

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

ESTABLISHED 1994



23RD ANNUAL SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET

MARCH 27, 2017

ANTHONY OCEAN'S VIEW – NEW HAVEN

MEMBER SCHOOLS: Amity Regional, Branford, Hill Regional Career Magnet, Cheshire, Daniel Hand, East Haven, Fairfield Prep, Foran, Guilford, Hamden, Hillhouse, Jonathan Law, Luralton Hall, Lyman Hall, Mercy, North Haven, Notre Dame, Sacred Heart Academy, Sheehan, Shelton, West Haven, Wilbur Cross, Xavier

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WWW.SOUTHERNCONNECTICUTCONFERENCE.ORG

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2017 Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader recognition banquet – the 23rd hosted by the league.

This evening, we will recognize forty-six truly impressive young people who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school and external communities

On behalf of the SCC, congratulations to the recipients and their families and best of luck in their future endeavors.

2016-17 SCC SCHOLAR LEADERS

AMITY REGIONAL – Bailey MacNamara, Zachary Babbitz
BRANFORD – Kiersten Bjork, Spencer Mariotti
HILL REGIONAL CAREER – Gleimy Rodriguez, Rory Garhart
CHESHIRE – Roger Chen, Colleen Carroll
DANIEL HAND – Chika Ogbejesi, Eric Xia
EAST HAVEN – Rachel Amatruda, Joshua Palmer
FAIRFIELD PREP – Kevin Gallagher, Brendan Flynn
JOSEPH A. FORAN – Julia Astram, John Lickteig
GUILFORD – Theodora Stanley, Josh Stern
HAMDEN – Isabel Marchand, Ben Surman
HILLHOUSE – Rayana Downer, Will Canty
JONATHAN LAW – Tanner Georgelos, Olivia Steiner
LURALTON HALL – Katherine Canavan, Shauna Fortier
LYMAN HALL – Megan Lane, Alyssa Baldyga
MERCY – Kelly Barry, Devon Garrett
NORTH HAVEN – Julia Opramolla, Sean Flannery
NOTRE DAME – Liam Connell, Jerrell Dorsey
SACRED HEART ACADEMY – Caitlyn Napierkowski, Katherine Mackey
MARK T. SHEEHAN – Kairav Maniar, Katie Schlick
SHELTON – Casey O'Connor, Michael Leone
WEST HAVEN – Lauren Lewis, Andrew Gordon
WILBUR CROSS – Abigail Eswarakumar, David Landolfi
XAVIER – Robert Larese, Zachary Taylor

* RECIPIENT BIO INFORMATION WAS COMPILED BY EACH SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL.

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AMITY REGIONAL

Anna Mahon, Principal

BAILEY MACNAMARA

Bailey is an accomplished leader. In academics, she has earned awards for excellence in Anatomy, Physics, Precalculus, Spanish, and American Government. She received the Student of Distinction award from the Amity Counseling Department. Her academic success has earned her membership in three National Honor Societies. Bailey is a four-year member, and current captain, of our Lacrosse and Ice Hockey programs. In addition, she is a Link Crew Leader, peer tutor, and volunteer at her church. Bailey enjoys community service projects, including her own initiative to donate blankets, toys, and supplies to pediatric cancer patients at Yale New Haven Hospital.

ZACHARY BABBITZ

In the top 10% of his class, Zac is a leader amongst his peers. He swims and plays lacrosse, and was named captain of the swim team for the past two years. He's a member of the National Honor Society, was on a teacher interview committee, raised over \$21,000 dollars for the Swim Across the Sound cancer fundraiser, and spent the past two summers helping natives in Canada by teaching them business management, basic repair skills and installing solar hot water heaters. He is an avid artist, fisher, hunter, sailor, and even makes his own maple syrup.

BRANFORD

Lee Panagoulis, Principal

KIERSTEN BJORK

Kiersten is an engaged learner who excels both academically and athletically. She is immersed in extra-curricular endeavors including our Music Makers program, Field Hockey, school musical, Track and Field, and two year student representative to the Branford Board of Education. She is a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, Leo Club, and Interact Club. She is a leader at school and in her Church. Through her activities Kiersten has a strong community presence and exemplifies Branford High Schools' mission of being a collaborative learner and contributing member of our society.

