

## Typographers help school launch student newspaper

BY SHANNON O'SULLIVAN  
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Students at the Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School know the pressure of the newspaper business firsthand.

About a dozen students put together the school's first student newspaper, *The Pride*, in less than two months.

"We had never even dreamt about the different things you have to go through to design a paper," said Char Hardy, staff writer and fashion editor who will be entering eighth grade this fall.

Anthony Riccio is chair of the English department and the paper's faculty adviser. He said the idea for the paper came about when the school was approached by a member of the Society of Typographic Aficionados. SOTA is a non-profit organization devoted to type, typography and the related arts.

Riccio guided many aspects of the paper's production, including recruiting students on short notice and teaching them some basic principles of journalism.

The paper was distributed at the TypeCon design conference in July at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. The students, faculty and other mentors who were involved in the production of the paper did a presentation about the process, and the paper was available to hundreds of attendees. It covers art and music, fashion and sports and there's a front-page editorial on rising gas prices.

"My favorite part had to be the teachers and how they let us put our input in," Hardy said. "It really was a student-oriented paper."

Erica James became editor in chief on short notice after two other students could no longer fulfill the responsibility.



Erica James, center, is editor of *The Pride*. She is joined by faculty rep Anthony Riccio and Char Hardy, writer and fashion editor.

James, who will be a junior this fall, wrote the editorial, edited copy and assisted with layout. Like the other students, James dedicated time after school and worked into her summer vacation on the paper.

Both James and Hardy plan on working for the paper next year.

Two SOTA members also gave the students a two-day crash course in newspaper layout design shortly before the conference. Rick Griffith teaches typography at the University of Colorado at Denver and Ben Van Dyke teaches visual studies at the University at Buffalo.

Riccio is aiming for the students to produce three editions of the paper next year.