



photo: Tom Duggan

## ESPERANZA ACADEMY RAISES \$250K

Last month, Esperanza Academy for girls held an auction fundraiser at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover. According to Laurie Bottiger, the event raised more than \$250,000 from auctioning off items and collecting additional donations from sponsors to privately fund student tuition.

Esperanza Academy-School of Hope is a nativity-model, tuition-free middle school for girls that creates an enriched academic and social environment for fostering individual success and community commitment. The school focuses on economically disadvantaged girls in the fifth through eighth grades from Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Esperanza provides a quality education in the Episcopal tradition and welcomes girls of diverse faiths, races and cultures to our unique learning environment. Esperanza challenges each student to discover her full potential by

developing academic competence, social confidence, curiosity, integrity, and hope.

"The event was very successful," Bottiger said. "Our fundraising efforts have now made us eligible for a \$50,000 challenge grant, most of which will go towards paying capital improvements at the school. Esperanza Academy's capital improvements have cost \$1.6 million for building projects involving elevators, sprinkler systems, wireless technology and a giant facelift throughout the entire building.

The cost of sponsoring tuition for girls at Esperanza is about \$12,000 per year per student. Throughout the fundraising event at the Wyndham, several attendees offered to sponsor the entire cost of tuition for a single

student. Several other attendees pledged to donate partial tuition.

Esperanza has 42 girls currently enrolled with 21 students in the fifth grade and 21 in the sixth. "Most of our girls are Latinos, but we do have some students from Cambodia, the Congo and other countries," Bottiger said. We have a lottery-based admission here at Esperanza, so race is not a requirement.

Bottiger says that parents must donate two hours per week of minimum service to the school.

"Esperanza provides a religious component in the Episcopal tradition. We provide a moral and spiritual place for them to learn, but girls of all different faiths are welcome."

## GLTS Chooses Three as Students of the Month for October

ANDOVER — Greater Lawrence Technical School, Andover, has announced its Students of the Month for October. They are senior Kirssi Gonzalez and juniors Juan Delacruz and Raphael Noel. All three are residents of Lawrence.

The three students were recently honored at a luncheon in the school's restaurant, the Edward V. Coakley Four Winds.



Juan Delacruz, who majors in Office Technology at Greater Lawrence Tech, is a John and Abigail Adams scholarship recipient, as a

result of having passed grade 10 MCAS with an advanced in math and proficient in English. In Office Technology, he has achieved MOS certification (Microsoft Office Specialist) at the expert level in Word, at the core level in Excel and Access, and is beginning the process for Power Point.

An athlete as well as a scholar, Juan is a member of the Reggies cross-country team

that recently won the league title and the GLTS Extreme Sports Club. He has played basketball and outdoor track since grade 9 and was a member of the Reggies football team in freshman and sophomore years.

Teacher Jennifer Bertorelli nominated him based on his MCAS scores, plus his achievement as "an all-around good student."

Kirssi Gonzalez, an Allied Health major, intends to follow in her late grandmother's footsteps by becoming a doctor. She maintains a 3.5 average, is a member of the National Honor Society, co-captain of the tennis team and a former member of the Reggies volleyball team. This is the second time she has been named a student of the month.

As a SkillsUSA competitor, she was a member of the Community Service team that not only captured the state title but also won the national competition at the



SkillsUSA championships in Kansas City, Mo. two years in a row.

This past June the team scored the highest number of points, 480 out of 500, ever given in the Community Service category. The team presented the school's Community Service project, but Kirssi was also a tireless volunteer, first with the Ironstone Farm Horse Handlers program in 2004-05, and last year with the project to provide services to the Lazarus House shelter. She also won a silver medal in First Aid & CPR at a SkillsUSA district contest and hopes to compete again this year.

Kirssi participates in the school's Cooperative Education Program, working with young children on alternate weeks at Little Sprouts in Methuen.

Her guidance counselor, Kathy Clemente, who cited her achievement in all areas - academics, technical, and community service - nominated Kirssi.



Rafael Noel was attracted to both Greater Lawrence Technical School and the metal fabrication department "because I like to work with my hands and enjoy creating something of my own."

Rafael enjoys playing basketball with his friends and hopes to try out for the Reggies team this year. After school, he works part-time at Market Basket in North Andover. Following graduation, Rafael plans to go to college.

Teachers Jamie Qualter and Brendan Neilon nominated him. They cited his work ethic and his preparedness.

"He treats everyone with respect and represents Greater Lawrence Tech in a classy manner," Mr. Qualter noted. Mr. Neilon said that Rafael "comes to math class ready to work. He is not afraid to ask questions." Mr. Neilon added that he was "extremely proud" that Rafael passed both parts of the MCAS on his first attempt.

The Student of the Month program was begun ten years ago to familiarize the Greater Lawrence communities with the school's outstanding students and their achievements. Marilyn Fitzgerald administers the program.