SPENCER MARIOTTI

Spencer is a global thinker who exemplifies the Branford High School goal of creating mindful, autonomous learners. He consistently strives to stretch his comfort zone to include a variety of learning opportunities that foster a growth mindset. He has continually selected a challenging academic program including a variety of advanced placement courses and studying Swahili at Yale University. Spencer participates in a variety of extracurricular activities including being President of our Model Congress Club, two year captain of the Cross Country and Track teams, student ambassador for our recent NEASC accreditation visit, and regular contributor to the Huffington Post.

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HILL REGIONAL CAREER

Dr. Zakia Parrish , Principal

GLEIMY RODRIGUEZ

All throughout high school Gleimy has maintained high honors while participating in many extracurricular activities. She joined DECA and served as Vice President and moved up to President during her senior year. She also serves as the VP for the National Business Honors Society. She is a member of the National Spanish Honor Society and is a DAR Good Citizen in the local chapter. She played varsity volleyball and holds a part-time job as a cashier as well as an internship with Yale University. She will finished her senior year ranked number three in her class with a 4.462 GPA.

RORY GARHART

Throughout Rory's years of high school, he has been able to achieve a great amount of success through his grades, leadership, and service in his local community. Rory has been able to maintain high honors throughout all his semesters of high school, while participating in many extracurricular activities including tennis, HOSA, ultimate frisbee, and the school newspaper. He also served in leadership roles in many of those activities. He has additionally documented 365 hours of community service volunteering at a local day camp as a counselor-in-training. With these, he earned induction into the National Honor Society.

CHESHIRE

Mary Gadd, Principal

ROGER CHEN

Roger is an outstanding young man in every sense of the word. He is inquisitive, passionate, motivated, reliable, friendly and outgoing. Roger has excelled in a most rigorous college prep program. He has taken 11 AP classes and a myriad of advanced and honors classes. He is independently motivated and takes true ownership of his learning. Roger is also an avid contributor to his school and community. He is involved in a multitude of extracurricular activities. He has been a member of the Junior State of America, Model United Nations, and a member of the Young Democrats. In addition he is a member of the Science Bowl team, Medical Interest Club and a long standing volunteer at Yale New Haven Hospital. Roger is also a very accomplished musician.

COLLEEN CARROLL

Colleen is a mature, intelligent, highly-motivated and ambitious student. She is a polite, caring, passionate and brave young woman. Academically, Colleen has consistently challenged herself and has made excellent progress in a rigorous college preparatory program, earning a 4.136 GPA. She will always seek out assistance and go the extra mile in order to perform at her best. Throughout high school Colleen has been involved with a multitude of school clubs, athletics, volunteer work and employment. Throughout all her activities, the common thread is that Colleen always gives 100% effort. Colleen endears herself to staff and peers with her kind, caring nature.

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DANIEL HAND

Anthony Salutari, Principal

CHIKA OGBEJESI

Chika is incredibly gifted both academically and athletically. Throughout high school, she has excelled in the most challenging courses offered at Daniel Hand. Outside of the classroom, her accomplishments and involvement are equally impressive. She was named captain of the volleyball team, a National Honor Society inductee, is a member of Student Council and Yearbook Committee, and she has discovered a passion for theater. Chika values people and offers help by participating in school clubs and at her church. Chika has earned the respect of the student body and staff and is viewed as a leader in the school community.

ERIC XIA

Eric consistently challenges himself academically, athletically, and musically. His performance in the most rigorous courses at Daniel Hand has been incredible. He is an active member of our music program, class council, President of our Science Olympiad, Editor-in-chief of our student-run newspaper, and is a Peer Advocate. Outside the classroom, Eric volunteers his time helping those in need including efforts assisting emerging musicians, working at elementary schools, and many hours devoted at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Chinese school. Eric has earned the respect of the school community and has received many accolades as a scholar, athlete, role model, and leader.

EAST HAVEN

Vincent DeNuzzo, Principal

RACHEL AMATRUDA

Rachel has established herself as a successful student-athlete and leader in the East Haven High School community. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is currently ranked in the top 10 of her graduating class. Rachel has taken on active leadership roles in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and the Pom-Pom Team, where she currently serves as a captain. Rachel has been a place winner in the COLT Poetry contest in Italian for the past three years, she has received the Wellesley College Book Award, as she was awarded the Amgen Biology Award. Rachel has also been a two-time participant in the SADD Summer Leadership Program.

