



# the Alumni Connection

News & Information for Ticonderoga High School Alumni and Friends

February 2012  
Vol. 9 Issue 1

## TEN YEARS... and many accomplishments

In the summer of 2002, a group of potential board members met to discuss the official formation of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association. This first Board of Directors meeting marked the beginning of the long process to develop the structure of the association. Although filing incorporation papers, developing by-laws, and applying for IRS (501 c 3) public charity status occupied most of the initial meetings, the board quickly began its most important role: raising money to fund scholarships for Ticonderoga High School graduating seniors.

Early donations were deposited in the Ticonderoga Alumni Scholarship Fund at Adirondack Community Trust and remain there today as our Endowment Fund. Today, the board manages all of the money it raises annually in order to ensure immediate access to funds for our scholarships. Our first scholarships were awarded in 2006. Since that time, annual allocations have been raised from \$12,000 to \$15,000, and a total of \$78,000 has been awarded to 195 graduating seniors!

But it doesn't stop there. Since 2006, our scholarships have been available to any graduating senior attending 2-year, 4-year, or technical schools. Now scholarships are also available to those choosing to enter military service following THS graduation for use during or following their service. Moreover, because the Association is an affiliate of Dollars for Scholars, students attending one of its Collegiate Partner colleges can



have our award matched by this college.

The association is honored to recognize the accomplishments of THS graduates. Since 2005, 18 alumni have been awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award. Thirteen other alumni and one organization have also been recognized for special service to the Ticonderoga community, and two non-alumni as Friends of Ticonderoga High School.

Today's members of the Alumni Board of Directors are proud of all that has been accomplished the past 10 years. Six of these members served on that first board in 2002.

## Marine Academy Coming to THS



A new BOCES program is coming to Ticonderoga High School. The Marine Academy is being established at the high school in its newly-constructed, state-of-the-art technology center. This program, the first of its kind for high school students in the north country, will be operated by Champlain Valley Tech (BOCES) and is scheduled to open September 2012. A two-year program, it will be limited to 13 students from Glens Falls to Plattsburgh. Skills from mechanics and woodworking to computers will be stressed. It is hoped that eventually students can leave the program with manufacturer's certification.

"I'm very excited about this program," Superintendent John McDonald stated. "Talking to the guys in the field, you realize there is

*Please see "Marine Academy" on Page 4*

# THS Alumni Honored

On July 29, 2011 three THS alumni, a volunteer organization, and a non-alumnus were honored with awards during a special ceremony.

## ***Distinguished Alumni Awards***

### **Joyce G. Cooper**

True leaders and contributors, people who give back to their community and are deserving of recognition, this is a description fits Joyce Gallant Cooper perfectly. Joyce attended Harpur College after graduating in 1959. She continued with graduate work in the SUNY system and in California.

Joyce's teaching career began in Binghamton. She was a librarian and later a classroom teacher. She also was the grade level chair and a student teacher supervisor. Joyce moved to California in 1983 and taught third and fourth grades at Vinci Park Elementary School. There she met and married her soul mate, Jerry. Joyce's natural leadership was quickly evident. She became a Project Mentor, developing a K-5 Environmental Education Curriculum and Activities Guide for the district. She was a Math/Science Staff Developer who presented in-service classes to introduce new math and science methodology and curriculum to district teachers. She served as a New Teacher Mentor and Lead Mentor.

One of her administrators in California described Joyce as an instructional leader, a model educator, who consistently emphasized the worth of each student. It was no surprise Berryessa Union School District, which encompassed 13 schools, named her its 2001 Teacher of the Year.

Joyce returned to Ticonderoga in 2001. In her heart, she had never left. Joyce quickly recognized the needs and opportunities to improve the town's appearance and quality of life. She became the first president of a fledgling group called the Ticonderoga Alumni Association. Joyce has led us in a consistent, positive manner ever since, always by example.

The new Black Point beach house, with running water and flush toilets, is a testimony to the leadership and perse-

verance of Joyce, who chaired this Ticonderoga Parks & Rec sub-committee. She is still known as The "Beach Lady." Additionally, Joyce is past president and continuing active member of both Kiwanis and Carillon Garden Club. She has also been active in the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership since its beginning as secretary, board member, and committee member.

