

Projects are done for the 2008 seniors

By **Michaela Kennedy**

Senior projects, the often-dreaded final phase of studies before high school graduation, are handed in at North Kingstown High School. Students from Jamestown who hope to graduate from North Kingstown High School in June feel a big weight lifted off their shoulders now that most of the year's work is done.

Four graduating islanders look back on their school year and reflect on their accomplishments.

"I've opened a new door for myself," said Sydney Ferguson about the fashion line she produced as her project. Ferguson's creation bridged over to a fashion event organized by another senior. She collaborated with the other student, who booked Ferguson as one of the fashion designers for the show. Ferguson admits that she never planned to make fashion a career, but enjoys it as an interesting hobby. She plans to attend Wheaton College in the fall.

Alexa Furtado, who will study communications at the University of Rhode Island, focused her project on how the media has caused health problems, related to fostering certain body images. "I thought it was an important topic," Furtado said, explaining how youth, especially young women, were affected by eating disorders. Neverthe-

less, Furtado found the 12 books she read for her topic repeated the same information and the research began to drag. "I even read parenting books which told about what you can do if you have a child with an eating disorder," she said.

Their heads bobbed in unison when asked whether their research skills have improved.

"I liked the research," said Chris Clark. His topic about how to start a business on eBay led him to a step-by-step process towards making money. He has bought or sold items up to \$200 in value, and claims a \$500 net profit in the first two months of business.

"Their Web site gave me tips, ins and outs of the business." His research now includes finding things at garage sales that he can sell online. Clark plans to major in Environmental Studies at Temple University.

When asked about the oral presentations they were required to give, smiles went around the table. One girl tapped her chest imitating a beating heart, admittedly nervous about standing before a panel of judges with her research findings. They all agreed that, despite the "grueling process," they were not worried about the oral presentations. "I just want to get them over," Sam Andreozzi said.

The research is done, the proj-

ects are finished, and now all they have left is the presentations. "Senioritis would have set in much earlier if we didn't have these projects to do." Students around the table murmured in agreement, also admitting, "Senioritis has, indeed, set in." Smiles broadened.

The twelfth grade students showed more nerves about going on to college. "We don't know what to expect," Sam said. One morbid fear they laugh together about is whether research papers like the ones they just finished might be assigned every week in college. "We learned time management skills, which is what I'm going to need a lot of when I get to college."

Ferguson remembers complaints from her older sister that high school did not prepare her at all for college. But she knows the rigid graduation requirements demanded from the state were not adopted as regular practice at the time her sister graduated a few years ago. She exudes confidence in her ability to do college level studies.

Seniors will give their final presentations on May 21 to a panel of judges. If any adult would like to volunteer as a judge that morning, please contact Marianne Kirby, senior project coordinator, at marianne_kirby@nksd.net.

Renovated museum to be unveiled at open house

The Jamestown Historical Society is celebrating the successful completion of its year long \$500,000 Capital Campaign with an Open House at the newly-renovated Jamestown Museum and the new vault in the Jamestown Town Hall.

On Sunday, May 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., visitors have a chance to see the museum at 92 Narragansett Ave., directly across the street from the Town Hall, and then be guided through the basement of the Town Hall to the vault, where much of the work of maintaining the Society's collection is now performed.

A short ceremony to thank those who contributed to the campaign will take place at 6 p.m.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion will raise the American flag on the new flagpole for the first time. A plaque thanking the major donors for their

support will be on display, and Message to the Future cards for the time capsule will be available to those who have not yet written their thoughts and wishes to Jamestown residents of 2057.

Paul Brunelle, dressed in the Revolutionary War uniform of Major Blogett, the guardian spirit of the Society's 1776 Battery in Battery Park, will protect the visitors as they cross between the museum and the vault. Board and committee members will be on hand at both the museum and the vault to answer questions about the Society's activities and future plans.

"It's a joyful day," said Society president Rosemary Enright. "Anne Livingston and John Murphy – the co-chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee – did a wonderful job. They brought together a whole group of hard-working people to get this done."

"We're still accepting donations," she went on. "They'll go directly into the endowment. The next board will need the income to help keep everything up and to develop more historical programs."

The Jamestown Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, and sharing the island's history. Founded in 1912, the society maintains and operates the Jamestown Museum and three 18th-century historic sites: the Windmill, the Quaker Meetinghouse, and the 1776 Battery in Conanicut Battery Park, all open to the public.

The Historical Society is a valuable resource for students, educators, historians, and anyone interested in learning more about the area's rich heritage. Consider becoming a member today. To learn more, go to jamestownhistorical-society.org or call 423-0784.

Next Ophelia session features fashion design students

Students from the Rhode Island School of Design apparel program will share their stories, inspirations and fashion designs with girls and young women from Newport County at the next Ophelia Session.

The RISD students will have many of their fashion design drawings, design materials, and

finalized clothing products on hand for those in attendance to see first-hand what is involved when creating a fashion design and the apparel that goes along with it.

This event, which includes dinner, is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Castle Hill Inn & Resort.

This event is free and open

to all Newport County girls and young women between the ages of 11 and 18. To reserve a ticket or obtain further information about this event or the Child & Family Ophelia Programs, please contact Sharon Rust-Bottone at 848-4206 or srust-bottone@childandfamilyri.com.

Reservations are required.

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One "Tuff" Run

I write to share of my successful completion of the 12th Annual St. John, VI, "8 Tuff Miles" road race. The course is "tuff" –5 mile up to about 1,000 feet, and then 3 miles steeply down.

Thanks to Dr. Fadale's arthroscopy, Dr. Sullivan's orthotics, Don Levine's physical therapy regimen and Barbara Lundy's Jamestown Fitness Center to keep me fit, I not only finished the race in 1:33:38, 93rd of 339 women, but finished 3rd in my class of women 60-64.

The race has been a goal of mine for several years. Wonder what I'll come up with for next year's goal...

– Carol Craft - Jamestown, RI USA

Mon-Thurs: 5:30 am-8 pm • Friday: 5:30 am-7 pm • Sat-Sun: 7 am-3 pm
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