

# **SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE**



## **2009 SCHOLAR LEADER BANQUET**

Monday, March 30 – 6 p.m.  
Anthony's Ocean View

### **Member Schools**

Amity • Branford • Career • Cheshire • Derby • East Haven • Fairfield Prep • Guilford  
• Hamden • Daniel Hand • Foran • Hillhouse • Jonathan Law • Lyman Hall • Mercy •  
North Haven • Notre Dame of West Haven • Sacred Heart Academy • Sheehan •  
Shelton • West Haven • Wilbur Cross • Xavier

## Welcome to the SCC 2009 Scholar Leader Banquet

Welcome to the 2009 Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader recognition banquet. We are here to honor forty-four truly outstanding individuals who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and leadership in their respective school and external communities.

On behalf of the SCC, I congratulate each of the recipients and their families and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Al Carbone  
Commissioner

### 2009 SCC Scholar Leaders

**Amity Regional** – Annelies Gamble, Gregory Swan  
**Branford** – Matthew Schell, Valerie Milici  
**Hill Regional Career** – Maya McReynolds, Michael White  
**Cheshire** – Alexa Barchini, Marcus White  
**East Haven** – Patrick O'Brien, Sharon Hwang  
**Fairfield Prep** – John D. McKissick, Peter O. Gruppo  
**Joseph A. Foran** – Megan Holton, John "Jack" Olexovitch  
**Guilford** – Michelle Sliwinski, Parker Sulkowski  
**Hamden** – Rong Rachel Bian, Justin Whitfield  
**Daniel Hand** – Miller Sakmar, Emily Gao  
**Hillhouse** – Jeremy Moore, Ashley McWilliams  
**Jonathan Law** – Alejandro Dorado, Ryan Pandya  
**Lyman Hall** – Christina O'Byrne, William Abildgaard  
**Mercy** – Rachael Conte, Arissa Opalacz  
**North Haven** – Drake Smith, Fiona Wood  
**Notre Dame** – Michael Laracuente, Joseph Sweeney  
**Sacred Heart Academy** – Raca Banerjee, Amymarie Bartholomew  
**Mark T. Sheehan** – Lisa Cheung, Stephanie Dubois  
**Shelton** – Margaret Ercolani, Neville Commissariat  
**West Haven** – Taylor Norton, Thomas Ciarleglio  
**Wilbur Cross** – Zach Kofoglis, Iryna Mohylnytska  
**Xavier** – John Daniel McGrath, Adam J. Tomasiello

*\* Recipient information was provided by each school's Principal.*

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### **Amity Regional**

*Charles D. Britton Ed. D, Principal*

#### **Annelies Gamble**

Accomplishments: Annelies is an honors student who has earned a spot in the top of her class. She has been the president of her class for four years and the president of the Amity Student Government this year. She earned honors awards for her first three years of high school. She has also been awarded the Excellence in World History award, been selected to American Legion Girls' State, to the National Honor Society, the National French Honor Society. She also was awarded the Trinity College Book Award. Annelies is a three season captain and an exceptional runner. She is one of the top female runners in Connecticut in her division and among the most elite runners in New England.

Future Plans: Will attend Yale University and continue running career.

#### **Gregory Swan**

Accomplishments: Greg is in the top 10% of his graduating class. He is a member and the treasurer of the Amity National Honor Society, a peer tutor, the News Section Editor of the Trident school newspaper, the youngest member of the Woodbridge Community Response Team, and the Captain of the Amity Varsity Boys Swim Team. Greg also completed an internship at the Discovery to a Cure Program at Yale University Medical School.

Future Plans: Accepted to the University of Charleston and is waiting to hear a final decision from several schools, including Dartmouth.

