

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

ESTABLISHED 1994



30TH ANNUAL SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET

APRIL 1, 2024

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, Lauralton Hall, Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, 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 2024 Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader recognition banquet – the 30th hosted by the league, presented by AVANGRID (UI, SCG and CNG).

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.

2023-24 SCC SCHOLAR LEADERS

AMITY REGIONAL – Benjamin Aviad, Annika Yun

BRANFORD – Carter Moore, Ridhima Shrestha

HILL REGIONAL CAREER – Kiya Jefferson, Adnan Ahmed Rizal

CHESHIRE – Madisyn Bernier, Alexa Ciccone

DANIEL HAND – Paige Steffen, Matthew Kasper

EAST HAVEN – Lainie D’Auria, Melania Korenovsky

FAIRFIELD PREP – Ralfs Viguls, Phillip Martins

JOSEPH A. FORAN – Jacob Collette, Erin Schmitt

GUILFORD – Molly Peterson, Jason Li

HAMDEN – Greshana Ward, Aidan Swan

JAMES HILLHOUSE – Finn Crumlish, Omar Bibi Rabani

JONATHAN LAW – Joseph (JT) Nelly, Natalie Morrell

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, LAURALTON HALL – Michaela Day, Shyanne Roman

LYMAN HALL – Mert Ozturkoglu, Riley LaBombard

MERCY – Sophia Franchi, Tiana Harley

NORTH HAVEN – Ava Halovatch, Nico Boyle

NOTRE DAME – Nicolas Bauer, Peter Swanson

SACRED HEART ACADEMY – Quinn Michels, Madison Rossetti

MARK T. SHEEHAN – Olivia Fritz, Ronan Liu

SHELTON – Dillon Durante, Kaelyn Horn

WEST HAVEN – Olivia Trenchard, Jason Alling

WILBUR CROSS – Sophia Zhang, Christopher Vera

XAVIER – Simon Cordes, Gianni Brescio

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AMITY REGIONAL

Andre Hauser, Principal

BENJAMIN AVIAD

Ben is a natural leader and has taken challenging courses throughout his time at Amity and will graduate with an AP Capstone Diploma. Ben is the Senior Class President and a member of the CT State Student Advisory Council on Education. Ben is also a leader in several clubs including Diversity in Action, Peer Tutoring, and the Link Crew freshman transition program. With his strong mentoring skills, Ben presented at a regional leadership conference and the CABE/CAPSS conference, volunteered at a summer camp, and coached a youth basketball team. Ben has also been a member of the soccer, lacrosse, wrestling, track/field, and diving teams. This spring Ben has a lead role in the high school musical.

ANNIKA YUN

Annika “Annie” Yun is a go-getter! Academically, she is among the top of her senior class with a challenging schedule that has included 8 AP courses. Annie is a 4-year participant in our Science Research program, earning many awards and participating in numerous research opportunities. Active in Student Government for four years, she currently serves as the Student Body President. She attended the Hugh O’Brien Leadership Conference as a sophomore and received awards in the Rotary Speech contest for the past two years. Annie is a member of the Amity Investment Team, who were finalists in the Wharton Global Investment Competition. She is Co-President of Girls Who Code and participates in the Leo Club. Annie also plays on the Varsity Golf Team.

BRANFORD

Lee Panagoulis, Principal

CARTER MOORE

Carter has been a member of Branford High School’s track and field program for four years. In that time, he has earned five varsity letters, has qualified for states in three different events, served as an indoor track captain this winter and will serve as an outdoor track captain this spring. He is a positive member of the Branford High School community and models core values in leadership such as character and integrity. Carter is also a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. He was the Trinity Book Award recipient in 2023.

RIDHIMA SHRESTHA

Ridhima Shrestha is a scholar-athlete who stands among the top students in her senior class. A two-sport athlete, Ridhima is a four-year member and captain of our girls’ varsity swim team who provided outstanding leadership and guidance for the team members. She is also a member of the girls’ varsity tennis team. She is well respected in the Branford community and a positive role model for all student athletes. Ridhima is a very active student, involved with our school’s Model Congress Program, Young Women’s Club, Debate Club and Stage Crew.