**Dr. Kimberly Waters**  
Educational Consultant  
Discovery Toys

[www.discoverytoyslink.com/drkimwaters](http://www.discoverytoyslink.com/drkimwaters)

Call now for great educational toys for all ages!  
Ask how to get toys for free, it's easy!!!

cell: (603) 203-8434 email: drkimwaters@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Betty Tavares

I'm a  
member of  
Team Zingales



232 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844

Please see our ad on Page 23



## Advertising in The Valley Patriot Really Works!



Hi, I'm Dave Bider of Lifestyles Furniture, The Halloween Store, & Bider Music in Lawrence. We advertise in The Valley Patriot every month because we have seen first hand how effective it is to reach customers from Lowell to Haverhill and everywhere in between!

Please see our ads on pages 6, 9 and 14

## Congratulations RACHEL!



Congratulations to Rachel Porten at the Thomson School in North Andover for getting a perfect score on the Math portion of her 3rd grade MCAS Test!

# Tara Michael Baskets

[www.taramichaelbaskets.com](http://www.taramichaelbaskets.com)



## Order Your Gift Baskets for Christmas TODAY!

### Free Delivery in the Merrimack Valley

With orders over \$35

## WE WANT YOU! TO JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP



### FIRST CHOICE CREDIT UNION

**HAS EXPANDED ITS MEMBERSHIP AND YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN OUR FAMILY**

If you work or live within Essex County and you are employed for any of the following: Gas, Oil & Propane Companies, Electric Companies or Communication Companies, Or if you are a family member of anyone who is employed by these entities YOU are eligible join the credit union.

*"Family members" is defined as; spouses, children, siblings, brothers, sisters, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, stepchildren, stepbrothers, stepsisters, stepparents, sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws, mother-in-laws, father-in-laws, daughter-in-laws, son-in-laws, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and any person who maintains his or her principal residence in the same household with a member.*

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR GREAT LOW RATES BY CALLING**

**(978) 687-1105 EXT. 4259 OR 4298**

Hi, I'm Ervin Livingston  
I'm a member of  
**Team Zingales**

232 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844



Please see our ad on Page 23

**\*10% OFF**  
any entree

**\*10% OFF**  
any entree



### Come visit Sal's newest concept

Our new 300 seat authentic family Italian Restaurant offers cafeteria style luncheons and casual-elegant evening dining; with panoramic outdoor riverside seating available. Executive Chef Antonio Veneziano from the Amalfi Coast in Italy has created a menu that challenges any Italian Restaurant in New England.

*Function rooms available for parties of 10-400 with family style or buffet style meals.*

### Sal's Pizza and Italian Restaurant Conference and Function Facility

354 Merrimack Street, Lawrence, MA  
(978) 291-0220

Riverwalk Mills in Lawrence ...Exit 44 off Route 495

**10% off any entree, good only at Sal's Pizza and Italian Restaurant**

\*During dinner hours Sun-Sat 4 p.m.- close, not to be combined with other offers  
Expires November 30, 2006

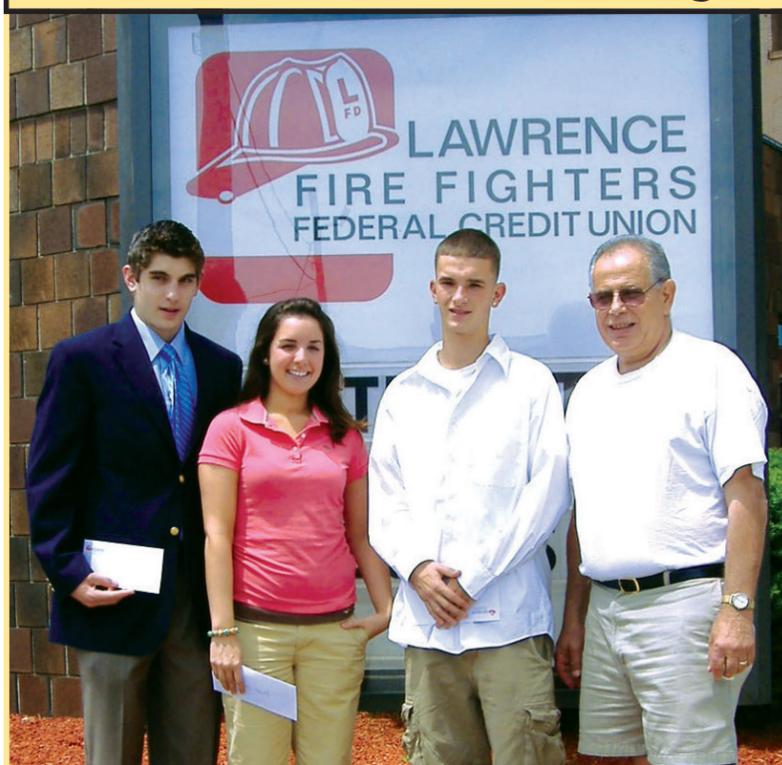
# Sal's Riverwalk Sponsors Wine Tasting Event



photo: Ted Tripp

Sal Lupoli with his wife Katie (left) and Melissa Duffy enjoy a variety of wines while Team Zingales of Remax in Methuen toasts Sal for sponsoring a successful Wine Tasting Event. With Joe Zingales (holding up glass) are: Betty Tavares, Karen Bramwell, Kathy Mamos, Steve Buco, Kathleen Mulligan, Katia Hashem, and Teresa Zingales.