### **Branford**

*Lee Panagoulas, Principal*

#### **Matthew Schell**

Accomplishments: A member of the National Honor Society, Matt earned a 3.82 grade point average in an extremely demanding academic program full of Honors and Advanced Placement coursework. A conscientious and dedicated student, Matt has sought to expand on his high school classroom experience by attending enrichment programs including Engineering Camp at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, summer art classes, and a Chinese language course at Yale University. A three-sport varsity captain and Eagle Scout, Matt designs and builds his inventions. He is especially proud of a two-wheel drive bicycle that he designed and built for his Senior Graduation Exhibition. This project was ideal for Matt, as it combined his career interest in engineering with his love of bikes.

#### **Valerie Milici**

Accomplishments: Despite her busy schedule Valerie has found time to help others through her participation in mission trips to Louisiana and Kentucky. Valerie has always selected a challenging academic program for herself and worked diligently to maintain her high honor

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status. While her favorite subjects are the sciences, Valerie is always at the top of her game no matter what she is studying. She is extremely motivated and an autonomous learner. A master of time management, Valerie is a three sport varsity athlete in addition to being a high honor student. In the fall Valerie plays field hockey on Branford's highly competitive team. During the winter and spring she switches her focus to track and field. In addition to running on the 4x100 and 4x400 relays teams, Valerie competes in the pole vault, an event which she has been named All SCC and All State for the last two years.

### **Hill Regional Career**

*Michael Ceraso, Principal*

#### **Maya McReynolds**

Accomplishments: Maya McReynolds is a very accomplished and well rounded young lady. She has been part of our robotics team for three years and is currently captain.

Academically she takes pride in her work and continues to push herself in both AP and honors courses. Staying active in our school, Maya has been a member of our Volleyball team for four years and our Diversity Dream Team for two years. After considerable volunteer work at a local elementary school, Maya will pursue a degree in Education.

Future Plans: To be decided

#### **Michael White**

Accomplishments: Michael White is an enthusiastic and conscientious young man.

Academically he has consistently challenged himself with honors and AP courses and has participated in the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program, sponsored by Yale School of Medicine, to further his scientific knowledge. He has been a member of our basketball team all four years, this year serving as captain. Outside of school, Michael mentors children through summer basketball camps.

Future Plans: Michael will be pursuing a degree in physical therapy.

### **Cheshire**

*Judith Gallagher, Principal*

#### **Alexa Barchini**

Accomplishments: Alexa is a member of the national Honor Society. At CHS Alexa has been a past president of the Class of 2009 and a peer advocate. Currently Alexa is president of the CHS chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a member of the Math League and a major participant in the CHS One-Acts Theater Competition. Alexa was awarded the Mount Holyoke College Book Award and is a member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Society. Alexa is also very talented and has been the vocal soloists for the Cheshire High School Instrumental Jazz Ensemble and a member of CHS Women's Chorale and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble Choir. In the greater Cheshire community Alexa has assisted with the annual food drive and has been a member of a Relay for Life Team. Alexa serves on the local YMCA governing board.

Future plans: Will attend either Duke University or the University of Connecticut

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### **Marcus Wright**

Accomplishments: Marcus serves as a President of the Class of 2009. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Marcus is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta mathematics Honor Society and he achieved a score of Magna Cum Laude on the National Latin Exam. Within the Cheshire High School community Marcus serves as a Peer Tutor and was Cheshire High School's representative to the Connecticut American Legion Boy's State. In the greater community Marcus has been a volunteer for the Cheshire Food Drive and volunteers in the kitchen at the Mountain View Bible Camp. Marcus traveled to Guatemala where he worked for seven days in a Church Mission. Marcus is the captain of the Indoor Track Team and the captain of the Cheshire High School Outdoor Track Team. Each year Marcus has been named to the SCC-All Conference Indoor Track Team. Last year Marcus ranked 6th in the state and 12th in New England for the 55 meter dash.

Future plans: Marcus plans to attend Tufts, the New England Conservatory of Music or Temple University.

### **East Haven**

*Robert Proto, Assistant Principal*

### **Patrick O'Brien**

Accomplishments: Patrick serves as president of the Honor Society and Student Council. He is an editor and writer for the school newspaper. He is also a member of Interact, Principal's Cabinet, Peer Tutoring and the Ski Club. He is a CAPT scholar and Rotary Youth. He is a recipient of the Trinity Book Award, UConn Superior Student's Science Award and the EHHS Film Study Award. He has participated in summer programs at Loyola and Boston Universities. Patrick has been a volunteer at the Hospital of St. Raphael's for over three years.

