

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

June 6, 2017

## Appreciating Teachers

by Marty Gnidula '20

This month, teacher appreciation week came to Amity. During the week of May 8-12th, the student government, PTSO, and the administration of Amity teamed up to honor the teachers in our school for the hard work that they put in every day.

The week started out with a meeting in the Brady Center to commemorate the teachers of the school and to thank them for their hard work. This event was put on by the Amity Student Government and was lead by Ananya Kachru and Samantha Fleischman, who were helped tremendously by Ali Hagani. They worked diligently on having students write out letters and notes to their teachers, appreciating them for their time, effort,

and work. These letters were passed out by students in Student Government on May 8th after school in an event to pay tribute to teachers.

"We worked really hard to ensure that it was personal," Kachru said, "and it seemed like our teachers enjoyed that!" The Student Government also organized candy gifts to give to the teachers to thank them for everything.

The students began working early with the the administration to plan for the week ahead. The students planned themes, events, and many other factors in order to make this week as much of a success as possible. Without all of their devotion and dedication to thanking the staff at Amity, the week would not have been as great as it turned out.

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## Amity Hosts Annual Science Symposium

by Neha Sudhir '19

The Amity Science Research Program was proud and excited to host Amity's 11th annual Science Symposium on Friday, May 19th. After a full year of preparation, students and teachers alike were excited to exhibit the culmination of their hard work.

The Amity Science Research Program allows students explore various applications of science topics through field trips, guest speakers and class projects. Students explore research methodology and perform appropriate analyses of data on an in-depth research project of their choosing.

The annual Science Symposium serves as an opportunity for members of the Science Research community, from mentors, to parents, to the administrators who have helped the

program expand to what it is today, to come see what the students have accomplished.

At the beginning of the event, the students were stationed by their posters in the

cafeteria, as they would be at a science fair, and explained their projects to the guests. Among the invitees to this event were the incoming Science Research students, who were given a preview of what they will learn in the upcoming year. One of these future Science Research students is current freshman, Danielle Lee, who commented: "It was fascinating to see how each of my friends' hard work had culminated into unique creations."

Following the presentation time, the event moved to the Brady Center. Seniors Sarah Saxe and Katie Handler were the emcees. On behalf of the students and the program

itself, they thanked everyone who had helped shaped Science Research over the past eleven years into the great success that it is today. Then, they introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Gale Ridge, an entomologist at Yale. Her presentation was about her research in bed bugs, which many students found to be very engaging and funny.

Lee said enthusiastically, "The keynote speaker, Dr. Gale Ridge, made sure that everyone knew how to deal with bed bugs by the end of the talk – turns out that crevice vacuum cleaners are #1."

After Dr. Ridge's presentation, four student presenters, one from each grade, presented their research. This helped to showcase how the program allowed students to study whatever disciplines they

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## The Planning of Junior Prom

by Vince Li '18

Amity's Class of 2018 held its junior prom at Grassy Hill Country Club on Friday May 12th. At 7 P.M., the doors opened to the attending juniors as well as any guests they chose to bring. Time was given at the start for pictures, before progressing to dinner and dancing until 11, when prom ended.

Attendees were able to enjoy what junior George Liang describes as "a night full of friends and fun." Responsible for the success of prom was the Junior Class Council, which dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort into the planning and execution of this night.

Christina Lee, a member of the class council, describes the process of fundraising for prom as having started "from day one of the start of class council in freshman year."

Each year, fundraisers were held, the profit from which was "heavily invested into prom." Each of these fundraisers, such as this year's Krispy Kreme and teddy bear fundraisers, were necessary in "garnering enough money in order have a junior prom."

Planning for prom extended far past fundraising,

Several months before the night of the dance, members of the class council started to work on logistical planning. First, several basic necessities were decided on: Grassy Hill Country Club was reserved for the night, and a DJ was hired.

Once the planning for these necessities were completed, members turned to smaller aesthetic details – the "designs and color schemes that would make prom a night to remember, eventually deciding on "a theme of blue and silver, as well as a backdrop for photos." An online form was also organized for requesting music from the DJ. On the day of prom, the executive board decorated the venue with roses, vases, and ribbons, as well as placing the backdrop. Finally, at 7, the junior class entered and was able to enjoy the results of nearly three years of preparation.

Despite the "endless nights and meetings" that went into planning for prom, Christina Lee considers the event a "definite success." She hopes that next year's senior prom will be equally successful and entertaining, and encourages everyone, whether or not they attended this year, to take part in the event next year.

## Four Years Gone By

by Payton Grande '19

The first day of preschool. The first day of kindergarten.

The first grade to middle school, and now to the last days of high school. Four years of hard work, challenging classes, sports, concerts, clubs, and long nights with barely any sleep. Although these activities will likely continue in college, a chapter has ended and graduation is just around the corner.

On May 12th, more than half of the senior class had their last day of classes. They handed back their textbooks, finished up their work, and

rushed to get their internship papers signed. Senior Emma Gilshannon says, "The last day was bittersweet, but graduation is much needed, and I

of nostalgia before I left." Seniors wore apparel from the school they will be attending in the fall, and took pictures in remembrance of their final day as an Amity student.

Whether you loved or hated your four years here, it was filled with memories. As senior Joyce Lin says, "I don't think it hit me that it was my last day in

high school. I'm excited for graduation, but I'm not sure if I'm ready to leave my best friends that I made these past years."

Your high school experience is what you make of it, so make the most of it because those four years may just fly by. Congratulations to the class of 2017!



Seniors pose in their college apparel

*Photo from Amity Twitter Account*

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## Fun and Games Abound at Springfest

by Alicia Myung '20

On Thursday May 18th, the front of Amity High School was abundant with students bustling around during the lunch waves. There were students drawing on the sidewalk and playing games for candy. Despite the intense heat, there was a large turnout of students that came to participate in the many games set up by various clubs.

In the spring, school becomes very stressful with finals, and students are anxious for summer with the end of the year coming so soon. In order to alleviate this tension and just allow students to enjoy their day, sophomore Tara Mohseni thought that Springfest would be a good idea that "would be perfect to have a break and some fun around the stressful times at the end of the year." Springfest was organized by the two Co-Chairs, sophomores Lani Beaudette and Tara Mohseni, and were helped by freshman Marty Gnidula and sophomore Avital Sutin.

Springfest is a "field day" type concept that was

pursued years ago, but Beaudette and Mohseni wanted to bring it back so that the Amity community could look forward to a fun event at the end of the year. During Springfest, students could play games set up by different clubs and sports teams, listen to music, and enjoy the warm weather by eating outside. Amity clubs and sports teams set up tables so they could promote their organization, very much like club day, and provide fun games for the many students to play. While partaking in Springfest, students could just have fun and relax through a needed break in the school day. One freshman, Sean Lee, commented that during Springfest there was "...beautiful weather and a playful atmosphere with overall just good vibes."

Beaudette and Mohseni hoped that Springfest will add to the positive atmosphere of the high school and that in the coming years, it will become an Amity tradition. In preparation for next year, Tara Mohseni plans to advertise more and reach out to more teachers in order to have more tables set up and more activities for the students.



Amity students draw during Springfest  
Photo taken by Christina Lee '18

## Amity Hosts Annual Science Symposium

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were interested in.

The senior presenter, Haya Jarad, talked about her experiences in Science Research as a whole before presenting her research for the year.

Her presentation "showed how much the Science Research Program allows people to grow and I loved to see her journey through Science Research," one student reflected.

Junior Ananya Kachru said that this year's Symposium "felt more professional than usual." Sophomore Summer Schaaf

claimed, "It was definitely more organized this year because the schedule flowed better and we were able to have a good amount of time to show our posters."

Sophomore Rosie Du agreed, adding, "It was sad that we didn't get to do tributes this year. I do appreciate that we got to end earlier, though."

The 11th Annual Science Symposium was definitely a success. It was truly inspiring to see how much the students had accomplished with all their hard work this year and how excited they were about what they had learned.

## Teacher Appreciation Week

Continued from page 1

The week continued with many more events for the teachers put on by the administration and the PTSO.

The PTSO supported the week with delicious food for the teachers and staff. Additionally, gifts were given to the teachers throughout the week to show school spirit and appreciate them.

Overall, Amity 2017 Teacher Appreciation week was a great success. It brought the school community together to say thank you to the teachers and staff that work so hard every day.

Principal Anna Mahon, who worked alongside students and the PTSO, said, "Teacher appreciation week was a huge hit this year. It

is always nice to take a little extra time out and really focus on our teachers and support staff who 'make it happen' everyday."

