

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXV-No. 2

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

May 13, 2022

## Standing Up for What's Right at Recent Sit-In

by Jackson Crainich '22

On the morning of Wednesday, April 6th, between 100-150 students

gathered in the hallway outside the senior lounge to let their voices be heard. The sit-in was led and organized by Kwasi Adae '23 who wanted to give people the opportunity to speak about injustices they experienced. The students who attended were frustrated and spoke out in an attempt to get stricter and more extended consequences for those who discriminate against their peers.

The sit-in caught the attention of people from around the school, including the administration. Principal Anna Mahon and assistant principals Miguel Pickering and Monica Kreuzer were in attendance.

"We wanted to give them [students] a chance to be heard, and our thought process was to work with the students," said Pickering after the sit-in. "Having them share some of their experiences was definitely a positive thing." He also mentioned that the administration wanted to listen to the people who were fighting to make a change.

One of those people was Amir Jarad '22. "When I was a freshman, I was ignorant and didn't fully understand what it was that I was saying, and now that I'm 17, I see how dumb I was," he

said. "Education will help change things for the future."

Throughout the course of the sit-in, it was mentioned multiple times by the speakers at the protest that if students learned more about these words and their history and impact on people, then these issues would not be as common as they are today. Many believe that strong language is tossed around and spoken often because people lack knowledge of the impact of the words.

The students wanted to have a peaceful protest and have the administration listen to the people talk about



Ralph Toussaint '22 speaks out and conveys his feelings at the sit-in protest.

Photo by Lisa Toto

their stories of the racism that they have experienced walking

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## In-Person AP Exams Return this May

by Hannah Chen '23

With Advanced Placement (AP) exams taking place these last two weeks, Amity students wrapped up the final units of their AP classes and started preparing for the multiple-hour exam assessing their year's worth of knowledge and preparation. AP exams started on Monday, May 2, with the first exams being AP United States Government and Politics, a class that much of the Junior class took, and AP Chemistry.

Exams wrap up on Friday, May 13, with AP Latin. These final exams marked the end of AP exams for the 2021-2022 school year.

AP exams are often times of high stress for many students at Amity as they try to review an entire year's worth of content in a couple of weeks or days. Although stressful, AP classes grant

students the opportunity to learn and prepare for college-level classes with the help of attentive teachers at Amity and the class rigor, which can be likened to college classes.

Although these exams are taken in early May, scores are not released until July. If a student obtains a passing score, depending on the college, they can receive college credit for the class. Accumulating credits can save students who decide to attend college tons of money and, in some cases, even allow them to graduate early.

However, passing these exams does not guarantee students credit. Depending on the college, there may be restrictions on the number of credits one can receive, meaning that some schools may not even accept a passing score as credit.

A passing AP exam score is at least a three on a scale of one to five.

## Students Appreciate Educators for "Lighting the Way"

by Anchal Bahel '23

Teacher Appreciation Week is held, nationwide, each year during the first week of May. This year's theme was "Amity Teachers Light the Way," which seemed fitting for this year consid-



Teachers prepare to play Amity trivia.

Photo by Anchal Bahel '23

ering the unique obstacles educators faced for the past few years. Amity Student Government's Principal's Committee members organized a variety of activities to show their appreciation for all Amity teachers.

Members started off the week by painting the rock as well as creating a banner, which were both displayed throughout the week. Along with this, students organized a trivia activity during the May Faculty Meeting.

Principal Anna Mahon said, "Our tradition of having Student Government representatives organize and lead our May Faculty Meeting is one of my

favorite annual events. The teachers love hearing from students and the 'meeting' is always an awesome opportunity for our students to demonstrate their appreciation for our amazing Amity educators."

Teachers were split into small groups, and they participated in three rounds. Categories included questions about Amity History, Current Amity Happenings, and Light, in honor of the week's theme.

Eydan Lavi '24 said, "Trivia was a fun experience for both students and the faculty! It was a great way for us to show our appreciation for all the faculty does."

In addition to organizing the faculty meeting, days leading up to Teacher Appreciation Week, committee members wrote and gathered individualized notes for all faculty.

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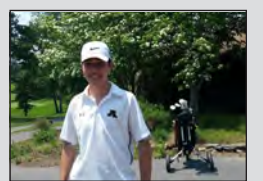
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## Mock Car Crash Illustrates the Dangers of Drunk Driving

by Audrey Cummings '23

A mock car crash, hosted by the SADD Club (Student Against Destructive Decision) occurred on Wednesday April 20. This was prior to prom and summer activities as a reminder to juniors and seniors about safe driving.

Elise Sheehe '23, said, "I think that having the mock car crash right before prom is what made it so impactful, given that so many car accidents happen on prom night when kids are driving recklessly with their friends to and from the dance."

Counselor Gary Lindgren, who worked with others in the club to arrange the event, said, "We put a lot of effort into organizing it. The reenactment itself was important, and everyone that played a role did an awesome job."

The event occurred in the upper parking lot of the school near the track. Students acted in the car crash reenactment, to present the reality and emotion that would be involved in such

an event. Retired police chief Anthony Cuzzo narrated the event. Live emergency vehicles arrived on the scene with their sirens on. Police and volunteer firefighters from Woodbridge were on the scene and demonstrated how the accident would have been handled. The students who sat surrounding the scene

cars, after the drunk driver, played by Ryan Schumann, '22, and his passenger reportedly ran a red light, slamming into another car. The vehicle's passenger, played by Lucia Belbusti, '22, was found dead.

SADD club members played the occupants of the other car who had to be rescued and escorted into the ambulance. The students watched as first responders took apart the mangled car to rescue the girls, as they would in the case of a real accident.

Following the demonstration, students heard a live presentation about long-term effects on families that such an accident

could have. Presenter Ray Raw detailed how his life was impacted following the tragic loss of his only daughter in a drunk driving accident.

The emotional story highlighted not only the effects that careless decisions can have on the individual making them but also on the innocent people and the family and friends who remain living.

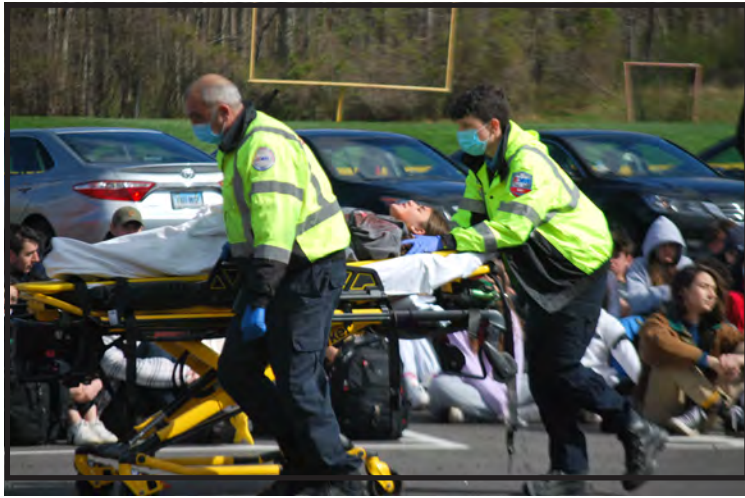


Photo contributed by Lisa Toto.

EMTs respond during the mock car crash.

as it occurred were able to see first hand the consequences of a drunk driving accident.

Diogo Artaza '22 said, "The event was an educational experience, especially witnessing it firsthand and seeing the actors go through what could actually happen in a real car crash."

The accident involved two

## Sophomores Participate in Career Fair

by Raima Kumar '24

The Class of 2024 participated in the annual Career Fair. This was the first time since 2019 this event was in person because of COVID-19. It provided a chance for sophomores to learn about careers they could possibly pursue in the future. Amity holds this event for sophomores because they will start to look into possible majors and colleges next year.

A few days prior, sophomores picked their top three careers and had many careers to choose from, including lawyer, medical lab scientist,

psychologist, congressional aide, and more.

The Career Fair took place on Friday, April 29 during an extended 80-minute period. It involved three sessions, each 20 minutes long, in which a representative from each career spoke to the students about their job, including the educational and professional journeys that led them to their careers, a summary of their roles, and what a typical day in their career looks like.

