Not since 1987 (with Principal Peter Liebman) and 1984 (with Principal Charles Carpenter) has Sayville High School held an indoor commencement. Yet, the Class of 2006 adapted well to the change in their Graduation Ceremony necessitated by the torrential downpour of a hovering tropical storm.

While the athletic field succumbed to drenching rain, the High School Gym had been set up with rows of chairs for the graduates, administrators, and alumni. Large fans at the far corners whirled the humid air for some relief. Guests holding tickets filled the bleachers and back seats, and thanks to the quick work of district technology personnel, video cables provided a live feed of the ceremony into the cafeteria and auditorium for audience overflow.

Missing this year from the ceremony, due to limited seating, the Sayville High School Band was heard only in a prerecorded rendition of *Pomp and Circumstance* to which the Class of 2006 marched ceremoniously into the gym. As they processed to their seats, the gym resounded with the enthusiastic uproar of welcoming cheers. A small parade of Alumni, bearing flags of their graduation years, followed in procession.

Despite the inconveniences of climate, once the program was underway the Commencement Exercises followed tradition. The National Anthem, sung in perfect *a cappella* harmony by High School Jazz Choir members Gillian Bialer, Lauren Bilich, Michael Cashman, Katherine Donals, Angela Geraci, Elizabeth Green, Jeffrey Manno, Kara Mason, Lisa McNulty, James O’Connor, Carolyn Ruggiero, and David Schnurman, opened the ceremony.

**Alumni Walk** at Commencement


**Climate of Change**

*for the Class of 2006*

Held in June, the Sayville Chamber of Commerce Italian-American Festival, organized by Pamela Raymond (left in photo), transformed Downtown Sayville with Italian colors and lively entertainment.

During the opening ceremonies of the festival, local Italian-Americans who have contributed greatly to the Sayville Community were honored with citations.

Sayville School District had four such honorees: (l-r) Coach Tony Gamboli, Valedictorian Daniel Capurso, Salutatorian Amanda Asaro, and Schools Superintendent Dr. Rosemary F. (Naccarato) Jones. Also in photo, Legislator Bill Lindsay who participated in the ceremony.

**Commencement Coverage continued on page 2**
In her address, Class of 2006 Salutatorian Amanda Asaro contemplated the meaning of failure. She recalled a life lesson in which she and her friends attempted skimboarding without success. “Being athletes, we had expected to succeed, believing that this task would be nothing more than a test of our agility, balance, and dexterity. We were wrong.” Instead, they had to admire a pair of five-year-old boys, possessing a “persistent fire in their eyes, an absence of any doubt in their hearts, and everything but fear in their souls” who succeeded where she and her friends failed.

Amanda shared with her classmates the realization that fear—of pain and failure—was a “roadblock to success.” Citing “famous failures” among renowned personalities, Amanda illustrated how Michael Jordan, Babe Ruth, Walt Disney, and Albert Einstein overcame their various failures through perseverance. Amanda felt that Jordan’s motto “I can accept failure, but I won’t accept not trying;” and then Ruth’s advice: “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game,” were the key lessons that each record-breaking athlete followed to earn “an eternal place in the world of professional sports.” Amanda recounted Walt Disney’s disappointment when he was fired by an editor for “lacking good ideas” who admonished him that “success was impossible,” and quoted Einstein, “in the middle of every challenge lies opportunity.”

Acknowledging that everyone at one time or other has failed, Amanda found consolation in a monologue by Dr. Meredith Grey from television’s Grey’s Anatomy: “even the biggest failure, even the worst, most intractable mistake, beats the hell out of never trying.” Amanda concluded with an upbeat thought. “So don’t be afraid, because even if you fail, you will have people to assist you as you rise once again…. God Bless! Class of 2006, Congratulations!”

Continued from cover

CLIMATE OF CHANGE

During a musical interlude, Principal Buderman introduced the extremely talented Jeffrey Manno, Class of 2006 Winner of the Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Vocal Music Award, who gave a moving vocal selection “For Good” (music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz). As Jeff finished the last refrain, “because I knew you, I have been changed for good,” his classmates rose to a standing ovation amid whistles, applause, and cheers.

At Commencement 2006: (l-r) Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte, Schools Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones, and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Geraldine Sullivan Keck

(At Commencement 2006)
Valedictorian: “Seemingly Insignificant Moments”

Described by Principal Buderman as “a young man who achieved Sayville’s highest honors, a National Merit Commended Student, an Intel Semifinalist, and outstanding individual in every regard,” Daniel Capurso, Valedictorian for the Class of 2006, addressed the assembly.