## Lt. James Toye Scholarship Awarded



The winners of the Lt. James Toye Scholarship were awarded \$500.00 towards their college tuition. They are from left to right, Troy Rurak, Meaghan Murphy, Steven Giarrusso, David Solomon, President

### Credit Union Welcomes New Employees

**Alan L. Jenne CEO/Manager** - Alan joined the credit union as CEO/Manager in September 2006. He was most recently Vice President of Lending at Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union where he was responsible for Consumer Lending, Mortgage Lending, Business Lending, Collections, and Loan Servicing. Prior to that he was Senior Vice President, Director of Consumer Lending at First Essex Bank from 1993 to 2004. He started his banking career in 1976 at Arlington Trust Company where he was First Vice President of the Installment Finance Division. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University. He resides in Haverhill and has two children Jonathan and Christina.

**Johnathan G Hildreth, Administrative Officer/Assistant Manager** - Johnathan joined the credit union as Administrative Officer/Assistant Manager in October 2006. He was most recently Assistant Vice President of Consumer Lending at Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union where he was responsible for the operational direction for that department. Prior to that Johnathan was Vice President of Consumer Lending at First Essex Bank where he managed the loan reporting, financial analysis, systems, operation, and collections of consumer lending. Johnathan attended California State University, Northridge CA. He resides in Harvard MA with his wife Kim and their two children Nicholas and Sabrina.

**Glenna Elwell, Senior Collector** - Glenna joined the credit union in October 2006. She was most recently Senior Collector at Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union. Prior to that Glenna worked at WFS Financial and First Essex Bank where she was a Collection Supervisor. Glenna has over 30 years of automobile lending collection experience. She resides in Wakefield MA.

## YWCA Annual Halloween Party Benefit Breast Cancer



The Annual YWCA Halloween Party and costume contest was held last month to benefit breast cancer screening in Lawrence. To the left are the winners of the contest as voted on by "celebrity judges." Valley Patriot editor Tom Duggan (in Bruins shirt below) chose his own favorites in the bottom row.



## A Great time to Buy!

Joe Zingales

Contrary to popular belief, the real estate market is still very much alive. In fact, now is the best time for an individual to purchase a home or investment property. Property values have declined slightly over the past year. However, this decline has opened opportunities for buyers to purchase homes that a few years ago were out of their price range.

Also important is the Federal Reserve's decision to not increase interest rates since midyear. On November 2, interest rates on 30-year mortgages dropped to the lowest level in a month. Mortgage-giant Freddie Mac reported that 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages dropped to 6.31 percent. That was down from 6.40 percent the previous week and represented the lowest level since 30-year rates were at 6.30 percent four weeks ago.

This, along with comments the former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made a few weeks ago, has certainly stirred new activity in the market. As recently as May 18, the former Federal Reserve chairman put an exclamation point on the housing slowdown when he declared, "The boom is over." But now, the "worst may well be over," Greenspan was quoted as saying Oct. 7, after mortgage applications posted their biggest weekly gain since June 2005. A growing number of economists and analysts have come around to the ex-Fed chief's view. Some investors may see sunnier skies too, as homebuilding stocks such as Lennar, DR Horton, and Pulte Homes have rebounded since touching 52-week lows in July.

According to the latest reading on pending home sales published by the National Association of Realtors, home sales are expected to hold steady in the months ahead. This is due in large part to declining house values and lower interest rates, as well as a multitude of foreclosure properties.

Today's buyer has much more control than a few years ago. When the market was booming, buyers would be competing to place offers on new listings. In fact, a 3-bedroom colonial in a desired area would remain on the market for a day and in some cases a few hours. But today is much different. There's an abundance of inventory on the market for the buyer to choose from, thus causing the sellers to compete for the buyers.

Sellers are offering a wide variety of incentives as well. Incentives such as offering to pay closing costs (sometimes up to \$10,000), covering the costs of major renovations in the home and paying for a home warranty which warranties many of the major appliances and systems in the home, are amongst the many. Sellers are also allowing their homes to sell within 5-10% of list price and in some cases even less, giving today's buyer an even better opportunity to purchase that home that may have been out of reach a few months or years ago.

But if cheap is what you're looking for, then let me introduce you to the world of foreclosures. A foreclosure sale allows a buyer to purchase a property that in most cases is sold for less than assessed value. However, BUYER BEWARE! Many if not all of these properties are sold in AS-IS, WHERE-IS condition. What that means to the buyer is the bank will not make any representation of the property whatsoever. In fact, they typically require the buyer to sign an elaborate addendum to the purchase and sales. There's much more to the foreclosure process, but we will review that in next month's issue of The Valley Patriot.

Until next month, take advantage of the great house values and low interest rates.