Devin Maroney '24 enjoyed listening to the school psychologist and said, "I really liked that I got a better understanding of the specific field and found the experience very interesting."

Students felt that they learned a lot about possible career paths and felt less anxious and stressed about choosing a career in the future. Many students listened to the FBI agent speak, including Cecelia Cadelina '24 who said, "I really liked the FBI agent because he explained the whole process of how he became an agent and what he does in his field!"

Another popular career option was physical therapy, on which Henry Ranani '24 says "I really enjoyed the session because I learned a lot more about the process and the numerous paths you can take to become one."

Overall, the career fair was a great experience for the Class of 24. With college visits and planning starting next year, this helped them discover possible careers to pursue.



Photo by Trident Staff

Students listen to a career day presentation.

## Students Appreciate Educators for "Lighting the Way"

Continued from page 1

Hannah Chen '23 said, "The time students put into writing personalized messages for all of their teachers really showcases just how much we care about them." On Thursday, these notes were distributed to classrooms and given with a candle.

Principal's Committee Chair Audrey Marin '22 said, "Putting together notes and candles for

teachers has been a challenging, but rewarding experience. We were so excited during this whole process to demonstrate our gratitude for our teachers."

Not only this week but throughout the year, Amity teachers deserve appreciation for all their hard work and dedication to their students. Community.

## Standing Up for What's Right

Continued from page 1

the halls. "We wanted to address the racial profiling that goes on in the school and we wanted to be heard," said Ralph Toussaint '22.

He felt that they got their point across to the administrators and is interested to see how they're going to act on it.

When asked what really stood out to him about these situations, Pickering said, "I've been there. I understand the level of what those sentiments can do to people. I know the feeling, and one of the reasons I'm in education to begin with is to help people get past some of those hurdles."

He emphasized that the administration does not allow racial slurs of any kind and will not accept them in the school.

Pickering also spoke on is how he, along with the other administrators, do not hear about the stories told at the sit-in often, stories that include issues like anti-Semitism, racism, and more. "The only issue we had with the stories

themselves is that for many, it was the first time hearing those stories...I was frustrated because it was something that they wanted us to help with, but they [the stories] are not commonly brought up to us," he said.

He added that he can count on "only two hands" the amount of times such issues have been brought to his attention by a student. He stressed that the administration is doing what they can to find the person being accused of potentially saying racist or anti-semitic remarks. He said they will look at video footage of the time of day the claim occurred and ask them questions about the subject.

Administration and students have a common goal: for things to change. No one wants racial slurs or anti-Semitic speech being used. The administration hopes to make students feel Amity is a safe environment. They have shown they are ready to listen to the people taking a stand against racism and other issues in our school community.

## AP Exams Return

Continued from page 1

Amity has not administered regular AP exams since 2019. In comparison to the 2020-21 school year remote AP tests, SiRu Liang '23 said, "The normalcy of this school year has better prepared me for the AP tests. The quality of teaching in person is more engaging than remote, more students are willing to participate in class and create a better, more enticing learning environment."

The benefits of taking AP exams are clear. However, there are some downsides, including the high price students pay to take an exam. Exams, on average, cost \$96.00 (and can cost up to \$144). This is without factoring in the price many pay for books and preparatory resources.

Many students believe their AP teachers have prepared them well with the content

knowledge and skills needed to perform well on these exams.

Karishma Bulsara '23 says "I feel like my AP teachers have done a great job at preparing us for the AP exams. All the hard work and advice throughout the year paid off during the week of exams."

However, despite this recognition for teachers and their hard work, many students say they need to spend more time practicing.

Ben Qian '23 says, "I prepare for my AP exams by going through multiple-choice questions that my teacher releases through AP Classroom."

For most students, this year is their first experience with "normal" AP tests. That being said, Amity students that take AP exams have demonstrated great perseverance this school year, as recognized by their teachers and peers.

# We Embodied “Amity United”

by Michael Perrone '23

In recent years, Amity has adopted a theme at the beginning of each academic year. A theme which, hopefully, should encapsulate the overall feeling of those in our community or act as a uniform idea to inspire and create a welcoming environment. This year, the decided theme was “Amity United.”

At first glance, it might seem like a rather odd choice. “Amity United?” Really? In these times, our country and our school community, to some, feels more disconnected than ever. To many, it might even be a stupid choice going off of first impressions.

After hearing this choice for a theme, I immediately had a flashback back to the winter of 2021. At this time, we were stuck in a peculiar situation: hybrid learning. Half of the community were in the building, and the latter were home. Some students even opted to remain in their homes for the entirety of the year. Hybrid learning, quite literally, separated the school into two groups: those in school, and those trapped

in a makeshift prison called Zoom (which is an ironic name, because it made class seem all the slower).

So giving this school year a theme like “Amity United” after being in hybrid learning seems like a controversial take. Coming off of a two year time span in which we were all separated, it seems impossible to come back as a whole community and create a unified setting.

However, to those of you who believe that this is an impossible feat, our past school year would prove you wrong immediately.

This year has been filled with challenges which, at first glance, might appear insurmountable. One of these challenges was the return to classrooms. At first, the thought of waking up and dragging myself out of the house by 7:00 was total insanity. I questioned how I would be able to do this for the majority of my life.

I even became sentimental for rolling out of bed and into my English class via Zoom. It seemed impossible for me to find the bright side to the new normal in the

building, and I was sure that my peers felt the same.

But as soon as I walked into a classroom on the first day of school, these thoughts were put to rest. I remembered my ability to handle in-person school, and those feelings of sentimentality disappeared in the blink of an eye. Being able to meet my teachers and classmates in person, and, by April, maskless, was something that made me fall right back in the process of school.

Having the ability to connect with the community as a whole again, in-person and without masks, was beautiful. It allowed for genuine human connection, something that was lost in the turmoil of a pandemic and hybrid learning.

So, as I began to consider how much my teachers and peers were able to connect with each other, I came to the conclusion that a perfect theme was picked to represent this past school year.

Our community had finally, after two years of separation, come together as one. By the end of this year, we embodied “Amity United.”

# Disrespect Clouds Pride Week

by Emily Russo '24

Each year since then, our school’s annual Pride Week has been dedicated to highlighting the challenges many students of the LG-BTQ+ community face. In the week of April 25th, for instance, PLAHD took the initiative to bring awareness by adorning the hallways of Amity with pride flags, painting the rock, handing out ribbons, and hanging historically-informational posters. This was intended to be a positive and educational experience. Unfortunately, other students did not see it as such.

In order to showcase their dissatisfaction, these students took it upon themselves to rip down flags. Some even went so far as to flush a pride flag down the toilet. According to Ms. Kimball, the advisor for PLAHD, nothing like this has happened in 20 years.

These actions were nothing short of disrespectful. Regardless of how you feel about one thing or the other, you should still have the ability to respect those you disagree with. What makes these instances particularly horrid is that, by ripping down flags and flushing them down toilets, people aren’t merely discrediting opposing ideas. Rather, those who took part in this are diminishing others’ identities.

I think that the administration has made substantial efforts through Spartan Seminar to become a more accepting, as well as respectful, school.

The purpose of many of these Wednesday discussions is to bring

awareness to the challenges marginalized groups face. Hopefully, being exposed to different perspectives would make our student body more tolerant. Instances like the one during Pride Week continue to transpire though, prompting me to believe that with each step forward, we then take three steps back.

I’m incredibly disheartened and disappointed that these instances occurred—I’m not entirely surprised though. The social and political climate of our country is tumultuous, to say the least. It seems that with each passing day, we become increasingly polarized. The deep ideological divides that are prevalent in our society have clearly seeped into the school community, making occurrences such as this less of a shock, as they appear to happen so frequently.

However, even with the situation that happened, PLAHD did not remove their posters. This group of students did not take down their flags and did not stop spreading awareness. Despite the opposition, PLAHD continued to express their identities, showcasing the resilience of this group of students. I have to say though, they shouldn’t have to be resilient; all these students should have to do is be themselves. The discriminatory actions that forced this resilience shouldn’t be happening in the first place.

The entire ordeal is proof that we still have a ways to go, in terms of becoming a more supportive and accepting student body. I believe that there are faculty, as well as students, who really do their best to make Amity a more inclusive environment. But it seems like despite their best efforts, instances of ignorance continue to play out. So I have to wonder, where do we go from here? How do we prevent it from happening again?