JOSHUA PALMER

Josh is an exceptional young man who has distinguished himself as one of the finest scholars and leaders at East Haven High School. He has excelled as a student-athlete and has earned the honor of being Salutatorian of the class of 2017. Josh is a member of the National Honor Society, Golf Team, Math League, Marching Band, Student Government, and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). He has received numerous accolades, some of which include: Yale Book Award, HOBY Leadership representative, Rensselaer Medal Award, RIT Bausch & Lomb Science Award, and the PSAT National Hispanic Recognition Award. Josh was also part of an award-winning team that participated in the A.C.E. Mentorship Engineering Program.

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FAIRFIELD PREP

Dr. Robert Perrotta, Principal

KEVIN GALLAGHER

Kevin is a summa cum laude student who ranks first in his class. He is a member of the Rugby and Hockey teams, the Band, Campus Ministry, and is Editor-in Chief of our Literary Magazine. Kevin is President of the Student Government, an Eagle Scout and has received numerous community awards and recognitions for his leadership abilities. He is integrally involved in numerous community service activities including A Shirt Off My Back, STAR, Relay for Life and the White Ribbon Campaign.

BRENDAN FLYNN

Brendan is a summa cum laude student, and AP Scholar, and a member of the National Honor Society. He is involved in a wide-variety of activities including the baseball team, the Orchestra, the Classical League and the Astronomy Club. He has been a key student leader on our Service and Retreat programs. Since his freshman year, he has volunteered hundreds of hours at the Autism Project at the Kennedy Center

JOSEPH A. FORAN

Max Berkowitz, Principal

JULIA ASTRAM

Julia is an accomplished student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership to the school community. She has consistently achieved High Honors and is VP of both the National Honor Society and Student Government, a member of Unified Sports, Key Club, and Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper. As a leader within the Foran Innovative Thinkers, she has given numerous presentations about Foran to parents, students, and community leaders. In 2016, she was named the Queen of the Barnum Festival, selected SCC All-Academic Team, and was the recipient of the George Eastman Young Leaders Award. She is presently a student liaison to the Milford Board of Education. She is the captain of the Girls Basketball and Lacrosse teams and was awarded Most Outstanding Delegate at the Yale Model United Nations.

JOHN LICKTEIG

John is an outstanding student who ranks near the top of his class. He has taken an extremely rigorous course load, both at Foran and as a student at the Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center, where he spends a portion of his school day. He was inducted into the National Honor Society and has demonstrated leadership as Class President for his sophomore, junior, and senior years. John has earned awards for excellence in Geometry, Spanish, AP European History, and Business. At Aquaculture, he earned academic excellence awards in Biology and Chemistry. John is an active member of the school community, participating on both the Basketball and Baseball teams, and as a member of the DECA club, Foran Innovative Thinkers, and the Future Farmers of America. He is also dedicated to giving back to his community and has over 200 hours of community service.

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GUILFORD

Rick Misenti, Principal

THEODORA STANLEY

Teddi is an outstanding young lady and member of the National and Spanish honor societies. She has been selected 'Most Likely to Succeed' by her senior class and she is the recipient of numerous academic and civic awards, which include the Dartmouth Book Award and serving as delegate to Connecticut Girl Scouts. Teddi sits as 3rd chair cellist in our school's symphony orchestra and is a member of our Yale Physics' Olympic team. Teddi has been a three year varsity letterwinner for the field hockey team and served as captain and earned All-SCC honors. She has volunteered hundreds of hours assisting the homeless and she has volunteered in numerous church activities. Teddi also serves as our school's student representative to the Board of Education.

JOSH STERN

Josh is an outstanding young man. He has demonstrated extraordinary academic achievement and community service during his tenure in high school. Josh is a member of the National Honor Society and he is the recipient of numerous academic awards. He serves as our school's student senate president and also serves as a member of the Connecticut State Student Advisory Council on Education. His participation as co-chair of the Guilford Foundation Youth Advisory and as a member of the Guilford Fund for Education has provided a powerful and valuable voice for our educational community. Josh served as co-captain of the cross country team and earned All-State honors. Josh is first chair cellist in our school's symphony orchestra. As noted, Josh's involvement expands well beyond our high school. His fulltime summer work in the laboratory at Yale University School of Medicine, conducting lab activities and receiving training in neuroscience.