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HILL REGIONAL CAREER

Shawn True, Principal

KIYA JEFFERSON

Kiya is one of the most committed, determined, well-rounded, and most involved students at Career High School. Her curiosity and passion for learning has led Kiya to explore all that Career has to offer. Kiya is an outstanding student that always brings a positive attitude to all of her endeavors. Kiya is currently ranked number 18 in the class with a 4.04 GPA, and is a two-sport athlete competing in both Volleyball and Track. Kiya is currently in all advanced placement classes and is the class of 2024 school Vice President. In Kiya's downtime, she contributes to the betterment of her community by volunteering at local soup kitchens and giving back to multiple schools organizations. Kiya also enjoys helping set up fundraisers and school events and prioritizes her education. Kiya has also logged over 100 community service hours.

ADNAN AHMED RIZAL

Adnan is an outstanding leader and was named Captain of the Boys Soccer team his senior year. Adnan also ran Indoor and Outdoor track three of his four years. Adnan currently holds the lead role for the drama club, is a member of the Robotics club, and has volunteered over 60 hours at the AHEAD program. In his downtime, Adnan enjoys listening and creating music and working part time for LEAP: helping our communities' youth in reading, writing, and math. Adnan has also been named SCC Scholar Leader in the fall of 2023.

CHESHIRE

Mary Gadd, Principal

MADISYN BERNIER

Madisyn is an outstanding student who brings creativity and compassion to all she undertakes. As a leader, the impact of her efforts extended beyond Cheshire High School to the larger community. She is an active member of the Cheshire High School Link Crew helping freshmen make a successful transition to high school, and her dedication has extended to other schools in our district and beyond. Madisyn also mentors elementary school students and teaches them leadership skills and concepts. She is currently coordinating the High School Leadership Summit at which grade 11 students from Cheshire and surrounding towns learn and develop leadership skills. Madisyn recently reestablished Cheshire Lights of Hope to benefit families impacted by cancer. Cheshire High School and our community benefit from Madisyn's compassion and caring leadership.

ALEXA CICCONE

Alexa embodies everything we want student leaders to be. She is a highly successful student and athlete, and she is committed to encouraging her peers in class and on her team. As quad-captain for the cross country team, Alexa put her team first. After a race she would never talk about herself; she would immediately run up to the coaches and exclaim, "Did you see how well (teammate) did?!" Despite being the best runner on the team and a two-time All New England Champion, she showed up to practice every day to support her teammates, and this set the tone for the team. Alexa leads by example every day with her own hard work and dedication, and she is a stellar example of a scholar-leader.

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DANIEL HAND

Anthony Salutari, Principal

PAIGE STEFFEN

Paige is a remarkable young person who excels in and out of the classroom. She has impressively balanced the demands of our most challenging courses while fully committing to a host of extracurricular activities and athletics. Paige's will to succeed, high standards, and work ethic have resulted in numerous accolades including; induction into the National Honor Society, numerous academic awards, PTO awards, and the Seal of Bi-Literacy in Spanish. She is a major contributor to our school's soccer and lacrosse teams including being named Captain during her senior year. She is also a member of multiple clubs including: Choices, Girls Mentoring, Spanish Club, Diversity Club, Fashion Club, and Girls United. Paige's leadership, drive to succeed, commitment, and concern for others are simply incredible.

MATTHEW KASPER

Compassionate, dedicated, independent, and successful are just a few words that describe Matt. He has excelled in our most challenging courses while continually taking on new challenges and responsibilities. Matt's efforts have resulted in impressive accomplishments and recognition including: National Honor Society induction, departmental awards for academic excellence, seal of bi-literacy in Spanish, and Harvard Book Award for excellence and character. Outside of the classroom, Matt has made a positive impact through the activities he has been involved including a member and Captain of our Indoor and Outdoor Track teams, co-captain of the Science Olympiad club, volunteered his time for Brighter Beginnings club where he helps gather baby and infant supplies for local families and is dedicated to coaching youth basketball in the community.