At the end of the day, it doesn’t matter how you see one thing or another. The point remains that other humans are deserving of your respect. Regardless of if they express themselves differently, think differently, or act differently; they are people - and deserve respect.



Photo by Trident Staff  
An informational poster from PLAHD

# the TRIDENT

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## After Four Years, A Fond Farewell to Amity

by Abby Ball '22

With the 2021-2022 school year wrapping up, seniors can't help but reflect on their last months here. While our four years at Amity were interrupted by the pandemic, it was great to see a return to in-person and mostly normal school this year. And although it was undoubtedly a difficult transition coming back in the fall, I enjoyed the year even more than I thought I would.

At the start, my friends and I were concerned about how we'd make it through an entire day until 2:18 and get back into the swing of things. However, it's easy to forget

how nice the small things are, like eating lunch together. I really missed those key parts of high school. Personally, I also really liked the addition of SSP. Everyone deserves a built-in study hall, and it was helpful in getting work done and visiting teachers.

To me, one of the best parts of the year was getting to participate in events like homecoming again. It made my whole high school experience feel complete; while my sophomore and junior years were overwhelmed by Covid, my freshman and senior ones felt strikingly similar. And while I'm mentioning Covid a lot, this was the first time I felt like it didn't dominate the experience at Amity. Everything felt like it

was before, besides wearing masks.

For seniors, one key difference this year was applying to college. Somehow, even though I planned for each of my applications over the summer, the stress of returning in person distracted me from my essays for a while. While this process is straining no matter what, it was helpful being in school and getting to talk to counselors and teachers. It's clear that this year's application process was nowhere near as complicated as last year's, especially considering I also got to visit schools in person.

One point of difficulty this year was taking tests and exams, including AP exams and the SATs. I had

never taken an AP exam in person, so this year was new for me. Midterms were also challenging as it was the first time for both freshmen and sophomores and a long time since Juniors or Seniors had any. Studying for cumulative exams took some adjusting, but in the end, I'm glad we had them. That said, I am relieved most Seniors are exempt from finals.

Overall, I wouldn't change a thing about my final year at Amity. While I felt unprepared and overwhelmed at times, I'm so grateful that I got to make new friends, be in school and hear the bell each period, and take part in each of the activities I did. Time went by fast, but I have so much to be grateful for

from this past year and from Amity. While not all of my memories are good ones, I learned a lot from each.

This year, I also felt like everyone appreciated each other's company that much more. I want to thank every teacher, friend, coach, guidance counselor, and other mentor for all they've done. I would not be who I am today without them or this school. I do feel ready to leave high school and start this next chapter of my life, but the ending is bittersweet.

I think I'll end up missing Amity more than I can anticipate. High school is such a momentous part of life, and getting to experience this final, fulfilling year is everything I could've asked for.

## Stress, Joy, and Opportunity: Reflections of a Freshman

by Aachal Gupta '25

Personally, this year has been a crazy, hectic experience even though we all tried to regain a sense of normalcy. Starting high school this year as a freshman provided an additional challenge. High school, the place to make it or break it. It's been especially difficult transitioning to having tests weekly and harsh deadlines, which, let me tell you, the middle school did not enforce. Writing this now, almost fifty-five days away from the end of the year, is something I'm proud of.

A few things I've learned in my eight months of experience so far are that people walk slowly in the halls, it's actually easier than you would think to memorize the school's layout, and while walking in those halls, always be aware of opening doors (I know many have learned that the hard way). Getting adjusted here may be difficult, but I think it's definitely worth the effort, especially after being holed up in my room on zoom with barely any motivation to get out of bed. Although getting out of bed is still the hardest part of my day sometimes, school isn't meant to be fun (or so my English teacher says).

My overarching view as a freshman is that Amity has so much to offer. The variety of clubs, sports, and leadership roles here is something I truly respect. Each club contains so many passionate individuals ready to take on anything, whether it's politics, fashion, or giving back to the community. Compared to middle school, clubs here are experienced in such an impactful way; I

always find myself looking forward to them during the last period. I love that I can express my passion for achieving change in JSA or sit in on Zooms with healthcare professionals to learn about the possibilities within a Pre-Med track.

Another meaningful part of this year for me was joining the student government. I've had such a great time in each freshman meeting and grade-wide meeting; it makes me feel like I am heard and can be a continuous part of the changes that happen at Amity. It didn't take long for me to notice that our community is wholeheartedly committed to a better social and academic environment. Even though we all have a lot on our plate, most teachers and staff are enthusiastic about improving the school.

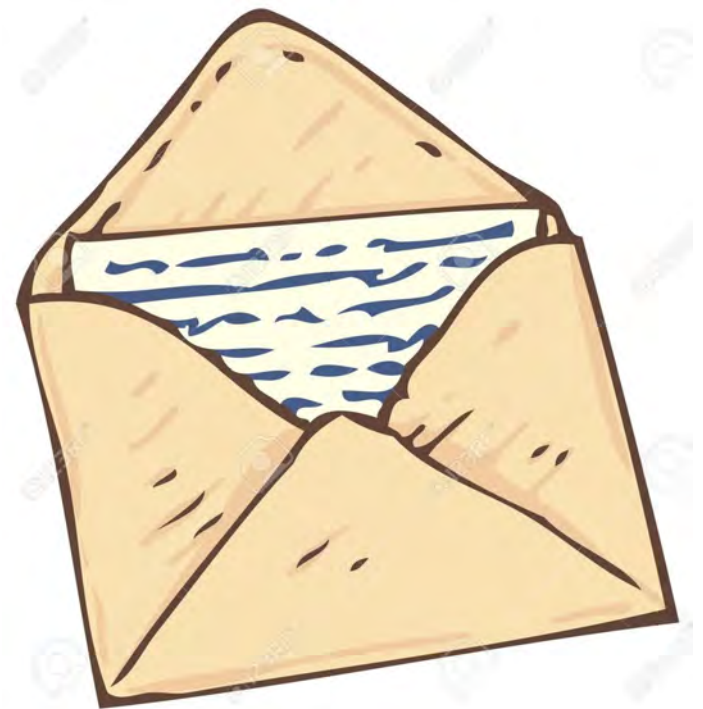
All the little things I can count up at the end of the day, especially when it comes to laughing with friends or venting to someone in SSP, make me grateful to Amity. Here's to the security guards who never fail to strike up a conversation or say "goodbye" while leaving. To the teacher who stands outside his door and waves to every walking student in the English hall. To our principal who is always taking action, even if it's just saying hi or asking about your day. To my friends who sit with me during class despite my endless rambling.

Here's to this school for providing me with so much stress, but at the same time giving me so much joy and opportunities. I'm so glad I got the chance to be a freshman and an Amity student in general. This year flew by, and I'm already looking forward to my next three years of high school at Amity.

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# Science Research Students Excel in 2022

by **Bridget Lowder '24** and  
**Andie Napolitano '24**

Over the past couple of months, students in the Science Research Program have participated and excelled in multiple science fairs. This year, everyone was excited to compete at in-person fairs for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic started two years ago.

Amity sent 55 projects to the fair, many of which placed highly and continued on to subsequent prestigious fairs. In the completed projects category, there were many Amity winners. Anchal Bahel '23 won the behavioral category, which Amity swept with Evelyn Chen '24, Edwin Sweeney '23, and Cindy Chen '22 taking home second, third, and fourth place respectively.

Reflecting on the science fair, Anchal Bahel stated, "Getting first place at CT-STEM was a rewarding and motivating experience. There

were a lot of great and high level projects, and it was exciting to see my project was received so well by judges."

Sophia Liu '23 received third place in the environmental category, Emily Gu '24 won second place in the health and medical category, and Henry Yang '23 came in third place in the physical science category.

Similar to their success at CT-STEM, Am-

Aditi Bhattamishra '24, Daniel Lu '23, Scott Lowder '22, Brodey Lu '22, Allen Liu '23, Sheehan Munim '23, Aarav Patel '24, Anthony Sharanov '23, Pranav Sundararajan '22, Aiden Tischer '22, Iris Yan '24, and Annika Yun '24 received various awards, and won thousands of dollars worth of prize money collectively.

