy Seyboth Tirador – Class of 1998

Staff Sgt. Amy Seyboth Tirador, CCHS Class of 1998, is the first inductee into the new Military Wing of the Colonie Central High School Hall of Fame. The new military wing was added to the Hall of Fame in 2010 — dedicated to those who have lost their lives while on active duty. Seyboth Tirador was honored during the high school's annual Memorial Day observance in May.

Seyboth Tirador died in November, 2009, from non-combat-related injuries received while serving in Iraq. The 29-year-old was the first woman from the Capital Region to die in the Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts. She was laid to rest with full military honors at Saratoga National Cemetery.

At the time of her death Seyboth Tirador was working as an Arabic-speaking interrogator on her second tour of duty. She enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1999, and had lived in Washington state the last few years.

According to military reports, Seyboth Tirador had seen action and saved at least one American life during her first tour of duty when she served as a medic. In 2004, she was credited with saving an American soldier who had been shot down during a convoy mission, the *Times Union* newspaper reported.

Seyboth Tirador was a member of the National Honor Society and a Regents graduate at Colonie Central High School, finishing her four years of study with a 90% average and ranking 59th in a class of 384. She studied Spanish through Level 6, took college-level economics through Hudson Valley Community College, was a four-year member of the school band. She played trumpet in the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Orchestra, was a member of the Key Club and played girls softball and varsity lacrosse.

Following Seyboth Tirador's death in 2009, her family was presented with a special award from the CCHS Key Club in Amy's honor. About 50 members of the Tirador family were on hand last fall as Amy's parents received the Sandy Nininger Award on behalf of their daughter. Sandy Nininger was the first Medal of Honor recipient in World War II and was also a former member of Key Club.

According to CCHS Key Club Co-Advisor Lisa Eichholzer, the award was presented in memory of Seyboth Tirador as a former CCHS Key Club member who not only made the most of her opportunities in high school, but also beyond in her career in the military. It is the highest tribute a Key Club can give to a member for making the most of their talents in service to others. The award was part of Key Club's annual induction ceremony where more than 130 members were inducted for their service.

As a member of the band, South Colonie music teacher and band director, Karen MacWatters, called Seyboth Tirador, "one of those students who stands out in your memory forever."

"It wasn't just her music talent or intelligence that left an impression on you, it was the way she never took life too seriously," MacWatters said. "Amy would walk into a room, a rehearsal, a concert and absolutely light up the room with her spirit. For a person who was so young she really knew how to live."



Veeder Elementary School student Alexis Szesnat built the winning structure in the fourth grade Technology Challenge which supported an amazing 200 pounds — a new school record.

## Six named student leaders at Roessleville

Six students represented Roessleville Elementary School at the Student Leadership Award Night held at Hudson Valley Community College this spring. Students were selected based on their ability to show personal and social behavior, sportsmanship, citizenship, a desire to learn and improve, and a physically active lifestyle.



Representing Roessleville were Coach Michael Palmer, Keven Lika, Marilyn O'Brien, Miriam Chaudhry, Julia Newkirk, Nicholas Davis and Tylor Murphy.

## CCHS Robotics Team competes at RIT event

The Capital Region Robotics Team at Colonie Central High School participated in the Finger Lakes Regional competition this year at the Rochester Institute of Technology.



The competition sponsored by FIRST, inspires high school students from around the world to become involved and educated in science and engineering. The Colonie team, commonly called Team 250 or the Dynamos, is led by Thomas Casey, a CCHS Technology

teacher, and a dedicated group of Colonie alumna. In addition, more than a dozen mentors guide the team of approximately 40 students through a rigorous six-week challenge of building a robot that meets the requirements to interact and play a game created by FIRST. Team members also competed in the Visualization competition by creating a 30-second computer animation using the same software that is taught in Mr. Scism's Animation class. Mentors included artists and animators from Vicarious Visions, a local division of Activision.

After 10 seeding rounds, Team 250 was among the select teams chosen to compete in the final rounds, reaching the semi-finals before being eliminated. Team 250 also came away from the competition with the UL Industrial Safety Award for the team's continuous effort in promoting and practicing safe work ethics.

## CCHS graduate part of 2010 Tulip Queen court

Colonie Central High School graduate, Melissa Pelletier, was named a member of the 2010 Albany Tulip Queen court. The 20-year-old member of the Class of 2008 was honored in April as one of the five 2010 Tulip Queen finalists from about 100 nominations received this year.

Melissa, the daughter of Roger and Laurie Pelletier of Colonie, is studying Early Childhood Education at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. She works at Teresian House Nursing Home, volunteers at the local food bank and participates in breast cancer walks and Relay for Life.



She hopes to become a kindergarten teacher. While in high school, Melissa was active in the performing arts by participating in the Line-n-Cue theater group and the elite Chamber Singers. Her vocal solos won her top ratings in the New York State School Music Association competitions. Athletically she was a cheerleader and the manager of the girls softball team.

## News & Notes ...



Fourth graders at Shaker Road Elementary School took pride in cleaning up their school property and doing their part for Earth Day, 2010.



The Dudley Observatory in Schenectady has named six Lisha Kill Middle School students among its list of Rising Star Interns for 2010. These students from Stephanie Copeland's seventh grade Physical Science classes are Sheamus Kavanaugh, Jacob Pickett and Jacklyn Rinaldi. Honorable Mention Students are Megan Moran, Alissa Fisher and Nicole Scott. Winners were required to write a 500-word essay on what astronomy means to them. The intern program includes the actual assembling of a telescope and evening classes dedicated to stargazing and astronomy lessons.

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## Rave reviews for orchestra/bands at park events

Two Colonie Central High School orchestra groups earned “Superior” ratings while performing at the Music in the Parks competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania, while three CCHS bands performed at the Music in the Parks Festival in Massachusetts with excellent results.

The two orchestras, under the direction of Laurinda Halliday and Peter Cannistraci, performed in May for a panel of adjudicators who gave the groups constructive criticism as well as a rating based upon the quality of their performance.

As part of the competition, the two orchestras were ranked among other high school orchestras from the Northeast that also attended the competition. The Grade 9/10 Concert Orchestra placed first and the Grade 11/12 Symphonic Orchestra placed second. Colonie High School was also given the award for Best Overall Orchestra.

In Massachusetts, the CCHS bands joined the Music in the Parks Festival hosted by Holyoke High School. The Concert Band, under the direction of Andy Hearn, received a rating of “Excellent.” The Symphonic Band, under the direction of Joel Miller, received a rating of “Superior.” The Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Lon Walker, received a rating of “Superior.”



CCHS bands joined the Music in the Parks Festival hosted by Holyoke (MA) High School, with excellent results.

## CCHS Scholar Athletes

Six Colonie Central High School spring varsity interscholastic athletic teams earned Scholar Athlete Team Awards for achieving a team Grade Point Average of 90% or higher. Teams honored were Boys Baseball, Girls Softball, Boys Tennis, Girls and Boys Track and Field and Girls Lacrosse.

## Residents pass budget

On May 18th, South Colonie Central School District residents approved an \$89.4 million budget for the 2010-11 school year by a vote of 1,645-1,120. They also elected incumbent Brian Casey a second term on the Board of Education. Casey ran unopposed and received 2,318 votes. The seat carries a new five-year term on the nine-member school board beginning July 1.