

# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

*ESTABLISHED 1994*



# 25TH ANNUAL SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET

MARCH 25, 2019

ANTHONY OCEAN'S VIEW – NEW HAVEN

**MEMBER SCHOOLS:** Amity Regional, Branford, Hill Regional Ca  
Magnet, Cheshire, Daniel Hand, East Haven, Fairfield Prep  
Joseph A. Foran, Guilford, Hamden, Hillhouse, Jonathan La  
Lauralton Hall, Lyman Hall, Mercy, North Haven, Notre Dar  
Sacred Heart Academy, Sheehan, Shelton,  
West Haven, Wilbur Cross, Xavier

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***WWW.SOUTHERNCONNECTICUTCONFERENCE.ORG***

# WELCOME

Welcome to the 2019 Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader recognition banquet – the 25th hosted by the league.

This evening, we recognize forty-six 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.

## 2018-19 SCC SCHOLAR LEADERS

**AMITY REGIONAL** – Anthony Tom, Rosie Du  
**BRANFORD** – Kelly Tiernan, Praneeth Ganedi  
**HILL REGIONAL CAREER** – Alexandra Queen, Adam Ahmad-Rizal  
**CHESHIRE** – Alexa Cofrancesco, Ryan Cyr  
**DANIEL HAND** – Callahan Henry, Chloe Veth  
**EAST HAVEN** – Talia Ferraro, Jose Rodriguez-Sanchez  
**FAIRFIELD PREP** – Finn O’Connor, Thomas Rudden  
**JOSEPH A. FORAN** – Max Tavitian, Maggie Cummings  
**GUILFORD** – Will Dinauer, Anne Hooker  
**HAMDEN** – Maya Verghese, Andrew Naguib  
**JAMES HILLHOUSE** – Makayla Dawkins, Mohamed Naji  
**JONATHAN LAW** – Kruttika Gopal, Michael Bagdasarian  
**LAURALTON HALL** – Caroline McMullen, Isabella Secchiaroli  
**LYMAN HALL** – Kailey Lipka, Brian Behrens  
**MERCY** – Caroline Kilian, Grace Delaney  
**NORTH HAVEN** – Jackson Frank, Sarina Sandwell  
**NOTRE DAME** – Christian Gee, Colton Varholak  
**SACRED HEART ACADEMY** – Vivian Wang, Claire Lagarde  
**MARK T. SHEEHAN** – Sydney Carim, Shreya Patel  
**SHELTON** – Alyssa Bretan, Sean Rago  
**WEST HAVEN** – Sumedha Chowdhury, Jonathan Saier  
**WILBUR CROSS** – Pablo Causa, Sungshil Johnson  
**XAVIER** – Connor Dwyer, Kevin Galasso

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## **AMITY REGIONAL**

*Anna Mahon, Principal*

### **ANTHONY TOM**

Academically, Anthony is one of Amity's most accomplished students. He has consistently enrolled in a combination of honors and AP level courses, earning a 4.82 weighted average. He received the Excellence in AP Chemistry Award, the Trinity Book Award and earned High Honors every marking period. He is a CT Governor's Scholar semi-finalist and was our Daughters of the American Revolution award recipient. His passion for science and inquiry has led him to a future career in nuclear engineering. Athletically, Anthony is a leader in our Cross Country and Track and Field programs, demonstrating through his own practice the success that comes from consistent dedication to training. He is a gentleman and scholar in the truest sense of the words.

### **ROSIE DU**

Rosie is the epitome of a scholar leader. She gives her all in everything she does, whether it be on the court, in the classroom or in the community. She is a 4-year varsity tennis player at Amity, she has maintained a 5.1 weighted GPA within a rigorous curriculum (including 8 AP courses) and her list of accomplishments is impressive (award-winning science researcher, editor of the school newspaper, treasurer of student government, link leader, local symphony member, etc). But at the foundation of all these accolades is a kind, respectful, modest young woman who is appreciative of the opportunities given to her. She has the ability to bring different groups of people together with her thoughtful, insightful manner, and she is a true leader in all sense of the word.