*I'm Amalfis Sepulveda*



*I'm a member of Team Zingales*

232 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844

*Please see our ad on Page 23*

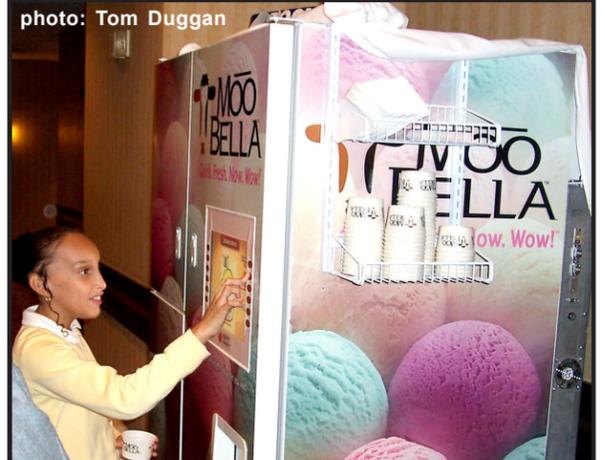
## MooBella, Fresh Ice Cream Made to Order!

When the staff of The Valley Patriot attended a fundraiser recently for Esperanza Academy, we came upon a new innovation from right here in Massachusetts: a vending machine that dispenses fresh, made-to-order ice cream from a company named MooBella.

MooBella President Bruce Ginsburg says that MooBella is not currently available to the general public, and he is still looking for investors to expand the business. The company has hundreds of prototype machines on college campuses and, Ginsburg says, so far it has been a big success.

"Students, alumni, teachers, and administrators on college campuses really seem to be enjoying our ice cream, and we are selling a lot of it," he said.

photo: Tom Duggan



**A Student from Esperanza Academy tries out MooBella's fresh, made to order, ice cream machine at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover.**

Continued on Page 27

## SAY 'NO' TO THE U.N. GLOBAL TAX

D.J. Deeb

The United Nations, as constructed after World War II, has been a failure for the most part. It is nothing more than a bloated government bureaucracy that incorporates the failed vision of global socialism. Currently, leaders of the United Nations are attempting to institute a global tax to force the "citizens of the world" to pay for this global menace.

The United States pays nearly 50 percent of the costs associated with the United Nations budget, but this is not good enough for the "global cop" agency that wants more revenue to pay for an international army and global [gun-grabbing] law-enforcement agencies. This is precisely what the one-world socialists envisioned when they created the United Nations in 1945. Let's not forget Alger Hiss, the Soviet communist spy who played the most instrumental role in the agency's founding.

Although there have been a number of proposals floating for decades to impose a global tax, the plan that has gained the most recent support in the U.N. has been a plan to impose a new tax on gasoline of up to 1%. This demonstrates just how out of touch these global fat cats are with reality. We are paying enough at the pumps. Besides the obvious problems associated with collecting this tax, this plan would undermine our national sovereignty and create another layer of bureaucracy that we do not need.

To paraphrase our first president, George Washington, government is at best a necessary evil. As such, government at all levels should be limited to doing only those essential functions that people cannot do themselves or the private sector cannot do better. The last thing we need is another layer of [global] government at the United Nations.

The United Nations has been largely ineffective at preventing or stopping conflicts over the last 60 years. This includes, but is not limited to, the Korean conflict, Vietnam conflict, Cuban missile crisis, Lebanese civil war, Soviet-Afghan war, Iran-Iraq War, Darfur massacre, etc., etc. This is not because the U.N. is not strong enough, as some liberals would suggest, but because government by its nature is ineffective and wasteful. The same holds true for the United Nations. It is one thing to encourage representatives from independent countries to engage in dialogue to solve problems creatively. This is certainly a noble goal that should be supported. However, empowering the United Nations to become another layer of government bureaucracy supported by taxes on citizens should be strongly opposed.

Government programs and expansion are the worst cure for almost any disease. This principle applies clearly when considering actions that would strengthen the U.N. as a global government. The United Nations needs to be scaled back and reformed from the top down. If anything, the United States Congress should carefully consider reducing its contributions to the United Nations. Any effort to impose a global tax on "citizens of the world" should meet fierce opposition by America's leaders in Washington, D.C.

**D.J. Deeb is an adjunct Professor of History and Government at Bunker Hill Community College and Northern Essex Community College. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School. He is an elected member of the Dracut School Committee and Greater Lowell regional Vocational-Technical School Committee.**

## Mortgage Primer

The time to refinance those adjustable rates is now!

Tom Firth

Low long-term interest rates continue to remain attractive to consumers looking to move out of adjustable rate mortgages prior to their rates resetting. Given the continued strengthening of the job market and the positive tone of the Fed's announcement last week, the outlook for a sustained refinance boom appears positive.