HAMDEN

Nadine Gannon, Principal

ISABEL MARCHAND

Isabel is an accomplished actress and scholar who possesses all the outstanding traits required to be highly successful in life. In addition, Isabel gives a considerable amount of her time to volunteer in a variety of community activities that benefit our school as well as the town of Hamden. She makes connections with special needs students by participating in the Unified Sports PE class and assists the town Youth Service Bureau during the summer. She is co-president of the Pride Club and a valued member of the National Honor Society. Isabel is an outstanding role model to her peers.

BEN SURMAN

Ben is an exceptional student who has achieved high honors throughout his four years at Hamden High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Club, Technology Student Association, Robotics Team, Math Team, Sikorsky STEM Challenge Team and Team Cert. He has received numerous awards that include, Swarthmore Book Award, Air Trajectory Gold Medal Award, Award of Excellence from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division. Ben enjoys participating in community service and giving back to his community.

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JAMES A. HILLHOUSE

Glen Worthy, Principal

RAYANA DOWNER

Rayana has been a leader in the school community and a standout in the classroom with a 3.6 grade point average. Rayana is four-year member of the student council. She serves as President of the Hillhouse Class of 2017. In addition, Rayana is the student cabinet leader for city-wide student voice and a peer mediator. Rayana is a four year student-athlete at Hillhouse; she is a member of the track and field team along with cross-country team. Rayana has been an SCC divisional competitor for all three of her sports.

WILL CANTY

Will has been a strong performer in the classroom; he ranks in the top 10 percent of his class at Hillhouse. His leadership ability and strong communication skills have aided Will in being selected over 150 other cadets to be the Battalion Commander of the James Hillhouse JROTC program. He has been in the JROTC program for all four years of high school and has excelled at every position he was assigned to. Will is also the commander of our drill team this year. For the past two years Will has attended JCLC, a one week JROTC leadership camp, held at the end of each school year. He also played varsity baseball all four years at Hillhouse.

JONATHAN LAW

Fran Thompson, Principal

TANNER GEORGELOS

Tanner is an inquisitive student, a natural leader and has a very congenial personality. He ranks number five out of a senior class of 246 students. He is a member of the National Honor Society and an AP Scholar. His academic achievement has earned him multiple All School Academic Excellence Awards at Jonathan Law High School and at the Bridgeport Aquaculture School. He challenges himself by taking the most rigorous classes available including Honors and Advanced Placement classes. Tanner stands out to his teachers due to his innate ability in the classroom, his intellectual curiosity and his leadership skills.

OLIVIA STEINER

Olivia's aptitude and attitude towards her academic responsibilities is evidenced in her ranking in the top ten of her senior class. Her investment in her courses is enhanced by her independent learning. Beyond the classroom, Olivia engages with many activities from volunteering in the community to participating in Yale Science Olympiad to being elected to our chapter of National Honor Society. Gifted as an athlete, Olivia demonstrates her discipline and hard work to achieve her status as a top runner in Connecticut. She is a role model to her teammates. She is known for the encouragement that she gives to others. Olivia is the captain of her teams as evidence of the respect of which she is the recipient.

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LAURALTON HALL

Cynthia Gallant, Principal

KATHERINE CANAVAN

With a strong passion for politics, government, and law, Kate, is an outstanding student with many achievements: National Honor Society, Latin National Honor Society, the Dartmouth Book Award and Outstanding Citizen Award. Her volunteer work has earned her the Frances Warde Service Award for service. At school she is instrumental as a leader in Youth & Government, Debate, Female Empowerment Club and as a class officer. Kate has interned at law offices and has volunteered as Director of Social Media for a First Selectman campaign, served as a State Senate and District Office Intern and worked on Presidential Election fundraisers.

SHAUNA FORTIER

Shauna is dedicated to academics and leadership in school and community. Awards and achievements include National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, the Mount Holyoke Book Award and the Principals Citizenship Award. Shauna holds top leadership positions in her clubs and activities: Key Club, Youth & Government and The Catherine McAuley Service Club. Her service extends to the community as a volunteer at her church, Constellation Hospice, The Tommy Fund and Relay for Life, earning the Frances Warde Service Award for over one hundred hours of service in one year. Shauna goes above and beyond what is asked of her.