EAST HAVEN

Vincent DeNuzzo, Principal

LAINIE D'AURIA

Lainie is an outstanding scholar and also an exceptional role model for all students in the East Haven High School community. Lainie is one of our most-respected students who demonstrates a commitment to her studies and to improving the overall school community. Lainie is a member of the Leadership Council and is one of the Student Representatives to the Board of Education. She has been recognized with the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award, the East Haven Rotary Club Student of the Month and the prestigious Harvard Book Award. Recently, she was presented with the National School Development Council Award by the Superintendent of Schools. She also serves as the Secretary of the National Honor Society. Lainie is an accomplished Level 10 gymnast, where she serves as the Captain of her team.

MELANIA KORENOVSKY

Melania is natural leader who has immersed herself in our school community. During her time at EHHS, Melania has been a part of the Leadership Council, the Future Business Leaders of America, the Secretary of the Health Occupations Students of America, a member of the Math League and the Historian of the Class of 2024. She is also a student-athlete, where she participates on both the Cross Country and Tennis teams, serving as a Captain for both of those sports. A member of the National Honor Society, Melania has earned a number of awards, including the Yale Book Award, the University of Rochester Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award. Outside of EHHS, Melania is heavily involved in the Ukrainian American Youth Organization, where she serves as a Youth Leader.

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FAIRFIELD PREP

Timothy Dee, Principal

RALFS VIGULS

Ralfs stands out as a top student in his class, demonstrating exceptional academic achievement at Fairfield Prep. Alongside his scholastic achievements, he excels for the Jesuits as an All-SCC Hockey athlete, showcasing dedication, leadership and skill on the ice. His musical talents shine in Prep's Symphonic Band and Jazzuits, where Ralfs has shared his musical talents on the alto saxophone during each of his four years. Committed to serving his community, Ralfs dedicates his time to volunteering at Covenant School of Bridgeport, and as a member of the National Honor Society he shares his academic gifts with Prep's underclassmen as a peer tutor. Ralfs embodies the Jesuit ideals of Fairfield Prep, exhibiting qualities of integrity, leadership, and service in all aspects of his life. Ralfs' well-rounded accomplishments reflect his commitment to excellence both inside and outside the classroom, making him a scholar leader and a commendable role model for his peers.

PHILLIP MARTINS

Phillip distinguishes himself at Fairfield Prep as a top-ranked student, demonstrating academic excellence in the humanities and sciences. He also serves as the coxswain on the crew team, giving him the opportunity to showcase his leadership and teamwork skills both inside and outside of the classroom. Phillip uses his talents to support underclassmen in their academic lives by serving as a peer tutor, and serves the wider community as a CCD teacher at his local parish and as a volunteer at the Covenant School in Bridgeport. Phillip is a "man for others" in all that he does, and integrates Prep's Jesuit values into all of his actions. Phillip's dedication to academic success, athletics, and community service reflects his commitment to being open to growth and to his supporting the growth of others, making him a scholar leader and an example for his peers and teammates.

JOSEPH A. FORAN

Max Berkowitz, Principal

JACOB COLLETTE

Jacob is an outstanding student who has consistently demonstrated excellence and strong leadership. He has a rigorous course load, which includes nine advanced placement classes. He earned membership into the National Honor Society, French Honor Society and earned the George Eastman Young Leaders award, SCC All-Academic Team and the CT Colt Award for Excellence in Spanish. He is a strong leader and serves as Senior Class President, an officer in the Natural Helpers and Debate Club, and is the captain of the swimming team. Additionally, he has amassed nearly 250 hours of community service by providing tours of historic homes for the Milford Historical Society, for which he is a board member. He also mentors elementary students. He also works as a lifeguard, is a junior intern for Old Sturbridge Village and is a Teacher's Assistant for Ready to Learn.

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ERIN SCHMITT

Erin is a talented and hard-working student who has been enrolled in rigorous classes. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has earned the designation of AP Scholar, and has received the President's Service Award along with the University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award for Excellence in Humanities. She is a nationally-ranked Irish step dancer, attended the New York Performing Arts Academy, and demonstrated her tremendous acting skills in leading roles in school drama productions. She is an respected leader, and was selected as the Secretary of the Senior Class and National Honor Society, Vice President of the Debate Club, a Natural Helpers Officer, and captain of the lacrosse team. She consistently gives back to her school and community through her active participation in Natural Helpers and in the Lion's Heart volunteer group - where she is a founding member and officer of the first chapter on the East Coast.