When asked about his last chance to participate at CSEF, Lowder said, "It was a



Photo contributed by Alice Xu '24

## Amity SRP students ready for the University of Bridgeport fair

great opportunity to get to compete in CSEF for my senior year. I will really miss being a part of SRP."

While CT-STEM and CSEF were held virtually this year, students were able to present in person (many for the first time ever) at the University of Bridgeport and Norwalk Community College science fairs, both of which took place in April. At the University of Bridgeport fair, Frankie Cavallaro '23 won second place and Luhai Tang '23 received an honorable mention.

At the Norwalk Community College fair, Anika Agrawal '22 and Haseeb Chaudhry '24 received honorable mentions.

Additionally, many Amity students entered their research project posters into the ASA (The Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association) Poster Competition. Amity science research students swept the competition this year, with Iris Yan '24 winning first place, Melinda Lu '23 coming in second, and Aarav Patel '24 in third place.

While it is very impressive that these students have done exceptionally well, this is only the beginning of their achievements in STEM.



Photo contributed by Alice Xu '24

## Amity's Science Research Program prepares for the Norwalk Community College Fair

ity students also shined at CSEF (Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair). Out of the projects that were sent, Mason Beaudette '22,

# Interviews with Elite Students from Amity's Debate Team

by **Aachal Gupta '25**

Amity's debate team participated in an elite competition at the international level earlier this May, for the chance to

win the grand prize of \$10,000. The debate team at Amity meets every Tuesday, and has the opportunity to compete in the monthly New York Parliamentary Debate League tournaments to improve their skills.

Jennifer Li '23, Daniel Liu '23, Sophia Liu '23, Annie Liu '23, Melinda Lu '23 and Avani Kulkarni '24 were chosen after succeeding in an essay competition, where they wrote about public policy and legislation. They attended the International Public Policy Forum (IPPF), and debated on the topic entitled: "Resolved: On balance, the hegemony of the United States dollar is detrimental to the world economy." The team made it all the way into the semifinal round of the competition.

After reaching out to every student and asking them about their experience, it was clear that Amity's debate team was home to some very passionate members. Avani Kulkarni '24 said, "When we were first starting out, we did a lot of research on US foreign affairs, economics, political issues, and overall current world events."

"It was a big commitment, meeting two or three times a week, but I think that it was worth it because of my extremely supportive teammates, the awareness I've gained about current events and economics."

Another member, Melinda Lu '23, explained, "As a debater, IPPF helped me improve my written debate skills. In normal tournaments, all rounds are spoken, but for this competition, the first 3 rounds are all written."

"Working with the rest of my IPPF team and writing all the essays as a group helped me learn how to articulate and develop my arguments through an argumentative essay," she added.

Daniel Liu '23 described, "The most enjoyable part of the trip was getting to traverse Time Square with my fellow debaters. It was my first time at Time Square and the enormous ads, hustle and bustle, and the lively scene was very different from what I'm accustomed to. My favorite part of the competition was meeting Mr. Rutan, who has helped guide us throughout this journey, providing encouragement whenever we need it."

He continued, "Additionally, it was very interesting to meet teams from around the US and Canada, which was an eye-opening experience in itself."

Each student had a different perspective on their trip. "Debate is one of the best student-run organizations at Amity with some of the best students running it. You won't find anything like Amity debate and the Amity debate community anywhere else: we don't have a formal coach, formal training, or funding to the same extent as other schools, but many of our teams and debaters are ranked nationally and now internationally."

The debaters at Amity are all truly amazing and inspiring, and I'm incredibly fortunate to have found friends in many of them. They're probably the reason why I continue to debate today" said Annie Liu '23 regarding why she had joined and has continued to be an active part of Amity's debate team. After interviewing these students it is evident that they have worked hard and put countless hours of time into honing their public speaking and analysis skills.

Annie Liu '23 said, "Debate is an amazing opportunity to learn about pertinent social issues and to critically think and analyze these issues by discussing it with peers. I have learned so much from my experience participating in IPPF and I hope anyone interested will join us next year."



Photo by NYU WordPress

Once again, congratulations to our fabulous debate students! Make sure to follow @amity-debate on Instagram to stay up to date on their latest happenings and successes.



# Haven's Harvest Initiative

by Katie Sim '23

If you have been in the Amity cafeteria lately, you may have noticed two paper-covered boxes filled with food. These boxes, located near the exit of the snack shop during breakfast, and at the end of the cutlery table during lunch, are often filled with assorted fruits and packaged goods that come with the school-provided meals. Some days, these boxes can hold up to 25 pounds of food, food that would have otherwise been thrown away.

The two boxes are a part of an initiative started by Amity's own Alison Nork and a group of students from some of her classes, in cooperation with Haven's Harvest. Haven's Harvest is a New Haven County-based organization that recovers untouched food and distributes it to local communities. This organization is run with the goals of reducing food and energy waste. Haven's Harvest was founded by two members of the local community who decided to use their passion for environmentalism to help reduce waste in their area.

Food waste is a major issue worldwide but is especially prevalent in the United States. According to Feeding America, 108 billion pounds of food are wasted in the U.S. every year! That equates to 130 billion meals, and \$408 billion wasted every year. Although around 40% of all food in the U.S. is wasted, around 38 billion people face hunger.

While the issue of food waste is an ongoing issue, the increase in state-subsidized school lunches (free lunches) has only increased the amount of food waste, especially at Amity. If you have ever gotten free lunch or breakfast, then you know that you are required to take a fruit and a juice. Many students, after taking the juice and fruit, head straight for trash cans. This practice can lead to tons of wasted food.

Donating your food is an incredibly easy



Photo contributed by Katie Sim '23

**Boxes are filled with uneaten breakfast foods**

process that makes a big difference. Silas Turner '23 added that "taking a few seconds out of your

day to donate an apple or something is super easy and makes me feel like I've contributed to helping my community". The next time you are in study hall, please consider donating any untouched or packaged goods.

While the initiative was started by Nork, a science teacher at Amity, the committee is mostly student-led. Student member Sena Ho '23 expressed her thoughts on the program's infancy and legacy: "As a student who actively works on this initiative, it's been amazing to see how many people are investing in giving back to the community.

"Sometimes I have to haul back two full boxes of fruit and other packaged items, and it just makes me so happy and ecstatic to see the

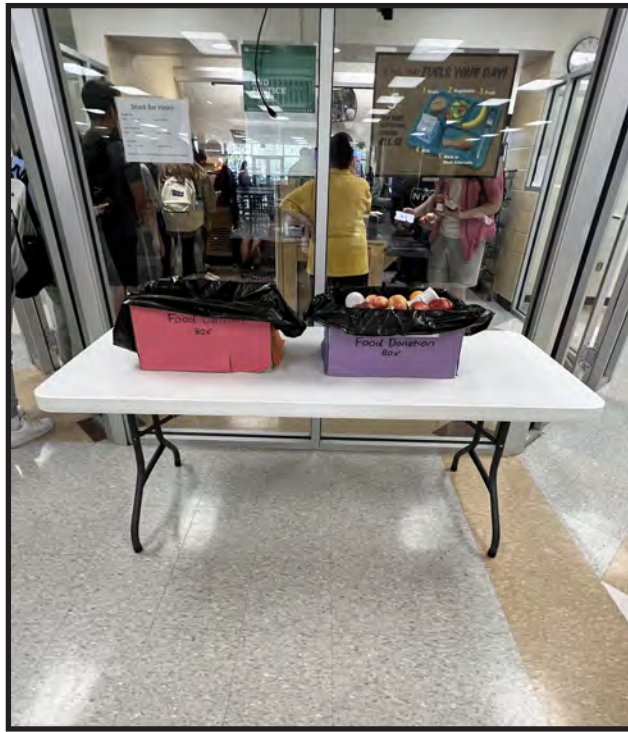


Photo contributed by Katie Sim '23

**Tables are set up inside the cafeteria, ready to receive food donations**

program getting off its feet," Ho said. "I hope that Amity will integrate this and keep it running for many years to come."

While the program has only been here at the high school for a few months, faculty advisor Nork spoke of the success of the program saying, "I think that the food collection and donation program has been going extremely well! The bulk of our donations come from the breakfast waves, and a lesser amount from lunch (because everyone is probably hungry by then).

