

Student achievement

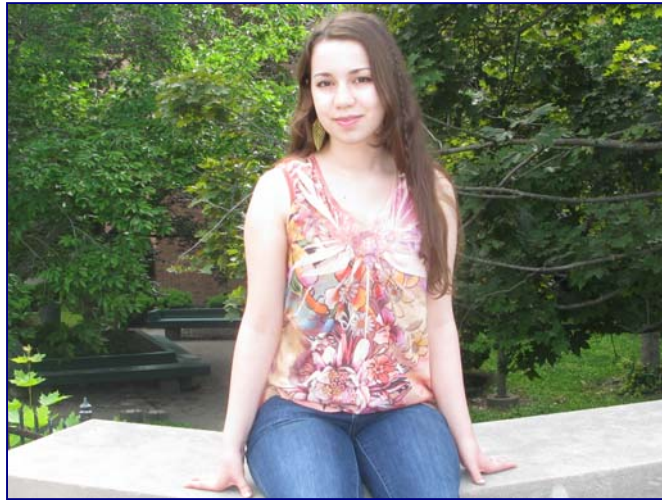
Valedictorian Yale-bound once again

“Bulldog! Bulldog! Bow, wow, wow!”

Maybe not Cole Porter’s most sophisticated lyrics, but the Yale University fight song seems to be catching on at Albany High School.

Albany High’s valedictorian once again will attend the prestigious Ivy League school.

Rachel Barnas, the top-ranked student among the approximately 450 members of the Class of 2009, will follow 2008 valedictorian Rachel Rudinger, who will be a Yale sophomore in the fall.



Rachel ’09 plans to study anthropology (or archaeology) and theater. Apparently, she digs the stage!

“I’d love to go off and do some digging in Egypt, and I also hope to have a chance to study abroad in London for drama,” she said. “I either want to be the next Indiana Jones, or play him!”

No matter where college and life take her, Rachel looks back on the academic and extracurricular opportunities in Albany’s public schools as helping build a strong foundation.

An avid dancer, singer and musician – she plays the oboe – Rachel was active in Albany High’s rich theater program. She played a Hungarian murderess (falsely accused, she’ll tell you) in this spring’s award-winning production of “Chicago: The Musical.”

On Albany High’s Masterminds team – a group of academically advanced students who compete against students from area schools – Rachel earned the nickname “Kobe,” a reference to Los Angeles Lakers’ All-Star Kobe Bryant and her own reputation for clutch answers.

“I do, in fact, have a life,” she joked. “Even though it would shock my classmates!”