GUILFORD

Julia Chaffe, Principal

MOLLY PETERSON

Molly has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and leadership in her four years at Guilford High School. She is an avid reader, tennis player, and believes in active community service work. She is an active member of the Girls' Tennis Team and has successfully applied for and received grant funds to support her team and build team spirit. She volunteers at a local bookstore and enjoys sharing books and book recommendations with others. She is active in Pilgrim Fellowship in town and frequently helps to organize volunteer opportunities in the community in her leadership role with them. Overall, she has served as a positive role model to her peers, and her teachers describe her as independent, goal-oriented, and incredibly kind.

JASON LI

Jason has demonstrated outstanding scholarship and school leadership during his high school career. He has served as the Captain of the Boys' Soccer and Fencing teams this year. As a leader, he is kind and well-respected among his peers. Jason has a calm demeanor and positive outlook in everything he does. In addition, to being a two-season athlete, he has served as a class officer for four years, is the Science Olympiad co-president, and has been an active member of the Physics and Math teams. He is a positive role model in our school and admired by his fellow students and teachers.

HAMDEN

Eric Jackson, Principal

GRESHANA WARD

A talented leader in the Hamden High School community, Greshana established (back in 2020) and led a dance team specifically that was created to support special needs students and continues to lead this class to this day. An outstanding student in the classroom, Greshana is a member of three National Honor Societies, including World Languages and Math. She also serves as a peer tutor to support students struggling with math and physics.

AIDAN SWAN

A talented and hard-working student-athlete and leader, Aidan is the President of the National Honors Society. He served as Captain of the boys' varsity soccer team and was a starting member of the team all four years. Aidan has earned a 7.2 weighted GPA as a Hamden High School student and a 4.0 GPA unweighted.

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JAMES HILLHOUSE

Antoine Billy, Principal

FINN CRUMLISH

Finn's accomplishments include ranking in the top 10 of the senior class at James Hillhouse High School. Finn has achieved accolades such as; High Honors and induction into the National Honor Society. In addition Finn was selected as the National History Academy: full scholarship winner and received the Presidential Award for Leadership, Halo Award: Best Specialty Ensemble in a Musical for Hillhouse's Little Shop of Horrors, Elm Shakespeare Teen Troupe, Accordionist.

OMAR BIBI RABANI

Omar Bibi's accomplishments include ranking in the top 10 of the senior class at James Hillhouse High School. She can speak three different languages fluently; Pashto, Persian and English. During her time at Hillhouse High School Omar Bibi has participated numerous programs and dedicated over a 100 hours to community service activities. She has been enrolled in the ConnCap program at Southern Connecticut State University since 2022, where she completed community hours, took college courses, and attended monthly workshops. Omar BiBi has been member of the IRIS Youth Leadership Program since coming to the U.S. in 2020 to the United States. In addition, Omar Bibi is a member of our James Hillhouse High School Math Team. In 2023 she became a member of the New Haven Climate Change movement.

JONATHAN LAW

Bryan Darcy, Principal

JOSEPH (JT) NELLY

During his time at Law, JT has amassed a 4.3 G.P.A., taken several AP level courses and is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. JT is also a member of the Student Government and Varsity Captain of our Football and Track teams. He also represents our school on the SCC Captain's Council. JT is an Eagles Scout, has a black belt in Tae Kwon Doe, and volunteers his time for many organizations in the Milford Community. JT is without a doubt the leader in our building that everyone follows.

NATALIE MORRELL

During her time at Law, Natalie has amassed a G.P.A. of 4.875 and is currently in the running for our Class Valedictorian. She has taken just about every AP course that Milford has to offer and excelled in all of them. Natalie has received the Yale and Seton Hall Book Award, a Rensselaer Medal, and has been an AP Scholar with Distinction. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, and the National Art Honor Society. Natalie is our Gymnastics Team Captain and is a 4-time All State Performer as well as being named an All American.

