

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

ESTABLISHED 1994



28TH ANNUAL SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET

MARCH 28, 2022

ANTHONY OCEAN'S VIEW – NEW HAVEN

MEMBER SCHOOLS: Amity Regional, Branford, Hill Regional Career Magnet, Cheshire, Daniel Hand, East Haven, Fairfield Prep, Joseph A. 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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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2022 Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader recognition banquet – the 28th 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.

2021-22 SCC SCHOLAR LEADERS

AMITY REGIONAL – Taylor Dillon, Juan Carlos (JC) Rodriguez

BRANFORD – Nina Shamas, Josh Berdon

HILL REGIONAL CAREER – Mark Congacha, Shania Jackson

CHESHIRE – Mantra Narayanan, Vincent Cai

DANIEL HAND – Brian Girardi, Isabelle Vagell

EAST HAVEN – Jake Esposito, Isabella Martindale

FAIRFIELD PREP – Matthew Marsden, Evan Jang

JOSEPH A. FORAN – Arezoo Ghazagh, Barry Held

GUILFORD – Hana Greif, Juan Salas-Romer

HAMDEN – Emily Finch, Hannes Stenstrom

JAMES HILLHOUSE – Kayla Roberts, Gary Moore, Jr.

JONATHAN LAW – Sydney Simpson, Jackson Warters

LAURALTON HALL – Kaylor Garamella, Brooke Jones

LYMAN HALL – Ryan Arduini, Elena Bielesz

MERCY – Cassidy Wichman, Elizabeth Brown

NORTH HAVEN – Hannah Auddino, Kyle Guo

NOTRE DAME – Luke Grantz, Jonathan Ngame

SACRED HEART ACADEMY – Delfina Ferro, Lillian Torello

MARK T. SHEEHAN – Paul Burkett, Heather Gaydownen

SHELTON – Diya Patel, John Esteves

WEST HAVEN – Nabihah Khan, Grace Nowak

WILBUR CROSS – Katherine Van Tassel, Jayden Rivera

XAVIER – Adam Chasse, Aidan Pesce

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

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AMITY REGIONAL

Anna Mahon, Principal

TAYLOR DILLON

In the top 25% of her class, Taylor Dillon is a three-season athlete; a member of the Swim Team (Captain), and Indoor and Outdoor Track teams. In addition to being an athlete, Taylor has been involved clubs as well. Infinite Possibilities is a club where Taylor has the opportunity to share her passion of STEM with 3rd and 4th grade girls. As a member of the Link Crew Taylor, helps freshman students transition to high school. Taylor is also a member of the National Honor Society and a peer tutor. Through her Science Research class, she has worked with local doctors to develop and update distress tools to help patients suffering from medical conditions. In addition, she is a pharmacy intern at Griffin Hospital.

JUAN CARLOS (JC) RODRIGUEZ

JC's unweighted GPA of 3.6/ weighed GPA of 4.5. He is a member of the Amity Boy's Soccer team and served as the captain of the freshman, JV team and varsity team. JC is a member of the Amity Indoor Track and Field team. He sets the personal bar high to achieve goals to benefit the team. JC contributes to the betterment of his community and connecting with those around him. As a Link Crew Leader, JC has oriented freshman to high school. JC coaches soccer and tutors youngsters in math and Spanish. His strong leadership skills push others to be their best. He is the president of Amity Act Class Council and Spanish Honor Society. JC serves as a catechist on Sundays.