LYMAN HALL

Joseph Corso, Principal

MEGAN LANE

Megan's accomplishments are varied and extensive. She has been a member of student council all four years and is the president in her senior year. This year she also serves as the vice president of the Lyman Hall Chapter of the National Honors Society. Additionally, she is the President of the Lyman Hall SADD and the vice president of the Lyman Hall Chorus. Megan is senior year captain of the Varsity Field Hockey and Tennis teams as well. She has an extensive list of community service, volunteering at Masonicare and Community Revitalization Efforts of Wallingford, as well as, working as a Peer Advocate and a Freshman Advisory Leader.

ALYSSA BALDYGA

Alyssa is a true leader and role model, ranking number 13 in her senior class. She is a member of the Student Council where she serves as class representative. Alyssa was inducted into the National Honor Society for her outstanding civic, social and academic achievements. She serves as a Peer Advocate, assisting with programs on substance abuse and bullying. As Co-Captain of the tennis team, she is ranked divisionally, regionally and nationally; and qualified for the CT state tournament and SCC All Conference Girls Tennis. Alyssa is a student leader for our choral program where she serves as a section leader and lead voice.

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MERCY

Sister Mary A. McCarthy, RSM, President

KELLY BARRY

During her four years at Mercy High, Kelly has been a dedicated and involved member of the school community. She has actively participated in a wide range of activities and has been recognized for her service to her school and community to include:

SADD – Grades 10,11,12; Chinese Club - Grades 10,11,12; Mercy Ambassador - Grades 9-12; Cross Country Team -Grades 9-12; Outdoor Track -Grades 9-12; Sophomore Volunteer Award; State Crew- Grades 11,12; Middletown Rotary Award; Alter Server – St. John Church; Soup Kitchen Volunteer – St. Joseph's

DEVON GARRETT

Devon is a superb scholar, a quiet leader, compassionate server, and accomplished musician as an impressive pianist and oboist. She has pursued a rigorous academic schedule of honors and AP classes and is consistently at the top of her class academically. Devon has been an asset to Mercy and her community by being involved in: Tech Tigers Robotics Team – Grades 9-12 Captain Robotics Team – Grade 12; Mercy Ambassador -Grades 9-12

Selected for the DNA workshop at Albertus Magnus College as a Freshwoman Junior year participant at the Vatican Observatory at University of Arizona/ Women in Science Forum Attendee – Manchester NH

NORTH HAVEN

Dr. Russell Dallai, Principal

JULIA OPRAMOLLA

Julie is the valedictorian of her class and has been outstanding representative of North Haven HS. Through four years of uncompromising academic excellence, she has earned membership in the National Honor Society as well as the Math, Latin, Italian, and Tri-M Music Honor Societies. As a junior, Julia received the Harvard University Book award for excellence in scholarship and high character. Beyond academics, Julia has been recognized by the Rotary Club for her volunteer service, including her work in a local library, nursing home, and religious education classes. Finally, Julia is a key member of four award-winning music ensembles and a track and cross country athlete.

SEAN FLANNERY

Sean is an impressive thinker and person. Ranked in the fifth percentile of his class, Sean is a National Merit Commended Scholar. He is also a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society. Sean is an accomplished musician, playing in our school band, earning a position in the All-Region Band, and serving as president of the Music Honor Society. Beyond academic and musical excellence, Sean is a selfless contributor to the community. He has logged over three hundred hours of community service, much of which he contributed to the nonprofit Ten Thousand Villages organization.

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NOTRE DAME

Robert Curis, Principal

LIAM CONNELL

Liam has been an exemplary leader and scholar at Notre Dame. He serves as the Senior Class President, Editor of the Yearbook, President of the Spanish Club, a Peer Counselor, a Peer Tutor, and a member of DECA. He's also the starting goalie for the Varsity Ice Hockey team, which reached the SCC Division I championship game. Liam has volunteered almost 100 hours with the Autism Services and Resources of America.