## **BRANFORD**

*Lee Panagoulas, Principal*

### **KELLY TIERNAN**

Kelly is a member of the National Honor Society and consistent High Honor Roll Student every quarter for her entire high school career while challenging herself with a very demanding course load. A talented writer, in 2017 Kelly was the winner of Senator Ted Kennedy Jr.'s essay contest to rename a reef off the coast of Branford. She is a three-year participant in the Science Olympiad competition and was the winner of the CAPS Certificate of Excellence in 2018. Additionally, Kelly is a class officer (Treasurer), serves as a captain of our school's sailing team and plays on the varsity girls' ice hockey team.

### **PRANEETH GANEDI**

Praneeth is a member of the National Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, the Chemistry Club, and the Math Team. He is Vice President of the Physics Club and Vice President of our Model Congress. In 2018, Praneeth was named Rotary Student of the Month for Math and received the Young Leaders Award from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He also plays goalie for our boys' soccer team, is captain of our tennis team, and has volunteered as a camp counselor at Camp Totokett.

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## HILL REGIONAL CAREER

*Dr. Zakia Parrish , Principal*

### **ALEXANDRA QUEEN**

Alexandra is ranked #4 in her class with an outstanding 4.6 grade point average. She is a three-sport athlete -- having played four years of girls volleyball player, two year of basketball, and four years of softball. Alexandra is part of three Honors Societies including (National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Latin Honor Society). Alexandra was awarded a summer internship at Yale School of Medicine.

### **ADAM AHMAD-RIZAL**

Adam is ranked #7 in the senior class with an outstanding 4.4 grade point average. Adam participates in both Soccer, and four years in both Indoor and Outdoor Track. Adam has been part of the Peabody Evolutions program at Yale for the last three years. This allowed Adam an opportunity to work in the Museum and teach visitors and younger audiences about content in the Museum.

## CHESHIRE

*Mary Gadd, Principal*

### **ALEXA COFRANCESCO**

From the first moment you meet Alexa, you are impressed by her outgoing, independent nature, and her kind, caring, fiercely loyal personality. Alexa is extremely passionate about the things she believes in, and she is always willing to stand up for what she thinks is right. What is most impressive about Alexa is her involvement in extracurricular activities; many of which highlight her caring nature. She has been a long time member and current president of Cheshire's Best Buddy program. In addition, she is a member of CHS Link Crew, Do-Rak and Peer Advocates. Additionally, Alexa is a Youth Ambassador for the Cheshire Lights of Hope, and you may have seen her on Channel 3 News last fall. Cheshire Lights of Hope is a non-profit organization. These activities have contributed to Alexa's development of outstanding leadership and time-management skills; she has a demanding schedule, but she has earned high or distinguished honors each of her four years at Cheshire High School. Alexa leads by example, and she is a strong role model for all those around her.

### **RYAN CYR**

Ryan Cyr is a bright, motivated, capable, charismatic young man, an extremely talented athlete, and a strong student with a great deal of leadership ability. Ryan is mature beyond his years. He is an analytical thinker, and he truly wants to make the right choices by seeking out critical information and following the necessary steps to succeed. This makes him an excellent peer leader, for he is a role model for all in word and deed. What is most memorable about Ryan is his intense school spirit. It was under his leadership that Cheshire, again, was awarded the CIAC Michael's Cup Sportsmanship Award. Ryan also demonstrated some powerful business acumen by creating, marketing, and selling Cheshire SuperFan t-shirts, and Ryan can be seen at school events wearing it with pride. Ryan is also a member of the Cheshire Student Leadership Advisory Council that advises the school Leadership Team and brings student voice to school-wide decision-making.

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## **DANIEL HAND**

*Anthony Salutari, Principal*

## **CALLAHAN HENRY**

“Cal” is a leader and dedicated student who approaches challenges with incredible determination. He is a strong analytical thinker with the ability to comprehend complex problems. Cal has developed a sense of discipline that has played a significant role in his success. His desire to challenge himself sets him apart from many other students. He is diligent in everything that he does and he consistently sets high standards for himself. Cal is also an outstanding athlete and is a member of the Connecticut Boys Gymnastics Team. He has had great success as a gymnast and is clearly a role model for many younger athletes. Cal’s numerous positive character traits led him to become a Peer Advocate. His ability to balance work, sports, family, athletics, and academics is admirable.