Ticonderoga is fortunate to have Joyce's love, commitment, leadership, and vision back in our community. She leads but never asks more of others than she does of herself, setting a higher standard by her example. We proudly recognize her as a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

### **Robert C. Dedrick**

At the age of 11, Robert C. Dedrick had open heart surgery. As he awaited transportation to Albany Medical Center, Bob looked outside and saw people lined up from the hospital to the monument. He soon learned that they were waiting to give blood in the event that he needed it. At that moment, he realized how much the community meant to him. Bob Dedrick has spent the rest of his life giving back every way that he could.

Bob attended SUNY Plattsburg receiving bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He returned home to marry his life-long love Annette and teach in the Ticonderoga Middle School. During his 32 years of teaching, he served as Teachers' Association President and coached football and basketball. Bob also organized the Middle School Science Fair and was administrator of the Summer Enrichment Program for five years.

When fellow teacher Keith Dolbeck suggested forming an alumni association whose primary purpose would be the



**Award winners, from left: Steve Burroughs, Mary Cunningham, Jeffrey Burns, Joyce Cooper, Paul Ingrey, Robert Dedrick, and Dieter Schmidt.**

awarding of scholarships, Bob embraced the idea. They became the founding fathers of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association. Bob is also a charter member and continues to support our activities.

Bob also distinguished himself during 10 years of service in town government. After a term on the town board, he was elected supervisor and served three terms. While supervisor, he was instrumental in the construction of the North Country Community College building. He was responsible for the acquisition of the Armory, which serves the community in many capacities. He provided leadership in bringing to fruition the Black Point and Wicker Street sewer districts. Bob is particularly proud of securing 18 annual national bass tournaments for Ticonderoga.

If there were a "Who's Who" for service to one's community, Bob Dedrick would surely head the list. The Lord Howe reenactments, the Waterfests, even the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train's annual visits all bear Bob's mark of commitment and perseverance. Still an active leader in our community, he is currently president of Ticonderoga Kiwanis Club, board member of the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership, and member of Interlake Health's Board of Directors. A 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Bob Dedrick is an "honor graduate" if there ever was one.

## **Special Service Awards**

### **Dieter Schmidt**

Although Dieter Schmidt was not born in the United States, he calls Ticonderoga home. His consistent, generous support in time, talent and finances for alumni activities and events is noteworthy. Our alumni golf tournament owes much to his support.

Although of German descent, Dieter Schmidt was born in Poland. World War II changed everything. In 1944, Dieter and family escaped to East Germany and spent time in a refugee camp. The presence of Russian soldiers made a daring escape to West Germany in a coal car necessary for family safety. Dieter definitely had an unusual early childhood!

In 1953, Dieter's older sister and husband were able to immigrate to the United States, settling in Ticonderoga. Hans worked at Rathbuns. This paved the way for Dieter and his mother to secure sponsorship through a local church, arriving in 1956. Although Dieter spoke little English, he became "famous" at the high school. He graduated in 1958 and spent four years in the Air Force, where he met his wife Miriam. After discharge, they settled in Atlanta where he became a mechanic with Delta Airlines.

Twelve years ago, Dieter reconnected with his "hometown" Ticonderoga and began spending summers here. He quickly became involved in the first Ti Extravaganza held in 2001. He worked diligently on displays, decorations, tents staging, and especially the "Tie a Purple Ribbon" signs.

Dieter's new career was now in full swing. In addition to all the background assistance with both extravaganzas, each year as our alumni golf tournament arrives, Dieter has assembled scoreboards and made himself available to help in multiple ways. Moreover, he and Miriam have donated many of the larger golf tournament prizes, which help insure the success of this major fund raiser. They are also consistent, major financial supporters of our Scholarship Fund.

Dieter gives his talents, time, and financial support elsewhere also. He has traveled to do Habitat for Humanity building projects. He has also made two trips to the New Orleans area with a group called "Square Foot Ministries," whose

goal is helping to restore and rebuild homes for hurricane victims. Dieter, we appreciate all your "special service" and are proud to call you a Ticonderogian.

### **Ticonderoga Fire Department**

Fire protection in our town has a long history. Early protection was provided by two companies, and later by three different companies. In 1976, these companies moved to the former Grand Union building on Montcalm Street. In 1991, the three were merged to become Ticonderoga Volunteer Fire Company No. 1.