JERRELL DORSEY

Jerrell has been an outstanding leader and scholar at Notre Dame. He serves as the Student Council President, tri-captain of the Varsity basketball team (which finished the 2016-17 regular-season with a perfect 20-0 record), founder/president of the Culinary Club, an officer in the Minority Student Union, a Peer Counselor, and a member of TEAM ND (the student ambassador program). He is still extremely involved at St. Martin de Porres and volunteers numerous hours with his grandmother at the Community Garden.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, Principal

CAITLYN NAPIERKOWSKI

Caitlyn has been an outstanding scholar and leader at Sacred Heart Academy. Some of her accomplishments: Senior Class President - 12, Student Council Secretary - 11, Student Council Homeroom Representative – 9, 10, Varsity Softball Captain, earned Varsity letter all four years, Club Softball Captain, Key Club member, Volunteer at Blessed Sacrament Church, acts as School Mascot at functions, works part-time as an assistant at a law firm, usher and lector at church.

KATHERINE MACKEY

Katherine has been an outstanding scholar and leader at Sacred Heart Academy. Some of her accomplishments: Student Council President – 12, Junior Class President, Student Council Treasurer – 9, 10, Yearbook Editor – 12, Varsity Indoor and Outdoor Track, earned Varsity letter, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Latin National Honor Society, Key Club, active camp counselor and volunteer, spearheaded the campaign to change our school mascot, founded dog therapy program "A Girl's Best Friend."

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MARK T. SHEEHAN

Rosemary Duthie, Principal

KAIRAV MANIAR

Kairav ranks third in his graduating class and has enrolled in the highest course offered in every discipline. He has extended his learning through numerous independent studies and through research based internships with college professors. In addition, he participated in the Argentina Exchange Program and the Junior Achievement's Global Connection Business Exchange with China. Kairav demonstrates leadership as Drum Major, President of the National Honor Society, Mock Trial Team and Math Team, and as Vice President of the Media Club. He has volunteered at the Ivan Lendl Adaptive Sports Camp for Disabled Children and also tutors students who are struggling academically.

KATIE SCHLICK

Katie ranks fourth in her graduating class, excelling in a most rigorous program of study. Katie effectively leads her peers as Co-President of the Future Educators Club, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and Secretary of the Class of 2017. Her four year commitment to Sheehan's Marching Band culminated in Katie's appointment as Section Leader this year. She serves her community as a Wallingford Peer Advocate, educating children about positive choices. Katie's enthusiastic leadership in the Wallingford Public Library's youth program, "Make It or Break It," has ignited a passion for Chemistry and Environmental Science in the next generation.

SHELTON

Dr. Beth Smith, Headmaster

CASEY O'CONNOR

Casey has proven successful in all four years in an honors/Advanced Placement/UCONN ECE program. She is a dedicated member of the SHS Girls' Volleyball and Basketball teams, earning SCC All-Academic Team, SCC All-Star Academic Team in both sports for multiple years. Captain of the basketball team, she earned All-SCC Second Team honors this season and has been a camp counselor at the SHS basketball camp and at the Dribble Drive basketball camp for several years. Her academic achievements, extra-curricular activities and community service make her stand out from her peers.

MICHAEL LEONE

Michael is a hardworking and intelligent young man. He is an accomplished student, shining in his Advanced Placement and UCONN course work. Michael shares that he gained his work ethic from his family, and being a first generation family member has pushed him to find success. In addition to his academics, Michael is a member of JSA, an Eagle Scout, and participates in multiple community service events throughout the year. He is an amazing student with great accomplishments.

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WEST HAVEN

Pamela Gardner, Principal

LAUREN LEWIS

Lauren is the epitome of a student-athlete-leader. She is responsible, dedicated, and a woman of her word. Lauren is committed to all that she is involved in from her challenging AP course load to Captain of the Soccer and Basketball Teams to the National Honor Society to Theater Workshop to Student Government to Peer Advocates. As Vice-President, Lauren is the driving force behind the Class of 2017. She is also an active volunteer with the First Congregational Church, the West Haven Black Coalition and the West Haven Youth Soccer League's Top Soccer program.

ANDREW GORDON

Andrew is a natural leader, independent thinker and good friend to all. His passion for science drove his involvement in the Yale Pathways and SPROUT programs and opened up the world of environmental sciences to him. He is a valued and respected member of both the debate and mock trial teams. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Peer Advocates and VolunTEENS. He has shared his talents on the stage with Bel Canto and Theater Workshop. He is a proud member of Developing Tomorrow's Professionals (DTP).