She was thankful of everyone who participated and was especially thankful to the teachers and staff who work tirelessly in our school, saying, "They truly are our superheroes!"

## OBOA 2017 Revealed to Students and Staff

by Ryan Anastasio '20

Students and faculty received their One Book One Amity book on Tuesday, May 23rd. All Amity students and faculty will read the book *Every Day* during the summer, and during the fall they will do various activities related to the book.

*Every Day* is about a being named A that wakes up in a different body every day. Each day, A has a different name, different parents, and a different life. The book is written by David Levithan, who has written multiple New York Times Bestselling books that include *Dash & Lilly's Book of Dares*, *Invisibility*, and *Every Day*. In the fall, David Levithan will be coming to Amity to speak to students about his book.

The process for selecting the book had been ongoing since the beginning of the year. The One Book One Amity Committee, which selected this year's book,

was made up of teachers, administrators, and students.

Bridget Barnsley, a member of the committee, said that, "We all read a bunch of different books... and narrowed it down to *Every Day*. We got to discuss what we thought would be good or bad about each book in the eyes of the students reading it."

"Some were too long, and we wanted to make sure it was easy enough so everyone would be able to read it within the summer," she added.

Barnsley and Justine Luo, also helped create an alternative book for students to read. Additionally, she helped translate the book into a picture book with fewer words that helped layout the plot so that everybody in the school had the chance to experience the book.

English Department chair Julie Chevan was one of the teachers on the committee. Chevan stated that they picked the book "because they thought it would

be enjoyable, but also because we thought it left a reader with lots to think about and talk about, so we are hoping that there will be all kinds of interesting discussions and activities that come out of reading the book."

Reception from students has been mostly positive, and many students are excited to read the book. Barnsley also stated that she thinks students are happy with the selection because "we were able to take into consideration their opinions from the survey we did in January where people told us what they were looking for in a book."

The survey, which was conducted in January, helped the committee narrow down a few books that they had in mind.

While just the second year of One Book One Amity, *Every Day* is expected to be even more popular than last year's book.

Eighth graders in Orange and Bethany also received their books on Tuesday.

## STEAM Day Welcomes BOW 5th Graders

by Erin McCormack '19

Amity hosted STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) Day for fifth grade students in the Amity district on Wednesday, May 24th. It went from second through seventh period of the day, and there were two different sessions where the fifth grade students came in.

The Amity Science Research program worked for the past month and a half to get ready for the day. During class, students worked on rolling yarn balls, folding passports, packing bags, and much more to prepare for the upcoming day. The events were spread across the middle gym, black box theater, and outside, with different tables set up for presenters. Amity Science Research kids signed up to manage a set of tables which included a crochet station, a loom-making and weaving station, and even more activities. Students also volunteered to assist teachers with transitioning between stations, helping teachers

lead groups, organizing the movement between tables, and audio.

The fifth grade students were led between tables set up by demonstrators and viewed the demonstrations on specific things that are related to STEAM. In total there were 29 booths, some with extra tables, all of which covered different topics within the STEAM curriculum. There were booths that displayed magnetic slime, DESMOS (a computer graphing system), fun with statistics, microscopes, and many more. The fifth grade students rotated between the stations and were allowed to check out a variety of booths for 15-20 minutes.

Sophomore Science Research Student Neha Sudhir, said, "STEAM Day was a lot of fun because it was great to see how curious and excited the fifth graders were about everything they saw, and everyone was so enthusiastic about the event." Having worked so long on the preparation of this day, the presenters and high schools students who put so much effort into

this day were pleased with the outcome. Ms. Day, the director of the Amity Science Research Program, commented, "Our second annual STEAM Day was a fun and engaging event for both Booth presenters and visitors. Everyone I spoke to said that it exceeded their expectations, which is quite remarkable considering the enjoyment of last year's event. I'm delighted that so many booth participants took time out of their schedule to create and inspire STEAM. I look forward to evaluating feedback in order to begin preparing for next year!"

All in all, STEAM Day was a success. The fifth graders were very enthusiastic to learn, and booth members were very excited to teach them about the concepts behind STEAM. Ms. Day would like to give a huge shout out to Mr. Kellogg, Dr. McPadden and all of the Advanced Science Research students who 'Made it Happen'! Ultimately, the improvement from last year's STEAM Day was impeccable, and Amity and elementary students seem to be very excited for next year's STEAM Day!

# Sound Advice from a Senior

by Conrad Li '17

To the Class of 2018, future seniors: Congratulations! You've made it...almost. Soon, you'll be finishing the chapter marked "junior year" and beginning the final chapter of your high school career. For many of you, senior year is what the past three years of late nights, tears, lost sleep, more tears, stress, and finally (you probably guessed it) even more tears have built up to. In less than a year, you will decide what the next step in your life is--be it four more years of self-induced emotional anguish and stress (commonly known as college), military service, a gap year, a job, or something entirely different--it can be daunting. I'm sure the decision will not come easy; I know it didn't for me. But before all that comes to fruition, allow me to impart some senior year wisdom which, for those who know me, can seem laughable.

First, to those applying to colleges: best of luck. I recommend beginning as early as possible so it'll put your parents at ease. However, if you're a procrastinator such as myself, fear not! It was not until October of senior year I finished testing, the following November when I began my common application essay, and Thanksgiving when I wrapped it up. After that, I took two weeks for a "mental break," before I began my supplemental essays. So when you feel that wave of stress hit you, know you were and are not alone.

You'll hear this frequently, but college really is a crapshoot. A cynic, I didn't fully believe this until I became the

one receiving acceptances, and unfortunately, rejections. I watched as my friends got rejected from schools considered their "safety" but accepted into their reaches. It happened to me: I was rejected from one college, yet accepted into another with half the admissions rate.

In my mind, I treated college applications, especially to my reach schools, like playing a game of basketball. Each application I sent was representative of a shot, a chance to attend one of my "dream schools." And in this scenario, each applicant was a player. With tens of thousands of players and only so many spots, not every qualified person can get accepted which is an unfortunate reality after all the hard work and dedication each individual puts forth. Perhaps the only distinction between acceptance and rejection between two similar applications could be the admissions officers happened to like one application slightly more than another or even chalked down to dumb luck.

Now, I'm not saying to pull the covers over your head, fall asleep, and give up all hope, but rather if you're accepted to your dream school--congratulations, you've earned it. But if you're not, it isn't a failure on your part. You only have 650 words, some supplements, and a resume for the admissions officers to know you, so make yourself stand out.

The other piece of parting advice I'd offer is to get to know your teachers, your counselor, the administration, staff, etc. This, I cannot stress enough. I found my senior year was the most enjoyable out of my four years at Amity, and that's not be-

cause I am leaving soon, but rather it's due to the relationships I've developed.

When I'm restless during A-lunch, who do I visit none other than Senora Serapiglia in her office, unannounced yet still welcomed (for five minutes until she has to return to her arguably less entertaining work)? Whose name do I shout none other than "Wallin!" as I enter her classroom during my free periods, once again, unannounced yet welcomed. Lost in a sea of emotional turmoil, whose guidance do I seek? None other than Kimball and Staak! Whose humor and kind faces do I have the privilege of seeing every day? None other than Mr. and Mrs. DeMeo, respectively, the latter of whom I never even had as a teacher. And who knows my name, greets, and inquires about my day other than Principal Mahon in the hallways during passing time?

These are simply a few in the Amity community who have had a profound effect on me and my high school career. At the end of the day, that's what Amity is: a community. As you approach the final chapter of your high school career, I implore you to make the most of it. Visit your teachers, announced or unannounced, and get to know them. View college rejections with a grain of salt rather than an attack on your character and self worth. Then, in between your coursework, extracurricular activities, and family responsibilities, take a step back and live in the moment. In September, it'll be the last first day of walking through Amity High School, and before you know it, it will be over. With all that said, I wish you all well in your future endeavours.

# THE TRIDENT

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## Reflecting on My Time with The Amity Trident

by Sarah Saxe '17

I'd be lying if I said I was drawn to The Trident my freshman year by my love for writing and journalism. Nope. I was drawn to the Trident by the candy they were offering at the club day table in exchange for my email. The confections of rocky peanuts, sweet sugar, and sour gumies would become the perfect metaphor to foreshadow what would come with working on The Trident.

As a writer for the lifestyle section and a co-news editor during my first two years, I would say most of my experience fell into the sweet category. Things were smooth as caramel as I churned out an article every so often about coping with stress or ways to help the environment. My sole moment of panic came when I forgot about a deadline and secretly rushed an article about the sophomore class's Krispy Kreme fundraiser while simultaneously taking chemistry notes in class. Overall, things didn't snag until my junior year when I became the arts section editor.

