

2016 regional scholars named

Three Albany High School seniors have been named in this year's regional Scholars Recognition Program.

Larisa Chestnut, Dhimiter Cobani and **Sophia Jones** are among area seniors who were nominated by their teachers for outstanding academic achievement, leadership skills and service to their community and school. They were honored at a May 18 dinner and recognized in a special *Times Union* section May 19.

Albany High senior one of '13 Kids Who Care'

Albany High senior **Sarah Tuzzolo** was selected as one of WNYT/Ch. 13's "13 Kids Who Care," a spotlight on young volunteers in the Capital Region.

Tuzzolo volunteers every school day with special-needs students in Albany High's Best Buddies Program. She's also an honor student, battalion commander in Albany High's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program and a member of several school clubs.

Cosmetology team No. 1 at international show

Students from the Cosmetology Program at Albany High School's Abrookin Career and Technical Center took first place in the International Hair and Beauty Show at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, N.J., on May 22.

The students, dressed in Egyptian costumes and joined by students from each of the City School District of Albany's middle schools as well as Albany High graduates, performed a choreographed modeling performance to the music of Michael Jackson's "Remember the Time." The students modeled hairpieces they created at school in the week leading up to the competition.

The students beat out peers from five other schools in the metropolitan New York City area to win the \$1,000 first prize.

Fleet-footed Falcons reach states

Four Albany High School student-athletes qualified in five events for the 2016 state track and field championships.

University at Albany-bound senior **Jahari Coleman** won the 100 meters and the 400 meters at state qualifiers June 3-4. She represented Section II in both events at states, which were held in the Syracuse area June 10-11 (*Capital Education* went to press before the event).

Coleman clocked a time of 57.01 seconds in winning the 400 at qualifiers, topping the second-place finisher by 1.7 seconds. Her time also surpassed the previous best 400 time for Section II this season by more than a half-second.

Coleman already owned the top 100 time in the section this season (12.38 seconds at the Shenendehowa Invitational on May 13; she ran 12.44 to win at qualifiers).

Senior **Mercedes Johnson** won the 200 at qualifiers to advance to states, and junior **Eileen Bequette** won the pentathlon. Bequette's winning point total of 3,237 also was the best in the section this season.

For the boys' team, junior **Syeed Holtzclaw** won the 400 at qualifiers to advance to states. Holtzclaw holds the best 400 time in Section II this season, 49.12 seconds at the Eddy Meet on May 21 (he clocked 49.63 to win at qualifiers).



Senior Jahari Coleman is one of four Albany High athletes to head to the state track and field championships.

Music plaudits pile up

Once again, City School District of Albany musicians excelled at the New York State School Music Association's Major Ensemble festivals.

Albany High School's Wind Ensemble captured a gold NYSSMA rating in competition May 18. Albany High's Select Choir received a silver NYSSMA rating April 19, and the Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School Wind Ensemble earned a gold rating April 20.

The two high school groups performed at competition Level VI, featuring pieces with the highest degree of complexity. The middle school musicians performed at Level II.

John Halvorsen directs the Albany High Wind Ensemble, **Brendan Hoffman** directs the Albany High Select Choir and **John Prylo** directs the Myers Wind Ensemble.

Sophomore chosen for selective summer writing program

Albany High School sophomore **Emma Colton-Heins** has been selected to attend the New York State Writers Institute's prestigious Summer Young Writers Institute at Skidmore College.

The program is open to high-school students from throughout the United States. About 40 are selected based on samples of their creative writing. Colton-Hines submitted her original play, "An Open Book."

Albany High playwright wins CapRep contest

Albany High School sophomore **Cynthia Fowler** won Capital Repertory Theatre's 2016 Young Playwright contest.

Fowler's award-winning play – her first attempt at being a playwright – is called "The Pen and the Sword." It was performed in Albany High's Promising Playwrights Festival in May and will be performed again at Capital Rep this summer. Fowler was one of five area students to win the award.

Filmmaker wins kindness contest

Albany High School senior **Dijour Carter**'s anti-bullying film earned the April grand prize in the Albany County District Attorney's WORDS campaign promoting kindness in the community.

An aspiring filmmaker, Carter was one of several finalists for the monthly contest, which is open to all Albany County students from kindergarten-grade 12. His efforts garnered the most votes from members of the public.

In his film, Carter notes that an estimated 160,000 students miss school every day for fear of being bullied. He said he hopes his film encourages respect and inclusion in schools and the community. Check out the film at <https://youtu.be/JJGQbkc8kGI>.



One-of-a-kind filmmaker: Dijour Thomas

Abrookin chefs dominate chili cookoff

Aspiring Albany High School chefs took second and third place at the annual Watervliet Chili Cookoff this spring.

Two teams of students from Albany High's Culinary Program at Abrookin Career and Technical Center – the Fiery Falcons and the Jalapeno Fireflies – competed against other area chefs at the annual event, a fundraiser for a program supporting disabled veterans.

The Fiery Falcons' spicy recipe took second place, and the Jalapeno Fireflies' mild recipe took third place. Event judges told Chef Lisa Valentine, who oversaw the students' efforts, that they were amazed that such young chefs produced such quality fare.