Although soft-spoken, Dan’s words were both choice and powerful. Reciting the dichotomy that is chaos theory: “First, that complex systems have an underlying order. Second, the reverse of that—that simple systems can produce complex behavior.” Chaos theory holds true primarily because little ‘differences become amplified’ over time.” Dan quickly smiled, “And to everyone who is now silently cursing me out, please do not worry—I promise I will not be talking about science.” After his classmates’ chuckles subsided, Dan continued. “However, what I would like to talk about is how this theory applies to life.”

Focusing on the “Seemingly Insignificant Moments,” (the title of his address), Dan reflected on the diversity among his fellow graduates and how their individuality developed. “For the most part, it is not what people consider the ‘life-changing’ experiences,” Dan observed. “We live in a society that exalts these momentous occasions—the birthdays, the weddings, the graduations—yet they serve little or no role in forging our individuality.” He explained that these milestones provide us with new titles, but are not the true source of individuality. Rather, Dan proposed, “The diversity that we see today is the result of how we have lived our lives in the seemingly insignificant moments.”

Dan admitted it may sound a “bit unorthodox” to say that long-term goals may not matter as much, especially if such ambitions are linked to gaining great titles. “In becoming consumed with what they are and want to be, they forget to discover who they are. Often people ask me if I am proud of what I have accomplished so far in my life, and the truth is that I am not. There is only one thing I am proud of now, and that is only one thing that I will ever be proud of—and that is who I am, not what I am or have done.” By encouraging his fellow graduates to embrace such self-discovery, Dan assured them “everything else falls into place.”

In her greeting, Sayville Superintendent Dr. Rosemary F. Jones recognized the Sayville Alumni, who “will always be part of Sayville, even after 50 years!” Additionally, Dr. Jones expressed gratitude to the Sayville faculty and staff for their dedication, caring, and wisdom, as well as to Sayville parents, families, and community members for their love, support, and concern.

Turning to the students Dr. Jones granted “that being a high school student in these times is not easy. You have been asked to do more than any previous graduating class…But you did it!” she joyfully proclaimed, enumerating many of the skills they had learned in the process: making/picking friends that could help each of them become a better person; about give

Superintendent: “Dream...think...create!”

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and take in keeping those friends; and how to negotiate marks, teachers, and parents.

Dr. Jones was impressed with the Class. As a unit, they had raised money for worthy causes and awareness for victims of Darfur, Katrina, and the tsunami. She appreciated their excellence in music, art, and theatre and commended their award-winning accomplishments in academics, the arts, and athletics. Referring to Tom Friedman’s book The World is Flat, Dr. Jones encouraged the Class to continue these important lessons in a world of challenge. America’s young people must utilize their greatest ability—to dream and create and devise the most innovative ideas. “This is what makes us special and successful. I want you to take time to dream and think of all that is possible. That is what I hope we instilled in you. Dream about the things you love to do. Think about where those dreams may take you. Picture it and then go after it.”

Suggesting the graduates get out of the comfort zone, she urged them to make this commencement a true beginning. Dr. Jones especially recognized the four students from the Class (Eric Hasselriis, Christopher Morrissey, Janice McLean, and Robert Spalma) who have chosen to begin the next phase of their lives by serving their country in the military.

In closing her address, Dr. Jones reminded the students, “sometimes you will get sidetracked or make a mistake. You will win some, you will lose some, and some will get rained out, but you have to suit up for them all. Trust in your good judgment, and combine it with the wisdom of your family and friends. You are ready now to go out there and make your parents proud; make us all proud. Do good and do well. Good luck, and God bless you all!”

PAGE THREE
“A formula for happiness” Continued from page 3
Board of Education President Kevin Spelman discussed how two worthy goals (to live a happy life and to leave the world a better place) are actually connected in a formula for happiness. “Psychologists refer to this relationship as The Feel-Good — Do-Good Phenomenon. Happiness (feeling good) leads to doing good (leaving the world a better place).”

Sharing a brief personal story, Mr. Spelman spoke about two people who influenced him when he was a High School student. The first was a well-respected educator, social studies teacher, track/soccer coach, and family man, Mr. DePue, and the second was a fellow track team member named Henry York. As seniors, “Henry and I were both nominated for the Kenny Shea Award—an award given to an individual who was an outstanding student, athlete, and citizen.”