Future Plans: Patrick has been accepted at Northeastern University, Emerson College, Loyola University, and awaits decisions from Northwestern, Boston University, and Yale University. He will study Journalism with a minor in Political Science.

### **Sharon Hwang**

Accomplishments: Sharon serves as Vice President of the Honor Society, Student Council, and Peer Tutoring. She is also a member of the Ski Club, Principal's Cabinet, and the school's Symphonic Band. Sharon is the recipient of Rensselaer's Polytechnic Institute Medal and the East Haven High School science, math, and art awards. She has participated in the UConn Science & Humanities Symposium and the UConn Mentor Connection. Sharon has done extensive volunteer work with the Korean American Society and the East Rock Institute.

Future Plans: Will attend the University of Connecticut and participate in its Honors Program.

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### **Fairfield Prep**

*Dr. Robert A. Perrotta, Principal*

#### **John D. McKissick**

Accomplishments: Honor Roll-Summa Cum Laude, National Honor Society, Brown Book Award, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award, senior class officer and member of student government, president of the state championship debate team, "Best Speaker" - Junior Statesmen of America at Yale University, Varsity Crew Team. Scholar-Athlete Award, Significant community service at Operation Hope, Beardsley School in Bridgeport, Peabody Museum, Merton House, organized Canned Food Drive. Student director and leader for Freshman Retreat and Kairos Retreats. Organized and led school fundraisers and pep rallies.

Future Plans: John has been accepted at Georgetown, Notre Dame and Boston College.

#### **Peter O. Gruppo**

Accomplishments: Honor Roll Student who is a member of the National Honor Society, and recipient of the U.S. Army Reserve national Scholar-Athlete Award. President of the Student Government, captain of the football team, Mark Masiello MVP Award, MSG Sports Gist Scholar Athlete of the Week, member of two state championship lacrosse teams. Significant community service at Operation Hope, Peer Tutoring, Wakeman Boys and Girls Club, participant in ten-day service trip to Appalachia, and will serve as student-leader of the trip this summer.

Future Plans: Will attend Middlebury College

### **Joseph A. Foran**

*John Barile, Principal*

#### **Megan Holton**

Accomplishments: Megan is an intelligent, motivated and conscientious student. She has consistently earned high honors while enrolled in challenging Honors and AP classes. She is President of the Spanish Club, Treasurer of the National Honor Society and a member of the Spanish Honor Society. Megan spent last summer volunteering at churches, schools and orphanages in Argentina. Closer to home, she has more than 365 volunteer hours at Milford Hospital and will receive the "Graduation with Distinction" award for community service.

Future Plans: Will major in Economics or Political Science, but has not decided on her college choice.

#### **John "Jack" Olexovitch**

Accomplishments: Jack is President of the Natural Helpers, was part of the Leadership Council and was nominated to be the high school's representative for the Barnum Festival. He has also received the following awards: Good Citizenship, Medal of Excellence in Civics, CAPT Scholar, Michael's Jeweler's Award, Mayor's Youth Award Nominee, Superintendent/Student Recognition Award. Jack is very involved in service outside of the school

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community. He will be awarded “Graduation with Distinction” for over 200 hours in community service.

Future Plans: Will attend the University of Connecticut and major in Education.

### **Guilford**

*Rick Misenti, Principal*

#### **Michelle Sliwinski**

Accomplishments: Ranked at the top of her class, Michelle Sliwinski is the Vice President of the French Honor Society, and a member of the Latin Honor Society, National Honor Society, and the Varsity Crew Team. Michelle was a delegate to CT Girls State and she has attained high honors status every year. She has been awarded the CAPSS Certificate of Excellence, the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, and the Yale Book Award.