Ticonderoga's volunteer ranks have remained strong. The present membership, which includes four females, is 53 regular members. The company also has four junior members ages 16-17, who can serve as active members. They are also proud of their strong youth program which currently has nine members ages 14-15.

Today's volunteer fireman must be committed. To become a regular member, the volunteer must have lived in the town six months and participate in 84 hours of training by the county. The average volunteer spends 80 hours in training annually. Extra training is necessary for those who desire advanced ratings and responsibilities. Our volunteer fire company collectively accumulates 1,500 training hours a year! At the present time, there are five volunteers in EMT training. The department also has a six-member Dive Team, a Search and Rescue Team, an Ice Water Rescue Team, and a Vehicle Extrication Team, with all members receiving specialized training.

Such dedication is remarkable when one considers the time these volunteers spend on fire calls. The Ticonderoga Volunteer Fire Department averages 300 calls and over 4,000 man hours annually, often working in dangerous or gut-wrenching situations which may involve serious injuries or even death.

Our volunteer firemen are also to be commended for their recent addition to the town — The Ticonderoga Fire Department Museum. Located in the new addition to their building, the museum chronicles the history of the department, preserving important events in the history of our town.

The service our community receives from the Ticonderoga Volunteer Fire

Company No. 1 is extensive and outstanding. Our safety rests in their very capable hands. It is most fitting that this company was awarded a Ticonderoga Alumni Association's 2011 Special Service Award for all their service and dedication to the community of Ticonderoga.

### **2011 Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award**

#### **Paul B. Ingrey**

Many of you reading this may never have met Paul Ingrey or even heard his name. However, many Ticonderoga High School college-bound seniors should be thankful for his presence in area during the past decade. Paul and his wife Jane spend summers at their Arcady home.

When Paul joined Kiwanis Club of Ticonderoga in 1997, he learned of the Club's scholarship program which is funded by the club's annual golf tournament. Because Paul feels he could not have continued his education without the scholarship help he received from a Kiwanis Club, he issued a challenge to Ticonderoga Kiwanians to raise more money annually for their scholarship fund, offering to match the money raised at the tournament for a set number of years.

Thanks to this challenge, the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund has grown considerably, and the club has been able to raise the amount given in 4 scholarships annually. In 2011 a total of \$11,000 was allocated for three \$3,300 Ticonderoga scholarships and one \$1,100 Crown Point scholarship. One of these scholarships carries his name. Paul is also a generous sponsor of our Alumni Golf Tournament which benefits our Scholarship Fund.

Because he is a non-resident of Ticonderoga and non-graduate of our high school, Paul's contributions to our school community are most admirable. The Alumni Association is honored to present this award to Paul Ingrey, a true Friend of Ticonderoga High School!

To access the complete speeches honoring these 2011 award recipients, please visit our website.

# A Special Couple

The Alumni Association would like to recognize two great supporters of our mission. Not only have Paul and Mary-Lloyd Burroughs been generous annual donors from the beginning, but they are always taking advantage of opportunities to remind others to support our scholarship fund. At annual get-togethers with former classmates which they usually help organize, they encourage these friends to make donations to our fund and have even sent us group donations. In 2011 when Paul and Lloyd celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, they encouraged those attending their celebration not to give them a gift but rather to make a donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund in honor of their anniversary. Thank you, Paul and Lloyd for being such loyal supporters and congratulations for your special milestone, 50 years of marriage!



## Class of 2011 Shares \$15,000

Forty college-bound members of the Class of 2011 are eligible to receive Alumni Scholarship Awards totaling \$15,000. The awards ranged from \$436 to \$242, with an average award of \$375. The awards are based on a student's grade point average, attendance, behavior, extra-curricular activities, and community service during four year's of high school. Families can earn additional points for their students by attending parent conferences, Open House, and financial aid workshops. All seniors who plan to attend college or join the military are eligible to apply for the awards. The Scholarship Awards are paid to the students upon successful completion of their first semester of college or technical school.

Because of the Alumni Association's affiliation with Dollars for Scholars, six members of the class are eligible to receive additional awards totaling \$2,305 by attending colleges which agree to match the Scholarship Award.

Since beginning the Scholarship Award program in 2006, the Alumni Association has made over \$78,000 available to graduates of Ticonderoga High School.

