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Tolstoy Essay Contest Winners Prepare to Visit Tula!



Board Members Mary Emerson (left) and Dawn Stuart Weinraub (right) will accompany Rose Schneider (2nd from left) and Haewon Hwang to Tula for seven days in September.

Two Capital Region high school students were selected from a group of a dozen entrants in this year's Student Essay Contest competition. Their 1500-word essays on Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's influence on the thought of world leaders were deemed the most original, well researched, and well written. Read at <http://www.albanytula.org/our-programs/education-and-culture/2012-essay-contest-winners>.

Winners Rose Schneider and Haewon Hwang will travel to Russia in September 2012, where they will meet with Russian high school students, attend the opening session of the "Conference on the Life and Works of Tolstoy" at the Leo Tolstoy Tula State Pedagogical University, tour Leo Tolstoy's country estate and other Tula

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Sponsor a Student!

One of the most important aspects of Albany's sister city relationship with Tula is the support of both groups in educational and cultural exchange opportunities for the young people of both cities. These programs give our youth experiences that enrich their understanding of the global world they are inheriting. The Alliance's current educational initiatives in the Capital Region include:

- The annual Essay Contest, which will send two Capital Region high school students to Tula in 2012.
- The biennial 2013 Russian Studies Olympiad, which will send two young people to Tula in 2013.
- A new Career Fellowship Program, which

provides Capital Region graduating college seniors the opportunity to work and live in Tula for two weeks.

In support of these programs, the Alliance is looking for donors to "Sponsor a Student." If you are able to help, or know of a person or company who would be willing to support this effort, please contact us at 518-768-7010 or send an email to contact@albanytula.org. With your support, we can open young people's eyes to the power of cultural appreciation and citizen diplomacy as they begin doing it themselves.



Everyone who goes to Tula reports that the trip is a life-altering experience. With your support, these young people can start early to become proactive global citizens.

Contest Winners Prepare to Visit Tula! *(Continued from Page 1)*

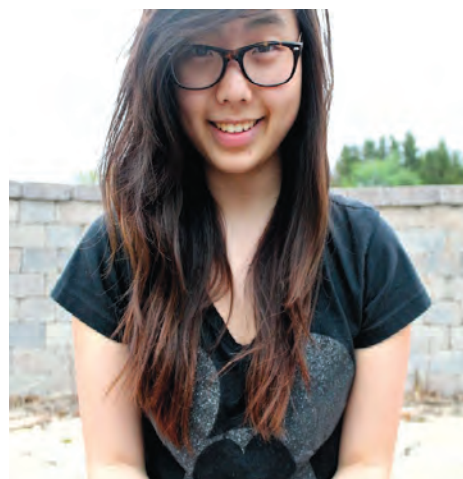


Ichabod Crane High School Senior Rose Schneider

historical sites, and meet Tula residents in their homes. They will also have an opportunity to visit Moscow with their Albany-Tula Alliance chaperones Dawn Stuart Weinraub, Mary Emerson, and

Sonya Stark. Their airfare and visa fees will be paid by the Albany-Tula Alliance. In Tula, the students will be hosted by the Leo Tolstoy Tula State Pedagogical University.

Rose Schneider will be a senior at Ichabod Crane High School and has grown up in Columbia County, New York. She aspires to be a journalist and recently restarted her school's Newspaper Club. She has also been involved in her school's Yearbook, Film Club, Music Department, and Literary Magazine, and has participated in various positions at the Valatie Community Theater. She plans to attend college as a journalism, communications, or English major, with a minor in photography.



Guilderland High School Senior Haewon Hwang

Haewon Hwang will be a senior at Guilderland High School. Haewon is a Korean-American who was born in Albany. She loves to read and write and also enjoys playing tennis. In addition, she loves listen-

ing to and playing music, doing photography, and spending time with her friends and family. She is an officer of her school's Class of 2013, as well as the managing editor of the school newspaper, *The Journal*.

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Albany High School Teachers Visit Tula for Olympiad

Albany High School history teacher Thomas Healey and librarian Alicia Abdul traveled to Tula in April to assist with the evaluation and judging of the annual cross-cultural Olympiad competition at Tula State University. During a whirlwind week, they also gave lectures to high school and college students and visited Moscow to see the Kremlin.

Begun in 2010 by Dr. Sergei Pukhanov of Tula State University, the Olympiad is a three-part contest in which students must learn about the other country's history and culture. The contest alternates each year between Albany (2011 & 2013) and Tula (2010 & 2012). In this year's American Studies Olympiad, more than 75 Tula schoolchildren participated in English-language tests, wrote essays, and gave oral research presentations on "USA Cultural Icons," focusing on significant events and figures in American history and society. The first-place winners—Elina Bazhatkova, Alexandra Kocherezhnikova, and Efremov Alexey Subbotin—will be rewarded by Tula State University with the chance to travel to Albany, where they will be hosted by the Albany-Tula Alliance.

The Albany-Tula Alliance is grateful to Tom and Alicia for helping out with this year's contest, by writing contest questions and creating web links about Albany as well as

judging the students' presentations. They returned to Albany full of ideas for linking students here and in Tula on the basis of mutual interests. Their participation was aided by a grant from the Albany Fund for Education, a non-profit organization that has raised funds for innovative Albany City School District programs since its foundation in 1998.