Coach DePue couldn’t decide between the two, “so he honored both of us. Shortly after receiving that Kenny Shea Award, I was off to Villanova University, and Henry was off to Vietnam. Unfortunately, Henry never made it back. I remember the day very clearly when I heard the news about my classmate Henry. I had a new appreciation for the opportunities that waited for me—as they do you—those opportunities to be a husband, a father, Little League Coach, a Soccer Coach, a school board member. You see, Mr. DePue was my hero and my idol; Henry was my inspiration.”

Mr. Spelman summed up his thoughts. “I’d like to take this opportunity to recommend someone to all of you who should be your hero and also your inspiration. Someone I have known for twenty years: Mr. James Lawlor. Mr. Lawlor, when he was a teacher here at Sayville for many years, clearly led a happy life and clearly left the world a much better place. My wish to you is to live your life as he did. Feel good and do good! Congratulations.”

During the ceremonies, Principal Joseph Buderman welcomed those Sayville Alumni who participated in the Sayville Alumni Walk and acknowledged a special member of the Class of 2006, Rachel Philips, who joined the Sayville educational community in the fall as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Enumerating (see below) the statistics of class accomplishments with a “great deal of pride and satisfaction,” Mr. Buderman also announced the Community Scholarship winners.

After the Class of 2006 was presented individually with their Diplomas, Class President Jennifer Hoek offered the traditional Response.

Described by Mr. Buderman as a “remarkable role model, tremendous athlete, a very special person, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the student body,” Jen quoted from Dr. Seuss’ well-known book Oh the Places You’ll Go. Comparing the Homecoming floats from year to year, Jen traced the pattern of growth for the class as well. The Freshmen “float left something to be desired…” Rather than “the Disney Castle and a fully bloomed tree, [it] turned out to be a shack with one window and a dying bush.” By Senior year, however, the unified, mature class built the winning Christmas in New York float, in the center: an eight-foot-high Christmas tree. “Our pathetic little dying bush had been nurtured and cared for, and grew into a beautiful tree.” The Class discovered, Jen noted, that for “everything we do in our day-to-day lives, there is a lesson to be learned.” With sights on Oheka Castle as the Senior prom location, they learned the power of belief. “We learned that we can do anything—even raise money to have our prom at a castle, to finish high school with style and class!”

“Members of the Class of 2006 have won significant honors both individually and collectively and have been tremendous representatives of our school.” These accomplishments include but are not limited to:

- The graduates met and/or exceeded the academic standards at Sayville High School: 96% of the students in the Class of 2006 will go on to further education and 90% have earned a Regents Diploma this year.
- At the 32nd Annual Scholastic Awards ceremony, Sayville administrators, faculty, and staff presented 189 awards to 100 deserving students. Gold or purple medallions worn by the graduates indicated these awards.
- So far, 63 students received academic or community scholarship awards that value well over 1.5 million dollars.
- Two of our students were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship foundation for academic excellence by achieving National Merit Scholarship Status: Daniel Capurso and Daniel Hahn. Additionally, Dan Hahn was named a National Merit Finalist.
- Art students earned numerous awards and received great recognition at such events as the BAFFA High School Student Invitational Art Exhibit as well as at the Congressional District Art Competition.
- Our Music Department held many outstanding concerts and our Music students were recognized both locally and nationally with numerous high-ranking awards. Of special note this year, the Wind Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Peter DeSalvo reached the Level 6 (Gold) Rating with Distinction at the New York State Festival; while our Jazz Program won a first-place award, best overall ensemble award, and two soloist awards at the New Jersey Music Festival. In addition the Music Department worked closely with Sayville Theatre Arts and successfully produced this year’s outstanding musical Grease.
- In addition to the Musical, our Theatre Arts students performed Fall One-Act Plays, Winter Backstage Theatre Plays, and Seniors directed or wrote the May One-Act Plays again this year.
- In the arena of Interscholastic Athletics, Sayville had a terrific 25 of our 26 varsity teams participate in postseason competitions; 20 out of 25 teams were selected for Scholar-Athlete Team awards; Sayville won individual and team championships in 15 sports; earned County and Long Island Championship titles; five additional teams reached County titles; and 14 won League and/or Division championships—no other school in Suffolk County can match that record.
- High School Service organizations provided volunteers, support, and raised money for The Special Olympics, the American Heart Association, the Lupus Foundation, The Salvation Army, the American Cancer Society; The March of Dimes, Relay for Life, Earth Day, The 4th Annual March to the Sea to Fight Leukemia, The Keith Nintzel SR Memorial Event, and raised thousands of dollars and tons of food, clothing, and toys for the less fortunate in our local Long Island area.
As the ceremony drew to a close, Mr. Buderman named the staff members retiring this year and choked back strong emotions as he mentioned the loss of a “remarkable educator, terrific coach, and dear friend, Mr. James Lawlor who touched our lives in many ways.” After God Bless America was sung by seniors from the Jazz Choir, Mr. Buderman thanked the class officers and class advisors, before congratulating and complimenting the Class of 2006 for their commitment to excellence in every arena: scholarship, service, athletics, music, the arts, and in the theatre. “I can honestly say that the Class of 2006 has been a tremendous class to work with in every regard, and I encourage you to continue to be as energetic and hardworking in your future.” With the words “Congratulations to the Class of 2006!” gold and purple caps vaulted to the gym ceiling in a torrent of joyous exuberance.
Each elementary school shared the same venue—the spacious auditorium in the former Junior High (and High School) on Greene Avenue—for their Moving-Up ceremonies. Held on different days and times, Cherry, Lincoln, and Sunrise created their own distinctive programs that included music, guest speakers, the Principal’s Address, recognition to outstanding students (see lists below), sentimental goodbyes to retirees, nostalgic essays or slide presentations about their learning experiences through the years, and a PTA-sponsored reception enjoyed by all the students and their guests.