"Popular donated items are juice cups, apples, oranges, and bagged apple slices. We fill two large coolers with donated items which are picked up twice a week and distributed to local community organizations," she added.

Over the coming months, the students involved in the program, as well as Nork, hope to expand the program more within the high school and also have a goal to possibly adopt the program for the local elementary and middle schools.

# Latin Students Celebrate Connecticut State Latin Day

by Sarah Shaikh '25

Connecticut State Latin Day, also known as Latinus Dies, started in the late 1980s. Laura Hamilton, a Latin teacher at Amity, explained that "by 2007 it was a well established event, giving kids the opportunity to study and learn about Ancient Rome and Greece."

It is an established network "organized by the Classical Association of Connecticut for Middle School and High School students," explained James Denton '22.

It was held at Holiday Hill this year for the first time after being shut down for the past two years. The most common events that are held annually are academic competitions, sporting events, art contests, writing on curser tablets, improvisational shows, calligraphy, learning about Roman legions, and project displays.

For the academic contests, there were different components such as multiple choice and quiz boards which are school versus school. Curser tablets were "tablets made of thin metal wrapped in berries; they were to write curses" on in Ancient Greece, explained Hamilton. Improvisational shows are acts that reincarnate certain scenes or plays from Ancient Rome.

Additionally, Roman legions consisted of well-controlled and trained foot-warriors, part of Roman legionnaires. These units were created by Marain Reforms, which are certain reforms which a general and politician named Gaius Marius introduced to the Roman army. They were common during and before the end of the Roman Empire. On Latin Day, students learned about how these legions were run and took quizzes about them.

Students from various schools all across Connecticut come to attend the marvelous event. "It helps you connect with other people and schools and to hang out with your friends," said Samantha Criscuolo '23. This day is often packed with lots of activities and people, but it gives students the opportunity to take a break from school and just enjoy themselves.

One way the Classical Association of Music decided to help kids really experience Ancient Greece and Rome was by giving them the option to wear traditional Roman clothing. Many students wore a tunic, which is a long garment that goes from the shoulder to the waist and is made by stitching two pieces of cloth together. Si Ru Liang '23 said some "didn't love wearing a tunic, but it was reassuring to see everyone else also once they arrived."

Many students had a great time just exploring all the options and getting to experience modern day Ancient Rome and Greece. The educational events incorporated learning and fun together, giving them a gratifying experience. Food was provided for students and staff for free at this spectacular event. Overall, this event was a huge success this year as staff and students both had a wonderful time.



Photo contributed by CJ Brinton '24

Among the numerous available activities at Latin Day were academic contests on everything from derivatives to mythology, presentations on gladiator tactics, and a crowd favorite: a workshop on making your own toga teddy (a teddy bear wearing a Roman toga)!



# Memorial Day: Remembering Our Nation's Heroes

by Grace Cavallaro '24

Memorial Day is a day to remember and appreciate America's fallen heroes. It may be somewhat of a sad, somber day in concept, but people across the nation appreciate the day with parades, barbecues, and picnics. As author Tamra Bolton put it, "This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn't come home. This is not Veterans Day, it's not a celebration, it is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of freedom."

This Memorial Day, take some time to think about the sacrifices made for our nation's freedom, but also celebrate gratitude with friends and family.

One way to celebrate is, of course, with the classic backyard barbecue. Invite your friends and family and cook up some hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill... or try something new. The beauty of America is that the nation is the ultimate melting pot. This country is made up of people from all over the world, so the term "American food" can not possibly exist. Hamburgers came from Hamburg, Germany, and hot dogs (frankfurters) came from Frankfurt, Germany. Neither of these classic "American" foods are actually native to America.

While many foods have been Americanized (New Haven pizza, for example), there really is no such thing as a food strictly from America. Every cuisine was inspired by a different nation. Is this not part of what we celebrate on Memorial Day? Our nation's military, which is and has been made up of people from all over the world, defends America's attraction and ability to help immigrants thrive in this new land. So many have passed as they worked to defend what makes our country beautiful.

Perhaps, a way to remember what it means to be an American is to try a new recipe, maybe one passed down from the generations before you who may have immigrated here. Or, while you eat your hamburgers and hot dogs, think about where it came from, and how amazing it is that our nation has the freedom to hold new people, thoughts, ideas, and food from all over the world. If you are looking for a new delicious way to eat a hamburger this Memorial Day, give this recipe a try:

## Barbeque Bacon Breakfast Burgers by Grace Cavallaro

- 1 hamburger patty
- 1 burger bun
- barbeque sauce (hickory brown sugar is great but any will work)
- 1 egg

- 2 strips of bacon
- 2 slices cheese (American or cheddar)

Toast the burger bun and cook the hamburger patty and the bacon. Fry the egg and top with the cheese and bacon. Stack on top of the bun and burger patty, and top with barbeque sauce and the top of the bun.

Another way to remember the costs of America's freedom is to talk to people that you know who served in the military. It would be fascinating to learn about their experiences, and it would help you appreciate the sacrifices made for our nation even more.

If you have a parent or grandparent who served, do not be afraid to ask questions (so long as they are comfortable with answering). Above all else, be sure to take the time to remember what it took for us to be able to live as we do today. In the words of Sgt. Major Bill Paxton, "May we never forget our fallen comrades. Freedom isn't free."



Photo by Food Network

## Some Questions for Amity's Culinary Teacher Chef Matt Zawacki

by Samuel Bae '24

### Q: What made you want to get into cooking?

A: As far as I know, I've always been into cooking. From the time I was about 10, I was responsible for making dinner once a week and always looked forward to it. Mom and Grandma taught me the basics.

### Q: Why did you want to become a high school cooking teacher?

A: I taught mathematics here at Amity for six years. One of the culinary teachers was going to retire and administration suggested that I see about getting my culinary certification. It was a mostly smooth transition from there.

### Q: What was the best and worst thing a student has made in your classes?

A: Worst: garlic/strawberry pie. Best: I really like our cinnamon roll recipe. Students like it too. Students always want to make food

that is "buffalo" style!

### Q: Where did all the hair go?

A: I actually can grow a full head of hair but choose to shave the top and front.

### Q: Do you have any hobbies besides cooking? Tell us about them.

A: I play ultimate and disc golf. I like going to climbing gyms as well. I enjoy many types of games and being competitive.

### Q: What new recipes do you want to try this summer?

A: I try not to do any baking in the summer because it's too hot. There's an Asian market that I have often frequented, and I'd really like to experiment with some of those ingredients that I haven't used in the past.


Coming up in next month's  
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## Clubs Join Forces to Create New Publication

by Shreya Hebbar '23

The Amity Art Club and Creative Writing Society recently collaborated to publish a writing and art publication to showcase the talents of club individuals. The students involved are planning to write and draw works pertaining to the theme of escapism.

A member from the creative writing society is assigned a partner from the art club to collaborate and write a poem or short story that relates to their work of art.

Creative Writing Society member Annie Liu '23 commented, "Artists and writers have not only had to learn to collaborate with one another but figure out how to combine two different mediums for expression.

"Our club members came away with some amazing and really creative ideas as well as some amazing and really creative friends."

The clubs intend to format the publication themselves and send it to a print shop to bind it together. There is still some plan-

ning to do, but according to Art Club co-president Selin Ho '23, the final product should be published by the end of the school year. They plan on distributing the final publication within club members first and possibly selling other copies.

Ho said, "I'm really glad to be given the opportunity to work with the art and writing community in our school to publish something meaningful for us.

"Art and writing need to be endorsed more at Amity, and I want to be a part of that shift to emphasize the importance of humanities in a highly stem focused environment."



Sticker design by Ming Zha '23  
Amity Art Club logo.

Liu agreed and commented, "Escapism [the publication] has been a really great way to bring together two of the only student-run artistic organizations at Amity," as she promoted the club!

"If any students are interested in writing or want to see their work in print, and want to participate in something really fun and different, please join Creative Writing Society next year," Liu added.

## Art Students Showcase Works at Local Gallery

by Emily Jackson '23

Selected photography and ceramic students' work from Amity's art department are being highlighted at the Main Street Gallery in Ansonia as of May 3. Those who showcase their work are granted the opportunity to put them up for sale and make a profit. Through this showcase, students are able to express their artworks to the larger community and receive recognition for their hard work.