## **CHLOE VETH**

Chloe is a scholar with a work ethic that has propelled her to the top of her class. She is a mature and quiet leader. She has the unique ability to make others feel comfortable in new situations. Chloe gets along well with all members of the school community due to her positive personality, strong listening skills, and kind heart. Chloe has a love for learning and embraces the challenges presented by a schedule that is always filled with the most challenging courses. In addition to great academic success, Chloe is involved in many extra-curricular activities. She is a Peer Advocate, a member of the track team, an inductee to National Honor Society, and an important and contributing member of Student Leadership.

## **EAST HAVEN**

*Vincent DeNuzzo, Principal*

## **TALIA FERRARO**

Talia is one of the brightest, most well-rounded students we have at East Haven High School. She has been an exemplary student and is a role model within our school community. Academically, Talia has performed at high levels since she arrived at East Haven High School and has challenged herself with an incredibly rigorous academic course load. Talia is a decorated student and has been recognized for her academic success by earning a variety of awards for excellence at East Haven High School and she was also recognized with the SAGE Colleges Book Award. Talia has been very active in the school community, where she is a member of the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), the Prom Committee, and the Yearbook Committee. Talia also serves as the Vice President of the National Honor Society.

## **JOSE RODRIGUEZ-SANCHEZ**

Jose is one of the finest students we have at East Haven High School. His commitment to excellence academically and his involvement in the school community make him most deserving of the honor of being named a Scholar-Leader. Academically, Jose ranks near the top of his class and has consistently challenged himself in the classroom. Jose is a member of the State and New England Champion East Haven Co-op Marching Band program, where he is a member of the color guard. His leadership with that program earned him the role captain this past season. Jose is also a member of the Yearbook committee, the Debate club, the treasurer of the Art Club, and he is the Vice President of the Health Occupations Students of America. Additionally, Jose volunteers his time as a member of the Hagaman Memorial Library Teen Advisory group.

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## **FAIRFIELD PREP**

*Thomas de Quesada, Principal*

### **FINN O'CONNOR**

Academically, as a student at Fairfield Prep, Finn has achieved Summa Cum Laude Honors during all his four years at Prep, and he was also the recipient of the Harvard Book Award at the annual Honors Award Ceremony. He also excels on the field as a member of the lacrosse team, where he has played goalie for the last three years at the varsity level. Finn has also stood out as a leader within his senior class in the area of retreat ministry. He has served as a Freshman Retreat, Sophomore Retreat and Kairos leader. He decided to lead those retreats after having impactful experiences of his own. Outside of Prep, he is a volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford, serving as a tutor and mentor to underprivileged kids in the Stamford School System.

### **THOMAS RUDDEN**

Thomas is an excellent student at Fairfield Prep who is very actively involved in the Prep Players, the school's theatrical group. Thomas enjoys getting involved in social issues. One example is that he and several of his classmates founded REIGNS, the first Gay-Straight Alliance at Prep. The club offers a space to discuss current events and organize diversity forums. Thomas also planned the student walkout to protest gun violence last March. Thomas was also recently co-director for a Kairos retreat experience. Kairos is led by students and its purpose is to create a stronger community and brotherhood. Additionally, Thomas has taught first grade religious education for four years at St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Fairfield.

## **JOSEPH A. FORAN**

*Max Berkowitz, Principal*

### **MAX TAVITIAN**

Max is an outstanding student and accomplished athlete at Foran High School. He has taken a rigorous course load of numerous Honors and Advanced Placement classes and earned induction into the National Honor Society due to his high achievement. Max has demonstrated outstanding leadership within the school community and was selected as Captain of the Football and Lacrosse Teams. Additionally, he has excelled in both Football and Lacrosse, earning second team All-State in Lacrosse in 2017 and first team All-State in Lacrosse in 2018. Max has also shown a strong desire to help others through his participation in the Giving Back Club and the Food2kids Club. He has earned Graduation with Distinction for volunteering over 200 hours within the community. Max is admired by all for his integrity and selfless dedication to his teams and his classmates.