It was like I had eaten a reverse sour patch kid and was basking in the mess that became of The 2015-2016 Trident. Without a September and October issue, subsequent issues were incomplete, had wrong bylines, printed duplicate articles, and were littered with google images and pointless captions. Rather than feel that sense of pride I once did when I saw my work printed in the newspaper, I felt embarrassed. Embarrassed to be credited as a section editor and embarrassed for the writers at the mistakes we editors let pass us by. We lost writers rapidly and transitioned from cutting articles monthly and dealing with the subsequent complaints from students whose work was not showcased, to begging friends to write random articles and dealing with the shame of printing a low quality paper.

When senior year came around, it was like eating rebranded candy. We had new editors, a new adviser, but the same fear that The Trident would continue downward. To my surprise, though, we all met over the summer, got articles

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## Farewell - but See You at the Movies!

by Tyler Jennes '17

Let me tell you a story. I was in sophomore year, and I was sitting with some friends at lunch. We were all looking at the Trident that had just come out, and we were commenting on the tiny paragraph-long movie review in the corner. Looking back, I can't even remember what film it was. That was when my friends said to me: "Tyler, you're obsessed with movies. Why don't you try doing the reviews?"

And so I did. My first editor, Noah Simon, was a fellow movie aficionado, and he encouraged me to do some more creative and long-form movie articles. Eventually, I was tasked with covering events, like the Oscar ceremonies, and occasionally asked to cover random school events, oh, and that one time the JCC had that fire. And now here we are, at the very tail-end of the school year - ready to graduate and, for most of us, go on to four more years of school.

Here's a little fun fact for everyone: since the Trident articles are all put together essentially the month before release, this article will be written before, but released after, many of the May/June movies. So I could say: "Hey, so it looks like DC finally got it right with Wonder Woman", or "DC continues their losing streak with Wonder

Woman", and one of the two will be right. So I have an interesting opportunity here.

Why not? Okay, so I'm sure it won't surprise anyone that Pirates 5 was disappointing. And oh man, wasn't Baywatch a perfect waste of 116 minutes? The Mummy was just as good as the Brendan Fraser movies, and It Comes at Night was an amazing movie that no one is going to watch.

Now, all of that may make me seem a bit too cynical. I always hear from people that movies "just aren't like they used to be." Well, of course they aren't. Film is a very new art form in the grand scheme of things, and it is constantly changing. As services like Netflix continue to produce new and exciting content, the entire film scene is on the precipice of a massive shift. And this isn't a bad thing. Change is scary, but it is also filled with possibility. Who knows what the future holds for film. Virtual reality? 4D? Smell-O-Vision? Okay, probably not that last one, but you get my point.

My first ever article was about Gone Girl, a.k.a. the worst movie to watch with your dad. What drew me to write about that film was the sheer amount of identity it exuded. This is the same quality that drew me towards Guardians of the Galaxy, Fury Road, and La La Land. These are all movies that make an effort to do something unique with the art form, whether

by having a nearly all-alien superhero team, utilizing a flamethrower guitar, or making John Legend tolerable. I'm looking forward to seeing the new wave of filmmakers leave their mark on the industry, warts and all. Because if there's anything that people should learn during their school years, it's who they want to be.

So I guess this is it. After nearly three years and over 20 articles, I'm ending my run as Amity Trident movie reviewer. It's nice to know that some of you out there took the time to read the articles and, hopefully, enjoyed them. To the editors I've had over these years, Noah and Padmini, thanks for publishing all my ramblings about superhero movies. And thanks for feeding my ego by giving me my own column, where everyone can stare at that sublime picture of my face.

To the future Trident editors out there, I only have one request. Make sure to double-check. I mean jeez, when Prince died someone put a picture of Dave Chappelle on my article. Like c'mon, do you know how many adults noticed that, while kids continued to not know either one of those people? But I digress - to whoever decides to carry the torch after I'm gone, good luck to you. To anyone who made it this far in the article, thanks for reading, and I hope finals aren't too rough.

See you at the movies!

## The Effect of Bias

by Kevin Yanagisawa '18

In school and at home, we are all taught general rights and wrongs. We are all taught that discrimination, the act of unjust or prejudicial treatment of different groups, is bad and is absolutely intolerable. We develop an understanding that racial slurs, ethnic jokes, and sexual harassment cannot be tolerated. Yet we see stereotypes and biases every day of our lives. Cultural insensitivity can lead to unintentional unfair treatment.

According to The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Management 'Cultural sensitivity is the ability of a person to accept or to become aware of cultural differences. Insensitivity leads to miscommunication, increased stress for all parties involved, and an increased risk of unsuccessful business outcomes.'

I think I am a fair and unbiased person. In fact, almost everyone I know and interact with seems to think of themselves as fair and unbiased. Yet, a growing body of research has identified 'hidden bias'. These unconscious or implicit biases exist in all of us and are, "activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control," as defined by kirwaninstitute.osu.edu.

These biases are generated and shaped early in our lives, even as young children,

and propagated through our lives through social settings, public media, and social media.

There are online tests which can be taken to uncover and measure your level of implicit bias in a variety of subjects. I recommend taking the tests because you may be surprised by the results (I know I was). Some of the testing categories are for skin color, gender, race, sexuality, and even Presidential popularity. The website is:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit>

If we know that this implicit bias is present, the first step in remediation is to admit we have it. By taking the tests, while being true to yourself about the answer, these biases can be recognized to an awareness level, and then perhaps changed. If you notice an example of bias with your friends, question them why they feel that way or said that. This will be an important lifelong skill which should be continued into college and work careers.

Here at Amity, we live in a protected environment, and have privileged lives due to the success of our school and our families. Within our walls, we can start to raise these difficult concepts, and hopefully engage in meaningful discussions to help identify and improve cultural sensitivities and eliminate biases and discrimination in our community.

## Reflecting on My Time with Trident

Continued from page 3

in on time, and had our spreads done for printing. It seemed that all was going perfectly...until the retraction hit. After a piece with fabricated quotations found its way into the news section under an incorrect byline, The Trident staff had to work quickly to fix a completely novel situation. A retraction/apology was sent out, and a restructured editorial staff was left to repair pieces of a problem they had not necessarily caused. This experience led me to grow in a very real way as I came to realize what it meant to work as a team during a downfall.

Being a section editor and editor-in-chief for The Trident was a unique experience that, for the first time, put me in

a position in which I was responsible for others. A poor job on my part would not only be reflective on me, but others as well. From this, I had to develop a more careful work ethic that often led to burrowing deep in The Trident office proofreading articles until 6 on a Friday night or skipping lunch to resize images. Once I nearly gave a janitor a heart attack when he opened the door and saw me in the "closet that no one ever used."

Overall, senior year was definitely the biggest mixed bag. Imagine mixing Smarties and Dum-Dums with Godiva chocolates and you'll understand the everchanging textures of life on The Trident. Definitely stressful at times, it still is an experi-

ence I would never trade. The quality of the paper rose dramatically this year as articles were more thorough and fact-checked while photographs were truly relevant and revealing of the pieces. I will admit that I will never forgive the thief that stole our giant supply of sweet and salty kettle corn (thank you microwave and mini fridge), but it was all worth it. For this I have to thank Mr. Iverson, Mrs. Clark, the other editors, administration, and our school of readers for everything. Even if it's just for the candy, I truly encourage anyone to join The Trident next year as it's not a boring bunch of peppermints droning on about nonsense; it's a group of fizzling pop rocks that will always keep you on your toes.



## THE CLAY DATE

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# Amity Math Team: A Sine of Excellence

by Jingzhao Liang '17

As the school year comes to a close, Amity Math Team completes its lauded run chock full of accomplishments that have accumulated over the years. The highly successful competitive math club, which is largely student-run and coached by Amity math teacher Mrs. Joycelyn Romero, competes in the Greater New Haven Mathematics League as well as in Connecticut and New England competitions annually.

The club is a magnet for novice

Connecticut state math competition, said that the club has "allowed [him] to meet a whole new group of people."

As with all clubs, the math team provides a fantastic opportunity for students to not only explore new ways to challenge themselves, but also meet like-minded peers as well. The club is split into levels, with members often specializing in certain types of math ranging from arithmetic to analytic geometry. Since there is always something for everyone, the club has a distinct team-building atmosphere with every



Co-captain Jethin Gowda '17 holding up his award for "Top Scoring Junior" in the Connecticut state competition last year. Photo by Jingzhao Liang '17.

math-enthusiasts and future Einsteins alike, attracting many students to participate in tryouts every year. It serves as an easy way for students to spark an interest in the field, as well as for experienced members to gain recognition and awards.