Fiona Jaimes '23 exhibited her advanced ceramics skills at the exclusive exhibition. Jaimes views this as an opportunity that "allows [her] to get in touch with [her] inner creativity and express [herself]."

She is looking forward to showcasing her recent projects as she plans "to donate all of the proceeds to our local Amity Green Team club so we can make our community greener." Each of the selected students has a clear passion for creativity and art, and this showcase gives them a platform to let it shine.

Jessica Zamachaj, the ceramics teacher, views the show as

"a time for the students to see what it's like to be a true artist." She explains that the show will have a strong impact on her students, elaborating on the feeling one gets when they realize that their hard work has finally paid off.

"When people start to come in and view your art, you realize how much you achieved and how your hard work was really worth it. The first time you see that happen is really an interesting experience," Zamachaj explains.

The art teachers at Amity understand first-hand what it takes to have the courage to put their work on display for the first time.

The sponsors of the event, The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, Frame It Easy, and the Main Street Gallery are recognized for their generous contributions in making the students' works broadcasted to the local community.

Students can visit the gallery between May 3rd and May 23rd. The venue will be open for public viewing from 4-8 pm on Tuesday through Friday, 12-8 pm on Saturday, and from 12-4 pm on Sunday. The exhibition will be closing on May 23rd. There will be a reception from 7-8:30 pm.



Cover image of the showcase

## A Glimpse into the Touching Novel *It Ends with Us*

by Hannah Guo '25

*It Ends With Us* by #1 New York Times Bestselling author Colleen Hoover will make you laugh, cry, throw up, or all of the above. Hoover's dream since childhood was to write novels, but she set it aside to pursue a degree in social work at Texas A&M University Commerce. However, she impulsively decided to self-publish a few novels and found a breakthrough with one of her bestsellers, *Point of No Retreat*.

Hoover says her most popular book, *It Ends With Us*, is inspired by "events in my life, but mostly from events in my mother's life. It was very important to me, for that reason, to do her story justice." This heart-wrenching book follows the story of Lily Bloom, ready to pursue her dreams of establishing a business in a new city.

Along the way, she meets someone almost too good to be true: Ryle Kincaid, assertive and attractive, with a total soft spot for Lily. However, memories of her past love Atlas resurface, and complications occur along the way.

Throughout the novel, Lily evokes emotions from her past when she re-reads her old diary, and recalls the complex dynamic between her mother and father. Re-

surfacing trauma makes Lily hesitant to love, especially considering that her childhood consisted of domestic abuse.

As the plot unfurls, you witness Lily coping with her past by making a point to move on and be free, away from her hometown, and away from her mother. She has the mentality of escape, trying to do what her mother couldn't. Lily explores the residual anger she feels at both her parents, and experiences an epiphany as to why her mother could not "just leave" her father.

As a reader, I was taken through a story of limits, watching them be stretched over and over again, a story of exceptions (where each fight and instance is forgiven more reluctantly than the last) and a story which millions have to live through every day. By the end of her novel, Hoover wonderfully crafts a parallel between Lily and

her mother. Her message was to draw awareness to the involuted inner workings of domestic abuse in a modern society.

She emphasizes the concept of a cycle, and how difficult it can be to break, especially when one is born into it.

Readers will find that they are unable to put this book down. It kept me on my toes, and the characters had a profound amount of depth.

There is no doubt as to why this book became extremely popular from BookTok, a niche group on the social media platform TikTok.

*It Ends With Us* was also awarded the Goodreads Choice Awards for Best Romance, sold over a million copies worldwide, and translated into over twenty languages. I'd recommend this book to young adult readers or above, as more heavy concepts in

the book would not be grasped by younger ages.

The focal point of this book is not the "magnificent" romance between Lily and Ryle. Hoover actually brings awareness as to why an abusive relationship should not be romanticized, which is an important message for the target demographic of this book.

Regardless, every person can take away an important lesson from this book. The author connected the novel to her own life in a statement:

"Cycles exist because they are excruciating to break. It takes an astronomical amount of pain and courage to disrupt a familiar pattern...My mother went through it. I went through it. I'll be damned if I allow my daughter to go through it. I kiss her on the forehead and make her a promise. 'It stops here. With me and you. It ends with us.'"

Colleen Hoover's *It Ends With Us* is a multitude of layers woven together, purposely meant to frame and bring awareness to an abusive relationship portrayed as a romance.

*It Ends With Us* is a brilliant depiction of what abuse is really like, and has readers falling madly in love alongside Lily. It allows readers to experience the gray areas of abuse, branching out from the social concept that it is a black and white, villain vs. hero situation.

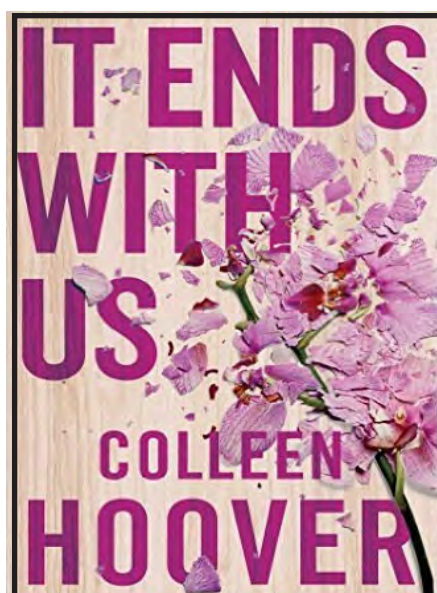


Photo from goodreads.com

Cover art for Hoover's novel.



# Annual Spring Concert Returns Following a Two-Year COVID Hiatus

## *Vivaldi, Beethoven, Zeppelin among Highlights*

by Nina Carmeli '23

regional High School.

On April 28th, the strings department performed a plethora of pieces to celebrate their musical achievements throughout the spring semester. Lisa Serio, conductor and head of the strings program, led the Concert, Symphony, and Chamber orchestras, tailored the repertoire to reflect artists around the world, and included a mix of different genres.

The night's program consisted of arrangements from Sergei Prokofiev, Antonio Vivaldi, Gustav Holst, Ludwig van Beethoven, Led Zeppelin, and more. The performance introduced contemporary renditions of these pieces with the assistance of Ben Aviad '24 on drums, who played with the orchestra during various pieces.

Yunah Kim '25, second violinist in the Chamber Orchestra said, "This past 2022 spring concert displayed a wonderful compilation of pieces

that our orchestra students prepared over the past semester. "As a violinist, I enjoyed contributing to such an amazing concert and look forward to playing more concert pieces in the upcoming year!"

Seniors who are part of the orchestra program were honored for their many years of commitment and service to the department. David Cho '22 said, "I didn't realize until after the concert was over that it was my last one but I enjoyed playing with everyone and appreciating the music."

Serio articulated her gratitude for all of the hard-working students that made the undertaking possible.

She said, "All of the students make me so proud on a daily basis and tonight was no exception. Their leadership and fire keep me going. I couldn't do it without them."

The performance was followed by a bake sale to support the strings program's annual scholarship to a chosen senior, as well as to fund field trip opportunities for the department. This year's concert proved to be a spectacular success and a pleasant reintroduction to what a typical concert looks like after many abridged and modified ones in the past.



Students perform during April's Spring Concert.

Photo contributed by Lisa Serio

## *Arts Events Abound at Amity*



### Students Honored at Congressional Art Competition

Peter Berganross '22 (left), Amanda Koola '24 (right), and Rosa DeLauro (center) attend the reception on May 5th for the nationwide Congressional Art Competition.

Koola received an honorable mention at the Congressional Art Competition for her work *Three Little Jelly Fish*. She participated in an annual visual arts competition hosted by the Congressional Institute whose artworks are selected by district artists. This year five other Amity artists submitted to the contest as well.

According to the Congressional Art Competition, "Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

"Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol."

Photo contributed by Jessica Zamachaj

### Poet Shares His Stories and Works

Poet Emanuel Xavier talked with students from English classes such as Modern Poetry and Creative Writing at the Media Center on April 8th. The event was organized by Amity's librarians Victoria Hulse and Robert Musco with help from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation. Xavier is well-known for being an avid activist for LGBTQ+ youth and homeless community through his collections of poetry including *If Jesus Were Gay*, *Pier Queen*, and *Nefarious*.