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## **MAGGIE CUMMINGS**

Maggie is an outstanding student leader who ranks near the top of her class. She has taken Advanced Placement and Honors courses in all academic disciplines and earned the distinction of AP Scholar with Honor and membership in the National Honor Society. She has been recognized with various awards such as Excellence in Child Development, Excellence in Child Care Lab, Excellence in Advanced Placement European History, and the University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award. Maggie has demonstrated strong leadership as Captain of the Cross Country and Outdoor Track Teams, as the Secretary of the Interact Club, and as an officer in Natural Helpers, a club that volunteers throughout the Foran community. She is an extremely kind and caring person who has volunteered throughout the community to help others. By the time she graduates, Maggie will have over 200 hours of community service and earn Graduation with Distinction

## **GUILFORD**

*Rick Misenti, Principal*

## **WILL DINAUER**

Will is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, as well as the recipient of high honors throughout his tenure in high school. His first-place finish for Guilford High School in the American Mathematics Competition and his numerous Awards for Excellence in his core academic subjects demonstrates Will's tremendous scholarship. Will also plays trumpet in our school's symphony orchestra and wind ensemble. His talents and accomplishments reach far beyond the classroom. Will has been a member of our high school's track, cross country and fencing programs, earning a team fencing State Championship during his tenure. His selection as captain of this year's cross country and track teams exemplifies the confidence that his teammates have in him and it validates this young man's resolve to lead and excel in all that he does. In addition to representing our school both academically and athletically, Will makes it a point to give back to communities in need, as demonstrated by his participation and community service during mission trips throughout the United States.

## **ANNE HOOKER**

Anne's strong and successful academic experience, coupled with her tremendous involvement in activities, demonstrates her desire to lead both in and outside the classroom. Anne's contributions to Guilford High School's National Honor Society and French Honor Society are unparalleled. Her perfect SAT Math score and near perfect Evidence Based Reading and Writing and subject area Biology scores, coupled with a 4.55 GPA are admirable! As a member of our Yale Physics' Olympic team, in which Anne served as co-captain, her involvement in our school's Women in Science Club, serving as President and her enthusiastic work with Unified Sports, Anne has clearly demonstrated her compassion and ability to lead and support her peers and our high school. In addition, Anne volunteers countless hours at Guilford's Women and Family Life Center, with peer tutoring, assisting the guidance department during College Fair and as track and field manager. Anne's activities expand beyond our high school. She has received numerous and prestigious awards for her ability to dance. Her dancing talent has taken her to the World Irish Dance Championships in Dublin, as well as the North American Irish Dance Championships, performing admirably in both.

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## **HAMDEN**

*Nadine Gannon, Principal*

### **MAYA VERGHESE**

Maya is an exemplary scholar and leader. Her scholastic diligence has earned her the Harvard Book Award, AP Scholar with Honors, and Superintendent Student of the Month. Maya is a talented flautist in the HHS Marching and Concert Bands and is a member of the Tri-Music Honor Society. She is a member of the National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. Maya revived the school's literary magazine, the Looking Glass and currently serves as President and is the Co-President of the Writer's Club. Maya is a strong advocate for those in need and has given back to the community through her volunteer work at the Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven Reads and the American Cancer Society- Cancer Action Network.

### **ANDREW NAGUIB**

Andrew Naguib moved to America from Cairo, Egypt at age nine, not knowing a single word of English. Through hard work and sheer determination, Andrew has continuously challenged himself by taking the most rigorous Honors and AP Program available, earning a spot in the top 5% of this year's graduating class. Andrew has dedicated himself to activities which support his goal of becoming a Physician. As founder and President of the Hamden High American Red Cross Club, Andrew has honed his capacity for team building and demonstrated his commitment to service. Andrew volunteers at Yale New Haven Hospital and conducts research on prostate cancer, and tryptophan-derived antimicrobial compounds in plants at Yale Medical School and Yale University.