For several years, the team has consistently beat out fellow public schools in the Greater New Haven League, "holding the top spot among public schools for a very long time" says Romero. "In recent years, we have also done very well against private schools. Just last year, we were very happy to overcome Choate and Hamden Hall, securing first in the league."

The team continues to bring home many accolades, including several top three finishes at States and New Englands. Looking ahead, Romero stated, "we are recruiting now, trying to find potential members in incoming 9th graders so that we can have a strong team come September."

The team is home to some of Amity's best and brightest. Math whiz Jethin Gowda '17, who was the highest scoring junior in the

member more than eager to help each other out when encountered with difficult problems.

Regarding his time on the team, Gowda said, "It allowed me to really appreciate the field of mathematics and has definitely influenced what I intend to study after high school."

Gowda, who is the co-captain of the team this year along with fellow senior James He, will pursue a math-related major at the California Institute of Technology this fall. "I will likely major in applied mathematics and perhaps go on to work with data analysis in the future," he said.

You don't have to be a data analyst, however, to join math team. All students are encouraged to sign up for the club and attend practices held once every week. Run-off tests are used to determine which level in the team a student is best suited for, and how well they can contribute to the team as a whole. If you have an interest in the subject, or are just curious to see how competitive math works, be sure to drop by.

"We are always looking for new members," says Romero.

# Mrs. Serio Teaches Students the Importance of Music

by Alicia Myung '20

The Amity High School strings program now has a new teacher, Lisa Serio, whose passion has led to the restructuring of her future classes and the development of new techniques to better suit her students. While this is her first year teaching at the high school, she is already changing the organization and methods of her classes to effectively accomplish her goals for the future.

As a passionate music teacher and a musician herself, Mrs. Serio has been playing the violin since fourth grade. Although this is her main instrument, she also has grasped the basics of other instruments due to her pursuit of music teaching in college. As a result, she said she can play "a little bit of piano and the string instruments."

Serio's first career choice was not always teaching music, but instead was becoming a special education teacher. Her career path changed when in her junior year, her orchestra teacher inspired her to pursue a career in music.

Demonstrating her ability to encourage students to fulfill their own needs and goals while playing, when Serio teaches at both the middle schools and the high school, she alters her teaching

style to fit the needs of each player. When she teaches at the middle school, she tries to "...focus more on some of the fundamentals [of music]" in order to establish the basic knowledge of music.

At the high school, Serio focuses on "getting into more depth" with their playing. She devotes a majority of her teaching to the small details within music and technique by focusing on "fine-tuning dynamic or the articulation" in order to bring emotion and intensity to the repertoire.

In the beginning of the year, Serio took initiative when it came

supportive."

Anticipating next year, Serio has already created different levels to better organize students into classes that will benefit them. The majority of ninth graders will enter the beginning concert orchestra to help them transition to the high school music program. The symphony orchestra will then be the next step for a majority of the upperclassmen, with the highest level being the chamber orchestra, which is audition-based.

For those struggling with their string instrument or who desire to create a solid base for their playing, they may join the string class, which will provide smaller group attention.

Serio is bringing string music to the community and in doing so, she's adding another facet to Amity's amaz-

ing arts program. She is, in



Mrs Serio and her strings students at the 2017 Spring Concert.

Photo by Harris Andersen '18.

to restructuring the strings program. There were only a few strings classes to begin with, but she instead wanted classes that were skill based in order to organize the musicians and to focus her teaching on helping both herself and her students to become better players.

For these changes to happen, Serio had to promote the strings program and to ask for the ability to make the changes. She said, "Fortunately, the administration and all of the people that I've come in contact with have been really

turn, helping students expand their love and passion for music by encouraging them to practice hard and never give up even when the pieces can be complicated.

Keri Tenerowicz '19 reflects on Mrs. Serio's incredible impact on her playing, saying, "It has shown me new aspects of my education that has helped me in other areas of my life."

Serio is always looking for new students, so feel free to talk to her about joining the vast expanse of musical arts offered at Amity!

# Girls Golf "Putts" Themselves Among the Best in the State

by Qingli Hu '18

With the girls golf season starting a couple weeks ago, Coach Michael Cofrancesco (amiably called Coach Co by his players) went into the new season expecting the team to outperform last year's, which was Amity's inaugural year of having a girls golf team.

In their first season, Amity finished with two wins in the regular season and fell short of reaching the next level. This year, however, all the players seem to be poised to propel themselves to the States Tournament on June 6th.

As of right now, Amity is 12-1, with two more matches to go in the regular season.

"The kids are playing at really high level, they've been very consistent with their scores. All the kids returned from last year and they all improved their scoring average which has made the team very successful," Coach Co remarked proudly, "and right now we are ranked number 11 in the state, and the top 20 teams make the state tournament, so we should make the state tournament for the first time."

Considering this is only the second year for the Amity girls golf team, this is a very impressive feat.

Besides being successful during matches, the players that make up the team have built a very positive and supportive environment that encourages growth. This includes being one another's cheerleaders and waving when they pass each other on different holes on the golf course. As a friend of some of the players on the team, I get a daily dose of the happenings relating to the team. Everyday, there seem to be a milestone reached; most all the players are scoring few strokes lower than last year.

Bridget Barnsley, '18, as one of the best players on the team, has broken 40 strokes in multiple matches, an accomplishment that's laudable even for those not as knowledgeable about the sport itself.

It is easy to spot match days since the players are so passionate about their team. On every match day, each member proudly dresses up in their golf attire and khakis, so it's hard to miss them in the hallways. The players are very closely knit together; the team is a collection of some of the most talented golf enthusiasts in the school, and they

mesh with each other quite well.

Of course, all success comes with practice. The team practices every week day, and everyone works extremely hard on improving and fine-tuning every facet of their game. Amity's home golf course is the Racebrook Country Club in Orange.

The proudest person of all this accomplishment is no doubt Coach Co.

"I knew that we would be better [than last year], but I didn't expect them to be this good. Now we're in a point in the season where I expect them to have good scores and I expect them to win matches because they've done it all season," he said. "I didn't expect that going into the year, but it's a great feeling to know that they're coming in with good scores, and they're proud of themselves when they do really well, so I'm really happy for them."

With Coach Co's and each other's guidance and encouragement, all the players continue to grow as individuals and as a group. The SCC tournament is on May 30th, and June 6th is the state tournament.

Good luck to the Amity girls golf team as we all hope that they take their regular season excellence onto the next level!



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**Victoria Acampora** Bemidji State University  
**Priya Aggarwal** American University  
**John Ahern** Central Connecticut State University  
**Abdul Ahmad** University of Connecticut, Waterbury  
**Katherine Alvarado** Indiana University  
**Robert Anastasio** Quinnipiac University  
**Melina Andreson** Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts  
**Michael Anil** Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
**Joseph Antaya** Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Air Force ROTC Detachment 157  
**Blake Arnel** Western Connecticut State University  
**Valeria Asprelli** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Emily Bacal** College of William and Mary  
**Kiley Bakis** Sacred Heart University  
**Suvasini Balaji** Johns Hopkins University  
**Tyler Ballaro** Gap Year: Americorps  
**Chloe Barker** Gateway Community College  
**Blake Batista** Iona College  
**Kyle Beaudette** George Washington University  
**Jimmy Bi** University of California, Irvine  
**Cassandra Bishop** Fairfield University  
**Connor Black** University of Southern Maine  
**Michael Boccanfuso** University of South Carolina  
**Lauren Bollier** Christopher Newport University  
**Matthew Bonvicini** University of Connecticut  
**Mikel Bous** University of Connecticut  
**Nicholas Brangi** Wentworth Institute of Technology  
**Stacey Broadie** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Camryn Brown** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Chase Burzynski** University of Rhode Island  
**Kaitlyn Butler** West Chester University  
**William Butler** University of South Carolina  
**Karianne Canfield** Bard College  
**Chloe Capuano** University of Connecticut  
**Nathan Carney** George Washington University  
**Micaela Casapulla** Campbell University  
**Jena Casman** Wheaton College (MA)  
**Olivia Castro** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Rosealee Chan** University of Hartford  
**Alicia Chen** Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Amy Chen** University of Connecticut  
**Daniel Chodos** Lasell College  
**Jung Choi** Western Connecticut State University  
**Vincent Ciavarella** University of New Haven