In the past five years, many consumers opted for adjustable rate mortgages as a means to have lower payments. Well now its time to regroup, and lock into a fixed rate. Rates currently for borrowers with good credit are in the low six percent range. Now is the time to sit down with your mortgage professional for an analysis to see if refinancing works for you. The object is to save money monthly and locking in that

15-30 year fixed rate. Also at the time of refinancing review your current debt and see if you can consolidate some credit card payments or other debt that has been destroying your monthly budget. This would also improve your credit scores (FICO) by paying off debt and leaving the account open. With rates staying low through the holidays it is also a great time to look for a home! Home prices have been slowly declining in an overvalued market. There are many bargains out there right now and a professional realtor can assist you in finding your dream home. Try to work with a Realtor and Mortgage Banker who can walk you though the whole process.

Tom Firth is a Mortgage Banker with Interate Mortgage Corporation in Methuen, Mass. License #MC0023, Licensed Mortgage Lender in NH, Me & Fla www.interate.com

## Non-profits Are Also Investing in Lawrence

The Lawrence Boys & Girls Club has invested \$8.5 million in the "Kelly's Club," which is presently under construction. Located on Water Street in Lawrence, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lawrence helps thousands of children every week, giving them a place to play and hang out as an alternative to getting into trouble on the streets. Lawrence General Hospital has also embarked on a hefty investment in the city, pumping more than \$23 million into its emergency room expansion project on Prospect Street. The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center has opened up a new facility with a \$5 million investment. The YMCA has a new Family Aquatic Center built entirely with private funds to the tune of \$3 million, and the YWCA Fina House has invested \$6 million in the city while providing critical services to women in the Greater Lawrence area

*Innovation Valley (www.ivalley.org)*

## Five Tenets for Valley's Future Economy

The workplace is becoming flat. The hierarchical walls within corporations are beginning to lower and even fall in some cases. The once clearly defined boundaries between corporations are beginning to blur. Geographic regions are both interconnecting and leveraging their unique characteristics. The human and electronic interaction of businesses, customers, government, academia, schools, non-profits and citizens is evolving and influencing the global economy in many different ways. The state of the environment and dependency on oil are issues that are becoming more immediate to all of us. In order for the Merrimack Valley to prosper in the future, it must find a way to transform to a knowledge worker driven economy guided by the following tenets.

### Tenet #1: Establish Leadership in Emerging Technologies

The Merrimack Valley must become globally recognized for its leadership in one or more emerging technologies that will drive economic development over the next twenty years. In doing so, it will put itself on par with other exemplary regions in the world. For example, Greater Boston is recognized for its leadership in the biotech industry, while Silicon Valley is recognized for its leadership in information technology and social networking. The Merrimack Valley must be considered globally in the same league. Some areas of promise for this region to harness in achieving this leadership are renewable energy, nanotechnology, and green chemistry. A recent RAND Corporation study suggests these three are all among the top drivers of tomorrow's global economy, and the Merrimack Valley is already a strong player in all.

Concerning the latter two, nanotechnology and green chemistry, it is believed that these in tandem can be particularly robust in providing jobs and capital gains in the future. Director David Rejeski, director of the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies,

"...we believe that nanotechnology can be 'green' and help to enable a better environment. We also think the U.S. could be a global leader in green nanotech, and that government policy incentives should be directed toward this goal. We know that green nanotechnology can be a source of American jobs and company profits in the future." (1)

### Tenet #2: Formulate Innovation Networks

While pioneering research can produce breakthroughs, it is increasingly costly to do in-house. Some businesses are beginning to extend R&D across innovation networks of academia, startups, and complimentary industry. One entity can provide basic research, while another creates a viable product. Emerging innovation brokers are needed to rapidly broker access to promising intellectual property. This model is touted by Forrester Research and currently practiced by the Santa Fe Institute. The other key players in an innovation network are venture capitalists needed to help finance the various stages in the transformation process and corporate attorneys to ensure that intellectual property is protected.

As the lion's share of new R&D spending is heading to China and India, the Merrimack Valley, and indeed, all of New England, must begin to build strong networks between all groups involved in basic research and product development.

### Tenet #3: Experiment with "Open Source" Business Strategies

"Open source" refers to a movement in the software industry for making code freely available to anyone interested in working with it. This is an innovative approach to product development that encourages sharing and invites cooperation. The phenomena has caught on like wildfire and today many of the Internet's most popular and essential programs have been crafted through the collective contribution and peer review of thousands of programmers around the world. The process assures robustness and security, and is clearly an enabler for innovation networks. As such, the Merrimack Valley academic and business communities must begin to explore, if not completely embrace, this new model.

The application of the Open Source model to other sectors outside of software was recently illustrated in The Economist. They state "the 'open-source' process of creating things is quickly becoming a threat—and an opportunity—to businesses of all kinds. From legal research to biotechnology, open-business practices have emerged as a mainstream way for collaboration to happen online. New business models are being built around commercialising open-source wares, by bundling them in other products or services." (2)

An example of open-source project in the life sciences is that of CAMBIA, an Australian non-profit research organization. Their researchers sign an open source license to freely use CAMBIA's techniques, such as a way to place genes into plants. In return, the researchers agree to openly share any improvements that they devise. For profit companies, as always, are free to make profits through value added services.