WILBUR CROSS

Dr. Edith Johnson, Principal

ABIGAIL ESWARAKUMAR

Abigail is the Founder and leader of the Environment Club at Wilbur Cross. She developed a sustainable solution to ongoing recycling issues by coordinating peer recyclers to empty bins and educate the school community for service hours. She also started a vegetable garden and gave proceeds to a local sober house. Additionally, Abigail has organized 2 Christmas fundraisers giving proceeds to flood victims in India and Sudan farmers who lost their land due to climate change. She is the current Editor in Chief of The Proclamation (School Newspaper).

DAVID LANDOLFI

David has been an outstanding student leader at Wilbur Cross High School. In addition to taking several AP classes, he is on the varsity baseball team, while also playing the trumpet in the band and jazz ensemble. David is a part of the outdoors and chess clubs, has completed multiple Yale classes, and is chapter president of the Math Honor Society. The majority of his time is spent at the Peabody Museum, where he holds a position in the work program Sci.CORPS and participates in the Environmental Leaders Program. David has won the Yale Book Award and the District Science Fair.

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XAVIER

Br. Brian Davis, C.F.X., Headmaster

ROBERT LARESE

Robert epitomizes the phrase Scholar Leader. He has earned a cumulative 3.87 GPA through a rigorous course of study, including 7 AP courses and three years of Engineering. Outside of class, Robert always gives his time to the community. He is an active member of the National, Spanish, Math and Science Honor Societies plus the Crew Team, Math Team, Engineering Team and Ambassador's Club. Robert serves as President of NHS and Student Activities Council President. Additionally, he has completed all requirements to be named Eagle Scout. Robert is one of the most genuine, respectful, and hardworking gentlemen we have had the honor of working with at Xavier.

ZACHARY TAYLOR

Zachary has achieved a very high level of academic excellence. Having earned either an A or A+ in every course he has taken at Xavier, he has compiled an impressive cumulative GPA of 4.20. A member of the National, Spanish, Math, and Science Honor Societies, Zachary volunteers his time regularly through the Ambassadors Club and Empower Leadership Club. Zachary is also a key member of the Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track Teams. Zachary is studious and caring, and he is respected by peers and faculty alike for his leadership by example.

BILL O'BRIEN COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Bill O'Brien served as Commissioner of the SCC for 10 years (1994-2004) and remains active with the conference. A retired banking executive, Bill is well-known for his passionate and unselfish community service efforts throughout the greater New Haven area.

At the conclusion of tonight's awards banquet, two \$500 scholarships will be awarded in Bill's honor.

Worthy recipients have a healthy balance of school and community activities that are value-added and embody the "spirit and passion" of Bill O'Brien.

To "fairly" identify the recipients, the league requested for those interested scholar-leaders to contribute a writing piece in addition to their resume of activities/achievements.

This is the ninth year the SCC has presented this scholarship. Here are the past recipients:

2016 – Susie Beyl (West Haven), Kaarish Maniar (Sheehan)

2015 – Naomi Caldwell (Amity Regional), Charles Ahern (Branford)

2014 – Amanda Royka (North Haven), Carl Verch (Sheehan)

2013 – Elise Tomasello (East Haven), Christopher Mazzacane (West Haven)

2012 – Yuning Zhang (Guilford) and Jacob Thomas (Daniel Hand)

2011 – Benjamin Donarum (Notre Dame), Alicia Gansley (Sheehan)

2010 – Caitlin Axtmayer (Sacred Heart Academy), Claire Crouch (Mercy)

2009 – Matthew Schell (Branford), Sharon Hwang (East Haven)

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WHAT IS THE SCC?

Founded in 1994, the Southern Connecticut Conference is celebrating its 23rd year in 2016–17 with 23 member schools and nearly 23,000 students.

Recognized as one of the premier athletic leagues in the state of Connecticut, SCC member schools have captured more than 420 state championships since the league's inception.

More importantly, the SCC is recognized for its outstanding non-athletic programs and events in student leadership and the arts, which attempt to breakdown barriers and build bridges of understanding to its students.

For more information, visit www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org