BRANFORD

Lee Panagoulis, Principal

NINA SHAMAS

A stellar student who has challenged herself with the most rigorous classes that our school offers. Nina has earned an impressive 4.246 weighted GPA. She is a consistent High Honor Roll student all four years and earned our schools Frederick Douglas/Susan B. Anthony Social Studies Award. An All-State, All League field hockey player (Goalie), Nina demonstrates her strong leadership skills as captain of our varsity field hockey team. She volunteers at the West Haven VA Hospital in the Hospice Wing, and serves as a camp counselor at the YMCA camp in the summer

JOSH BERDON

Joshua Berdon is an honest, hard working student with superior leadership skills and character. He is at the top of his class, a member of the Spanish NHS, received the Rotary Shield award, and has received countless academic awards. He is captain of the tennis and wrestling teams, and has earned distinctions including most valuable player and a coaches leadership award for tennis. Josh is president of Interact Club, Model Congress, and co-founder and president of the Conservation Club. Josh volunteered with Cyber Seniors where he partnered with a senior citizen and taught him how to use technology. Josh's determined, resilient, kind nature combined with his intellect create a strong foundation for the excellence he will bring to all he does.

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HILL REGIONAL CAREER

Shawn True, Principal

MARK CONGACHA

Mark has been part of the Career/Hillhouse Soccer team over the last 4 years. Even though Mark could not play this year due to injury he was still involved and was named captain for a second year in a row. Mark has accomplished the following achievements over the last 4 years: 2 Time SCC Scholar Athlete; SCC Boys Soccer Second Team in 2020; French Honor Society 2020, 2021, 2022; Advanced Placement student; Honors or High Honors all 4 years of high school maintaining a 3.7 grade point average.

SHANIA JACKSON

Shania has been a Varsity Track athlete for four years and captain of both indoor and outdoor track for the last two years. Shania has also accomplished: SCC Championship 4x200 relay in 2019; finished second in 4x200 at the State Meet in both 2020 and 2021; she finished third in the long jump in 2018. She has had honors or high honors all 4 years of school maintaining a 3.7 grade point average. She was a member of Student Government for 2 years and was Senior class Chairman for Advisory.

CHESHIRE

Mary Gadd, Principal

MANTRA NARAYANAN

Mantra is a committed, determined and compassionate young woman. Her teachers commented that Mantra is an intellectually talented student who contributes to every class, works well with her peers, and demonstrates a love of learning. She takes challenging courses, and will conclude her tenure at Cheshire High School having taken 11 Advanced Placement courses. Mantra handles even highly advanced coursework with ease, but does so with grace and humility. She is at the top of her class academically, but she is a top student for her positive contributions to our school and school culture. Mantra plays the piano, is a member of our robotics and swim teams while volunteering at the library and Yale Hospital, and in the summer she loves to hike with her family and has participated in the CT DEEP Hiking Challenge. Mantra outstanding qualities will ensure she has a very bright future ahead, and brilliance and compassion will make her a tremendous physician in the future.

VINCENT CAI

Vincent is a motivated and affable student who has contributed to Cheshire High School. He has maintained an extremely rigorous course load throughout his high school career, and he has found great success. He has continued to challenge himself by enrolling in five AP level courses in his senior year, and he will have completed 14 AP courses over his four years at Cheshire High School. Beyond the classroom, Vincent excels in his extracurricular activities. He demonstrates leadership through his position as class treasurer, the co-founder of the economics club, and as President of the Science National Honor Society. During the unpredictability of the pandemic, Vincent chose to use it as an opportunity to take the time to learn new skills such as software development. He implemented these acquired skills to contribute to his community by creating projects that brought attention to congressional redistricting, and in December of 2020, he won a Congressional App Challenge for his app entitled "The New Maps Project" to combat gerrymandering. As creative as he is intelligent, Vincent is highly respected by his peers and faculty alike.

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DANIEL HAND

Anthony Salutari, Principal

BRIAN GIRARDI

Intellectually curious, confident, caring, and focused are a few adjectives that come to mind when describing Brian. His teachers appreciate his incredible work ethic in the classroom combined with his insight, quality of work, and passion for learning. Brian has been inducted to the National Honor Society, earned honors in numerous academic areas, and has been recognized for his creative and impressive writing skills. His involvement outside of the classroom includes being a Captain of our Fencing and Math Teams, and a member of our Sailing Team and Chess Club. He is the founder and President of the Strategic Games Club at our school. Brian is an active and valued member of our Class Council and Student Leadership, and he is a leader in our Peer Advocate program.