**"The Merrimack Valley must be considered globally in the same league as Boston and Silicon Valley."**

### Tenet #4: Build and Leverage Regional Social Capital

In "Harnessing Complexity" by Robert Axelrod and Michael D. Cohen, the authors touch upon some of the social factors that drive business and community success. While the Internet enables globalization, trust worthy human interaction on a regional basis is more essential than ever. According to the cited reference, "Social Capital" is defined as the features of social organization, such as networks, norms and trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation. "Working together is easier in a community or organization blessed with a substantial stock of social capital."

The authors cite an example in northern Italy where business owners even extensively subcontract to temporarily underemployed competitors. The combination of fair competition and cooperation support economic progress and good government. The Merrimack Valley must do all it can to build on the strengths of its regional social capital.

### Tenet #5: Engage in Lifelong Learning



Seth Itzkan is president of Planet-TECH Associates, a consulting agency identifying innovations in economic development. Recently, Mr. Itzkan helped The Boston Foundation to conceptualize and implement its Hub of Innovations tool. You can email him at [seth.itzkan@gmail.com](mailto:seth.itzkan@gmail.com).



John Michitson served as a Haverhill city councilor for 10 years; the last two as president. He is a manager and electrical engineer at the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, Mass. John and his wife, Heidi, are enjoying the childhood of their 4-year-old daughter and 6 year-old son. email: [jmichitson@verizon.net](mailto:jmichitson@verizon.net)

The Innovation Valley initiative seeks to help stimulate economic growth and quality-of-life enhancements in the Merrimack Valley. Every month we will report on innovative businesses, practices, and ideas that are helping to make Merrimack Valley the place to be. Look for our article in print media and online at [www.ivalley.org](http://www.ivalley.org).

Knowledge workers want to live and work in a lifelong learning community. All of the participants in a regional economy, including businesses, government, academia must do their part to fulfill this need.

Both formal training opportunities, as well as social networking amongst expert communities by using BLOGs, peer-to-peer communications, podcasting, and other tools, need to be readily encouraged at the regional level and with a regional flavor.

### Pilot for Tenets

The proposed Bradford Institute for Green Chemistry (<http://www.ivalley.org/blog/?cat=31>) is based on the tenets described above and will serve as a proof-of-concept incubator for the tenets. Its mission is to be the premier research center for the design and synthesis of environmentally benign industrial products. It will provide worldwide leadership in the discovery and patenting of cost saving nontoxic technologies for industries as diverse as plastics, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and biomedical. The environmental and economic benefits will be reflected in a range of everyday products, such as computers, medications, apparel, toys, home furnishing, paints, solvents, and cleaners.

The Institute will provide a competitive advantage to its clients by helping them to develop breakthrough technologies suitable for today's rigid environmental and financial constraints, and by providing "proof-of-concept" services at affordable rates that would not be possible for most corporate R&D labs. The Institute will provide enormous social and economic value by helping to make vested industries safer and more competitive, while introducing next-generation technologies, innovation networking, business strategies and training to the region and global economy.

Footnotes: 1. <http://www.nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=2889>, <http://www.nanotechproject.org/> 2. [http://www.economist.com/business/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=5624944](http://www.economist.com/business/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=5624944)

THE  
**CHOCOLATE**  
CELLAR™  
at Georgetown Square



[www.TheChocolateCellar.com](http://www.TheChocolateCellar.com)

Typical Hours:  
Tues - Thurs: 11:30 - 5:30  
Fri: 11:30 - 6  
Sat. 9-5

**978-352-8803**  
Open 7 days/week during holiday periods.  
Open Sunday a.m. for balloon pickups by appointment.



Hi, I'm  
**Karen Bramwell**

I'm a  
Member of  
**Team Zingales**



232 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844

Please see our ad on Page 23

## Is Michael J. Fox Right About Stem Cell Research?

Paul Murano



Whether or not Michael J. Fox took his medication properly for his political TV commercial is not important. What is important is the argument he gives in favor of embryonic stem cell research.

First of all, *everyone* is for stem cell research, as long as the stem cells are donated by human beings that are not harmed or killed in the process. Adult stem cells and stem cells taken from umbilical cords have already shown great promise in treating other people with debilitating diseases.

The controversy is over *embryonic* stem cell research and whether the government should fund companies that create human embryos in order to extract their stem cells only to discard the embryos afterwards.

For those who do not recognize or do not care that these are human beings in their

embryonic stage of development, it's a slam dunk: of course we should fund it. However, for those who believe it is unethical to experiment on and discard human beings for the sake of other human beings, it is nothing less than Hitlerian. And this is where the pro-choice/pro-life divide remains.

However, the argument Fox is giving to interviewers is the argument that has been used to try to bridge the gap between the two sides, and seems to have convinced some otherwise pro-life politicians such as Orrin Hatch.