## **JAMES HILLHOUSE**

*Glen Worthy, Principal*

### **MAYAKLA DAWKINS**

Makayla is a High Honor student at James Hillhouse High School, and member of the National Honor Society. She serves as vice president of the student council. Makayla was elected as a student representative on the New Haven Board of Education and appointed to the Board by Governor Daniel Malloy in August 2018, as one of two non voting members. Makayla is also a GripTape Researcher and 2018 Bezos Family Scholar, a yearlong leadership development program. Makayla is an active community leader. She demonstrates her leadership role as a peer advocate for Planned Parenthood and as a youth educator with Believe in Me Empowerment Corporation, where she volunteered with young children who have incarcerated parents. Makayla was a recipient of the Daughters of American Revolution Good Citizen Award, Yale Bassett Award for Community Engagement and the The 2018 Edgewood Magnet Notable Award.

### **MOHAMED NAJI**

Mohamed will graduate as Valedictorian and with High Honors with Distinction student. Mohamed is a member of the Hillhouse Math Team, National Honors Society, in addition to other STEM activities. Throughout his years at

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Hillhouse, he's taken various college courses at Yale University and Gateway Community College. Mohamed was also selected as an Outstanding Senior, taking college courses at the University of New Haven for the second semester of his high school career. Aside from his academic achievements, he's served as a member on the C-House Varsity Soccer Team. Mr. Naji is also a Yale Pathways to Science scholar, where he invested his summer... In addition, he is a Pathways to College member. He has also been the recipient of Mayor Harps Academic Excellence award, where he was honored at City Hall

### **JONATHAN LAW**

*Fran Thompson, Principal*

### **KRUTTIKA GOPAL**

Kruttika ranks third in her class and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has been the recipient of multiple academic rewards and has taken the most rigorous course load we offer with 9 Advanced Placement classes. One of the most rewarding learning experiences for her at Jonathan Law has been through Model UN where she has learned diplomacy and expanded her scope on global affairs. Music is another of Kruttika's passions. Music has taught her leadership, strength and courage over the years. She is leader in our school choir holding the leadership roles of Assistant Music Director and Choir Manager. Kruttika is a key leader in many areas of our school. She is vice president of the National Honor Society, President of Model UN, and co-founder of the Environmental Club.

### **MICHAEL BAGDASARIAN**

As salutatorian, Michael has proven that he values his academics and works hard to achieve the best possible grades he can. He has successfully advocated for himself allowing for unique opportunities that other students have not had. He advocated to take an AP course as a freshman, he advocated to take an AP Physics 2 course online, and he advocated for a small group of seniors to be enrolled in a university level math course in senior year. Involved in both sports and clubs, Michael tries to make the most of his experiences. Michael is on both the cross country team and the track team serving as the Track captain this year.. Michael serves as president of the ski club, captain for the Yale physics Olympics team, and Sargent in arms for key club.

### **LAURALTON HALL**

*Elizabeth Miller, Head of School*

### **CAROLINE McMULLEN**

Caroline has been an outstanding member of the Lauralton Hall community. She is a member of National Honor Society. She is the Vice President of the Senior class and holds offices in Latin Club and Irish Club. Caroline is also the Captain of the Lauralton Hall Cheerleading team, which recently placed third in the recent Class L state tournament.

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## **ISABELLA SECCHIAROLI**

Isabella has served on Student Council for the entirety of her four years at Luralton Hall. She currently serves as Student Council President where she has set a specific goal in trying to increase school spirit by improving LH's spirit pep rallies. Bella also serves on the State Student Advisory Council on Education where she has worked on Gun Control projects and done research on advocacy for low income education that she has presented to the State Board of Ed. She is also involved in Connecticut Youth and Government as the Youth Speaker of the House. In her free time, she swims and plays lacrosse, enjoys reading, and spending time with friends.

## **LYMAN HALL**

*Joseph Corso, Principal*

## **KAILEY LIPKA**

Kailey is an exceptional student ranked second in her class. She has been a member of varsity basketball and cross country since her freshman year and was a captain of both teams. Based upon her athletic ability and academic achievement, she was named All-SCC First Team, Second Team, and All-Academic Team. She was selected as most valuable basketball player during her junior year and hit 1,000 career points this year. Kailey has accrued more than double the required community service hours through her work as a mentor in Lyman Hall's Bridge Academy and at a parks and recreation department. She is a member of National Honor Society, a student council representative, Computer Club president, and a CollegeBoard National Hispanic Scholar.