ISABELLE VAGELL

Isabelle is an academically gifted, hard-working, and focused young adult. Her curiosity and passion for learning have resulted in incredible success in our school's most challenging courses. Isabelle's dedication to academics combined with her high-level leadership skills and a clear drive to help those in need, have resulted in her receiving numerous awards and recognition including induction into the National Honor Society. Additionally, Isabelle has been a 12-year member of Girl Scouts and was awarded the Gold Award. She is a member of numerous clubs (Eco, Model UN [President], French and Robotics) at DHHS. Isabelle is a highly successful student-athlete who was elected Captain of both the Sailing Team and Ski Team. The respect she has earned within our school community led to her selection as a Board of Education Student Representative, a role she has held the past two years.

EAST HAVEN

Vincent DeNuzzo, Principal

JAKE ESPOSITO

Jake Esposito is one of the most well-rounded students at East Haven High School. Jake has an extremely positive attitude and is well respected by both his peers and his teachers. Jake has received the St. Michael's College Book Award for academic achievement and social conscience as well as the New England School Development Council Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning. Jake is an active member of the school community at East Haven High School, where he has distinguished himself as a leader amongst his peers. Jake is currently the Vice President of the Health Occupations Students of America and he is a co-founder of the EHHS Student Leadership Council. Jake is also a member of the Yearbook Committee and the Class of 2022 Fundraising Committee.

ISABELLA MARTINDALE

Isabella Martindale is one of the most decorated students we have at East Haven High School. Isabella has immersed herself and engaged her classmates in a number of activities designed to improve the climate and culture of our school for all members of our community. These extra-curricular involvements are evidence of Isabella's understanding of her responsibility to be a leader within our school community. She is the Treasurer of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), a class officer serving as the Secretary of EHHS Class of 2022, the Vice President of the Drama Club, and she is a co-founder of the EHHS Leadership Council. Isabella has also been recognized with the Harvard Book Award, the University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Medal and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Award. tions 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

Timothy Dee, Principal

MATTHEW MARSDEN

Matt has been a leader at Prep since his freshman year. Besides being ranked in the top 5% of his class, Matt leads through his actions as a member of the Varsity Tennis team, as a member of the Keystone Club at the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club in Fairfield, and as one of the student co-directors of our Freshman Retreat Program at Prep. Matt has been a featured speaker at various student awards and parent orientation sessions this year.

EVAN JANG

Evan has been a leader both inside and outside of the classroom. He is ranked in the top 5% of his class with over a 4.0 GPA, is a Freshman Retreat Leader, student leader of our REIGNS group and plays the French horn in our ensemble. He is an accomplished actor, having been nominated in the past for various Halo Awards and playing the lead role in the spring musical this year.

JOSEPH A. FORAN

Max Berkowitz, Principal

AREZOO GHAZAGH

Arezoo has blazed a trail for herself at Foran High School, and has done so with grace and humility. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club Vice President, and has served as class secretary since her sophomore year. She is an accomplished musician and serves as the Foran Orchestra's Viola Section Leader and Vice President. She was the volleyball team captain, and received recognition as a member of the SCC All Academic Team and the 2021 SCC Winter Sports All-Conference for indoor track. She has received excellence awards in numerous subject areas throughout high school, and received the Columbia and the Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony Book Awards. She is a student liaison to the Milford Board of Education, and Vice President and co-founder of Foran's chapter of Food 2 Kids, as well as a two-time recipient of the Milford Youth and Family Services award.

BARRY HELD

Barry is an extremely dedicated and hardworking student who has continuously enrolled in rigorous classes, including numerous honors and advanced placement courses. Barry's outstanding achievement, service, and leadership earned him membership to the National Honor Society. Barry is also an accomplished musician and was selected as a member of the Tri-M Music Honors Society. Barry has been an extremely strong leader throughout his time at Foran. He is the President of the Marching Band and was Captain of the Football team his Senior year. He gained both of these positions due to the respect and appreciation that he has from his teachers, coaches, and fellow students. In addition, Barry is also a key member of the Outdoor Track and Wrestling teams, and also the Jazz Band. Additionally, he has volunteered for various community service activities and is a trusted and caring student who is always supportive of his peers.