It goes like this: *Since embryos are going to be discarded anyway - as in the numerous embryos killed in abortion or created through in vitro fertilization - why waste them when we could use their stem cells for such research?*

On the surface it sounds attractive, even to many who consider themselves pro-life. But humans are not meant to think, act, and live on the surface.

The reason this argument is flawed, intellectually and morally, is the same reason the following argument would be flawed back in Nazi Germany:

*The human beings in the death camps are going to die anyway, so why not experiment on them for the betterment of others before and after they are killed?* Now substitute "death camps" with "abortion clinics" and "in vitro clinics".

If you find this comparison unreasonable, it can only be because of your refusal to acknowledge the simple scientific fact that we all begin our existence at conception. Intentionally killing us in our embryonic or fetal stages of life, or any other stage, can never be permissible in a truly civilized society. But what about the argument that these fellow human beings will die anyway, or are already dead?

If we succumb to such reasoning, we fuel the machine that sustains our culture of death.

We would be contributing to the process, formally and materially, of legalized murder by offering an apparent benefit to such killing and experimentation.

We would contribute to a supply and demand mentality that would act as a "justification" to continue, expand and

solidify our culture of death. We can never ethically benefit from human atrocity, and it's difficult to understand why this is even a question so soon after Nazi Germany.

So is Michael J. Fox right in his assertion that embryonic stem cell research should be vigorously conducted because embryos are going to die and be discarded anyway? If you think experimenting on live human beings and discarding them as trash for the sake of other human beings is a good thing, then your answer is yes.

But if our culture of death of the past three decades in its sophisticated subtlety has not completely desensitized you to human atrocity and barbarism, then no such argument by a celebrity or a politician could possibly persuade you.

**Paul Murano teaches theology and philosophy at Assumption College and Northshore Community College. He is also the producer of Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP. You can E-mail Paul at [PJDM@aol.com](mailto:PJDM@aol.com)**

## NEASC Accreditation Criteria: Continued From Page 3

percent appreciation against benchmark standards. In the education arena, this translates to judging academic outcomes via standardized tests, not just how much we spend. Isn't that obvious?

It is incredible that the chairman of our School Committee can't see this. And it was his analogy!

But it gets worse. Mr. Perry goes on to discuss the failed curriculum we had in math (TERC) and still have in literacy (the Leslie Literacy Initiative).

Incredibly, he then concludes that, "Our budget is not meeting our needs." Is he blind to the fact that we have spent millions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars on these education boondoggles?

It isn't our budget that was inadequate; it was a lack of standards and a lack of common sense oversight by our School Committee. What failed was a committee that abdicated its responsibility and permitted "the educators" to experiment on our children with curricula that didn't even attempt to teach basic arithmetic methods, promoted dependency on calculators, and avoided teaching spelling and grammar.

What did a lack of money have to do with any of this?

Mr. Perry concludes with the impact of loss of accreditation on local real estate values. So let me get this straight: We should give credence to a flawed accreditation process, direct our attention to greater spending and continue to ignore expectations and standards, just to keep

our real estate values up? While I don't believe that our real estate values will be adversely affected by NEASC's assessment – and such claims are never accompanied by any proof – I can't imagine embracing a lie at the expense of our students merely to protect my real estate investment.

Liz Weber, in an October 29, 2006 Op Ed piece in the Eagle Tribune entitled "Without enough resources, school's can't teach" and in an identical letter in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> North Andover Citizen, also took issue with my thesis that NEASC should broaden its accreditation criteria.

Regarding the importance of money and class size, Ms. Weber suggests that I don't want to pay "the going rate for teachers."

But I do! If the union will just let us hire teachers on the open market like private schools do, paying approximately two-thirds what public schools pay and providing health benefits more in line with the private sector, we could employ many more teachers and have much greater breadth in our academic programs.

Remember, "the going rate" is the market rate, not an artificial rate coerced by the unions.

Ms. Weber then suggests that, if you wonder whether the NEASC accreditation process is focused on the right metrics such as spending and class size, you should just ask the NEASC. Hey, I thought the debate was whether or not the NEASC accreditation criteria were appropriate. So, Ms. Weber wants us to ask the NEASC, a bastion of ex-

public schoolteachers and administrators, about the validity of their own process?

My goodness, that will be enlightening!

After detailing the stresses imposed by large class sizes, a problem that would disappear if we could hire teachers at "the going rate,"

Ms. Weber concludes by saying, "Failing to tie in educational expectations and standards with spending and class size is naïve and debilitating." But that is precisely my criticism of the NEASC accreditation process.

Since "tying in" is a concept independent of order, I would merely reword her closing comment and conclude, "Failing to tie in spending and class size with educational expectations and standards is naïve and debilitating."

Thank you, Ms. Weber, for helping me make this most important point.

Ms. Weber signed off by sending "this half baked meal back to Chef Ormsby." Hopefully, Mr. Perry, Ms. Weber, and the other members of the "just spend more" crowd will consider the matter fully baked. Bon appetite!