Future Plans: Michelle plans to attend college and then pursue a law degree.

#### **Parker Sulkowski**

Accomplishments: Parker has consistently received honors during his high school tenure. He is a CAPT scholar, a member of the Spanish Honor Society and National Honor Society, of which he serves as President. He is captain of the golf team. Parker is also team captain for Guilford's Yale Physics Olympics team. His participation in the high school orchestra, jazz group, school newspaper and Unity, a club whose mission is to nurture appreciation and understanding among all people, have kept Parker quite busy.

Future Plans: Parker plans to attend the University of Connecticut.

### **Hamden**

*Gary Highsmith, Principal*

#### **Rong Rachel Bian**

Accomplishments: Rachel is an incredibly intelligent, creative and dedicated student. Rachel is Co-Captain of the Math Team as well as a member of the National Honor Society, the French National Honor Society, the orchestra and the Concert Orchestra. Rachel has earned High Honors all 4 years, and won the Yale Book Award in her Junior Year. Rachel completed our most advanced Math course – AP Calculus BC in her sophomore year. Finally, Rachel earned early admission to Yale University.

Future Plans: Will attend Yale University

#### **Justin Whitfield**

Accomplishments: Justin personifies the “all the around student.” As member of the football and track teams, as well as the Stage Crew and Black and Hispanic Student Union, Justin is a tremendous example of the type of student Hamden High produces. In addition to achieving a solid grade point average, Justin works to rehabilitate injured animals, and serves as a camp counselor as at the Hamden YMCA.

Future Plans: Justin's has not yet decided which college he will attend.

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### **Daniel Hand**

*Barbara J. Britton, Principal*

#### **Miller Sakmar**

Accomplishments: National Honor Society, one of eighty-six Engineering and Technology high school scholars chosen by the International Youth Leadership Forum to visit China, recipient of the St. Michael's College academic scholarship in junior year, Madison Beach Club website administrator and designer, Rotary Interact Youth Group, Madison Mile Swim Fundraiser, Children with Cancer Fundraiser, Clinton Food Bank, Triathlon & 5K Run Fundraiser, Circle of Care participant, freshmen soccer Most Improved Player, varsity wrestling 4 years – Captain senior year, varsity tract, Student Athletic Advisory Council, Sailing Team, sailing instructor.

Future Plans: Will attend Carnegie Mellon to major in computer engineering and robotics.

#### **Emily Gao**

Accomplishments: National Honor Society, National Merit Commendation, The History Prize, Harvard Book Award, Wesleyan Creative Youth Program, Orchestra grades 9-12, Woodsy Club, Phoenix Literary Magazine, Peer Advocates grades 9-12, Environmental Club, Freshman Soccer, JV Soccer grade 10, Academic Awards: Grade 9 –Science, Art, Spanish; Grade 10- English, Science, Art ; Grade 11 – English, Mathematics, History, Art, Outstanding Musician , Outstanding Science Student. Paint and Clay Club recognition awarded by the Jone Slade Ely House and Outstanding Achievement awarded by the American Chemical Society, Art Editor of the school literary magazine.

Future Plans: Will attend Williams College.

### **James Hillhouse**

*Shirley Love Joyner , Assistant Principal*

#### **Jeremy Moore**

Accomplishments: First team all-state register/post/coaches football 08, second team all state basketball 07-08, SCC February scholar-athlete of the month 08, All Area basketball 07-08, All Conference basketball & football (07-08 & 08), Class MM selection football 0/, G.P.A. 3.52, SCC Student athlete conference M.C., 4 years of high school honors, Who's Who among American High School Students 06, Class LL State basketball champions.

Future Plans: Will attend Georgetown University.

