

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

March 18, 2013

Columbia High Girl's Track Team won the **national championship** in the **4x4 relay** at the **Winter Track Nationals** and are **New Jersey State record holders**. Running at a time of 3 minutes, 42^{3/10} seconds, the team is now 5th overall in US history. **Olivia Baker** placed **2nd** in the **400-meter** at nationals, as well as set a **New Jersey State record**.

The track team is coach by **Lisa Morgan**.

* * *

Columbia High School Fencing Team took the gold medal by winning the state championship match in February. Led by an undefeated performance from **Bryn Hammarberg**, including the clinching 26th bout, Columbia earned its third state title in four years with a 14-13 victory over Watchung Hills in the finals of the **NJSIAA team tournament**.

Columbia High School Girls' Fencing Team defeated Livingston, 15-12, to take the bronze medal. The girls were led by a 3-0 showing from **Alexis Auer**, along with **Alex** and **Sam Viqueira**.

The boys fencing teams is coached by **Daryl White** and the girls fencing team is coached by **Ibtihaj Muhammad**.

* * *

Students from the **South Orange Middle School's National History Day Club** won on their first visit to the **National History Day regional competition**, to advance to the state level competition in May and a chance to continue to the national level in Washington, DC in June.

Three out of the nine SOMS entries were selected to move onto the state level and include:

- **Caroline Cerny** and **Piper Eccles** (7th grade): Documentary about Title IX;
- **Jessica Helfenstein** and **Zoe Fuhrman** (6th grade): Performance about Women's baseball in World War II; and
- **Jake Knoll** (6th grade): Exhibit about the influence of fast food on American society.

Caroline Pew (6th grade social studies teacher at SOMS) is the advisor for South Orange Middle School's National History Day Club.

* * *

Columbia High School Robotics Teams won the **NJ State Championship at NJIT** for the second time in 3 years. Out of more than 75 teams in NJ, both the **Varsity** and the **Junior Varsity** teams are co-state champions along with a team from North Brunswick. The Varsity team has compiled a track record that no other public or private school in this state has been able to duplicate: 2 NJ state championships, 1 PA championship, 1 Vermont championship, 2nd place in the world (2011 – again a shared championship among 3 teams). The JV team earned its way into the state tournament and was picked to be on the alliance. The two teams went 11-1 (varsity) and 10-2 (JV) at the tournament. This is the first time in NJ history that a public or private high school has had two teams share the state championship. And no team in NJ has captured two state championships in the same year.

Allan Tumolillo is the faculty adviser to the CHS Robotics Teams.

* * *

Columbia High School teacher of business, **Scott Cohen**, took the **Microsoft Office User Specialists (MOUS)** courses and passed the examinations and obtained his MOUS Certification. As a result, SOMSD is now an official testing site for the MOUS Certification and gives Columbia High School students a chance to take the test and become certified as well.