

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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PRESS RELEASE

June 16, 2008

ANSONIA – **Jennifer Umeugo** is valedictorian of the Class of 2008 at Ansonia High School. The announcement was made by Susan McKernan, principal, at a banquet hosted by the Ansonia Board of Education on Wednesday, June 11, honoring the top 10 graduates.

Ms. Umeugo will lead her classmates onto Jarvis Field on Tuesday, June 17 at 6 p.m. If the weather is inclement, commencement exercises will move inside to the AHS gymnasium.

The daughter of Ikechukwu and Ijeoma Umeugo, Jennifer has been very active in school and community organizations. She is president of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Spanish Honor Society, business editor of the yearbook staff and secretary of the Future Business Leaders of America. She was also Elementary Education Coordinator for the new Human Relations Club. Jennifer has won numerous awards, including from the School of Engineering of Fairfield University, Sikorsky Aircraft Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award, the Julia A. Taylor Academic Excellent Award, and the Tennis Captains' Award and Sportsmanship Award. She is a CAPT Scholar, peer tutor, a Student Ambassador, and member of the Medina Project. In the community, Jennifer has volunteered in the district's Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program and at Yale-New Haven Hospital. She will major in pre-medicine/biology at Quinnipiac University in the fall.

Allison Phipps, daughter of Christopher and Nina Phipps, is salutatorian. She is a producer for the Media Club/AHS-TV, editor in chief of the yearbook, a student government representative, and member of the National and Spanish honor societies. Allison is a four-year member of the AHS volleyball and softball teams, for which she served as captain this year, and a three-year member of the girls basketball team. She has won the St. Michael's College Book Award, is a CIAC Scholar Athlete, a CAPT Scholar, attained the highest academic average in Spanish I, II and III; received the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent's Award in December and numerous other awards for her sports involvement.

Allison is also very active in the community. She is a volunteer for Assumption School sports teams, a referee for the City of Ansonia basketball, softball and baseball leagues; a volunteer at the Valley YMCA, a private tutor, and was a Counselor's Corner interviewer for a Connecticut Public Television series. She will major in broadcast journalism at the University of Connecticut this fall.

Jessi Eliza Mengold, daughter of Paul and Francie Mengold, is third in her class. She is a member of the National and Spanish honor societies, the Spanish Club, and is a CAPT Scholar. Jessi has won the Wellesley College Book Award, the scholar athlete award from the New Haven Tap-Off Club and the Naugatuck Valley League, and is an academic all-star for girls basketball, an award given by the Waterbury *Republican-American*. She is captain of the varsity basketball and varsity softball teams this year.

Jessi volunteers for the Connecticut Special Olympics, Unified Sports Basketball, and at The Umbrella's shelter for battered women and their families. This fall, Jessi will major in pharmacy at the University of Connecticut.

Jessica Goggi, daughter of Alan and Lisa Goggi, is ranked fourth. She is president of the Students Against Violence, secretary of the Student Government Class of 2008, president of the Varsity Dance Team, and a member of the National and Spanish honor societies. A CAPT Scholar, she is also a member of the Medina Project, the Drama Club, Spirit Club, Chorus, Ladies of Harmony (girls' chorus), Interact Club and represented AHS at Laurel Girls' State last year. She received the Connecticut Association of Schools Leadership Award.

In the community, Jessica is a member of the Valley United Way Youth Leadership Program, 2007 Bowling Special Olympics, 2008 Spooner House Mail Carriers' Food Drive, and TEAM Motorcycle Riding drive. She will major in physical therapy at Quinnipiac University this fall.

Amber Gould, daughter of Robin and Richard Gould, is fifth in her class. She is a member of the AHS band, French Club, National Honor Society and French National Honor Society. Amber is presently undecided about her plans for the fall.

Sara Thompson, daughter of Laura and Michael Thompson, is sixth in her class. A CAPT Scholar, she is a member of the National and Spanish Honor societies and the Ladies of Harmony, and won the Outstanding Senior Award for the performing arts. She was captain of the volleyball team this year and is a four-year member of the team, and was captain of the softball team during her junior year. In the community, she has volunteered at the Spooner House, and participated in a walk-a-thon and a bowling event sponsored by The Umbrella.

Sara will major in forensic science at the University of New Haven this fall.

Amy Howard, daughter of Christine Liljestrand and Barry Howard, is active in school and the community. She was Development Coordinator for the Human Relations Club, a member of the National and Spanish honor societies, yearbook staff, and Best Buddies. Amy volunteers at My Sister's Place, a consignment store that benefits The Umbrella, is an active member/volunteer of the First United Methodist Church in Ansonia, and a volunteer with Pack 3 Webelos in Derby. She will major in English at Central Connecticut State University, then apply to the education program during her sophomore year.

Patrick Phipps, son of Nicole Phipps and the late Brian Phipps, is ranked eighth. He is involved in numerous clubs at AHS, including the Science Club, Graphic Media Club, the Medina Project, and Math and Logic Club. He is also a CAPT Scholar and member of the National and Spanish honor societies. Patrick was selected to attend the American Legion's Boys' State last year and for the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Frontiers Program. He was also a member of the freshman and JV baseball teams at AHS.

In the community, Patrick has participated in the blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross at AHS and at a luncheon for senior citizens. This fall, he will begin a double major in computer science and games and simulation arts and sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Matthew Gajdosik, son of Sue and Michael Gajdosik, is ninth in his class. A CAPT Scholar, he is a member of the AHS Band and the National Honor Society. In the community, Matt has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and food drives with the Boy Scouts. He will attend UConn in the fall.

Nicole Senetcen, daughter of David and Loredana Senetcen, is ranked 10th. Captain of the girls' soccer team, she is a member of the yearbook staff and the National and Spanish Honor societies. Nicole will major in business administration/finance at Sacred Heart University this fall.