# Superintendent's Perspective

On June 23 the Class of 2012 will be graduating from Ticonderoga High School. If you have not been to the ceremony recently it is quite impressive. The ceremony is all about the students, and in between the salutatory and valedictory speeches, we present the scholarships and awards. This is typically the longest part of the ceremony as we now have approximately 77 different awards totaling \$100,000.

The award that has eclipsed all others in both number and amount is the Ticonderoga Alumni Scholarship. Over the past six years I have had the privilege of presenting this award to our graduates and have seen a steady growth in student participation, as well as dramatic increases in the size of the award. Currently, the funds represent 10 percent of all the awards given, and considering it is only one of the 77 prizes, it by far has the greatest impact on students.

I think it is important, however, that the impact this award has is far more than financial. This scholarship was developed as a means to encourage students to consider more options as they prepare for life after high school. The Alumni Association worked with representatives from a national coalition of schools, College for Every Student (CFES), to find a way to increase community involvement to help students "Take One More Step." It is unique in that every student considering post-secondary study is eligible and can access the funds. It factors in elements besides academic achievement to promote development of other skills necessary for success in life.

There is no question that this program has played a role in the increase in post-secondary interest and enrollment trend over the past decade. Currently 80 percent of our students are heading to four-year, two-year, and specialized programs. In addition, students have broadened the range and scope of the schools they are applying. The Alumni Scholarship is now a key component of our goal to increase opportunities for our youth.

The other unique thing about this program is that Ticonderoga is the only district this size that supports its students in this manner. There are much smaller schools that have similar programs, but not to the extent of this community. As superintendent, I am extremely proud to work and live in a community that supports such a great opportunity. I think it is important to know that students are touched and appreciate the support. It is part of what makes every day "A Great Day to be a Sentinel!"

John C. McDonald, Jr.

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## Marine Academy

*Continued from Page 1*

a real need for well-trained employees. And it makes sense. Ticonderoga is the only community with free access to both Lake George and Lake Champlain." With a lack of marine technicians in eastern New York, area marina owners are also most enthusiastic about the program and its potential graduates.

There will also be a benefit for Ticonderoga Central School District. With the Academy housed at the high school, revenues will be gained from the use of space by the BOCES program.



## Ti Athletes Excel

For the first time in school history, Sentinel soccer, football, and boys cross country teams have earned state scholar-athlete awards in the same season.

The girls cross-country team would also have been recognized but did not have enough runners. These Scholar-Athlete awards are given by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association to teams statewide whose members manage a 90 or better academic average during the season.

This fall's Sentinel football team won the Section VII Class D Championship and advanced to the state tournament. The cross-country teams qualified seven runners for the state championship meet. The soccer team gave eventual state champion Chazy its toughest game of the season, dropping a 1-0 decision. Excellent work on and off the field, Athletes!

## Hall of Fame Awards

At the 2011 Homecoming Weekend, four more THS alumni were inducted into the Ticonderoga Sports Booster Club Hall of Fame. Inductees were Alex Clarke '96, Dan Dorsett '91, Nafeesa Madyum-Martin '96, and Mark McIntyre '83. Inductees were honored at an awards ceremony dinner and recognized again during halftime of the homecoming football game.

More information on the inductees is available in the September 23, 2011 edition of the *Times of Ti*.

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

Joyce Gallant Cooper '59, President  
Sally (Wickes) Hayes '58, Vice President  
Sharon (Vilardo) Maneri '60, Secretary  
Anne (Van Hoesen) Charboneau '83, Treasurer  
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Michelle (Clark) Hood '90  
Sue (Roark) Liddell '63  
Charles (Chuck) Moore '68  
Jay Wells '98  
John McDonald Jr. '84, Ex-Officio Member

# Another Great Golf Tournament

After a 43-day rain delay, a field of 81 players finally heard the opening horn on Sunday, September 11 for the annual Ticonderoga Alumni Golf Tournament.

Although torrential rains left the course flooded on the original tournament date, this day was beautiful and the course played well. Sally, Mickey, and Jamie Hayes once again planned a fun-filled day of good play, laughs, and challenges.

On a day that saw 108 birdies and three eagles, Mark Karkoski won the Men's Long Drive, Pat Trudeau the Women's Long Drive, and Vic LaVallee the Senior's Long Drive.

