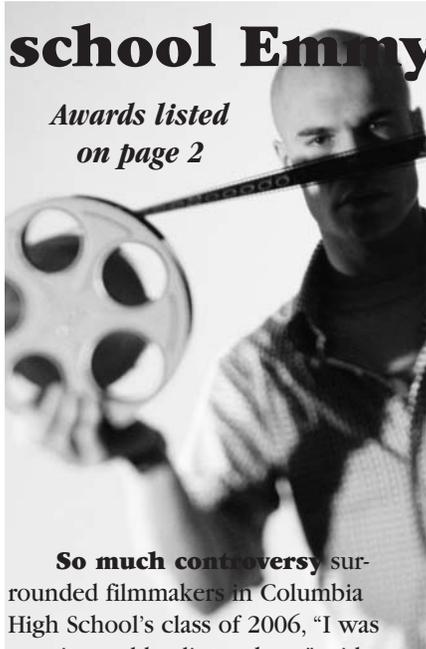


The South Orange *Gaslight*



CHS class of '06 tops high school Emmy Awards

Awards listed on page 2



So much controversy surrounded filmmakers in Columbia High School's class of 2006, "I was sure it would splinter them," said teacher Frank Mullin.

In fact, the class netted a record 36 awards of excellence in four end-of-year film competitions, national and regional. Fifteen award-winning seniors (including three who won four awards each) are now moving on as media majors in college studies.

When they were still sophomores, Mullin knew: "This is a phenomenal group. They're ready to take off!" And so they did.

Rebecca Adelson and Kerry Szydlowski were two of this year's winners. Their think piece, "Federal School Daze," about questionable government holiday scheduling, took a first place regional "Emmy" in the news category. The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the same group that awards regular television Emmys, praised the film for balanced reporting that included administrators, parents, students and community representatives.

Another first place regional Emmy, in sports reporting, went to

Maura Flanagan, Michael Jaffe and Anna Robilotta for "Pay to Play," a report on the controversial growing trend of paying to participate in high school extracurriculars.

In all, the 15 seniors won four Emmys, two awards from the Urban Visionary Video Festival, one award each from festivals sponsored by NJIT and Kean University, and nine awards from the Bergen County True East Film/Video Festival. Edgy yet balanced reporting characterized every film, said Mullin.

The 2005-2006 school year brought unexpected censorship from the school district over student films that called attention to unsanitary school conditions and questionable safety practices. The students proved their positive intentions and successfully pushed back among administrators, an experience that "really just melded them into a phenomenal production group," said Mullin.

Columbia's popular School of Television Arts attracts an average 500 students per year in all grades, including 60 seniors last year. Only seniors can compete for awards.

To meet their curriculum requirements, each senior must produce one public service announcement, one documentary, a music video and a news program. The films are shown on Columbia Cable Network, which broadcasts a morning announcement show in all classrooms four days a week, plus nighttime programs on SOMACOM, the local cable network.

The Emmys stand out as the height of competition in high school

filmmaking and CHS has been number one in New Jersey for three years. Last year, the school won two out of seven national Emmys, and since the program began, eight first-place Emmys in the New York region.

Emmy categories are news, public service announcements, sports, arts and entertainment, technical achievement, and writing.

Despite all that happened last year, "This group just hung together," said Mullin. "They didn't quit; they continued to produce." ▲

Stabilization grant awarded for Old Stone House

A grant of \$154,000 has been awarded to the Village by the New Jersey Historic Trust to stabilize the deteriorating Old Stone House, located behind the police department, off South Orange Avenue.

On June 26, the South Orange Board of Trustees awarded a contract to repair and waterproof the roof, fix holes in floors and exterior walls, and improve window sealing.

Village Engineer Sal Renda is managing the project since the Village owns the house. After stabilization and continued restoration, there are two possibilities for the building's future use: additional space for the police department, specifically the records and juvenile bureaus, and a proposed historic museum on the second floor.

Ten years ago, the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society got the house on the national and state registers of historic places, then developed plans to create an arts and crafts furniture museum. The plan has gotten little attention since then, but society members still like the idea.

Built in the 1600s, the Old Stone House is thought to be the oldest structure in the Village. ▲

The Gaslight is published 10 times yearly for the residents & business community of South Orange Village.

July/August 2006

Inside

■ SOPAC loft: the up-and-coming space for unique public gatherings

■ Welcome to Terrence Allen Catering & Eatery

■ Winard Harper Sextet to perform July 26 at The Baird

■ Villager of the Month: Kirk Roberts, Jr.