## **BRIAN BEHRENS**

Brian has pursued the most rigorous programs of study that LHHS has to offer, including additional college level coursework, and ranks number one in his class. He is a witty, bright and unique young man who radiates a maturity beyond his years. As a Senior Patrol Leader, Brian completed his Eagle Scout Project through Boy Scouts of America where he refinished senior court to make it more enjoyable and comfortable for future generations. As a student leader, Brian serves as the president of Technology Students Association and is currently tutoring other students in science and math. Through Connecticut Scuba Academy he serves as a SDI Open Water Scuba Diver. He has been nominated for the UCONN Nutmeg Scholarship for his service to community and leadership.

## **MERCY**

*Sister Mary A. McCarthy, RSM, President*

## **CAROLINE KILIAN**

Caroline is the current Co-Captain of TechTigers 3654 FIRST Robotics Competition Team at her school, where she spends six days a week working on bringing STEM education to everyone around the world. With the help of Grace Delaney (also honored tonight), she co-founded TechTigers 3654 Girl Up Club, which is a part of the UN Foundation Girl Up network of advocates from around the world. For the past year she has been the president of People Investing in People Foundation's Girl Up cultural exchange between girls in Ghana and girls in the USA. She has served on the Middletown Mayoral Youth Cabinet since eighth grade.

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## **GRACE DELANEY**

– Grace Delaney has spent her past four years at Mercy High School dedicated to her community. She co-founded a UN Foundation Girl Up club at her school. Through their fundraising efforts, they won the Rookie Club of the Year award. After being a member of the Mercy United Nations Club for four years she is now the co-Secretary General and was the Communications Chair since sophomore year. As the Moderators Assistant to the robotics team, she has formed pathways in her school to enable them to run as a business. She is a dedicated Latin student having received a Cum Laude award on the National Latin Exam in grades 10 and 11 and Treasurer to the Latin Honor Society.

## **NORTH HAVEN**

*Dr. Russell Dallai, Principal*

## **JACKSON FRANK**

NHHS's 2019 Valedictorian, Jackson, is a Salve Regina Book Award recipient and has been honored as an AP Scholar. He has participated in band and been an annual contributor to our school newspaper. As a member of Future Problem Solving, Jackson and his team qualified for and attended the FPS International Conference. Jackson volunteers with the Student Rotary and serves as a tutor for adults with autism. Outside of school, Jackson has served as Captain of the Cross Country team twice, has competed in track and field, and has been named the North Haven Courier's Sports Person of the Week. He is Secretary of the Math Honor Society and a member of the Science, Spanish, Music, and National Honor Societies.

## **SARINA SANDWELL**

NHHS's Salutatorian, Sarina, is the recipient of the Yale Book Award, SCC Scholar Athlete Award, SCC Coaches Merit Award for cheerleading, and SCC All-Academic Team recognition. She is a varsity cheerleading captain, and also captain of the outdoor track and NIKH (power puff) bowl teams. She has been an All-American Cheerleading nominee for three years and holds the high school record for girls' triple jump. She is president of the Art Honor Society, member of the National Honor Society, and treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta. She has been named sports person of the week in the North Haven Courier. Sarina has volunteered over 200 hours coaching youth cheerleading and volunteering at a children's summer camp.

## **NOTRE DAME**

*Robert Curis, Principal*

## **CHRISTIAN GEE**

Christian is an aspiring pharmacist, he spent the past two summers working in a laboratory at Yale University with Dr. Mamula, Yale School of Medicine. While working at Yale, Christian joined Dr. Mamula in his cancer vaccine research in dogs. Following his summer in the Elm City, Christian attended the UCONN Science Symposium, where he received the People's Choice Award for his presentation. A natural leader, Christian serves as the Student Council President, the Vice President of the Minority Student Union, and a Peer Counselor. Christian tutors his classmates and holds memberships in both the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. He balances his demanding academic course load with his extracurriculars, as he is also on the editing staff for ND's literary magazine, The Mind's Eye, and participates in ND's Model UN.