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GUILFORD

Julia Chaffe, Principal

HANA GREIF

Throughout high school, Hana has participated in youth branches of the Guilford Rotary through the GHS Interact Club and the Guilford Foundation's Youth Advisory Group, two local philanthropic organizations. Serving as the Youth Advisory Group's co-chair for two years, she has raised and allocated funds for local youth initiatives. She has also contributed to the Guilford High School Theater Arts, participating in productions as a dancer, writer, and leader of the props crew. Hana further explores art through ballet lessons and drawing. She completed an art history Capstone project in junior year, studying the development of linear perspective in Western art and crafting drawings based upon her findings. Her artwork was also displayed in the Spring 2021 Shoreline Arts Alliance Future Choices show.

JUAN SALAS-ROMER

In his athletic career, Juan served as Varsity Captain of the soccer team, where he helped lead his team to a state semi-final. Off the field, he was involved in many school organizations, taking an officer role in French Honors Society and Student Senate. Additionally, he played a key role in establishing the GHS Mental Health Awareness Alliance [MHAA]. As a founding member and leader of MHAA, he helped partner with Bring Change to Mind, a non-profit organization dedicated to destigmatizing issues related to mental health at GHS by encouraging dialogue around these issues. He spends Saturday mornings working with the Community Integration Mentoring Program, where he visits an elementary school in New Haven in order to unite young students and empower them to become active members of society.

HAMDEN

Nadine Gannon, Principal

EMILY FINCH

Emily is an exceptional student who has achieved high honors throughout her four years at Hamden High School earning a spot in the top 10% of her graduating class. Emily is a member of the National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, and the Tri-M Honor Society. Through her Independent Study in Playwriting, Emily wrote more than 10 plays, submitting two to competitions, and one that will be produced by Mainstage Ensemble later this year. She has received numerous awards including the CAS Arts Award, The Yale Book Award, CAPS Annual Award of Excellence, and the Superintendent Student of the Month. In addition, Emily has participated in over 100 hours of volunteer service, demonstrating her ability to serve both her school and her community.

HANNES STENSTROM

Hannes Stenstrom is an extraordinary person and student leader. Passionate about the arts and the connections that bring people together, Hannes has been a part of the HHS Mainstage Ensemble, the HHS Music Program as Senior Drum Major for our Marching Band, and an active leader in the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Hannes not only serves in arts organizations, but also serves as the President of the Gender Equality Club and is a member of our National Honor Society. In addition, Hannes volunteers with Planned Parenthood, assists with the Hamden Little Free Libraries and demonstrates academic excellence and mastery. These skills along with the ability to synthesize information to solve problems and create change will assist Hannes in accomplishing anything.

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JAMES HILLHOUSE

Glen Worthy, Principal

KAYLA ROBERTS

Since entering Hillhouse as a freshman, Kayla has had held high honors. Kayla is also most proud that she was elevated to high honors with distinction during both junior and senior year. Kayla ranks within the Top 5 out of her senior class. This year Kayla was accepted to the National Honor Society. In addition to Kayla's academic accomplishments, Kayla serves as mentor to middle school students throughout the city.

GARY MOORE, JR.

Gary ranks among the top 10 in his Senior class. Gary has established himself on the honor roll each marking period throughout his four years of High School. Gary is an Advanced Placement in four subjects. Outside of the classroom, Gary is a member of our leadership program at Hillhouse High School. In addition, Gary has volunteered countless hours with the youth track and field programs around the City, in addition to being a record-breaking All-SCC and All-State in the throwing events in both indoor and outdoor track & field.