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ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, LAURALTON HALL

Beth Coyne, Head of School

MICHAELA DAY

Senior Class Officer, Secretary... The Wright Sisters Lauralton Hall Engineering Team, Captain... Varsity Debate Team, Secretary and member... Youth and Government, House of Representatives Member... National Honor Society... Spanish National Honor Society... D'Valda & Sirico Dance and Music Center for Performing Arts Company, member ... Recipient of the Rensselaer Medal Award for Math and Science... Recipient of the St. Anselm Book Award

SHYANNE ROMAN

Varsity Volleyball, Captain... Milford United Percussion, Symphonic Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra... Catherine McAuley Club, Co- leader... Peer Mentor... Certified EMT... National Honor Society... Spanish National Honor Society... Recipient of Christopher Newport Book Award... Campus ministry... Milford United Percussion, Volleyball, Circle of Friends

LYMAN HALL

Joseph Corso, Principal

MERT OZTURKOGLU

Mert's accomplishments in and contributions to the Lyman Hall school community are extensive and commendable. Thanks to his outstanding work ethic and academic record, Mert has been named the Valedictorian for Lyman Hall's class of 2024. Mert has also earned the title of AP Scholar with Distinction, has received the Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Merit, and is a recipient of the Seton/Yale Club Book Award. He is an inductee in the National Honor Society and has served as a student leader on the Wallingford District Diversity and Equity Committee. Mert is also a member of the Lyman Hall chapters of Key Club and DECA. He has volunteered his time to clean up the Quinnipiac River Trail and is also exceedingly involved at his Mosque, the United American Muslim Association, volunteering in a variety of capacities.

RILEY LABOMBARD

Riley has consistently demonstrated outstanding academic achievements, exemplary character, and exceptional leadership qualities during her time at Lyman Hall. With an impressive overall GPA of 4.1737 and ranked 7th in her graduating class, Riley has consistently proven herself as one of the top-performing students in her cohort. Her friendly and approachable demeanor, coupled with her willingness to assist others, has created a positive and inclusive atmosphere within our school community. Riley is a member of Lyman Hall's Flag Football team, Yearbook Club, a Trojan Ambassador where she mentors underclassmen, Assembly Dance Choreographer, and Boys Lacrosse Manager. Riley has consistently earned high honors over the course of her four years and is the recipient of the Rensselaer Medal for her outstanding performance in Science and Math.

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MERCY

Ann Drewry, Principal

SOPHIA FRANCHI

Sophia has achieved four years of highest honors and excellence awards in five courses. She is grateful for the Trinity Book Award and the AP Scholars Award and is an AP Capstone Diploma Candidate. Sophia is a 4-year elected member of Student Congress and a member of the Italian, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Honor Societies. In sports, she received varsity letters from Volleyball and Tennis and founded the Ski and Snowboard Club. Sophia is also a Captain of the Mock Trial team. Outside of school, Sophia works as a gymnastics coach, a beach Gate Guard and Swim Instructor, and a ski instructor. Additionally, Sophia volunteers as a Patient Aide at Yale Hospital, at church as a Sunday School teacher, and at an Equine Rescue.

TIANA HARLEY

Tiana is a leader at Mercy High School as a Mercy Ambassador Officer and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society executive board. As a result of her strong academic achievement, she has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. In her junior year, Tiana was presented with the Wesleyan University Book Award; in her senior year, she was chosen for the SCC Winter Scholar-Athlete Award and the Middletown Rotary Student of the Month Award. In addition, she has been a member of the Mercy Chamber Choir and the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams since her freshman year.

NORTH HAVEN

Dr. Russell Dallai, Principal

AVA HALOVATCH

Ava is the valedictorian of her class and the recipient of the Harvard Book Award, Gettysburg Book Award, and AP Scholar Award. She attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference as one of two delegates from North Haven and is a Future Problem Solvers State Champion. She is a 4-year varsity basketball player and senior captain. Ava is a member of the Math, Science, and Italian Honor Societies and is secretary of the National Honor Society. She is the co-founder and co-president of the ASL club at North Haven which teaches American Sign Language and deaf culture to members. She also enjoys volunteering and coaching at the Triple Threat Academy Camp and Police Academy League Basketball Clinic.

NICO BOYLE

Nico Boyle is a top ten student, SCC Fall Scholar Athlete, AP Scholar, and recipient of the RiT Math and Science Award. He has competed in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track, leading his team as captain for all three seasons. Nico is not only an outstanding student but an amazing athlete as well. Breaking five school records, Nico has been named All SCC first team twice (and was the Cross Country Player of Year in 2023), All State, and All New England for cross country. Nico has also been named team MVP for cross country, indoor, and outdoor track multiple times. When Nico is not running he enjoys being outside in nature and giving back to the community by volunteering at Sleeping Giant State Park.