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## **COLTON VARHOLAK**

Last summer, Colton attended the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders and the United States Coast Guard Academy Introduction Program (AIM). Colton's dedication to serving others is shown in both his extracurricular activities and his career aspirations. As a Peer Counselor and tutor, Colton is always willing to offer support and guidance. Throughout his years at Notre Dame, Colton served the local communities of New Haven, Bridgeport, and Massachusetts and also participated in service trips to Kentucky, Maine, and Texas. In addition to volunteering, he is a two-sport athlete (swimming and track and field) and a musician, as well as an active member of ND's Model UN, Interact Club, and Christian Student Mission Club.

**SACRED HEART ACADEMY**     *Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, Principal*

## **VIVIAN WANG**

Throughout her four years at Sacred Heart Academy, Vivian has been a part of student government. Vivian has also been a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Math, Science and French Honor Societies. As a member of the cross country team for all four years, she presently serves as captain. Outside of school Vivian has already distinguished herself as a researcher, working with two doctors from Yale University School of Medicine's Department of Immunology on a research project that was published in October of 2018 in the Journal of Immunology. She is listed as one of the three primary researchers in this publication earning the same credit for the work as the two doctors who spearheaded the project.

## **CLAIRE LAGARDE**

Claire is presently the president of the senior class. When the class voted for Claire as their president they knew that they were going to get a natural leader who truly cares about her classmates and her community. Claire sets high standards for herself and expects the same of others. She has taken ownership of her learning process, adding AP level courses in the past three years and admits that even though AP Biology was the most difficult class for her, she enrolled in it because she is interested in the material and knew it would provide her with a strong base for college. Both in and out of school Claire has played the violin for 13 years and is presently a member of the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra.

**MARK T. SHEEHAN**     *Enzo Zocco, Principal*

## **SYDNEY CARIM**

Sydney is a student with poise and determination. She is ranked third in her class and continuously challenges herself with a rigorous course load. Sydney is very involved in the Sheehan school community. She serves as the President of the National Honor Society, which provides academic leadership and service to our school community. Through Sydney's leadership, this prestigious organization has a strong, positive impact on our school community. Sydney is also a talented athlete. She is a top runner on the girl's cross-country team and serves as captain. She is also a member of the Track

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and Field team. Sydney's leadership on the field shine as an example to her peers. Sydney has been selected to the school district leadership team by our superintendent of schools. This organization collaborates with the state legislature to discuss and plan for high school reform. Sydney's contributions to this important work helps to influence educational legislation. Lastly, Sydney volunteers her time providing community service. She has been involved in a local garden program, provided service to a local health care facility, and works with local youth.

## **SHREYA PATEL**

Shreya is a talented, well-rounded student at Sheehan High School. Her commitment to scholarship, leadership, service, and character through her studies and participation in extracurricular activities is very apparent. Shreya is a member of our prestigious National Honor Society, providing academic leadership and community service through this organization. She also participates in our district's Certified Nurse's Aide Program, working hard to achieve high academic marks in the program and providing compassionate care for patients at a health care facility as part of her internship experience. She medaled at the state HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Conference in medical terminology and she was honored as the local Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year. Shreya is also a student leader, serving as president of the Sheehan Math Team and vice president of the senior class and student council. Shreya is also a captain of the girl's tennis team and a talented musician in the string ensemble. Lastly, she dedicates time to volunteer in the community, particularly at the town library and at a health care facility working with patients.

## **SHELTON**

*Dr. Beth Smith, Headmaster*

## **ALYSSA BRETAN**

Alyssa is one of the busiest and most ambitious high school students. She is not just a member of a club, group, or team, but also an active participant, and in many cases an elected leader. She has and continues to participate in various volunteer programs because she feels it is important to give back to her community. Alyssa is very committed to her clubs and societies and invests a great deal of time and energy into making events successful. On top of all this, she is a competitive swimmer, and captain of our swim team at SHS. Alyssa possesses amazing school spirit and pride. Even with this busy schedule, Alyssa maintains a 4.3 GPA in very competitive advanced level classes.

## **SEAN RAGO**

Sean is a modest, mature and accomplished high achieving student at SHS. He has earned high honors every marking period throughout high school in a rigorous honors, AP, UCONN ECE course load. Sean is creative and intellectually curious with a particular interest in Science. He has been inducted into the National Honor Society and served as a delegate for Boy's State. Sean has also been a member of the Wrestling Team for the past four years and served as Captain this past year. His leadership and approachable personality have been impressive. Sean is currently ranked 11th in his class and maintains a 4.4 GPA.