JONATHAN LAW

Bryan Darcy, Principal

SYDNEY SIMPSON

In the classroom, Sydney Simpson pursues the most demanding and challenging courses available to her. Sydney will complete eight Advanced Placement classes by graduation. She is currently ranked 5th in her graduating class. Sydney is a member of the National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, Natural Helpers Club, and Kindness Club Clubs. She has also fostered many dogs with her family to help her community. Sydney serves as editor-in-chief of our virtual school newspaper, The Advocate. In this role, Sydney reviews, assigns, edits stories and directs the staff. Additionally, she is the creative force behind The Advocate's Instagram account. Sydney is also a 3-sport Captain in Volleyball, Indoor and Outdoor Track where she has been chosen as a Scholar Athlete.

JACKSON WARTERS

Jackson Warters is an AP Scholar and ranked in the top eight percent of his class. Jackson is also enrolled in The Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School provides our students with experiences in science and engineering. Jackson is a member of the National Honor Society and the Model UN Club. He is also active on our school spirit committee. Jackson serves as our liaison to the Milford Board of Education. He has also exceeded more than 200 hours of Community Service while at Law. Jackson is also a team captain in soccer, indoor track and outdoor track teams. He has been selected as All State and All SCC conference in both track programs.

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LAURALTON HALL

Elizabeth Miller, Head of School

KAYLOR GARAMELLA

Kaylor Garamella serves as Co-President for Lauralton Hall's Mock Trial Team, and has been an officer within the club for three consecutive years. She directed, produced, and costumed Lauralton Hall's student-led production of the Three Musketeers in February 2022. Additionally, Kaylor serves as saxophone section leader in Lauralton Hall's Symphonic Orchestra and as a Peer Mentor for younger students within the school community. She also has served as a Catechism teacher through her parish. This past summer, Kaylor worked hard to establish Lauralton Hall's Mission Team, a service oriented group from Campus Ministry that supports the mission of Mercy.

BROOKE JONES

Brooke Jones has served as Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class President at Lauralton Hall. She is very involved with her school's Mock Trial team; currently, she holds the role of Co-President, and she was recognized as an Outstanding Attorney in the 2021 CT Mock Trial Competition. She is Vice President of Youth in Law in her school's Youth and Government delegation, and she serves as Co-Attorney General in Connecticut YMCA Youth and Government. She received the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Award and attended the HOBY World Leadership Congress in the Summer of 2020. Academically, Brooke has been recognized as a National Merit Finalist and AP Scholar. She is also the recipient of the Harvard Book Prize, the Carson Scholarship, and various Academic Excellence Awards.

LYMAN HALL

Joseph Corso, Principal

RYAN ARDUINI

Ryan is mature beyond his years and has a serious, scholarly approach to his studies. He is very bright, assured, personable and well-rounded. Ryan has pursued one of the most rigorous programs available to him. He has earned a designation of "Seal of Bilitery" on his diploma for his successful completion of an exam in Italian testing fluency. Outside of the classroom Ryan has been active as a member of our school baseball and hockey teams. He earned the Cardinal Award in 2020, acknowledging his respect towards coaches, teammates, and the opposing teams. He also motivates and mentors others. Ryan has volunteered his time with the Connecticut Food Bank and with the Outreach Program for Soccer where he guided young children with disabilities.

ELENA BIELESZ

Elena has challenged herself with the most demanding program of study available to students in all of her four years at Lyman Hall High School. She ranks an impressive number in 2 out of 234 students; earning a place in the top 1% of this year's graduating seniors. What Elena accomplishes outside of the classroom is equally as impressive as her academic achievements. Most notably has been her commitment to serve as a student leader at Lyman Hall, and volunteer services throughout Wallingford. In her junior year, Elena was inducted into the National Honor Society for her academic excellence, leadership and civic engagement. She is also an active member of Gay/Straight Alliance, Latin Club, Art Club, Ski Club, American Sign Language Club, and United Girls' Choir.