CHS filmmakers & their winning projects

Main story on page 1

The Emmys (New York Region)

- First Place, News - "Federal School Daze," by Rebecca Adelson and Kerry Szydowski.
- First Place, Sports - "Pay to Play," by Maura Flanagan, Michael Jaffe and Anna Robilotta.
- Public Service Announcements - "It's Not Just For Kids Anymore," by Anna Campbell and Lauren Brauchli.
- Honorable Mention, News - "The Out-of-Towners," by Rebecca Adelson and Kerry Szydowski.

The Bergen County True East Film/Video Festival

- First Place, Public Service Announcements - "Not That Hard," by Ian Gammon.
- Second Place, PSAs - "Don't Eat Too Much Candy," by Lauren Brauchli and Anna Campbell.
- First Place, Documentaries - "The War on Peace: From the People's Perspective," by Cris Thorne and Matt Lee.
- Second Place, Documentaries - "A Second Chance," by Maura Flanagan, Michael Jaffe and Anna Robilotta.
- Third Place, Documentaries - "Men Still on the March," by Ryan Michel and Katie Lannigan.
- First Place, Short Narratives - "The Out-of-Towners," by Rebecca Adelson and Kerry Szydowski.
- Second Place - "Christmas Serial Killer Strikes Again," by Maura Flanagan, Michael Jaffe and Anna Robilotta.
- Third Place - "A Honey Roasted Miracle," by Rebecca Adelson and Kerry Szydowski.
- Third Place, Music Videos - "Girl Fight," by Wanjiku Kairu and Taslym Jackson.

The Urban Visionary Video Festival

- First Place - "The War on Peace: From the People's Perspective," by Cris Thorne and Matt Lee.
- Third Place - "Super Glue," by Ben Gluckstern (2005) and Michael Jaffe.

Purple Violet Film Festival (Kean University) + the NJIT Film Competition

- First Place, PSA - "Cram" by Katie Lannigan and Ryan Michel. ▲

Biz buzz

Terence Allen Catering & Eatery

Terence Palmaffy, a third-generation South Orange resident and chef of 12 years, is set to open a New York-style gourmet café in the former Brushstroke building at 10 Sloan Street. Stay tuned for his grand opening later this summer!

New name, same great food!

Chris's Family Restaurant is the new name for Texas Weiners at 51 South Orange Avenue where a new sign and interior changes are nearly finished. Owners Maria and Chris Ketikidis have been serving breakfasts, lunches, and dinners to Villagers for almost five years. The same great food with special kids' meals, and the same reasonable prices will continue. ▲

SOPAC Loft: The up-and-coming space for unique public gatherings

Most of the old rooftop theaters in New York City aren't in use anymore but "they used to be the coolest spots for nightlife and cabaret," says Stewart Jones, a consultant for the South Orange Performing Arts Center and principal in JCJ Architecture.

His recollections are inspired by SOPAC's 2,170-square-foot loft, a community gathering space planned for the top floor of the soon-to-open arts center.

In New York's theatrical past, "people could turn away for a moment from the entertainment and be struck by the beautiful city night. SOPAC loft gives that kind of experience," said Stewart.

SOPAC is set to open in November with a full schedule of music, dance and other events. It will include a five-screen movie theater operated by Clearview Cinemas and a 415-seat live performance hall. Parking for 265 cars will be available in the NJ Transit lot behind the train station.

The finished loft will feature two walls of windows overlooking South Mountain Reservation, with great views, day or night. The sound-protected space with hardwood floors comfortably seats more than 150 people. It will be available for weddings, family reunions, corporate meetings, local arts productions and community meetings.

Renters will have access to a nearby kitchen, restrooms, dressing room, bridal room, gift room, and storage space.

Currently, SOPAC is seeking top donors to purchase naming rights to the loft space, in honor of a loved one or perhaps a special colleague.

Also, local caterers are invited to submit proposals to become preferred caterers for loft events. Send to: Catering, SOPAC, 20 Valley Street, South Orange, NJ 07079. ▲

HAPPENINGS

'Murder at the Vicarage'

Seton Hall Theatre-in-the-Round presents the play based on Agatha Christie's 1930 detective novel. The story marks the first appearance of Miss Jane Marple and the village of St. Mary Mead. Performances are Aug. 4, 5, 11 and 12, at 8 p.m.; and Aug. 6 and 13, at 2 p.m. at Bishop Dougherty University Center. Regular admission, \$15; senior citizens, \$12; students and children, \$5. Call (973) 761-9098.

Now! Entertainment at the Farmers Market

Shop and bop on Sept. 13 when Main Street's weekly Farmers Market will feature homegrown musicians from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Soul, jazz, and tunes you love will be offered by pianist Tricia Woods, trombonist Ben Williams, drummer Lee Finkelstein and bassist Gregory Jones.