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NOTRE DAME

Pasquale Izzo, Principal

NICOLAS BAUER

Nic is deeply involved in our school community, serving as a Peer Counselor, a member of TEAM ND (Our student ambassador program), and BRO (Brother's Reaching Others). He has led mission trips, presides over the Christian Service Mission Club, and is a member of numerous honor societies. Additionally, he was one of the original members of our crew team, founded in 2020, and currently captains the team.

PETER SWANSON

Throughout his four years at Notre Dame, Peter has made a tremendous impact on our community. He serves as captain of the golf team, participates in wrestling, leads the Interact Club, is a member of BRO (Brother's Reaching Others), and holds an officer position in SGA. Peter has attended the Holy Cross Conference for student leaders at the University of Notre Dame and is also a member of our Peer Counselor Program.

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, Principal

QUINN MICHELS

Quinn Michels is that one student who has embraced every moment of her high school career, and that one student who truly will leave a lasting impact on a school community. Quinn 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 for those around her. She is a member of the Peer Connectors and she takes that role seriously, recognizing the honor and privilege she has as a mentor and help to younger SHA students. Quinn meets everyone, peers and adults, with a smile and a warm and genuine conversation. She is dynamic, charismatic and most importantly a gentle and kind young lady.

MADISON ROSSETTI

Every once in a while, a student comes along who is so special, it's hard to find just the right words to convey that. Madison Rossetti is one of those rare students. Maddie is a young woman who is an unsung hero who gives to her school without thought of personal gain. She was also a recipient of the Bowdoin College Book Award for extraordinary service to the Common Good and unusual passion for inquiry, discovery and innovative thinking. Maddie is a high honor student who took classes at SHA because she wanted to learn, not just to improve her grade point average. Maddie is respected and loved by her class and was chosen this year as the Enthroner at the Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – her peers recognized her as the embodiment of catholic values and as a young woman who always sees the best in others.

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MARK T. SHEEHAN

Enzo Zocco, Principal

OLIVIA FRITZ

Olivia Fritz demonstrates leadership in the classroom and through her involvement in Sheehan's Community. Ranked fourth in the class of 2024, she is dedicated and has enrolled in an honors and advanced placement curriculum throughout high school. She seeks to challenge herself, and her desire to learn is intrinsic. Olivia is captain of both Sheehan's Field Hockey and Lacrosse Teams and is a true role model. She exhibits leadership as Secretary of the class of 2024, as Vice President of National Honor Society and as a member of Student Council. In addition, she is involved in the Positive Impact Club, a service organization for which she is President, and she manages Sheehan's Hockey Team. Olivia is an altruistic young lady and a person of character.

RONAN LIU

Ronan Liu leads with integrity and humility throughout our school community. As Valedictorian of the Class of 2024, Ronan excels in rigorous honors and Advanced Placement coursework earning AP Scholar with Distinction and National Merit Commended student honors from College Board. Ronan's ability to plan and execute is showcased in his three year position as Class President. Upon induction to the National Honor Society, Ronan took initiative to serve as Activities Chairperson. His athleticism in Varsity sports (Indoor/Outdoor Track, Soccer and Cross Country) is matched by considerable artistic gifts. Ronan has earned multiple leads in school drama and musical productions and co-founded our first acapella group: "A'Chaired Taste". Ronan models healthy balance in his life and admirably advocates for mental health awareness among his peers.

SHELTON

Kathy Riddle, Headmaster

DILLON DURANTE

Dillon epitomizes excellence in academics, athletics, and extracurricular involvement. As a Captain of the Unified Basketball program and Shelton High's volleyball team, he showcases his athletic prowess and team spirit. Beyond sports, Dillon excels in our drama club and as Italian Club President, teaching assistant, executive board member of the National Honor Society, President of the World Language Society, Student Council treasurer, Barnum Festival Prince, and a Student Ambassador, demonstrating his commitment to leadership and service. With a top 10 ranking in his graduating class, he exemplifies academic achievement. Dillon's multifaceted talents and exceptional character make him a standout individual worthy of recognition and admiration.