#### **Ashley McWilliams**

Accomplishments: Ashley is graduating 3rd of 214 in her senior class with a 3.9 G.P.A. Though academics have provided Ashley with the framework for success, her commitment to athletics has provided her with the ability to work effectively with others. She is captain of the Hillhouse softball team, earning Most Valuable Player and the Mike Patterson Sportsmanship Award. Ashley is also co-captain of the Hillhouse volleyball team. Ashley has earned high ranking through academics and athletics however, she is also a community service

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advocate. She is president of Teens Breaking Barriers, a local youth group where she is committed to preventing underage substance abuse throughout the city of New Haven. Co-captain of volleyball team, co-captain of softball team, track team and also played on the basketball team. Received the volleyball sportsmanship award, the Mike Patterson Sportsmanship award and was named the most valuable player.

Future Plans: Will attend Pennsylvania State University majoring in biology to ultimately become a pediatric dentist.

### **Jonathan Law**

*Janet Garagliano, Principal*

### **Alejandra Dorado**

Accomplishments: Alejandra is an accomplished young woman with high aspirations and the drive and determination to make them happen. She is a member of the National Honor Society, The Spanish National Honor Society, the Best Buddies Program, the Concert and Marching Bands as well as the Civil Air Patrol. She has also participated in the following sports: soccer, softball, basketball, and track. Alejandro is a confident young woman who truly enjoys helping others. She is able to work with her peers in such a way that she is like a coach prodding them to do better while also inspiring them to create their own dreams.

Future Plans: Will attend the United States Naval Academy.

### **Ryan Pandya**

Accomplishments: Ryan is a member of the National Honor Society and the Diversity Club. He is both a member and officer in the Natural Helpers and the Key Club. He is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, the lead guitarist in a band, and he enjoys creative writing, which he features on his personal website. Ryan is the recipient of the St. Michael's College Book Award as well as the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award. Ryan is also a very active volunteer in the Milford community.

Future Plans: Ryan hopes to use biomedical engineering to improve the human condition. He hopes to be at the forefront of a new realm of scientific development that would blend nanotechnology and computer science with human biology.

### **Lyman Hall**

*David Bryant, Principal*

### **Christina O'Byrne**

Accomplishments: Christina was recently inducted into the National Honor Society. Christina would say her most meaningful experience in high school has been her involvement in the drama productions at Lyman Hall. Her junior year she earned the lead in the musical Bye Bye Birdie and her drama teacher describes her as an enthusiastic leader who is a great example for her peers. Christina is a senior captain of both the Volleyball and Indoor Track teams this year and she has earned countless honors in these sports programs. She has been recognized at the State level and at the New England level for Track and Field and

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earned the honor of Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year in this same sport. Not only is Christina a great athlete but she has also been involved every year in the Chorus at Lyman Hall and is a section leader. Despite her rigorous course work and her extracurricular involvement, Christina finds time to give back to the community. She volunteers each year at the Relay for Life, she helps out during Lyman Hall's Community Day, and she helps out with her church's annual carnival.

Future Plans: Will attend either the University of North Carolina -Wilmington or the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

### **William Abildgaard**

Accomplishments: Billy ranks number 18 in a competitive group of 254 seniors, placing him in the top 10% of graduates. The College Board has named Billy an AP Scholar for his exceptional efforts on their Advanced Placement exams. Another reflection highlighting Billy's academic achievements will take place this spring when Lyman Hall High School will celebrate Billy as a Varsity Scholar, an honor given to those few students able to achieve an overall GPA of 3.7 or higher. In addition, Billy has been recognized as a Scholar Athlete and inducted into the National Honor Society for being considered exemplary with respect to scholarship, but more importantly with regard to the qualities of leadership, character, and service to the school and the community. He has dedicated over 100 hours of service with such activities as a facilitator of the Anti Defamation League's "Names Can Really Hurt Me Program," Red Cross, Wallingford Chamber of Commerce, peer tutoring and coaching ice hockey.

Future Plans: Plans on attending a four year college or university to pursue a degree in environmental engineering.

### **Mercy**

*Sister Mary McCarthy, R.S.M., Principal*

### **Rachael Conte**

Accomplishments: National Latin Exams, Magna Cum Laude, Silver and Bronze Medals in Colt Poetry Contest, Department Awards in English, Math, Science and Latin. National Honor Society, Show Choir and Jazz Band (4 years), Golf Team (4 years). Rachael is in the top 20% of her graduation class. Also, Junior Classical League (3 years), Drama Club (3 years), Mercy-Xavier Musical (4 years), NEDT Award, S.A.D.D., and too many other groups or clubs to list here.