**Jacob Cohen** Western New England University  
**Henry Connor** University of Southern California  
**Christian Cooper** Quinnipiac University  
**Emily Criscuolo** Boston College  
**Robert Cross** Quinnipiac University  
**Joshua Crow** University of Connecticut  
**Emily Cucurello** University of New Hampshire  
**Sophia Cuzzo** University of Mississippi  
**Brianna Cusanelli** Western Connecticut State University  
**Matthew D'Onofrio** Western Connecticut State University  
**Saniyah Dar** Union College  
**Mac Deane** Gap Year: Kent School  
**Dan DeFeo** Marist College  
**Marissa Della-Giustina** University of Connecticut  
**Stefanie DelVecchio** Villanova University  
**Serena DeMartino** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Himay Dharani** Tufts University  
**Shannon Dillon** University of North Carolina Wilmington  
**Owen Dodd** Iona College  
**Lindsay Doherty** Union College  
**Mya Duncan** College of St. Rose  
**Stephanie Durkee** Dean College  
**Rachel Einbinder** Pennsylvania State University  
**Elizabeth Ewing** Colby College  
**Olivia Fama** Armstrong State University  
**Megan Farrell** Western Connecticut State University  
**Yuliya Faryna** University of Connecticut  
**Ariel Ferraiuolo** Work: Animal Care and Rescue Program  
**Mikaela Flora** Quinnipiac University  
**David J Ford** Messiah College  
**Cameron Formica** Bay State College  
**Christopher Fraser** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Alexander Friedman** Wheaton College  
**Abigail Fritz** Nichols College  
**Griffin Frobel** Pennsylvania State University  
**Jared Fucci** Arizona State University  
**Dustin Gad** University of Connecticut  
**Lorraine Gagliardi** Sacred Heart University  
**Jeffery Anthony Gallo** Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
**Emma Gehr** University of Connecticut  
**Ahmad Ghalayini** Undecided: Southern Connecticut State University or Gateway Community College  
**Bianca Gibbons-Morales** Marist College  
**Emma Gilshannon** Lawrence University  
**Katie Goclowski** Cornell University  
**Hannah Goldwitz** United International Business School, Barcelona  
**Charlotte Gorham** Macalester College  
**Jethin Gowda** California Institute of Technology  
**Elise Grabowski** University of New England  
**Hayley Grande** Georgetown University  
**Aviva Green** Smith College

**Eric Greenbaum** Columbia College Chicago  
**Aki Hackett** Gateway Community College  
**Andrew Hague** University of Connecticut  
**Theodore Hague** Yale University  
**Katherine Handler** Yale University  
**Jessica Hauser** Quinnipiac University  
**Justin Hawkins** University of Maine  
**James He** University of Connecticut  
**Matthew Hill** College of William and Mary  
**Rachelle Hochman** Pennsylvania State University  
**Jake Hollander** George Washington University  
**Katia Howard** University of Connecticut  
**Adam Hurwitz** Indiana University  
**Kiersten Ignatowski** Rowan University  
**Natalie Iwaszkiewicz** Brandeis University  
**Sara Jadbabaie** Hamilton College  
**Haya Jarad** University of Connecticut  
**Tyler Jennes** Ithaca College  
**Katie Kaligian** University of Maryland  
**Ari Kaufman-Frankel** University of Maryland  
**Kiersten Keating** Sacred Heart University  
**Zenab Khan** University of Connecticut  
**Nikzad Khani** Boston University  
**Priti Khire** Pennsylvania State University  
**Robert Kirpas** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Mathew Kirschbaum** University of Connecticut  
**Thomas Knudsen** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Philip Kozan** University of Connecticut  
**Daphne Kreiger** University of Michigan  
**Robbie Kroepel** Colorado Mountain College Steamboat Springs  
**Avery Kron** Wheaton College  
**Olivia Kyasky** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Conor Leary-Watson** Lasell College  
**Mikayla Leibowitz** Florida Gulf Coast University  
**Grace Lepensky** Dordt College  
**Conrad Li** Bowdoin College  
**Jingzhao Liang** Carnegie Mellon University  
**Yunfan Liang** Boston University  
**Michaela Lillard** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Joyce Lin** The New School: Parson's School of Design  
**Susanna Liu** Yale University  
**Luiza Livingston** The New School  
**Bailey Luciani** Florida Atlantic University  
**Evelyn Luciani** Trinity College  
**Oriana Mack** Bard College  
**Bailey MacNamara** Quinnipiac University  
**Emerick Collin MacNevin** Berklee College of Music  
**Ian MacRae** Arizona State University  
**Daniel Madsen** Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
**Emily Maranets** Tulane University

**Theodore Maranets** Northeastern University  
**Kyle Marieb** University of Michigan  
**Cassidy Marry** University of Connecticut  
**Ethan Mason** University of Maine  
**Anthony Mastrangelo** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Carly Mastrangelo** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Chris Mastrangelo** Undecided  
**Steven Mazzacco** Gateway Community College  
**Kelsey McCormack** University of Connecticut  
**Molly McGuire** Robert Morris University  
**Alekya Menta** Tufts University  
**Emily Merly** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Nicolina Messori** Quinnipiac University  
**Caleb Moore** University of Connecticut  
**Emily Mullins** Springfield College  
**Madison Mulqueen** University of Connecticut  
**KJ Muse** United States Army  
**Maya Mutalik** Babson College  
**Julia Nadelmann** Yale University  
**Phillip Nam** Quinnipiac University  
**Sameer Fazal Nawaz** Brandeis University  
**Catherine Neumann** Iona College  
**Sarah Nevolis** University of Connecticut  
**Evan Nork** State University of New York, Purchase  
**Francis Novak** University of Hartford  
**Taylor Nuzzo** Bryant University  
**Josiah Oakley** Bowdoin College  
**Nicholas Oathout** United States Army  
**Jacob Okolo** Northeastern University  
**Kelsey Paier** University of Vermont  
**Daniel Palmer** University of Maine  
**Brandon Kyle Parker** Lincoln Tech  
**Neha Pashankar** Northwestern University  
**Rohan Patel** University of Michigan  
**Nisansa Perera** Brandeis University  
**Matthew Perrotti** Gap Year: Cheshire Academy  
**Michael Perry** Central Connecticut State University  
**Ryan Pethigal** Marist College  
**Jonathan Pico** University of Connecticut  
**Joseph Popel** Naugatuck Valley Community College  
**Hugh Potter** Fordham University  
**Alexander Provost** Central Connecticut State University  
**Frank Pucillo** University of Southern Maine  
**Angelina Racaniello** Salem State University  
**Ryan Rappaport** Western Connecticut State University  
**Ryan Rattley** University of Pittsburgh  
**Maggie Reames** Stevenson University  
**Audrey Regan** Merrimack College  
**Aidan Berger Reilly** Quinnipiac University  
**Benson Rodrigues** Southern Connecticut State University  
**John-Robert Rueda** Undecided  
**Cory Sachs** Union College  
**Jakob Sadinsky** West Virginia University