KAELYN HORN

Kaelyn is a determined, ambitious, and resourceful young woman who is dedicated to learning while being active in our school and community. Kaelyn is captain of our field hockey team and a star lacrosse player. She is treasurer of Student Council and a member of DECA and our debate team, working diligently with her peers to organize various school events. Her smile is contagious and her energy is uplifting. Kaelyn is well-liked and respected by our faculty and her peers.

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WEST HAVEN

Dana Paredes, Principal

OLIVIA TRENCHARD

Olivia has earned many athletic and academic achievements during her scholastic career. She won Fall SCC Scholar Athlete for the females at her school, and was honored as scholar-athlete from West Haven's Rotary Club. Olivia is a Peer Advocate and a member of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society. She is a varsity athlete, captain of both her high school soccer and lacrosse teams. In her free time, she volunteers as a youth soccer coach.

JASON ALLING

Jason is a leader in the WHHS community. He is one of our Peer Advocates at West Haven HS. He is a member of the Varsity Lacrosse team, serving as one of the captains. He is also an avid hockey player who is not only a part of our varsity team but has volunteered many hours to teach young athletes how to skate and play hockey. He is a member of the Class Act club that dedicates time and efforts to promoting a positive school climate and is a member of SADD.

WILBUR CROSS

Matthew Brown, Principal

SOPHIA ZHANG

Sophia is an outstanding student and leader at Wilbur Cross High School... She is the Valedictorian of the Class of 2024... She serves as President of the National Honor Society... She is also the President of the Environmental Club... She served as the Cross Country Varsity Captain... Sophia earned the Seal of Biliteracy and is an AP Scholar... She was the Section Leader in the Wilbur Cross Band

CHRISTOPHER VERA

Christopher has distinguished himself as a scholar and a leader throughout his time at Wilbur Cross.... He ranks among the Top 10 students in the class of 2024... He completed a Research Internship at Yale University... He was the Founder of Wilbur Cross Medical Exploration Club... He serves as a New Haven Youth Soccer Coach and Referee... He has been a Student Council Representative.

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XAVIER

Rick Misenti, Headmaster

SIMON CORDES

Simon Cordes has distinguished himself as a scholar and leader, and Xavier High School is blessed to have a student who has demonstrated a balance between both. Each attribute has served our high school well. Simon has been elected President of Xavier's Ryken Service Society and Student Body Secretary for our school's Student Activities Council. His selection by our faculty to Xavier's Executive Board and as a Peer Minister in our school's Peer Ministry are admirable! Simon's outstanding scholarship has positioned him well for life after Xavier. Receiving the Brother Celestine Award (highest academic award at Xavier) and Simon's membership in the National Honor Society and Math, English, Science and Social Studies Honor Societies are admirable and will prove valuable in the years to come.

GIANNI BRESCIO

The person, Gianni Brescio, is synonymous with leadership! Whether it be as President of Xavier's Model Congress, a leader in Xavier's Peer Ministry, our school's student leader for the Red Cross Blood Drive, or as a Distinguished Scholar, Gianni leads. These, coupled with his internship during a gubernatorial campaign, might provide us with a "hint" of what the future holds for Gianni. His 4.24 cumulative grade point average mirrors his tremendous success in the classroom. Gianni's selection for the Brother Celestine Award (Xavier's highest academic honor), his selection as an AP Scholar, and a member of the National Honor Society, English, History and Math Honor Societies validate his incredible contributions to our high school. Gianni Brescio's outstanding leadership and scholarship have been invaluable to Xavier.

Congratulations to our 2023-24 recipients, and thank you to our presenting sponsor - AVANGRID (UI, SCG and CNG)!



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 13th year the SCC has presented this scholarship.

WHAT IS THE SCC?

Founded in 1994, the Southern Connecticut Conference celebrates its 30th year in 2023-24 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 540 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 2023-24

President: Julia Chaffe, Principal – Guilford HS

Vice-President: Bryan Darcy, Principal – Jonathan Law HS

Recording Secretary: Anthony Verderame, Director of Athletics - East Haven HS

Treasurer: Jennie Casceillo

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

Commissioner: Al Carbone

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