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## WEST HAVEN

*Dana Paredes, Principal*

### **SUMEDHA CHOWDHURY**

As a passionate Westie, Sumedha strives to involve herself around the school. She serves as one of the three student representatives on the West Haven Board of Education. She helps run the District's Twitter page, and is a member of the National Honor Society. As a student passionate about science, she captains the science and robotics teams and recently started up a biology club. Outside of school, Sumedha has been a National Chemistry Olympiad Finalist and is currently an intern in a computational medicine lab. When she is not trying to learn MATLAB or studying for an upcoming test, she enjoys taking karate lessons, volunteering at science events or at the VA Hospital, and singing in the school's choir.

### **JONATHAN SAIER**

Jonathan played football his freshman year and despite leaving the field, he remained part of the team, serving as its equipment manager the following three years. Over those three years, he has also played tennis and joined a number of clubs, including robotics, the Academic Integrity Committee and SADD. Through his junior year, Jon worked in the library and graphics department, working with nearly every department at WHHS. After being elected Vice-President of the National Honor Society, Jon worked harder than ever, tackling anything asked of him. Currently, Jon is attending the University of New Haven as part of the Outstanding High School Senior Program gaining college experience and credit and spending time outside of class tutoring a fourth grader in advanced mathematics at Mackrille Elementary School.

## WILBUR CROSS

*Dr. Edith Johnson, Principal*

### **PABLO CAUSA**

Pablo's accomplishments include: Junior Yale Book Award Recipient, Valedictorian of Wilbur Cross, Vice-President of the National Honor Society, "Le Grand Concours" French 2 Competition 6th Place Recipient, starred as Agamemnon in the Educational Center for the Arts' (ECA) production of "Iphigenia in Aulis" from "The Greeks," starred as George from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," wrote and directed two short scenes during ECA's production of "Life is...," acted and wrote for three 48 Hour Play Festivals, and been a part of Planned Parenthood's STARS Program (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) since Junior Year.

### **SUNGSHIL JOHNSON**

Sungshil has attended Wilbur Cross for four years and is the salutatorian. Throughout her time at the school she has been a member of the cross country, indoor track and outdoor track teams. She also holds leadership positions on the Wilbur Cross marching band and wind ensemble, acting as one of the drum majors and band captains, and also participates in the school's jazz band. In addition to this, Sungshil is a member of the school's National Honor Society and French Honor Society, and is one of the school's student sound and lighting technicians.

# 2019 SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET – PAGE 15

## XAVIER

*David Eustis, Headmaster*

### **CONNOR DWYER**

Connor is a natural born leader. He is a humble and bright young man immersed in the community. Connor has taken the most rigorous courses possible, including 6 AP courses and 4 UConn ECE courses, and every grade on his transcript is in the A range. Connor is a Peer Minister and a member of the Empower Leadership Club, the Ambassadors Club, and the National, Math, Science, English, Spanish, and Social Studies Honor Societies. This past summer, he coordinated and ran a blood drive at Xavier with the Red Cross. A huge sports fan, Connor has been playing baseball since he was 5 years old. A man of tremendous talent and character, we are blessed to have Connor at Xavier.

### **KEVIN GALASSO**

Kevin is a tremendous young man and a go-to person at Xavier. He works diligently in his coursework, and has seen an already strong GPA grow higher each year. Kevin is thoughtful, respectful, and dependable, and he is respected by his peers and the faculty at Xavier alike. Kevin is the chief editor of the Kestrel, Xavier's newspaper, and his voice is often heard in the school announcements. Kevin is a talented member of the Xavier/Mercy Drama program as well as multiple Honor Societies, the Xavier Streaming Network, and the Xavier Outdoorsman Club. For the past five summers, Kevin has volunteered at the John J. Nerden RTC Camp for Special Needs kids. We are extremely proud of Kevin!

## **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 11th year the SCC has presented this scholarship.

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## WHAT IS THE SCC?

Founded in 1994, the Southern Connecticut Conference celebrates its 25th year in 2018–19 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 470 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](http://www.SouthernConnecticutConference.org)