The Farmers Market is open every Wednesday through Oct. 25 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Meadowland Park Duck Pond. Enjoy just-picked produce and flowers, all grown in New Jersey, plus prepared foods, fresh cheese, pickles and pickled vegetables. Stop by the Main Street table for weekly recipes and free food samples.

Newcomers reception, Sept. 17

South Orange's annual "Newcomers Day" will be held Sunday, Sept. 17 at The Baird. New residents can meet Village officials and become familiar with more than 20 civic organizations. More details in the next Gaslight. ▲

Container Days

The Public Works Department will offer container days on Saturday, Aug. 26 and Saturday, Sept. 30. South Orange residents (only) may discard unwanted household items at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Two forms of ID are required for proof of residency. No commercial vehicles are permitted. For information call DPW at (973) 378-7741.

Branch Pickup: Appointments are required and can be made until mid-September. Call DPW. ▲



Winard Harper Sextet, July 26

One of the most celebrated drummers in jazz will perform in South Orange on Wednesday, July 26, the last of the 2006 Outdoor Summer Concerts.

Harper has been the leader and musical inspiration of a vibrant sextet for almost a decade. The group appears in festivals, on jazz cruises, in concert halls and in top jazz clubs across the country. Critics have written that Harper is "as pleasing and entertaining to watch as he is to hear."

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. at Meadowland Park. Rain site: South Orange Middle School. For information, call (973) 378-7754.



All's Well That Ends Well

The Hudson Shakespeare Company will offer a free performance of Shakespeare's timeless comedy on Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 7:30 p.m., at Meadowland Park. (No rain site.) Call (973) 378-7754 or visit www.hudsonshakespeare.org.

They're calling already!

For a month now, event planners at The Baird have been fielding calls for Giants of Jazz IX. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar: Saturday, Oct. 14.

South Orange Recreation

Summer Sports Camps

It's not too late so sign up for ...

Tennis

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Offered weekly throughout the summer. Instruction and competitive play. Open to grades K-8. Fee: \$190.

Basketball

Aug. 14-17, 9 a.m. - noon

Boys and girls grades 5 to 8 learn on outdoor courts at The Baird. Fee: \$150.

Baseball

July 24-27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Former Major League All-Star Willie Wilson and other former Major League players will instruct children ages 7 to 14 in hitting, catching, infield, outfield and pitching. Fee: \$250.

Multi-Sport Camp

Aug. 14-18

- Half day, ages 5-7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fee: \$115.
- Full day, ages 7-14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Friday until 1 p.m.) Fee: \$135.

Badminton, baseball, basketball, bocce, cricket, net ball, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, hand ball, floor hockey, discovery games, pillo polo, soccer, tennis, touch rugby and volleyball. A true sports camp experience with so much to do in so little time!

Fall Recreation

Soccer

- *Cougar Kickers, grades K to 2.*
- *South Mountain Soccer, grades 3 to 8.*

Each program includes one weekday practice session and a weekend game, starting the week after Labor Day. Details at The Baird or online. Registration now underway, with a deadline of Aug. 1.

General program registration

Most fall programs will begin Aug. 1. For complete listings, log on to <http://southorange.recware.com>.

Summer Lecture Series

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Aug. 10 - Karen Gervitz, "New Millennium Fatherhood, Old Millennium Motherhood."
- Aug. 24 - Lori Sender presents a one-woman show as Clara Schumann, the classical pianist.

Regular Programs

- S. O. Book Review Group (adults) - Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m. "The French Lieutenant's Woman," by John Fowles. Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m., "Dreams from My Father," by Barack Obama.
- Open Stage Teen Poetry Reading (9th grade and up) - Aug. 17, 7 p.m.

For library info call (973) 762-0230

Friends & Residents:

Lend us your skills!

It takes 10 to 15 people per committee to provide optimum operations at the South Orange Maplewood Community Coalition. Right now, more volunteers are needed for four of them:

1. Promotions/Marketing - issue local press releases and work with the publicist to generate national press. Help supervise advertising, literature, realtor relations programs and the Web site.

2. Neighborhood Association & Civic Life - liaise with community groups to develop greater grassroots participation.

3. Finance & Development - work with the executive director on budgeting and financial reporting. Develop programs to ensure funding from municipal governments, foundations, community members, coalition trustees and private donors.