# SENIOR INTENTIONS 2017

**Brandon Sahlin** Gap Year: Working in Massachusetts

**Jenna Saleh** Quinnipiac University

**Sergey Savelyev** Georgia Institute of Technology

**Sarah Saxe** Brown University

**Cassandra Scherer** Monmouth University

**Katherine Schittina** Fordham University

**Anna Schlegel** University of Rhode Island

**Kaitlin Schultz** Fitchburg State University

**Alex Shnyakin** Sacred Heart University

**Zachary Simon** Boston University

**Alec Smith** Wentworth Institute of Technology

**Jacquelyn Smith** Arizona State University

**Jacqueline Snow** University of Connecticut

**Caroline Sopp** Eastern Connecticut State University

**Blair Sprosta** Post University

**Kiley Stackpole** Providence College

**Clare Staib-Kaufman** Yale University

**Brandon Stock** Undecided: University of New Haven or Southern Connecticut State University

**Kyle Stuart** Regis College

**Stephanie Sutton** University of Colorado, Boulder

**Anthony Taddei** University of Rhode Island

**Bridget Taylor** Springfield College

**Felicia Thomas** Quinnipiac University

**Ray Tian** University of Oklahoma

**Megan Tichy** St. John's University

**Max Trachten** Indiana University

**Alexander Tzezos** University of Connecticut

**Nuala Tzovolos** San Francisco State University

**Jamie Unger** University of Hartford

**Nicholas Vasil** Gap Year

**Adam Velardi** University of Connecticut

**Tyler Vincent** Clark University

**Kathleen Walsh** University of Connecticut

**Mark Wezenski** University of Connecticut

**Zach White** Gap Year: South Muskoka Shield Hockey Club

**Windsor Wincherhern** University of Connecticut

**Alex Wyner** Infantry Branch of Israel Defense Forces

**Kevin Yang** University of Connecticut

**Ernest Yelenik** Southern Connecticut State University

**Nicholas Yoo** Villanova University

**Seung Yu** University of Connecticut

**Anna Zaharewicz** Robert Morris University

**Lillian Zhang** Barnard College

**Barnard College** Lillian Zhang

**Bay State College** Cameron Formica

**Bemidji State University** Victoria Acampora

**Berklee College of Music** Emerick MacNevin

**Boston College** Emily Criscuolo

**Boston University** Nikzad Khani, Yunfan Liang, Zachary Simon

**Bowdoin College** Conrad Li, Josiah Oakley

**Brandeis University** Natalie Iwaszkiewicz, Sameer Nawaz, Nisansa Perera

**Brown University** Sarah Saxe

**Bryant University** Taylor Nuzzo

**California Institute of Technology** Jethin Gowda

**Campbell University** Micaela Casapulla

**Carnegie Mellon University** Jingzhao Liang

**Central Connecticut State University** John Ahern, Michael Perry, Alexander Provost

**Christopher Newport University** Lauren Bollier

**Clark University** Tyler Vincent

**Colby College** Elizabeth Ewing

**College of St. Rose** Mya Duncan

**College of William and Mary** Emily Bacal, Matthew Hill

**Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs** Robbie Kroepel

**Columbia College Chicago** Eric Greenbaum

**Cornell University** Katie Goclowski

**Dean College** Stephanie Durkee

**Dordt College** Grace Lepensky

**Eastern Connecticut State University** Michaela Lillard, Anthony Mastrangelo, Carly Mastrangelo, Caroline Sopp

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Air Force ROTC Detachment 157** Joseph Antaya

**Fairfield University** Cassandra Bishop

**Fitchburg State University** Kaitlin Schultz

**Florida Atlantic University** Bailey Luciani

**Florida Gulf Coast University** Mikaela Leibowitz

**Fordham University** Hugh Potter, Katherine Schittina

**Gap Year** Nicholas Vasil

**Gap Year: Americorps** Tyler Ballaro

**Gap Year: Cheshire Academy** Matthew Perrotti

**Gap Year: Kent School** Mac Deane

**Gap Year: South Muskoka Shield Hockey Club** Zach White

**Gap Year: Working in Massachusetts** Brandon Sahlin

**Gateway Community College** Chloe Barker, Aki Hackett, Steven Mazzacco

**George Washington University** Kyle Beaudette, Nathan Carney, Jake Hollander

**Georgetown University** Hayley Grande

**Georgia Institute of Technology** Alicia Chen, Sergey Savelyev

**Hamilton College** Sara Jadbabaie

**Indiana University** Katherine Alvarado, Adam Hurwitz, Max Trachten

**Infantry Branch of Israel Defense Forces** Alex Wyner

**Iona College** Blake Batista, Owen Dodd, Catherine Neumann

**Ithaca College** Tyler Jennes

**Johns Hopkins University** Suvasini Balaji

**Lasell College** Daniel Chodos, Conor Leary-Watson

**Lawrence University** Emma Gilshan-non

**Lincoln Technical Institute** Brandon Parker

**Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts** Melina Andreson

**Macalester College** Charlotte Gorham

**Marist College** Dan DeFeo, Bianca Gibbons-Morales, Ryan Pethigal

**Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences** Michael Anil

**Massachusetts Maritime Academy** Jeffery Gallo, Daniel Madsen

**Merrimack College** Audrey Regan

**Messiah College** David Ford

**Monmouth University** Cassandra Scherer

**Naugatuck Valley Community College** Joseph Popel

**Nichols College** Abigail Fritz

**Northeastern University** Theodore Maranets, Jacob Okolo, Neha Pashankar

**Pennsylvania State University** Rachel Einbinder, Griffin Frobel, Priti Khire, Rachelle Hochman

**Post University** Blair Sprosta

**Providence College** Kiley Stackpole

**Quinnipiac University** Robert Anastasio, Christian Cooper, Robert Cross, Mikaela Flora, Jessica Hauser, Bailey MacNamara, Nicolina Messoro, Phillip Nam, Aidan Berger Reilly, Jenna Saleh, Felicia Thomas

**Regis College** Kyle Stuart

**Robert Morris University** Anna Zaharewicz, Molly McGuire

**Rowan University** Kiersten Ignatowski

**Sacred Heart University** Alex Shnyakin, Kiley Bakis, Lorraine Gagliardi, Kiersten Keating

**Salem State University** Angelina Racaniello

**San Francisco State University** Nuala Tzovolos

**Smith College** Aviva Green

**Southern Connecticut State University** Valeria Asprelli, Stacey Broadie, Camryn Brown, Olivia Castro, Serena DeMartino, Christopher Fraser, Robert Kirpas, Thomas Knudsen, Olivia Kyasky, Emily Merly, Benson Rodrigues, Ernest Yelenik

**Springfield College** Emily Mullins, Bridget Taylor

**St. John's University** Megan Tichy

**State University of New York, Purchase** Evan Nork

**Stevenson University** Maggie Reames

**College of St. Rose** Mya Duncan

**The New School** Luiza Livingston

**The New School: Parsons School of Design** Joyce Lin

**Trinity College** Evelyn Luciani

**Tufts University** Himay Dharani, Alekya Menta

**Tulane University** Emily Maranets

**Undecided** Chris Mastrangelo, John-Robert Rueda

**Undecided: Southern Connecticut State University or Gateway Community College** Ahmad Ghalayini

**Undecided: Southern Connecticut State University or University of New Haven** Brandon Stock

**Union College** Saniyah Dar, Lindsay Doherty, Cory Sachs

**United International Business School, Barcelona** Hannah Goldwitz

**United States Army** KJ Muse, Nicholas Oathout

**University of California, Irvine** Jimmy Bi

**University of Colorado, Boulder** Stephanie Sutton

**University of Connecticut** Abdul Ahmad, Matthew Bonvicini, Mikel Bous, Chloe Capuano, Amy Chen, Joshua Crow, Yuliya Faryna, Marissa Della-Giustina, Dustin Gad, Emma Gehr, Andrew Hague, James He, Katia Howard, Haya Jarad, Zenab Khan, Mathew Kirschbaum, Philip Kozan, Cassidy Marry, Kelsey McCormack, Caleb Moore, Madison Mulqueen, Sarah Nevolis, Jonathan Pico, Jacqueline Snow, Alexander Tzezos, Adam Velardi, Kathleen Walsh, Mark Wezenski, Windsor Wincherhern, Kevin Yang, Seung Yu

**University of Hartford** Rosealee Chan, Francis Novak, Jamie Unger

**University of Maine** Justin Hawkins, Ethan Mason, Daniel Palmer

**University of Maryland** Katie Kalligian, Ari Kaufman-Frankel

**University of Michigan** Daphne Kreiger, Kyle Marieb, Rohan Patel

**University of Mississippi** Sophia Cuzzo

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**University of North Carolina Wilmington** Shannon Dillon

**University of Oklahoma** Ray Tian

**University of Pittsburgh** Ryan Rattley

**University of Rhode Island** Chase Burzynski, Anna Schlegel, Anthony Taddei

**University of South Carolina** Michael Boccanfuso, William Butler

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**Wentworth Institute of Technology** Nicholas Brangi, Alec Smith

**West Chester University** Kaitlyn Butler

**West Virginia University** Jakob Sadowsky

**Western Connecticut State University** Blake Arnel, Jung Choi, Brianna Cusanelli, Matthew D'Onofrio, Megan Farrell, Ryan Rappaport

**Western New England University** Jacob Cohen

**Wheaton College** Avery Kron

**Wheaton College (MA)** Jena Casman, Alexander Friedman

**Work: Animal Care and Rescue Program** Ariel Ferraiuolo

**Yale University** Theodore Hague, Katherine Handler, Clare Staib-Kaufman, Susanna Liu, Julia Nadelmann



## SORTED BY INTENTION

**American University** Priya Aggarwal

**Arizona State University** Jared Fucci, Ian MacRae, Jacquelyn Smith

**Armstrong State University** Olivia Fama

**Babson College** Maya Mutalik

**Bard College** Karianne Canfield, Oriana Mack

# Amity Showcases Talent at Open Mic Night

by Courtney Greifenberger '18

Amity hosted an Open Mic Night in the cafeteria on May 5th from 6-8 PM. This featured performances of published and original works by Amity students. This year, Amity's Open Mic Night had an impressive turnout, drawing in many students that wanted to share their work.

Gabby Aversa ('17) said, "I thought it was a great platform for people to showcase their talents. I chose to read some of my original poems. I've never had an oppor-

tunity to read any of my pieces before, and I'm grateful to have had the experience." For students like Aversa, Amity's Open Night Mic provided a setting in which students could share their work with the public, even for the first time for some.