Xavier's talk gave students valuable insight into his works and well as the purpose behind his mission to spread awareness of pressing social issues.

"His work makes a clear appeal for tolerance, acceptance, and self-worth, a message that we believe could actually be life-saving to any of our students who may be at a dangerous crossroads in their own lives," said Musco.

Photo contributed by Aadya Wijesekera '23



# Powerful Girls Tennis Remains Undefeated

## Team Ranked as Number One in Connecticut

by Aadya Wijesekera '23

Amity Girls Tennis secured their 11th straight win of the season against Glastonbury, making them undefeated. In total, the team has lost a mere two matches of the 77 played thus far. This record has placed them as number one in the state.

Last year, the team was extremely successful, winning the SCC title over their rivals, Daniel Hand. The team also advanced to the CIAC state finals, losing 4-3 against Staples High School in Westport.

Despite this tough loss, the team is back better than ever and hungry for more.

In the 2022 season, they have once again defeated Madison's Daniel Hand, Cheshire, and Guilford among many others. Co-captains Adithi Wijesekera '22 and Maddie Key '22 have been crucial in helping to motivate this team and keep their progress going.

Key said, "We celebrate the small wins just as we do the big ones, which really empowers the team as a whole."

This year's starting lineup consists of Kiley Pickens '23, Isabella Sicignano '24, Adithi

Wijesekera '22, and Soumya Wijesekera '25 at singles.

Teams of Aadya Wijesekera '23 and Scarlett Zhai '25, Kyah Harding '23 and Anushka Acharya '23, and Jaden Barretta '24 and Karishma Bulsara '23 have played doubles.

Harold Freedman continues to coach the team.

In addition to being fierce competitors, the girl's tennis team remarks that they are incredibly close and love being part of the team.

Bell Sicignano '24 said, "There is an awesome team environment. Everyone is always cheering for each other and it's so fun to be on the team."

Team spirit is demonstrated by the various



Photo contributed by Ava Swain (@photosbyavarose)

**Amity Girls Tennis in a team huddle before a match.**

theme days to prepare for match days. All in all, the team looks forward to the SCC tournament and the state tournaments.

Adithi Wijesekera said, "We have been playing very well and I can't wait to see how far we'll go."

# Lacrosse Team Seeks Redemption

## after 2021's Double Overtime SCC Loss

by CJ Brinton '24

Amity Girls Lacrosse left the stadium at West Haven last May with unfinished business, after losing to Sacred Heart 9-8 in a double overtime game. This year, with a new head coach, new (and better) SCC division as well as a hungry group of players, the team is yearning for the chance to play for this title again.

Their success last season, the farthest the team had made it in fifteen years, translated to big expectations and aspirations for this season. So far, the team has a record of 5-5, and reached a huge milestone just a few weeks ago. On April 29, on their home field, the Spartans defeated Cheshire 9-8 for the first time.

Senior Bailey McDermott commented on the 2021 season saying, "We put in a ton of effort to get where we were and losing that SCC championship was really heartbreaking for all of us."

She also acknowledged the loss of the eight talented seniors last season. More specifically, McDermott described the motivation that the results of the 2021 season as well as the loss of the seniors brought for the rest of the program.

"It put a huge fire under us." McDermott added, "We knew without the talented group of seniors we had last year, this year, we'd have to work 10x harder to get what we wanted again. It made us want it 10x more than we already did."

McDermott embodies that as she plays. A strong midfielder, she offers safety on the offensive end, but dodges well and shoots harder. She puts her speed to work on the defensive end too, sometimes seen sprinting down the field well behind her player only to cut her off mere seconds later.

A crucial part of the success of Amity's 2022 season is newcomer Haley Mario '25. Another midfielder, this freshman dominates on all ends of the field, taking the majority of draws for the team. Mario rarely runs the course of a game without scoring multiple goals.

Mario commented on more than just the speed and the record of the team, the bond

faults. He commentates the game, in real time, calling out the other team's fouls and admitting when Amity fouls as well, probably hoping the referees cannot hear him. He surely understands the game of lacrosse.

Junior Liv Zalinsky represents the more serious nature of the game. A key attacker who also takes draws, Zalinsky is pushed every which way by the defense. Still, she finds pockets and outruns and outskills a plethora of opposing varsity players. She gets up from a rough play and shrugs it off. She remains collected.

Zalinsky spoke about the new difficulty Amity faces this season with the new SCC divisions. Prior to the 2022 season, the Southern Connecticut Conference Girls Lacrosse Sector was split into two divisions, not based on population but based on performance. Amity played in the lower division. This season, the SCC split into three divisions, with Amity



Photo taken from @ag\_lax Instagram

**Amity Girls Lacrosse celebrates a goal in an early season game**

as well. "I'm really excited to be a part of this team. Everyone is so welcoming, and we seem to be coming together very well as a team."

A great boost to the energy of the Girls Lacrosse team is Coach Elledge, or 'Coach El'. Serving as Assistant Head Coach in 2021, this is his first season as head coach. Coach El literally jumps up and down for his team's successes. He can be seen running in his unmistakable neon shoes shouting and pushing his girls farther, faster and to just do more."

He prefers not to speak in absolutes, emphasizing "yet" and "can" in his speeches. In addition, he realizes and respects his team's

playing in the highest.

Zalinsky says, "Although we moved up to a harder division this year, it has been a really rewarding experience to play more challenging teams which will better prepare us for playoffs."

Girls Lacrosse has a good shot at that finals game. They've played all the teams they will play in the tournament, which can only help them. They've already beaten Sacred Heart this season, ironically in a game with the same score as the SCC finals last year.

With new team members, a strong senior foundation, and a coaching staff that is motivational, they have all the tools to succeed.

# UConn Women's Basketball vs. South Carolina NCAA finals—What Happened?

by CJ Brinton '24

April 3rd, 2022. A full arena in Minneapolis.

The penultimate event of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball season: The South Carolina Gamecocks vs. the UConn Huskies in the final game.

Both teams had several seniors playing their last game, and hoping for one last chance at a championship title.

So why did the Gamecocks beat the Huskies? There are several theories to explore here.

Was it the number of injuries the team sustained throughout the season? With star sophomore Paige Bueckers out for a knee injury for most of the regular season, the team took a hard hit. UConn is not known as a centralized team, to rephrase, a team that revolves around one player, but Bueckers is this exception.

So what happens when the guard who drops 20 points per game is out for twelve weeks? The team's percentages go down. They lose their rhythm. But these are D1 college players. Surely an injured guard is not the worst they've seen, and surely this is not the first of this situation for any of them.

But if only it were one injury. This UConn team was forced to navigate numerous injuries and illnesses amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Only two players -- Aliyah Edwards and Evina Westbrook -- played in every game this season. The unhealthy curse did not stop in the regular season though. During the Elite 8, Dorka Juhasz broke her wrist, sending a promising big to the bench to await the results of the tournament. On the day of the final, Azzi Fudd missed warmups due to stomach issues, and Evina Westbrook dealt with an ankle injury during the game. In total, there were 11 different starting line-ups used throughout the season. Perhaps UConn could not withstand the constant uncertainty.

Was the outcome of the game on Sunday due to a decline in the dynasty that is UConn Women's Basketball? The Huskies have 11

National Championship wins, all under Coach Geno Aureiemma, currently in his 36th season as head coach with the program. The first came in 1995, ironically won in Target Center, the same arena as the 2022 National Championship.

UConn Women's Basketball is renowned for producing all-stars like Sue Bird, Diana Turasi, Tina Charles, Kara Wolters, and more recently, Breanna Stewart. UConn is unmatched in its WNBA numbers by any other collegiate program, with 43 draft selections since 1997. In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, 10 former or current Huskies played or coached, again unmatched by any other program. From 2012 to 2016, UConn



Photo accessed from The Guardian

**UConn's Aliyah Edwards fights Brea Beal to gain possession in the National Championship game**

won 4 consecutive National Championships.