This year's tournament will be held Saturday July 28. We're trying something new with an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start. Non-golfers and family members can enjoy the Ticonderoga downtown Streetfest scheduled from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Make it a weekend and come to our annual awards ceremony Friday from 5-7 p.m. More details will be available on our website [www.ticonderogaalumni.org](http://www.ticonderogaalumni.org).

Whatever you do, please arrange for a rain-free weekend. After 2011, we deserve it!



## Class Reunion Donations

We would also like to thank those reunion organizers who take the time at their reunions to remind former classmates of the Association's mission. Several classes have not only taken the time to check with us and inform us of reunion plans but also have encouraged classmates to make scholarship donations, resulting in generous class donations. This includes not only Paul Burroughs' Class of 1955, but also the Classes of 1941, 1951, 1957, 1960, 1969, 1977, 1987, 1991, and 1995. Several of these classes have made more than one donation. A special thank you also goes to two classes who made reunion donations in 2011: the classes of 1971 and 1981. Thanks to the generosity of all the above reunion classes, a total of \$5,980 has been deposited in the Ticonderoga Alumni Scholarship Fund! This amount includes \$2,928.28 from the Class of 1951. At their reunion they decided to turn over the balance of their class scholarship fund to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

## Great photos!

Thanks to teacher Maria Bagneschi, Times of Ti photographer Nancy Frasier, Dick Nadeau and Peggy Lamb, and Sharon Maneri, we have the photos you see in this newsletter. Thanks also to Fred Herbst for allowing us to use excerpts from his *Times of Ti* articles in this edition.

# Thank You 2011 Donors!

**Sentinel Honor Circle  
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## **2011 Donations**

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Every attempt has been made to correctly list our donors. Please contact Joyce Cooper (518 585-2640) should there be an error.

## Memorial Donations

In Memory of Kim and Michelle Arthur

*Dick & Betty Ann Arthur*

In Memory of Francis and Norma Barber, Glennis & Aletta Barber, Jennifer Ann Barber, Norman and Pearl Nadeau

*Keith Barber*

In Memory of JoAnn Barron

*Laura Barron Wright & Mark Wright*

In Memory of Alberta and Richard Bartlett

*John and Joanne Bartlett*

In Memory of Ray C. Beers, DDS, Dr. William and Helen Beers Vilardo

*Charles and Sharon Maneri*

In Memory of Evelyn Burleigh

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In Memory of John S. and H. Gordon Burleigh IV

*Virginia La Pointe*

In Memory of Alma E. Bush

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In Memory of David and George Burroughs

*Paul and Mary Lloyd Burroughs*

In Memory of Melvin Charboneau

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In Memory of Albert Contois and Jeanette Poulos Spinelli

*Claire Alfano*

In Memory of Duane Crammond

*Ron and Claire Moore*

In Memory of T.C. Cronin and J. P. Gunning

*Michael J. Gunning*

In Memory of Deceased Members Class of 1950

*Kenneth F. Smith*

Class of 1957

*Gerald Crammond*

Class of 1976

*Mary Williams*

In Memory of Robert W. and Anita Dedrick

*Robert C. and Annette Dedrick*

In Memory of Clarence (Butch) and Louis (Bud) Denno, Jr.

*Grace Denno Armstrong*

In Memory of Joe Dreimiller

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In Memory of John C. Dreimiller, Sr.

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In Memory of Edward La Rock

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In Memory of James L. Lonergan and Lawrence B. Lonergan

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*Andrea Gould & Charles Barasch*

*Kevin and Jane Kuhl*

*Robert & Sally Searles*

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In Memory of Judy and Jim McCormick

*Fran Carpenter*

In Memory of Evelyn Mischenko and Stanley Varmette

*Patricia Dziuba*

In Memory of Russell Moore

*Edward Moore*

In Memory of A. T. Morette

*His Loving Sister Annie*

In Memory of Mary Gail Russell

*Andy and Julianne Russell*

*Deborah and John Breitenbach*

In Memory of Jeffrey Francis Shaw

*Elliott and Peg Shaw*

*Donna Shaw Van Wirt*

In Memory of Bill Sola

*Chuck and Holly Moore*

In Memory of Carlton Stacy

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In Memory of Susan Bernadine Stanley