Another student, Brian Forbes ('18), remarked upon faculty performances stating that, "Quite a few faculty members participated, and their performances were some of the most memorable. I especially liked Mr. Gaipa's short poems."

In addition to performing himself, Amity English teacher,

Timothy Gaipa, played a large role in the organization of this event.

Avid reader and writer, Sara Jadbabaie ('17) reflected, "I truly enjoyed my time at Open Mic Night and it saddens me knowing that my senior year shall be the final opportunity I have attending this function. I implore other students to utilize Open Mic Night as an outlet for their creative endeavors."

Open Mic Night serves as a platform in which students of all experience levels could express themselves, and it was an eye opening night for students, teachers, and audience members alike.

# Art Through Fashion Club Hosts Its First Fashion Show

By Tara Mohseni '19

On May 11, the Art Through Fashion Club had its first fashion show at the Amity Art Slam. All the clothes were re-designed and thrifted to bring out a new esq ue about fashion in a very well attended event.

C a r - olyna Iff '20, the founder of the club, wanted people to be comfortable in whatever they wore.

This club was a vision of hers for many years, and making it happen was a highlight of her high school experience.

Iff said, "The club was always a dream of mine. To form a team of students who have a 'look good, feel good' mentality. Or even those who wanted to boost their self es-

teem by becoming comfortable and therefore confident in what they wear and expressing their feelings through clothing."

Art Through Fashion was created for designers and artists alike, as well as anyone who wants to find what is "in" right now in the fashion industry.

somewhere that students can express themselves, such as showing anger through a distressed jean jacket, or happiness through a homemade flower crown.

Iff stated that the goal for next school year is to "focus more on DIY-ing clothing that way students and hopefully faculty can learn how to make

a plain white t-shirt into a colorful and distressed masterpiece."

The goal of the Art Through Fashion club moving forward is to cre-

ate original pieces and or display artwork to both justify and emphasize the confidence that can be found in each and every student at Amity.

The Art Through Fashion Club has "made it happen" at Amity High School this year!



The Club poses after the fashion show.

Photo contributed by Tara Mohseni

The club is a place for people who enjoy the art of fashion.

Iff wants people to recognize that the fashion industry is not a vain and judgemental place, but rather

# Pit Orchestra Prepared Well for Spring Musical

Sophia Wang '20

The May concert for the strings and choir sections was held at the John Brady Center with members of every graduating class participating. The symphony string orchestra consisted of many talented students that played pieces like "Night on Bald Mountain", "the Moldau", and "Symphony 8". Compositions like "Minnie the Moocher" and "Pinball Wizard" brought a happy, springlike attitude across the audience.

This hard work in the music department was further displayed in the chamber strings, where a select few string players performed pieces like "Spring", evoking large applause from the audience.

In addition to the strings, the choir and chamber singers filled

the Brady Center with a range of songs such as Omnia Sol, How Can I Keep From Singing, Esto Les Digo, Somebody to Love, and many others.

A member of the strings, Katie Barretta '20, remarked that the concert "...was a good experience," especially for the students and the parents who were able to understand the attitude that this school has towards music.

Additionally, another member of the strings, Michael Lebreck '20, says that the pieces played displayed the prime music at Amity, "[with] dynamics [that] were exciting and very good" and also "...notes that were on tune".

The Spring Concert showcased the many musical talents of Amity High School's young performers.

# Spring Concert Entertains Amity

by Neha Sudhir '19

On Thursday, May 11th, 2017, the Amity Music Department was abuzz with excitement to host Amity's annual Spring Concert for the band. After several months of preparation, the band was excited to exhibit the culmination their talents and show off a semester's worth of hard work.

At Amity, the music department is known for both their talented teachers and mentors as well as their dedicated and involved students. The band works hard during class and at home to practice their music.

Erin McCormack, a sophomore, recalled, "We have been working on this music for the last few months, both in band class and out of it. We have all worked so hard preparing for this concert and our hard work all paid off!"

The students played four powerful songs, including Shenandoah, by Bob Dylan, the 2016 Nobel Laureate for literature. The band also played Where the Black Hawk Soars, Gustav Holst's

Military Suite for Band in E flat, and Blue and Green Music. Each song helped to illustrate the wide range of capabilities and talents in the Amity Band.

Sana Pashankar, another sophomore, said, "[t]he concert was efficient and effective in showcasing everything we had worked for and our devotion to music."

All in all, the consensus among the students was that the concert was a success. Many of the band members highlighted the hard work and effort that had gone into creating and performing such a "spectacular" show.

One stated, "I think we all worked hard to learn our parts, and the concert went well thanks to the hard work everyone put it."

The Amity Music Department fittingly concluding their year with a wonderful concert. Their hard work and preparation throughout the year led to an enriching experience for all in attendance.

Demonstrating their their dedication to their craft as musicians, Amity is eager to see what next year will bring.

Happy Summer to  
Students and Staff from  
The Amity Trident!



# Shakespeare & Co. Vists Amity

by Sean Lee '20

The freshmen and sophomore classes saw the plays *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*, respectively, in May. The famous Shakespearean plays were presented by many seasoned actors and actresses from Shakespeare and Company, an organization that travels around New England to perform. After reading these plays in English classes, students felt that the performances especially helped them to visualize iconic scenes written by William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare and Company, based in Massachusetts, organizes plays at schools and the community as a whole.

**The actor and actresses having a Q&A with the sophomores after their performance. Photo contributed by Sean Lee.**

The main goal of the company is not just to entertain, but also to educate. The actors and actresses have a long history with the company and have been performing in these plays for countless years.

Abyan Nawaz ('20) said, "It was even more impressive how they were able to switch their characters, roles, and personalities in such a short

amount of time." Not only did the actors change roles in one play, but they also had to play characters from a completely different play, *Romeo and Juliet*, after *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

and another from 1999)." During both showings of the two plays, the actors added an element of surprise to the Shakespearean plays by making unexpected entrances from the back doors. When the actors revealed themselves in the rows of seats, they even startled a few of the students, who were focusing on the characters on the main stage.

Interpretations were a key concept to these plays. Since Shakespearean culture dates all the way back to the Elizabethan era, it can be challenging to decipher what Shakespeare was trying to say in his writings. Certain members of the audience said that the play was a great interpretation of Shakespeare's notable plays.

Zach Young '20 said, "The comedic aspect of the play, [A Midsummer Night's Dream,] made it more entertaining and exciting to watch."

The students were able to experience performances from the hard working actors and actresses of Shakespeare and Company, and the plays gave students learning about Shakespeare an experience to remember.



# Aviad Excels at Art Slam

by Sam Farbman '19

Amity High School showed its artistic side at the Art Slam, on May 11th. It was a way to honor Amity students who have put a lot of hard work into their works of art.

The event featured a display of the students' artwork, highlighting Amity's creative spirit, and the Art Through Fashion show, emphasizing a form of art that sometimes can be overlooked.

Olivia Smith ('17), an student in attendance, commented that the "art was very diverse in terms of medium and subject matter."

Many people in the audience that attended were either art-oriented students or those in art classes. Despite the positive nature of the event, many of those who attended thought that the advertising of the art slam could have been more effective at reaching students outside of Amity's art classes.

One of the main events at the art slam was the presentation of the Amity Library Art Award, a competition that recognizes a special and creative piece made by one of Amity's students.

This year's winner was Micha Aviad '18, creator of "No evil". Her piece shows the classic "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" parable with a newspaper as the background.

Aviad said that "It was definitely a process piece, [and I] restarted 4-5 times due to changes in my plan." Aviad's intentions in creating this piece are proved almost daily as news of tragic current events are constantly reported in the media.

Everyone who participated in the competition created amazing art pieces that reflect Amity's creative spirit, and those who came to support their friends were able to see a fabulous display of art made by some of our very own students.

# Broadway Backwards Performed in the Black Box

by Ella Marin '20

Amity hosted their version of a "Broadway Cabaret" on Wednesday, May 17th. This was a completely student run event held in the black box theater. However, this cabaret was unlike any other, since it was informally referred to as "Broadway Backwards"; students performed and sang songs that were originally sung by someone of the opposite gender in Broadway musicals.

This unique event was held in honor of Russell Adair, who passed away earlier this year. Adair was a very active member of

the Amity Creative Theater community, and the local arts community is reeling

from its loss. Adair often contributed to ticket sales for the productions through-

out the year put on by the Amity Creative Theater, and his efforts and dedication will serve as

donations were collected, in addition to providing a great opportunity for the students to showcase their talents.

continuous inspiration to all. A scholarship has been started in his honor at Amity. Although the Broadway Cabaret was free of charge, donations were accepted to be put towards the scholarship.

