



# Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

May 2005



*The Spanish classes all learned about the Mexican historical holiday "Cinco de Mayo," when outnumbered Mexican soldiers defeated the invading French troops of Napoleon III in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Students then prepared authentic Mexican dishes at home and brought them to class for a "Cinco de Mayo" feast.*

## Students advance to states during History Day event

Students earned six awards at the regional History Day competition held at Juniata College last month. They won three first place awards, two seconds, and a third. All winners will now go on to the state competition at Penn State.

First place awards went to Ashley Hook for her historical paper, "Communicating the Dream; the team of Hilary Dagle, Jessica Lenig, Jen O'Hora, and Ashley Oswald for "Suffering for Suffrage"; and to Liza James and Jen Peeler for their documentary, "Talking to the Apes: Understanding Ourselves."

Christy Zike won a second place for her exhibit "The Great Awakening: Communication Between Man and God," and the team of Ellen Barnhart, Charlseah Hansen, Kim Hawk, Jessie Runkle, and Darby Williams took a second place award for "Matthew Brady: Communication Through Photography."

Rachel Bingaman earned a third place award for her performance, "Songs of the Slaves: Communication Through Music."

## From the Principal –

As difficult as it is to believe, our school year is coming to a close.

We hope to offer summer school again this year. If you have any questions or wish to register your child for a class, please call the guidance office.

Our guidance counselors work part time during the summer; if you want to discuss your child's schedule, college plans, etc., do not hesitate to call and schedule an appointment.

Our students have given us a lot to be proud of. FFA, FBLA, Forensics, TSA, and History Day are just a few of the competitions that we have had students do well in. Also, we have seen several musical and theatrical events which have been outstanding. I want to commend all these students who have worked so hard.

I hope you have a safe and productive summer and come back to school ready for a new year.

Some dates for the end of the year:

May 19	Spring Choral Concert
June 5	Baccalaureate
June 7	Graduation
June 8	Last day of school

History Day is the oldest, most respected history contest for secondary students in the country. Any students who place first or second at states will then compete nationally.

## FFA members place well in SUN area competition

Fourteen FFA Members participated in SUN Area FFA competitions held March 22, 2005 at Mid-West High School.

Gwen Graybill placed first in the Creed Speaking Contest. Gwen will advance to State competition to be held at Penn State in June. Levi Ehrisman placed ninth, and Coy Weller placed tenth.

In Conservation Public Speaking, Tony Hostetter placed fourth and Brian Gray placed fifth.

Katrina Moyer placed fourth in Junior Public Speaking, and Zachary Buss placed seventh.

In General Public Speaker, Bonnie Page placed fifth, and Valerie Hoover placed seventh.

The Parliamentary Procedure team placed second. Team Members were P. J. Adams, Gwen Graybill, Raquel Hauck, Valerie Hoover, Tony Hostetter, and Andrew Shaffer.

Fifty-eight students from Line Mountain, Midd-West, Mifflinburg and Selinsgrove Area High Schools competed.

## Gavitt given Woodson Award

The Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees presents an award to a teacher, selected by her peers, for unselfish dedication and exemplary service to the Selinsgrove Area High School and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This year's recipient of the award went to Donna Gavitt, Business, Computer, and Information Technology teacher.



## FFA takes takes many awards

Fifteen Future Farmers of America members competed in SUN Area FFA competitions held March 3, 2005 in the Selinsgrove Area High School Agricultural Department.

Placing first in the Small Gas Engines Team competition were Matthew Heimbach and Ryan Romig. Heimbach and Romig qualified to represent the SUN Area in the PA FFA Small Gas Engines competition to be held at Penn State in June.

In the Agronomy competition, Tony Hostetter placed first, Andrew Shaffer placed second, Valerie Hoover placed fourth and Raquel Hauck placed fifth.

Eric Sassaman placed third in the Agricultural Mechanics competition and Ben Kratzer placed fifth.

Other participants were Kyle Fry, Jamison Gelnett, Scott Hoover, Keith Kessler, Katrina Moyer, and Bonnie Page, Agronomy Contest, and Brandon Wilkinson, Agricultural Mechanics.

Forty-five students from Line Mountain, Midd-West, Mifflinburg and Selinsgrove Area High Schools competed.

## FBLA: road to your success

This year the theme for Future Business Leaders of America has been FBLA: The Road to Your Success.

Jumping onto that road were three students from the Selinsgrove FBLA: Andy White, Dan White, and Joe White, representing Selinsgrove Area High School during the FBLA State Leadership Conference held at Seven Springs Resort from April 13 to 15, 2005.

While at state competition, Andy was recognized for placing sixth in Networking Technology and eighth in Computer Hardware, Computer Software and Operating Systems. Joe placed eleventh in Computer Concepts, while Dan placed in the upper third in Technology Concepts. These students earned their trip to the conference after placing in the top two seats at district competition. They further competed in several events each for state recogni-

tion at Seven Springs.

There were 2800 students in attendance from all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that competed in a variety of venues at the State Leadership Conference.

To travel further down the road to their success, members of the FBLA spent the day enjoying the City of Philadelphia on May 2, 2005. While they visited many historic sites including the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall, they also enjoyed a Philly cheese steak or two.

## Two honored at conference

David Lauer and Matthew Ulrich were each given awards at the Bi-Annual Transition Conference held at Bloomsburg University on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

This Conference is attended by over 300 students from many local school districts and is organized by the Union/Snyder Transition Council. The Conference is intended to give students the opportunity to explore options for further training, employment, community living, community services programs, and other presentations to assist students in preparing for life after high school.

A contest was held to name the conference, giving students ownership of their Conference, and out of over 200 entries David Lauer's entry won, and the Conference was named "It's All Up To Me!"