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## Honorary Gifts

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*Abigail Breiseth*

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of Paul and Mary-Lloyd Burroughs

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*Linda & Ray Mury*

*Richard Nadeau*

*Erwin & Doris Wills*

In Honor of :

Class of 1946

*Antoinette M. O'Bryan*

Class of 1960

*David Ferguson*

Class of 1981

*Patricia (Trudeau) Pfeil*

*Laura Barron and Mark Wright*

## High School Student Youth Governor



Every year the Alumni Association is impressed with the achievements of Ticonderoga High School students. The past year was no exception. Senior Paige Hughes was elected New York State Youth Governor by the more than 600 students attending the March 2011 Youth and Government Conference in Albany. She is the second youth governor from THS in the past 15 years. To achieve this post she followed the election process similar to that of state governors.

Paige has been active in Youth and Government since eighth grade. During this time she was selected as a Conference on National Affairs delegate, member of the Governor's Cabinet, bill sponsor, and press secretary. She also has been involved in many other activities at the high school and is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Voice, and the College for Every Student mentoring program.

Youth and Government is a YMCA program developed to help students experience the process of government and has been in existence for 76 years. Ti's program is a school club, a Silver Bay YMCA sponsored activity, and meets at the school with a school adviser. It is also part of a state district hub coordinated by the District Coordinator at Silver Bay.

As adviser Danielle Hughes has noted, "For many of Ticonderoga's Youth and Government members, participation in the yearly Albany conference in the legislative chambers of the New York State Capitol Building has been an experience that often ranks as one of the highlights of their high school careers." The YMCA is to be commended for this program and Paige for her accomplishments.

## Hawaiian Trip

Five Ticonderoga Middle School students had a special experience last February. They spent their winter break in Hawaii as part of the College for Every Student exchange program! Their visit was followed by a visit to Ticonderoga by Hawaiian CFES students. Ticonderoga students were selected on the basis of an essay written by each student discussing what they hoped to learn through such a visit.

Upon their return the students enthusiastically shared their experiences regarding the culture, food, diversity, tropical environment, and history of Hawaii. They especially enjoyed the hospitality of their Hawaiian hosts and the Dole Middle School community.



## THS Science Teacher Honored

Ticonderoga Alumni know there have been many outstanding teachers at Ticonderoga High School over the years. It is no surprise a THS teacher has been honored by an outside organization for the second year in a row. Paul Jebb, who teaches chemistry and physics, has been named a 2011 Educator of Excellence by the New York State English Council for inspiring his students and colleagues. He was nominated for this award by students Brandon Russell and Nate Lenhart, Counselor Kristen Murphy, and Principal Mike Graney. Lenhart noted, "He never gives us an answer, but he always gives us a way to find the answer."



A native Canadian, Paul has taught at THS for 11 years. His focus is hands-on learning. He is also very involved in the school's College for Every Student program, Bridge Builders teams along with the related Kiwanis Bridge Building Contest, and school improvement initiatives. Paul has also chaired the Building Leadership Team and the Science Department.

"Paul has a tremendous work ethic and passion for teaching and his students," said Graney. "He's normally the last person in the building every day. He's an inspiration to his colleagues. We're very proud of him." So is your Alumni Association!

## Ti Middle School Recognized

For the second consecutive year, the Ticonderoga Middle School was chosen as a School of Distinction by College for Every Student (CFES.)

CFES is a nation-wide, non-profit organization whose mission is to help underserved youth gain access to and achieve success in post-secondary education. CFES schools target 50-100 students, known as Scholars, and provide them with mentoring, leadership training, and college awareness and success activities. Currently, CFES serves over 25,000 students in 150 schools across the United States.

To achieve the School of Distinction recognition, CFES schools must not only provide intensive mentoring, leadership, and college awareness programs, but must also create a "college ready" culture throughout their whole school and develop activities that other schools can use as a model. Each candidate school is required to submit a portfolio that documents the school's activities. In the 2010-11 school year, only 21 schools were designated as Schools of Distinction.

The School of Distinction Selection Committee was impressed by Ti Middle School's mentoring program, which uses community members, students, and athletes from Middlebury and Castleton colleges, and the student exchange between Ticonderoga and Dole Middle School in Hawaii.