The event was definitely a success, as over four hundred dollars in

Talya Braverman happily recounted her great experience singing "Come to the Front Home" with Ben Kemp and Maren Westguard. Braverman excitedly recalled the show as "super fun to watch and be a part of especially because so many people were doing numbers that were extremely different from what they'd normally perform."

We will have to see whether Amity will continue to host this unique and impactful event in the future!



Students performing during the Cabaret. Photo courtesy of Amity Theater Twitter

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# Hope Lights Up Amity at Relay for Life

## American Cancer Society Event Well Attended

by Elana Bershtein '19

The towns of Woodbridge, Orange, and Bethany participated in the American Cancer Society's event, Relay for Life on Saturday, June 20th. Local participants gathered at the High Plains Community Center in Orange to honor cancer survivors as well as lost loved ones. Each year, the event demonstrates an immense success in fundraising money and advocating for a cure.

The occasion included different teams as well as groups of participants who camped on the field, while other members walked around the track all night long. Teams at the event included Amity Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving, Amity Creative Theater, and many more from the local community. Prior to the event, each team collected donations to the American

Cancer Society through different means of fundraising. They further pursued their fundraising goals by selling a variety of items to other

After this, each team was asked to have one member of their group walk the track at all times to demonstrate that cancer never sleeps.

encouraged to remember a lost one affected by cancer and decorate a luminary bag in their honor.

After sunset, this powerful Luminary Ceremony began. Team members stood behind different bags which also contained a canned good, a donation asked of all participants. To commemorate those who had not survived, participants placed a light within each bag and walked a silent lap.

Avital Sutin '19, co-captain of the team Kicking Cancer, described this ceremony to be "very emotional" and believed it "gave the right mood to the event." Sutin has taken part in Relay for Life for five years in honor of her uncle and encourages more people to participate in this fundraising in hopes of "eliminating cancer once and for all."

Throughout the night, members of each team continuously walked the track until the closing ceremonies that ended the event. This year's Relay for Life continued to demonstrate the success of the event through raising many donations as well as advocating for a cure to this awful disease.

Not only does this event demonstrate the power of the BOW community in coming together to help find a cure, but also the unbreakable unity of Amity as students walked as well as bonded through songs, activities, and hope all night long. Although it will be another year until the next Relay for Life event, the incredible strength of current cancer survivors as well as those who will forever be in the hearts of our community will always shine bright throughout Amity as well as the surrounding towns.



From left to right: Corrine Sadinsky '19 and Ally Grubman '19 of the team "Kicking Cancer" participating at Relay for Life.

Photo Contributed by Elana Bershtein

participants during the event itself.

The event officially commenced with an introduction from the fundraiser's coordinators and a ceremonial walk around the track, led by local cancer survivors and those currently affected by the disease.

When not walking the track, team members participated in different activities, such as volleyball, spikeball, and frisbee. Music was also provided by Quinn Harley '18, Oriana Mack '17, Sara Jadbabaie '17, and other Amity students as well as local bands. Participants were also



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# Student Athlete Spotlight: Tim Gnidula

by Nick Ricciardi '20

The Amity Men's Lacrosse team has fought its way through a tough and trying season. The Trident's Nick Ricciardi talked to Tim Gnidula, a Junior at Amity, about the season so far.

Nick Ricciardi: How is the season going so far?  
Tim Gnidula: The season is over. We didn't make it to the postseason.

NR: What was the record for Varsity?  
TG: 5-11, I think.

NR: Were there any exciting or interesting games this season that you've been in?  
TG: There was a fight during the first game of the season. We also played good games at Xavier and Hand.

NR: Who are Amity's rivals?  
TG: We are big rivals with Cheshire and Hand.

NR: What position do you play and why?  
TG: I play defense. I don't know why. I have always just played defense.

NR: How long have you

been playing?  
TG: I have been playing since fourth grade.

NR: Do you play on varsity?  
TG: Yes, I start on Varsity

NR: How fun and exciting do you think lacrosse is?  
TG: It's my favorite sport, so I think it's pretty fun and exciting.

NR: Would you recommend Amity Men's lacrosse to a non-player?  
TG: I would recommend it to anyone that is willing to try out.

# Amity Baseball Steps Up to the Plate

by Matt Hill '17

The Amity Boys Baseball team finished up its regular season with an impressive 18-2 record. Their only two losses came against Notre-Dame West Haven and Daniel Hand. They enter the SCC Tournament as the #1 overall seed.

When asked about what led to the team's success in the regular season, captain Teddy Hague ('17) said, "Our team chemistry has been and always will be our biggest asset." He explained, "We hang out together, eat together- we do it all together starting at the beginning of the school year.

Amity baseball is a lifestyle and that lifestyle has been the biggest factor this year, and in the past years, in our success."

Now, they're changing gears from the regular season into the playoffs. They won the SCC quarterfinals against Hamden 7-2. They will face East Haven in the semifinals as they seek a third consecutive SCC Championship.

Hague explained that going into the playoffs, "[w]e need to keep improving as individuals and as a team. During games we often use the expression "Backyard Loose" to reinforce the idea of playing loose and aggressive-

as if we were in our backyard."

Amity's past success in the State Tournament has been undeniable as they seek an unprecedented 5th straight state title this year. Hague explained what makes the team special, saying "When great players make good teams, they don't always turn out great. But when good players form great teams, like we aim to do every year, we have the potential to do something special."

Amity will look to continue the tradition of excellence had when led by senior captains Andy Hague, Teddy Hague, and Max Scheps.

# Another Strong Season for Amity Tennis

by Billy McKeon '19

The Amity Tennis Teams excelled in their 2017 regular seasons. Led by Rachel Einbinder ('17), Sarah Bullers ('19) and Daphne Kreiger ('17), the Amity Girls tennis boasts a 13-4 record. They are currently competing in SCC's as the number 2 seed.

Sarah Bullers ('19) said, "We had a great season. We lost a lot of good players last year, but we have been able to step up and get the number 2 seed in SCC's. We are filled with amazing players."

The boys tennis team went 12-4, led by Henry Molot ('18), Marco Delsanto ('18), Adam Velardi ('17), and Alex Friedman ('17). Molot commented, "I would say this regular season was probably the most challenging of all my three years on the team, but I also see it being one of the most rewarding if all our hard work we've put in pays off in the SCC tournament as well as state tournament."

The boys team has high hopes for the post season. Senior Adam Velardi said,



Amity Girls Tennis Team celebrating after a win.  
Photo by an AGT parent

Chloe Gherlone has also proven herself this year, carrying the team in a crucial win against the rival Guilford team. Einbinder and Kreiger have also helped to provide a "veteran" element to their team as returning singles players.

"We still have a good shot to win SCC's."

Both the Boys and Girls tennis teams have had many rising stars this season and have seen improvement in their game as a result of hard work and effort. As the postseason unfolds, the tennis program will look to and claim yet another title..

# Whether a Team or a Club, Ultimate Frisbee Succeeds

by Jordan Conn '18

Although Amity Regional High School offers many different varsity sports for athletes, it also offers various different athletic activities that are not-sponsored by the school.

One of these activities is the Amity Ultimate Frisbee Team. In the fall, in the form of the Amity Ultimate Frisbee Club, athletes meet in a casual setting. In the spring, they come together to create a team, and compete against other schools.

Opponents vary

from school-endorsed clubs to teams without a coach, who are simply led by a captain.

However the ultimate frisbee team does not just compete with these varsity teams. They beat them. This Amity team has a lot of talent, with a impressive range of skill from the graduating seniors to the freshmen.

"Many of the private and public schools that we compete against have varsity teams," says Ryan Ford ('18). Ford is one of the most prolific members of the team and an essential motivator for his fellow

athletes. He also mentioned that "it would be nice to be given the same treatment as other teams. If we could be recognized as a varsity sport and be sponsored, [the team] would get more attention and be taken more seriously."

The Frisbee team is not all that different from any other varsity team at Amity.

"We are actually a really close group," said Ford. "We hang out together on the weekends, and always have a great time when we're together. Practices are always fun, and we have countless inside

jokes."

The sponsored varsity teams at Amity have several advantages that the Ultimate team lacks. Some, for example, include a selection of equipment and uniforms supplied and paid for by the school.

Since the Ultimate Frisbee Team is just like the other varsity teams at Amity, one might ask why it is not endorsed by the school.

Many of the members of the Frisbee team believe that it should be a sponsored sport, and that it should receive the same treatment as the other varsity sports at Amity.

Contact the  
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