Matthew Ulrich was nominated for the Dr. Cynthia Schloss Transition Education Award; this award recognizes a student who has overcome barriers in realizing life/work potential. There were three other students up for this award from other districts. While Matthew did not win the award, he was recognized by Rep. Russell Fairchild with a certificate of accomplishment. Matthew has shown great leadership qualities in school, at home and in the community, and he recently received the Eagle Scout award.

## Outdoors Club has two more trips slated for spring

The Outdoors Club had 51 people camping and rafting the Youghigheny River April 30. The club would like to thank all parents and other chaperones who made this trip possible.

On May 11-14 the club will be rock climbing at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, and then from May 26-30 they will be backbacking in the Seneca Creek Trail System in West Virginia.

## Art students get to shine

Students in grades 9-12 displayed their talents in the visual arts and exhibited their work in a spring art exhibit in the lobby of the high school during the nights of this year's musical "Footloose." Drawings, paintings, ceramics, prints and sculptures were on display.

Carly Giesen was awarded an Honorable Mention for her painting "Calla Lilies" at the annual Scholastic Art Exhibit at the Packwood House in Lewisburg in April.

There is an opportunity for student painters to work on an outdoor mural painting project at Kidsgrove. Anyone interested should see Mrs. Joyce Hendricks in the art room.

Seniors Margaret Brock, Lindsey Bailey, Kodee Camp,

Alyssa Catalano, Brooke Dixon, Carly Giesen, Kyle Herb, Mike Meiser and Jess Ney are currently working on a mural at the Intermediate School.

Finally, the principal performers of the musical, *Footloose*, entertained a very appreciative audience on April 27 at the Country Cupboard in Lewisburg during the Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce Employee Recognition luncheon.

## Peer Leadership program completes another retreat

Peer Leadership Weekend 24, led by teachers Dan Campbell, Harvey Edwards, Alex Gruenberg, Ellen Miller, Stephanie Underhill and student teachers Liz Rimmel and Courtney Speaker concluded successfully this spring.

In conjunction with the Foundation for Student Giving, the PLUS #24 group made donations ranging from \$100 to \$400 to the following organizations: National MS Society, Higher Hope Ministry, Steve Steffen Memorial, House of Hope, ARC of Northumberland, Mostly Mutts (a no kill shelter) and Children and Youth Services. The choices these students have made in donating money and volunteering time in the community will make a difference.

## Student Council makes donations, plans retreat

On the heels of hosting a stupendous district conference, the high school Student Council donated \$1000 each to the pediatric wards at Evangelical Community Hospital and the Janet Weis Children's Hospital. The gifts will be used to enhance the entertainment equipment for teens who are hospitalized. This project was in fulfilled the district conference theme: All the World Is Your S.T.A.G.E, meaning: Students Teaching A Good Example.

The high school Student Council will embark on its annual leadership retreat on May 27-29 at Seven Springs in Champion, PA. The students will plan all the activities for the upcoming 2005-2006 academic year. A major project in the planning will be the statewide service program, Growing Up Great. Sponsored by PNC Bank, the goal is to increase literacy for children in Headstart and other pre-school programs.

## Selinsgrove TSA members compete at state conference

Six members from the Selinsgrove TSA Chapter attended the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference held at the Seven Springs Resort last month.

Leanna Carstetter, Matt Cox, Zach Shrawder, Janessa Stauffer, Justin Varner, and Andrew White all competed in various events. Of the six members, all made it to the finalist round in their respective competitions and four members placed in the top three or better for their respective competitions.

Matt received 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the PA Materials Process competition as well as 5<sup>th</sup> place with Zach for PA Computer Systems Troubleshooting.

Leanna placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Medical Technology with Janessa. Furthermore, Leanna placed 7<sup>th</sup> along Zach and Andrew for Technology Bowl. Zach also received a 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy for the written portion of Tech Bowl.

Andrew, Justin, and Janessa placed 7<sup>th</sup> in Cyberspace Pursuit. Andrew and Justin took home the second place award for PA Computer Systems Troubleshooting.

## Edwards nominated for PA Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Harvey Edwards, English teacher in the high school, for his nomination as Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Of the more than 230 teachers nominated in the state, Mr. Edwards has made it to the semi-final selection of 35. The nine teachers to go on as finalists will be notified sometime in May.

## Classes combine for project

For three days in April, Barbara Corbin's Spanish 5 class and Walt Fisch's Contemporary Issues class worked together on a project that was relevant to both courses.

Corbin proposed the idea to Fisch as part of her individual professional development plan, and he liked the prospect of having the students work together and share a different perspective. The topic they investigated was the process, legalities, and social and economic implications of immigration into the U.S. today, with special emphasis on the immigrants entering from Mexico.

Both classes were given a pre-test of their general knowledge on U.S. immigration procedures, how to obtain a green card, immigrants' rights, and on the current proposal for a Guest Worker Program to legalize Mexican migrant workers, and the controversy over U.S. driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. They all realized that they knew very little about these important issues, so they spent one class period in the computer lab to search for information.

Ten groups were formed to investigate separate issues, combining students from both classes in each group. Group presentations were given on each topic the second day, answering questions from the class and discussing issues as needed for clarification.

The third day both classes watched a video provided by Corbin on the current issues surrounding both legal and illegal immigration into the U.S. from Mexico, which touched on many of the points the students had investigated.

For the final step in the project, both classes took a post-test to see what they had learned about the topic, and students were also asked for their feedback on the project and their suggestions.

Corbin and Fisch were both very pleased with how well the students did on the post-test, and also by their comments that the project was worthwhile and the topic was something that students should learn about.