Mixing smiles with tears, students and their families enjoyed the memorable send-off at each ceremony.

The following is a list of Fifth-grade 2005-2006 Presidential Academic and Physical Fitness Award Winners...

**CHERRY AVE PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC FITNESS AWARD WINNERS**
(GOLD)
- Amanda Bonkoski
- Thomas Bonney
- Ana Corso
- Amanda Eremita
- Christopher Greco
- Peter Hayes
- Casey Lodol
- William Lutcha
- Taylor Mills
- Meagan Mulry
- Denise Natoli
- Lorelei Okl
- Katie Oskey
- Deborah Rico
- Liana Rotunno
- Jacqueline Ryder
- Michael Sugarman
- Shane Trauthwein

(GOLD)
- Andrew Wheaton
- Abigail Winiecki
- Jacqueline Coffey
- Michelle Coffey
- Justin DeRuiter
- Claire Luceri
- Robert McCauley
- Jessica Poreta
- Amber Rosado
- Thomas Rouch
- Melanie Trinkwald
- Patrick Waters
- Christopher Wheaton
- Nicole Zoller

(GOLD)
- Amanda Bonkoski
- Thomas Bonney
- Anna Corso
- Amanda Eremita
- Christopher Greco
- Peter Hayes
- Casey Lodol
- Meagan Mulry
- Lorelei Okl
- Katie Oskey
- Deborah Rico
- Liana Rotunno
- Jacqueline Ryder
- Michael Sugarman
- Shane Trauthwein

**(GOLD)**
- Amanda Bonkoski
- Thomas Bonney
- Anna Corso
- Amanda Eremita
- Christopher Greco
- Peter Hayes
- Casey Lodol
- Meagan Mulry
- Lorelei Okl
- Katie Oskey
- Deborah Rico
- Liana Rotunno
- Jacqueline Ryder
- Michael Sugarman
- Shane Trauthwein

**(SILVER)**
- Samantha Bishop
- Mackenzie Cannini
- Jason Chivvis
- Nicholas Chuisano
- Amy Dean
- Daniel Fitzpatrick
- Pamela Haas
- Madison Hoorn

**LINCOLN AVE PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC FITNESS AWARD WINNERS**
(GOLD)
- Eric Leigh
- Rebecca Monastero
- Conor Nordland
- Gina Palumbo
- Nicole Sala
- Lucas Velle
- Jack Weisheit
- Marissa Whitby

(SILVER)
- Christopher Carroll
- Harrison Cassetta
- Josephine Colon
- Donald DeKenipp

**(SILVER)**
- Christopher Carroll
- Harrison Cassetta
- Josephine Colon
- Donald DeKenipp

**SUFFOLK ZONE WINNERS**
- Samantha Bishop
- Mackenzie Cannini
- Jason Chivvis
- Nicholas Chuisano
- Amy Dean
- Daniel Fitzpatrick
- Pamela Haas
- Madison Hoorn

**COMPTROLLER AWARD**
- Amanda Bonkoski
- Samantha Bishop
- Mackenzie Cannini
- Jason Chivvis
- Nicholas Chuisano
- Amy Dean
- Daniel Fitzpatrick
- Pamela Haas
- Madison Hoorn

**KEMPER AWARD**
- Lucy DeStefano
- Patrick Waters
- Meagan Mulry
- Dustin Routh
- Melanie Trinkwald
- Taylor Mills
- Christopher Wheaton

**ELLIO TO SPITZER TRIPLE CCC**
- Shannon Lynch
- Christopher Greco

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Elementary Moments

Lincoln Avenue’s Moving-Up ceremony got underway after a delayed start as a result of a multiple-car collision on Sunrise Highway which caused significant traffic tie-ups throughout Sayville. Lincoln’s enjoyable program soon made the traffic setbacks an old memory.