The competition is high at UConn. Everyone wants a chance to take the team down. But the historical expectations are arguably worse. Possibly the players were not up to the pressure, or maybe teams like South Carolina have evolved past UConn.

Prior to this season, UConn held a 139 conference win streak. The loss of this game

marks the first final appearance for Coach Aureiemma in which he did not win.

So far this season, regardless of injury or whatnot, Husky basketball has been sloppy. Their regular season saw the worst record ever for the team 30-6 overall. In the Final Four game against Stamford, UConn barely held their lead in the fourth quarter due to eight turnovers. Possibly the game is moving too fast, the referees are not calling enough, or UConn is not focused.

Perhaps the course of the game as well as the Gamecocks themselves are the real reason why the Huskies lost.

Aliyah Boston, a 6'5" junior center on South Carolina received more press than Bueckers did her first season in the leadup to this game, and rightfully so. She proved in her segments of the game that the defense could not touch her. And toward the end, the UConn bigs, Edwards and senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa played with 3 and 4 fouls, respectively, which is not something they could afford to game

On the defensive end, Boston acted as a brick wall. She barely let anything over her towering figure, despite Nelson-Ododa being the same height.

Nelson-Ododa, was not present under the basket enough to make a difference. One of the ongoing problems with the Huskies is their inability to get rebounds. When a shot goes up, those crashing the board consist of one UConn player followed by others of an opposing team. The odds of UConn coming up with it is much less than having more than one person attempt a rebound.

Bueckers, as expected, uplifted her team with her scores, being the only one in double digits. Another senior, Christyn Williams, dropped a mere two points in the game, scoring only one basket.

The results of the Championship Game in Minnesota made way for winner South Carolina. It was due to the Gamecocks strength, the difficulty of the season for UConn, and just a particular game on a particular night.

## Spartans Baseball Looks Strong to Enter Postseason

by Jason Marino '22

Amity Baseball enters a new week with a flawless record. The past three dominant wins against West Haven (8-1), Shelton (9-2), and Notre Dame-West Haven (10-3) have furthered the Spartans' momentum to hopefully carry them deep into the playoffs.

With just a few games left, Amity still has to go up against some tough competition; their game against Xavier is scheduled for Monday, May 16. In their previous bout, Amity barely snuck by in a 2-1 victory.

Spartans baseball has always been a standout athletic program. The varsity roster is filled with well-rounded players who can consistently get the job done.

This year, the team is led by four strong captains. Three are Division I commits: McAllister Burke '22 (Dartmouth College), Martin Zhang '22 (Columbia University), and Andrew Soldra

'22 (New Jersey Institute of Technology). Justin Zamkov '22, the remaining captain, ended last year as an all SCC pitcher.

While these guys play an important role in the team's success, it is the group effort of every player on the field that has earned Amity the number one spot in Connecticut High School Baseball rankings.

With just 10 days left in the regular season, the Spartans are preparing to enter the playoffs with confidence. On May 11, they beat the North Haven Nighthawks 7 nothing.

"Playing for Amity, making the playoffs is more of an expectation than an accomplishment," says Soldra. "We consider every day on the field to be one step closer to becoming the best team we can be come playoff time, but our focus is always on the next game or day of practice."

With keeping the same mentality and leadership, the Spartans plan to finish the season strong.

## Senior Spotlight: Brett Chodos

by Ryan Lima '22

As we near the end of the 2022 spring sports season, Amity's senior athletes will be moving on to the next phase of their lives. For some, that means getting involved in recreational or club sports at their incoming universities. For others, they've been invited to play on the official college roster for their selective sport.

This is exactly the case for Brett Chodos '22, the captain of the Amity Boys' Golf team. Following the season's end, he will be attending Roanoke College and playing golf for their team at the collegiate level.

Yet, this feat did not come without hard work from Chodos. His high school career saw him build an impressive resume, which includes a Division I state championship win in 2021, along with being selected to participate at the National High School Golf Invitational in North Carolina.

But for now, Chodos is looking to have Amity's team be as successful as possible. "This year, we are striving to be the best team we possibly can be," he said, "with consistent improvement throughout the season."

It's safe to say that sports, in general, are completely different in college. Chodos has realized

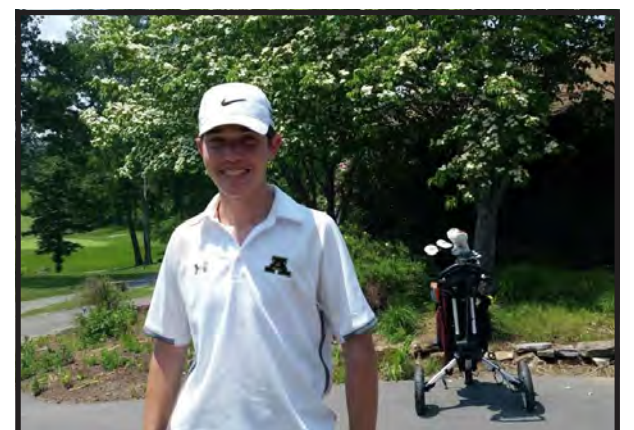
this, as he already has an idea of what the play might look like at that next level.

"I am expecting higher competition," he said, "and also higher expectations for how I play."

Now with less than a month left in the season, Chodos has begun to reflect on his time with the team and what he has taken away from it.

"I would describe my time playing golf at Amity as informational," he said. "My coach has taught me a lot of things and I have picked up a lot of things from others on the team too."

With the season's end rapidly approaching, the sun is setting for many senior athletes and their high school careers. For Chodos, this end may very well be a new beginning for his golf career.



Gametime CT

**Chodos smiling next to his golf set**

# Check out these happenings in our community!

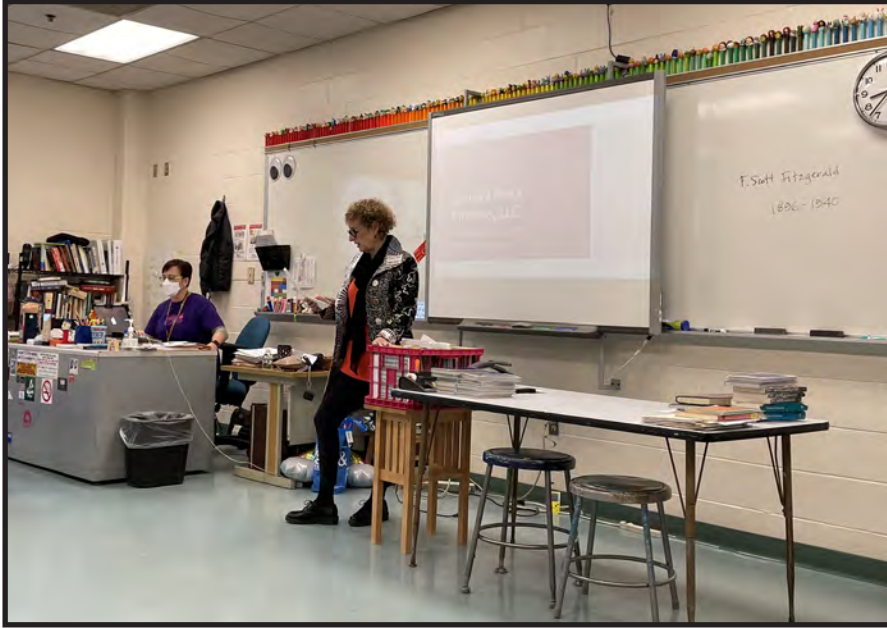


Photo contributed by Alice Xu '24

On Friday, April 29th, sophomores at Amity participated in Career Day. In three 25-minute sessions, sophomores heard from three speakers of varying professions. Students heard from adults in fields such as healthcare, architecture, and farming. See news story on page 2.



Photo contributed by Alice Xu '24

The week of April 25th was Pride Week. Amity's PLAHD club celebrated by painting this rock near the school's entrance. They also hung up posters and flags to demonstrate support and educate students and staff on the LGBTQ+ population. See opinion piece on page 3.



Photo contributed by Alice Xu '24

The National Honor Society partnered with the American Red Cross to hold a blood donation drive at Amity on Friday, May 6th. From 7 am until 2 pm, NHS members assisted with the drive by handing out food and drinks, watching over those who donated blood, and checking people in.



Photo contributed by Alice Xu '24

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