“We are grateful for this opportunity not only to be a part of the Olympiad, but also to connect culturally and personally with students and adults who live an ocean apart. It was a priceless experience.”

—Alicia Abdul,
Albany High School Librarian



Standing with the winners of the 2012 American Studies Olympiad at Tula State University (seated) and other teacher-judges are Albany High School teacher Tom Healey (2nd from left standing), Albany High School librarian Alicia Abdul (striped vest), Tula State University Director of Cross-Cultural Studies Sergei Pukhanov (center, glasses), Gymnasium 11's Filina Nikolaevna, Tula City Administration's Galina Prokhorova (blue sweater), TSU Head of Department of Linguistics and Translation Viktoriya Ivanova (b&w blouse), and Dmitry Razorenov, the Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at Tula State Pedagogical University (far right).

"Business Opportunities in Russia" Seminar



Attendance was strong at the Tech Valley Global Business Network (TVGBN) Russian business seminar.

In support of International Trade Week in May, Yuri Chadaev of Tula State University's Innovative Business Incubator returned to the Capital Region as a guest of the Albany-Tula Alliance. Along with a representative from the Russian Federation trade office and the president of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, both of whom drove from New York City for the occasion, he participated in a presentation to members of the Tech Valley Global Business Network (TVGBN).

The seminar, called "Business Opportunities in Russia," offered American companies insights into doing business in Russia. There are already many companies in our region which export to Russia, and many more who are interested. By the end of this summer, Russia will be a full-fledged member of the World Trade Organization. The Russian economy is the ninth largest in the world. U.S. exports to Russia surpassed \$8 billion in 2011, an increase of almost 50 percent in only two years.

Are you interested in doing business with Russia?
Email contact@albanytula.org

The goal of the luncheon seminar in May was to help companies in the Capital Region learn how to identify and qualify potential trade partners in Russia, understand Russian business culture, and build bridges with our Russian Sister City.

The event was organized by TVGBN with the help of Albany-Tula Alliance Chair Jerry Shaye who stated, "The Tech Valley Global Business Network and the Albany-Tula Alliance were proud to have raised the level of visibility of business opportunities with Russia. Hearing from three highly qualified speakers, the audience of over 50 people was motivated to seek trade partners in Russia."

Chadaev added, "I would like to thank the Albany-Tula Alliance for this invitation. Participating in this seminar was a great experience. We've had several web conferences between Albany and Tula small businesses. I think this seminar can move these conferences to a higher level."

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Trading Market Research



Capital Region and Tula entrepreneurs begin trade explorations via videoconferenced presentations.

Members of the Alliance Business and Economic Development Committee have continued to work with Tula State University this year to identify and support information exchange between potential trading partners. Tula State anchors the business

incubator and has many faculty members with entrepreneurial interests.

Videoconferencing sessions have enabled several businesses to provide background information about themselves and their

market interests. Students at Tula State University have worked without academic credit to conduct high-level market research for some Capital Region companies under the guidance of Prof. Yuri Chadaev in Tula, Dr. Mel Chudzik of Union Graduate College (UGC), and Albany-Tula Alliance Chair Jerry Shaye in the Capital Region. Correspondingly, a group of UGC graduate students analyzed the prospects for a Tula-based accordion company, "Tulskaya Garmonj," to find opportunities in the American market as part of their degree requirements. Market research for Tula companies will also be undertaken by Shaye's students at UAlbany.

Said Shaye, "Utilizing the minds and energies of students in New York State and their counterparts in Tula, we can help both New York and Tula businesses to develop new markets for their products and services."

VodkArt a Hit!

A delightful cocktail party with a Russian flair, VodkArt was held courtesy of the Albany Institute of History & Art in the lovely Rice Room, sponsored by Times Union, with beverages donated by Pristine Vodka. Participants enjoyed Russian appetizers, music, and toasts from Albany-Tula Chair Jerry Shaye, and Founder Charlotte Buchanan.



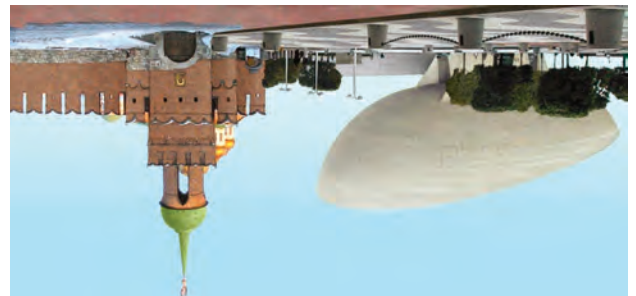
“Songs at Sunset” Returns in September

Be sure to get your registration in early for this annual sell-out event at the Glenmont home of Charlotte and Charles Buchanan.

On Sunday, September 9th, the Musicians Ma'alwyck will offer “Say It With Music,” the best of American music from Broadway and Hollywood, with works of Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Alan Jay Lerner and more. Musicians of Ma'alwyck featured performers are Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, director and violin; Gene Marie Callahan, soprano; Charles F. Schwartz, baritone; and Thomas Savoy, piano.

The event will begin with cocktails and a cocktail buffet from 6:00–7:00 p.m., followed by the performance from 7:00–8:00 p.m., and concluding with coffee and finger desserts from 8:00–9:00 p.m.

Register by using the response form and envelope included with this newsletter, or at www.albanytula.org/events. We look forward to seeing you there!



www.albanytula.org
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A Capital Region Alliance

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