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MERCY

Ann Drewry, Principal

CASSIDY WICHMAN

Cassidy Wichman is captain of the Mercy indoor and outdoor track team. She qualified for the SCC Championship meet in the 1000m. Cassidy is also captain of the Mock Trial team, where she won a statewide award in 2021 for “Best Witness.” She is part of NHS and Math NHS and is a member of the Spanish NHS executive board. Cassidy has won departmental awards in AP World History and Honors Chemistry. She received the Wesleyan Book Award for 2020-2021. Cassidy is also an AP Capstone Diploma Candidate and an AP Scholar with Distinction.

ELIZABETH BROWN

Elizabeth is a member of the National, Mathematics, and Latin Honor Societies at Mercy. She is Vice President of Community Outreach for the Math Honor Society and Secretary of the National Honor Society. She is a Peer Ministry Leader and Eucharistic Minister. She was a member of the Varsity Diving and Varsity Gymnastics Teams, and ran for the Varsity Outdoor Track team her Freshman year. Her club activities include the Ambassadors Club, Fight Against Cancer, Medical Minds, Badminton, Math Club, and Junior Classical League. She was awarded the Smith College Book Award her Junior year. Elizabeth danced for thirteen years and was a member of the competition team. Elizabeth is CPR certified and has passed the Connecticut EMT certification exam.

NORTH HAVEN

Dr. Russell Dallai, Principal

HANNAH AUDDINO

Valedictorian, Hannah Auddino, is an AP Scholar, HOBY Leadership participant, and Yale Book Scholar recipient. She is president of the NHS, secretary of the Science NHS, and a member of the Music and Italian Honor Societies. Hannah has earned team MVP, SCC Fall Scholar Athlete, All-Academic Team, All-State, All-Area, and 2 time All-SCC accolades for volleyball. She serves as captain of volleyball and Unified Sports and treasurer of Best Buddies. She is president and founder of NHHS Key Club, through which she performs community service in addition to volunteering at the town hall and library. Hannah plays the flute in the wind ensemble and participates in the FPS talented and gifted program. Last year, she created “Encourage Nourishment,” a food-rescue initiative donates untarnished lunch food to a food bank.

KYLE GUO

Salutarian Kyle Guo is a National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar, and Harvard Book Award recipient. He is secretary of the senior class, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta, and co-founder of the Future Business Leaders Club. Kyle is an SCC Fall Scholar Athlete and All Academic Team honoree for cross country. He is also a member of the Music, Science, Spanish, and National Honor Societies. Kyle competes in the Future Problem Solving (talented and gifted) Program, where he has reached the international competition in every year of participation, earning 9th place in the team competition and 8th place individually. Additionally, he plays trumpet in the Wind Ensemble and is a volunteer at the Montowese Rehabilitation Center.

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NOTRE DAME

Robert Curis, Principal

LUKE GRANTZ

Luke has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Math, English, and Spanish Honor Societies. He has earned first honors throughout his high school career and has earned the Seal of Bi-Literacy in Spanish. Luke has been involved in the Student Government Association during his four years at Notre Dame and was elected by his peers to be the Student Government Association President for the 2021-2022 academic year. Luke was the captain of the soccer team and was selected to be a Peer Counselor during his senior year. He is also the President and Founder of Notre Dame's Best Buddies chapter.

JONATHAN NGAME

Jonathan was selected by his fellow students to be President of the National Honor Society. Additionally, he has been inducted into the English, Math, and Spanish Honor Societies at Notre Dame. He has earned first honors every quarter during his high school career. He is the Vice President of the Student Government Association and President of the Model UN Club. Jonathan was selected by a faculty committee to be a Peer Counselor as a senior. He also plays on the varsity soccer team and participates on the track team.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, Principal

DELFINA FERRO

Delfina is a leader in every sense of the word. She puts others first, loves helping those around her, is compassionate, a good listener and wants the best others. She has been a member of Student Council throughout her four years, holding leadership positions while being a positive force in the community. Delfina has so many ideas and works extremely hard to make sure that everyone's voice is being heard. She has been chosen as one of twelve seniors to be a Kairos Retreat Leader, planning and organizing each retreat devoted solely to the Class of 2022. Delfina is Co-Chair of the Freshman Transition program, taking on the responsibility of creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for the freshmen as they begin a new school. Delfina has been a high honor student and has enrolled in ten AP classes. Delfina is always striving to learn and to grow and is always asking questions, working towards that next goal, and has a strong and reasonable desire for success.