4. Touring - conduct tours for prospective home buyers.

The first three committees meet monthly; touring meets quarterly. All volunteer opportunities are flexibly scheduled. For more information call (973) 761-6116, send e-mail to info@twotowns.org, or visit www.twotowns.org. ▲

Coalition celebrates 10 years

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 21, when the South Orange Maplewood Community Coalition will hold its gala 10th anniversary celebration. A retrospective of the organization's many accomplishments will be featured. More details in September's Gaslight. ▲

Library Events

Comedy of Errors

The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's Next Stage Ensemble will perform The Bard's classic comedy at the library on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

'Munich': film and discussion

The library and South Orange Recreation present a viewing of "Munich," the controversial film about the 1972 Olympics massacre. The film will be shown at the library on Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m., followed on Tuesday, Aug. 22 by a 6 p.m. discussion at the South Orange community pool. ▲

In Touch

with
Village
Government

General Info.
(973) 378-7715
Emergency, 911
Clerk's Office, x1
Administrator, x2
Construction, x3
Tax Collector, x4
Assessor, x5
Welfare, x5
Finance, x6
Engineer, x7
Parking Auth., x8
Health Officer
x2012
Animal Control
378-7775, x7745
Fire Dept.
378-7751
Library
762-0230
Police Dept.
378-7775
Public Works
378-7741
**Recreation &
Cultural Affairs**
378-7754
**Recycling Info. &
Street Dept.**
378-7741
Water Service
266-8869

To submit
information for
**The South
Orange
Gaslight**,
send to Editor
Robin Patric,
c/o Village Hall

Villager of the Month

Kirk Roberts, Jr.

Unsanitary conditions and safety concerns are not something to hide from public view. So last winter when the local school administration wanted to ban student-produced public service announcements on those subjects, Kirk Roberts was among a dozen Columbia High students who successfully fought to get them back on the air.

The point wasn't to stir up controversy, said Roberts. It was a call for action. "Let's do something about it and let's start with the students."

Ultimately the board agreed and the PSAs, which Roberts helped produce, were returned to the Columbia Cable Network, a student-run program that airs on the local cable channel.

At age 18, Roberts is a newly minted graduate of Columbia High whose precocious hands-on experience as a cable TV news reporter and production expert has earned him a partial scholarship at Hofstra University in Hempstead, Long Island. He will enter the school this fall with hands-on knowledge of controls, time blocking, scheduling

Firefighter entry exam announced

An entry exam for South Orange firefighter will be given in the coming winter. Applications are being accepted through Aug. 31.

To apply, you must be a resident of South Orange. Applications may be obtained at the fire department, 52 Sloan Street; the public library, 65 Scotland Road; or the clerk's office at Village Hall, 101 South Orange Avenue.

For more information, visit the NJ Department of Personnel Web site: http://www.state.nj.us/personnel/public_safety/entry-level-fighter_opps.htm. ▲



and management – a likely head start over many fellow freshmen.

"I didn't really watch TV as a kid," said Roberts, and to this day, "I'd rather read the newspaper." But he's a great admirer of TV's technical wizardry and hopes some day to have his own show, "maybe news, maybe reality, just as long as I'm the executive producer."

At CCN, Roberts helped create public service announcements on wide-ranging topics such as the Darfur genocide, cleanliness in school cooking facilities, and a spotlight on a multi-talented CHS music student.

Outside his TV work, Roberts served as a peer counselor, one of 60

CHS seniors who mentored younger students at elementary and junior high levels, as well as 9th graders at Columbia.

He was also treasurer of the Economics Club, a lacrosse player, a member of the Martin Luther King Association and a participant in the discussion forum Facing Race. In his spare time, he worked simultaneous jobs in shoe sales and construction.

Roberts' South Orange roots reach back three generations. His father, Kirk, Sr., and grandfather, Winfred Roberts, were both CHS graduates and officers of the South Orange Police Department. His father is still an active officer and his mother Tina was Mrs. New Jersey from 1992 to 1993.

For his devotion to community causes and his powerful example to fellow students, Kirk Roberts, Jr. was named South Orange's June Villager of the Month. ▲

Do you know a Villager extraordinaire?

Think about that woman down the block who squeezes her schedule year-round for a local nonprofit. The business exec next door who spends his weekends helping less handy neighbors. Or the high school senior who inspired a noble community project.

The South Orange Community Relations Committee wants and invites your suggestions for nominating future Villagers of the Month. Any candidate must be a Village resident who has rendered voluntary service above the ordinary to benefit South Orange.

Include your reasons for making the nomination, plus contact information for yourself and your candidate. Mail to the clerk's office at Village Hall. Or for more information, contact the CRC's Jan Zaveri at (973) 762-0110, or KTjdz@aol.com. ▲

Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079



Postal Customer
Local 07079

Bulk
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
South Orange, NJ

Village Web Site: www.southorange.org
E-mail for Village Administrator: jgross@southorange.org