Retiring faculty from Lincoln Avenue (photo above: Ellen Wels, Sandra Schmidt, and Richard Lewin) and Sunrise (photo below: (l-r): Elaine Van Cura [BACK ROW-SECOND FROM END] and Mary Anselmo [BACK ROW-FAR RIGHT] with students) were honored at each of the ceremonies.

(photo right) Sunrise Drive Fifth-graders said goodbye to their elementary school days before a packed audience of relatives and friends.

The following is a list of Fifth-grade 2005-2006 Presidential Academic and Physical Fitness Award Winners...

**SUNRISE DRIVE**

**PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC FITNESS AWARD WINNERS (GOLD)**
- Adam Blandeburgo
- Curran Boyce
- Alexandra Butler
- Olivia Coley-Bishop
- Caroline DeLuca
- Katherine Farrell
- Emily Fox
- James Giattino
- Richard Hanley
- Thomas Havranek
- Emma Henderson
- Matthew Iovino
- Samantha Jarvis
- Kerry Keenan
- Rebecca Laterza
- Matthew Leshinger
- Sam Massenkell
- Steven Smith
- Matthew Stephan
- Rachael Wachter
- Courtney Takats
- Katherine VanDorn
- Travis Villez

**PRESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD WINNERS**

- **(Third Year)**
  - Emily Sellitti

- **(Second Year)**
  - Bridget Ali
  - Dylan Bonacore
  - Caroline DeLuca
  - Robert Hammerle
  - Kieron Harrison
  - Emma Henderson
  - Jillian Jaworowski
  - Liam Lankowitz
  - Matt Leshinger
  - Connor Mulry
  - Kyle Murray
  - Kyle Reisert
  - Samantha Schenkel
  - Rachael Wachter

- **(First Year)**
  - Alexandra Butler
  - Brandon Capogna
  - Jackie Christensen
  - Veronica Clark
  - Tyler Collins
  - Steven Erlanger
  - Dan Farinella
  - Victor Figliuolo
  - Jimmy Giattino
  - Tara Imbrenda
  - Elizabeth Koehler
  - Katie Mulry
  - Connor O’Neil
  - Cottie Winfield

- **COMPTROLLER AWARD**
  - Kerry Keenan in recognition of academic excellence, leadership and civic commitment.

- **ELLiot SPitZER TripLe CCC**
  - Dylan Bonacore and Samantha Schenkel for character, courage and commitment

- **SUFFOLK ZONE WINNERS**
  - Dylan Bonacore and Samantha Schenkel
Moving-Up at the Middle School

Reminding the Middle School students of the good times (Boston Trip, Frost Valley), Dr. Schartner praised the Eighth-grade students for their tremendous accomplishments in arts, academics, and athletics and enumerated statistics (see below).

As in the previous year, Principal Dr. Walter Schartner commented on things that had NOT changed since the students’ birth year of 1992. “George Bush was President; the U.S. was at war with Iraq.” He recalled that Barney was popular then, as well as the movies Aladdin and Silence of the Lambs. Dr. Schartner also advised the parents that “your children need you more in different ways at the High School. Now is not an easy time to be a parent.” He expressed the growing concerns about communication with their teens.

Eighth-grade Class Statistics

• There were many award-winning Artists
• There were many award-winning Musicians
• Among MS students there were Varsity & JV Athletes
• MS Athletic teams won Sportsmanship awards

8th Grade Awards 2005-2006 Departmental Awards

ENGLISH • Jennifer Clinton
SOCIAL STUDIES • Conrad Volle
MATHEMATICS • Julie MacDonell
LIFE SCIENCE • Julia Marino
PHYSICAL EDUCATION (MEN) • Raymond Waters
PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BOYS) • Shannon Fay
BAND • Keelan Muscara
ORCHESTRA • Giovanna Ruggiero
CHORUS • Alexis Minogue
ART • Anthony Argentina
SPANISH • Kristin Chandler
FRENCH • Douglas Kenny

The 8th Grade 2005-2006 Presidential Awards

Students who maintained a 90+ average for 11 marking periods