LILLIAN TORELLO

As a three-sport athlete and captain of all three, Lily encourages her track and cross-country teams to support all of the other athletes each season by attending as many games as they can. As a Student Council leader, treasurer of the Student Body this year, junior class treasurer and sophomore class vice president, she has been a consistent leader of her class and the whole school pretty much since she walked on campus. Through all of these leadership roles there has been a thread of service. Lily has led Student Council in our annual stocking drive, coffee houses, budgeting for gifts for incoming students, among others. Her track teams have gone above and beyond over and over under her leadership, with annual events like the New Haven Road Race, assisting at local and state-wide runs, creating bonding events for the team. All the while bringing home division championships 3 years in a row and winning the state title in XC this fall. But she does all of this and so more with little fanfare. It's just part of her nature.

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MARK T. SHEEHAN

Enzo Zocco, Principal

PAUL BURKETT

Paul Burkett is a charismatic and ambitious young man. Paul is ranked #2 in his class and is decorated with numerous awards: Excellence in French, Literary Themes & Genres, Algebra 2, Statistics, and Chemistry. Paul holds the school record in the 4x100 Relay, received Class M Honorable Mention All-State, earned Most Improved and Most Outstanding Awards, and was Record Journal Scholar Athlete. He is Student Council President, Head of Research for the Sikorsky STEM Team, National Honor Society Activities Chair, Powderpuff Cheer Captain, DECA VP, and Interact Treasurer. The Sheehan community is proud to honor Paul today and wishes him all the best in his collegiate career where he plans to study computer science.

HEATHER GAYDOWEN

Heather Gaydowen is a hard-working student who challenges herself. She has enrolled in a rigorous program of studies and commits herself to everything she takes on. Complimentary to her academic success, Heather is involved in her school and community. She has played four years of lacrosse. As an active member of Sheehan's chorus she is involved in the musical productions and the fall plays. Heather demonstrates leadership in the offices she holds including: President of Sheehan's Positive Impact Club, President of the Asian American Club, President of Sheehan's National Honor Society, Secretary of the Class of 2022 and as a member of Student Council. She has also been involved in initiatives for the Sandy Hook Promise through Emerging Leaders. Heather is a young woman of character who serves as a role model to her peers.

SHELTON

Kathy Riddle, Headmaster

DIYA PATEL

Diya Patel is one of the most kind, compassionate and caring students. Her academic success is clear as our number two ranked senior, but her extracurricular activities including participation at the Yale AEOP Summer Research program, tutoring at the Kumon Center as well as students in India, Pharmacy Technician at a local pharmacy, and City of Shelton Town Clerk internship are equally impressive. Diya also participates in Shelton Gaelhawks Robotics, found the Model United Nations Club, is President of the Student Council and has a deep desire to help others. She will be double majoring in Data Science and International Relations.

JOHN ESTEVES

John Esteves is a thoughtful, bright and committed young man. Ranked in the top 10 at Shelton, John has been very committed to his faith and has spent a great deal of his time at his church, St. Catherine of Siena as an Altar Server, Sacristan, Teacher, Master of Ceremonies and custodian. He values honesty, determination, and respect and leads his life following these tenets. John has strong ties to his Portuguese heritage and his extended family still live there. He is fluent in both Portuguese and French. He is a recognized National Honor Society and French Language Society member. John has developed an interest in pursuing a major in Business and Finance. He has already won business pitch awarded through the Shelton CTE department, and he envisions working on Wall Street as a stockbroker.

