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## "Latham: The Town and It's People" Documentary is Complete!

Posted June 9, 2010

The feature-length documentary film on the history and community life of Latham, Ohio is finally complete! This film will premiere at the Western High School Alumni Association Banquet on Saturday, June 12.

The project initially began as a simple oral history project of Western High School's American Studies class. So much information was discovered, that American Studies teacher Carrie Gast, requested my assistance for the production of a film documentary.

So with student-filmed b-roll, scanned pictures, and locally recorded guitar music, I ventured through countless hours of film editing, leading at last to a finished product that documents



*This is a picture of the Latham Christian Union Church. This congregation was founded in Latham just following the American Civil War. It is featured in the new film, "Latham, Ohio: the Town and It's People," an original film documentary collaboration between Jason Boothe and the Western High School American Studies program*

this wonderful little village and its very storied past.

and the Western High School American Studies program headed up by Carrie Gast.

Special thanks to Mrs. Gast and her American Studies students. Additionally, thanks to local historian Jim Henry as well as Russ Rice and Shirley Rice Brown for all of their input and support.



## "Draw on the Walls" Artshow held at Western High School

Posted June 1, 2010

Student artists displayed many unique creations at the first annual "Draw on the Walls" artshow recently held at Western High School. Samantha Cross, the Senior student who headed up the project, said that she was excited to provide a forum for her fellow student artists to showcase their work.



The show was well attended by family, friends, and other members of the community. Tammie Clifton, who teaches Art at Western High, explained that students interested in studying art should know that there are many ways a student can succeed in her program. "You don't have to be a master artist to benefit from my program," she said.

On a personal note, I really enjoyed the show. All of the works of art were beautifully presented and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming.

If you would like to learn more about the artshow, please view the Media Club's feature video of the event [here](#).

## Western Videoconferences with Professional Filmmakers

Posted May 13, 2010

The Western High School Media Technologies Club participated in a nation-wide school video conference with award-winning documentary filmmakers Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno and Jerome Bongiorno. Their work includes the critically acclaimed documentary of the Newark New Jersey riots [Revolution '67](#).

Marylou and Jerome shared clips from many of their projects, spoke about some of the aspects of creating and distributing independent film, and fielded questions from the various schools who participated.

One of Western's main questions to the team centered around the Internet's influence on the independent filmmaker. Marylou spoke positively about sites like Youtube, basically saying that social networking and video sites help keep the independent



WHS Media Tech students participating in a live video conference .



film process more democratic and accessible to viewers.

Just a few years ago it would have been close to impossible for a rural high school like Western Local to participate in such collaborations or conferences. Today, however, technology has made it easy to instantaneously "send" our students all around the world with just a click of a button.

Special thanks to the [Newark Technology High School](#) of Newark, New Jersey as well as to the Bongiorno's. For more information concerning the work of the Bongiorno's, please visit their [website](#).



Students having fun at video conference -Back row: K. Mosteller, D. Martin, J. Routt - Front row: H. Shepherd, C. Conners, J. Anderson.



### Article on WHS Technology Available On-line

Posted May 12, 2010

Click on the link to read the latest Waverly New Watchman article about technology use at Western Local School District. Our District Technology Coordinator, Ryan Hawk, works diligently to keep our school district on the cutting edge of educational technology.

Please feel free to read the article by clicking on the thumbnail picture of the article to the left.



### 2010 Western High School Prom: A Night in Paris

Posted May 10, 2010

Several students from the WHS Media Club assisted me in providing DJ music for this year's prom. The theme this year was "A Night in Paris." As always, the Prom Committee transformed the Junior High Gymnasium into something wonderful from another time and place. The attention to detail in the decorating was astounding to say the least! Students, dressed in everything from traditional formal attire to camouflage (that's right camo!), danced the night away under the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.



To see pictures from this year's prom, please visit the [Event Photos](#) link.



### WHS Technology and Media Club featured in Local Newspaper

Posted May 6, 2010

Western Local School District is the first public school system in our county to utilize the very latest in interactive whiteboard technology. Matt Lucas of the *Waverly News Watchman* wrote an interesting piece in the midweek edition of our local paper



discussing this and other issues related to technology usage at Western.

The article also mentions the first place win the WHS Media Technology Club earned at the 2010 EmPIXX Awards on April 30. For more information, please visit the [News Watchman website](#).

## WHS Media Club to Participate in Live Video Conference

Posted May 6, 2010

Western High School Media Technology Club is excited to be able to join Emmy-award winning international filmmakers Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno and Jerome Bongiorno in an interactive video conference May 13, 2010. The Bongiornos will share clips of their films and answer student questions. Western High School will be one of only seven schools scheduled to participate.

It is sure to be an exciting time of learning and interaction. More details will follow....



## 2010 Student EmPIXX Award Winners!

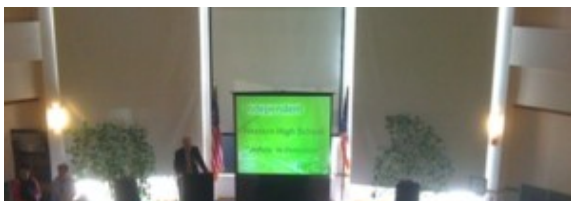
Posted May 4, 2010

The Western Media Tech Club took home 1st place in the Independent Film Short category at this year's Student EmPIXX Awards held at Ohio University Southern Campus on April 30, 2010. Our winning film, "Jeffula: In Detention," is a comedy about a less-than-smooth vampire nerd who is placed in detention because of his antics.

The competition was very strong this year. Over twenty schools representing several states participated, submitting hundreds of entries for consideration. We knew that "Jefulla" was a neat concept, but we did not expect to do so well our first time out.

The morning media workshops featured professionals from the local NBC affiliate station WSAZ as well as sports producers from ESPN. Students were given relevant career advice as well as great tips on proper lighting and filming techniques.

Following the morning workshops, all of the participants gathered in the main hall for the awards ceremony. Close to 500 people anxiously awaited their school to be called. When the Independent film short category was announced, Southeastern High School (Richmond Dale, Ohio) had taken 2nd place for "Victor the Vampire" and Western had taken 1st place for our offering.



J. Forbes, the star of our film, accepted the award from Dr. Don Moore, Electronic Media Director of Ohio University-Southern, on behalf of our group. Needless to say, the entire Media Club shouted for joy upon hearing our name called!



Congratulations Media Club! You did a tremendous job! You can watch the winning film by clicking [here](#). You can read the *Ironton Tribune* article [here](#).

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