Charles Ormsby, Chief Chef, North Andover School Committee

Dr. Ormsby is a member of the North Andover School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate from MIT. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact Dr. Ormsby via email: [ccormsby@comcast.net](mailto:ccormsby@comcast.net)



## Accurate Paternity Testing of Massachusetts "What's in your genes"?

*\* Fast \* Painless \* Affordable \* Confidential*

Let Accurate Paternity Testing of Massachusetts help you resolve these issues

- \*Paternity Testing
- \*Legal or Piece of Mind
- \*Home Self Collection
- \*Motherless
- \*Social Security
- \* Child Support
- \*Adoption

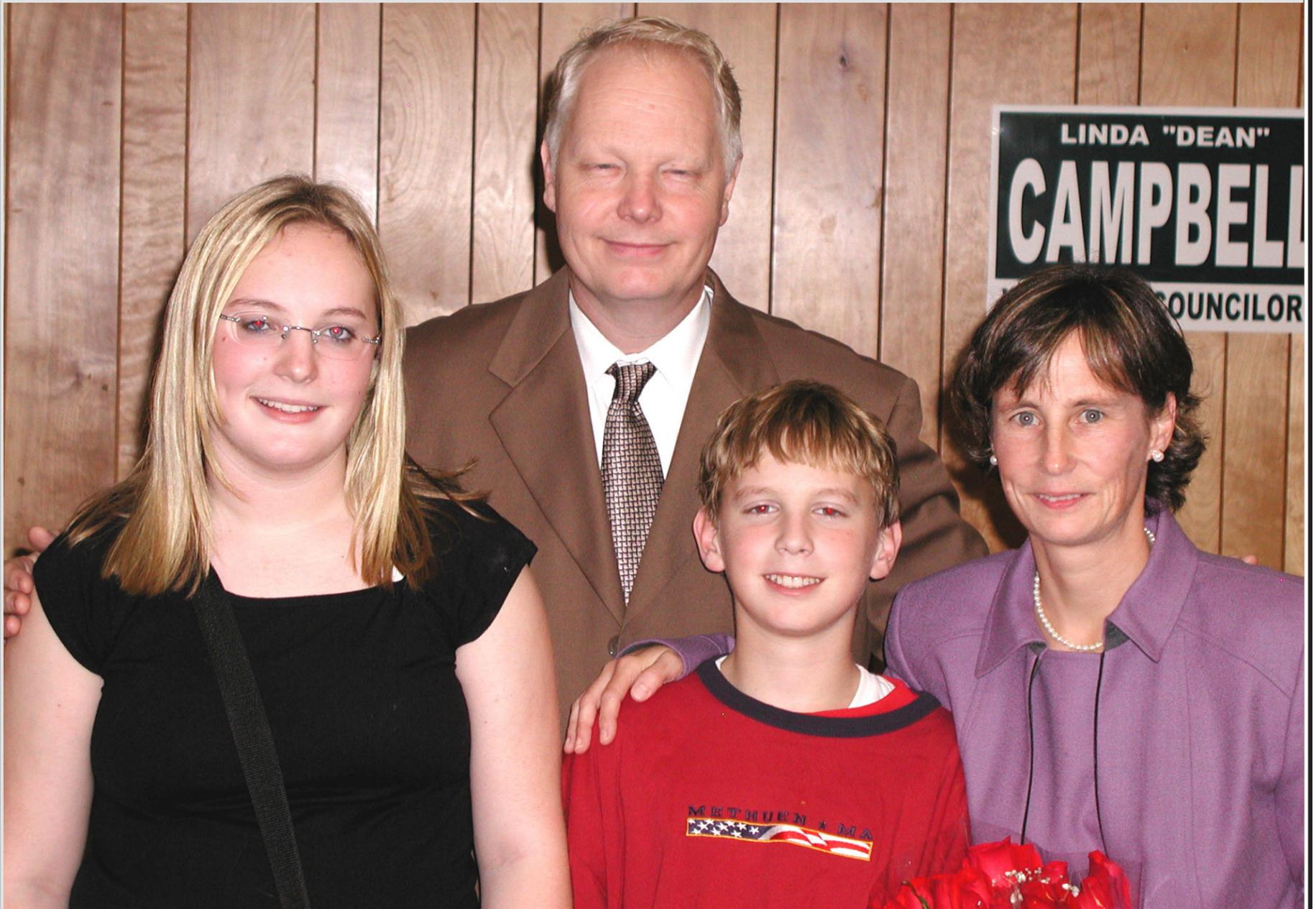
- \* Immigration DNA Testing
- \* Twin Testing
- \*Prenatal Testing
- \*Forensic Analysis
- \* Infidelity Testing
- \*Semen Detection

For more information visit us on the web at [www.whatsinyourgenes.net](http://www.whatsinyourgenes.net)

101 Amesbury Street,  
Suite 400  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Call 978-659-0086 to  
coordinate your test with one  
of our friendly Case Managers

***To the People of  
Methuen***



**THANK YOU!**

paid for by the committee to Linda Campbell

**LINDA  
DEAN CAMPBELL**  
*STATE REPRESENTATIVE*