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WEST HAVEN

Dana Paredes, Principal

NABIHA KHAN

Nabiha is an outstanding senior who is involved in a wide variety of school activities. She is a Student Representative to the Board of Education, a Peer Advocate, a member of National Honor Society, President of HOSA, Co-President of the debate team and part of the Emergency Medical Technician Training Program. She will be graduating either valedictorian or salutatorian of the Class of 2022 and attending Yale University as a QuestBridge Scholar.

GRACE NOWAK

Grace Nowak is the founder of the “Fill-A-Bag, Fuel-A-Mind” Community Service Club which addresses the issue of food insecurity and currently has food pantries in several West Haven schools. Grace is a member of the Peer Advocates, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), WHHS Class Act Council Promoting-Sportsmanship, and is a CAC-CIAC Student Leadership Conference recipient. She is also involved in Theater, and was a named Captain for both the Girls’ Varsity Soccer and Ice Hockey Teams this past year and recently earned All-SCC and Second All-State honors as a goaltender.

WILBUR CROSS

Dr. Edith Johnson, Principal

KATHERINE VAN TASSEL

Valedictorian... AP Scholar (2020) & AP Scholar With Distinction (2021)... High Honors with Distinction - WCHS (2019-21)... Connecticut Science Fair: Lily W. Science & Communications Award (2021)... COLT Poetry Contest: 1st place French native level (2019), 3d place Spanish level 4 (2021)... Halo Award Nomination: Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical (2020)... 2021 United Soccer Coaches All-New England Regional Team, CGSCA Class LL All-State Team, and Greater New Haven Soccer Officials Association Outstanding Female Player of the Year... 2021 New Haven Register All-Area Team... All-SCC First Team... 2021 SCC Fall Scholar-Athlete... 2020 All-SCC Division B Team... 2019 All-SCC First Team.. 2018 All-SCC Housatonic Division Team

JAYDEN RIVERA

Jayden has been an outstanding member of the Wilbur Cross High School community... He earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish... He serves as the Vice-President for the National Honor Society... Jayden is the President of Best Buddies... He has achieved High Honors with Distinction... Serves as Captain of Wilbur Cross Tennis Team... participates in the Yale Pathways to Science... Earned the AP Scholar award with Honors and the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

2022 SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET – PAGE 14

XAVIER

David Eustis, Headmaster

ADAM CHASSE

Adam Chasse has had a stellar career at Xavier. There is no grade lower than an A- anywhere on his transcript. He is a National Merit Commended student, a member of six honor societies, and has taken 8 AP courses and 4 UConn ECE courses. He is admired by his peers, his teachers and his coaches. Adam is a man of many talents and he happily shares his gifts with the community. He is a Peer Minister, a Big Falcon, an Ambassador. As such, he is a constant fixture at Xavier events and a role model for the underclassmen. He is a gifted athlete and a valued member of both the hockey and baseball programs. It came as no surprise that he was chosen as captain of this year's hockey team.

AIDAN PESCE

Aidan Pesce is a multi-talented young man. His academic record is impressive, with a GPA north of 4.00, 9 AP courses and 4 ECE courses. He is a member of six honor societies. Aidan's presence is felt in a variety of ways at Xavier. He is an integral part of our state championship Robotics team where his love of engineering is evident. He is also a member of our state champion Indoor Track and Field Team and he is captain of the Sailing Team. Additionally, Aidan is the editor of the school's newspaper, The Kestrel. Aidan's many accomplishments do not go to his head. He is a humble, kind, and considerate person who is always looking out for others and happy to serve his community.

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.

WHAT IS THE SCC?

Founded in 1994, the Southern Connecticut Conference celebrates its 28th year in 2021-22 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 490 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

SCC Leadership 2021-22

President: Max Berkowitz, Principal – Joseph A. Foran HS

Vice-President: Joseph Corso, Principal – Lyman Hall HS

Recording Secretary: Craig Semple, Director of Athletics – Daniel Hand HS

Treasurer: Steve Trifone, Director of Athletics – Cheshire HS

Chair of Athletic Directors: Ernie Goodwin, Director of Athletics – Amity Regional HS

Commissioner: Al Carbone

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