Future Plans: Rachael will attend Providence College.

### **Arissa Opalacz**

Accomplishments: All Academic Team – Southern Connecticut Conference in Soccer, Outdoor Track, Indoor Track, National Honor Society, Peer Minister, Executive Board – Grades 10 & 11, Secretary – Student Council, Smith College Book Award, Arissa is ranked 8th in her graduating class. Additionally, Health Literacy Club, Justice and Peace Organization, Mercy

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Ambassador (Recruitment Team). Also, Arissa volunteers for many various groups ranging from Middlesex Health Council and Polish Falcons to Rotary Aid to Children's Safety. Future Plans: Arissa has decided to attend Holy Cross.

### **North Haven**

*Dr. Russell J. Dallai, Principal*

#### **Drake Smith**

Accomplishments: Drake is an excellent student, ranked top 10 in his class. In addition, he is an award-winning trombonist who has earned superior ratings at national competitions and the status of Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Band Finalist. Drake has taken music courses at Yale University. He is a State Student Advisory Council member, student council president, advisory board member, peer mediator trainer, and athlete. Drake also works as a musician in local jazz ensembles including the New Haven Jazz Orchestra.

Future Plans: Drake has been accepted to a number of universities and will soon make his decision.

#### **Fiona Wood**

Accomplishments: Fiona is our valedictorian, a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and an AP Scholar with Distinction. She has won two international awards: 2nd Place Grand Award, Intel Science & Engineering and 1st Place, FPS International. She has also won multiple state awards. Fiona interns at a Yale neuroscience lab and is taking a physics course at Yale. She was the concertmaster and top-ranked violinist at the All-State and Southern Regional competitions. So far, Fiona has been accepted to MIT and Caltech.

Future Plans: Fiona has been accepted to MIT and Caltech and is awaiting good news from additional prestigious schools.

### **Notre Dame**

*Joseph Ramirez, Assistant Principal*

#### **Michael Laracuenta**

Accomplishments: National, Spanish, and Tri-M Music Honor Societies, Student Representative to the Academic Board; NEAS&C Self-Study Committee; Peer Counselor; Chorus; Knights Against Drugs and Alcohol; SCC Dream Team; Changing Attitudes About People; Christian Student Mission Club; Team ND; Indoor Track Team; Varsity Tennis Team; Habitat for Humanity

Future Plans: Will attend Columbia University

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### **Joseph Sweeney**

Accomplishments: National and Spanish Honor Societies, National Merit Scholarship Commended Student; Spanish 3 and 4; National Merit Exam Honorable Mention; Sophomore Math Award; Holy Cross Book Award; Junior and Senior Class Officer; Captain of Team ND; President of Knights Against Drugs and Alcohol; MADD Leadership Power Camp; Peer Counselor; SCC Dream Team; Changing Attitudes About People; Christian Student Mission Club; Varsity Hockey Captain; Varsity Lacrosse; Tae Kwon Do 2nd Degree Black Belt; Volunteer Hamden Youth Hockey Coach

Future Plans: Will attend the University of Notre Dame

### **Sacred Heart Academy**

*Sr. Colleen Smith, Principal*

### **Raca Banerjee**

Accomplishments: Raca is a high achieving scholar who has shown outstanding leadership, integrity and compassion in all activities. Most notable are the for the following: National Honor Society (Vice President), Bausch & Lomb Award, Orchestra (Flute), AP Scholar, Math League Captain, Peer Connection, Peer Mediator, Academic Team Member and Book Award Winner Trinity College. Her volunteerism is equally impressive with summer intern at Yale School of Medicine, volunteer at Yale New Haven Hospital, and at the American Red Cross.

Future Plans: Will attend Cornell University as a Pre-Med Major

### **Amy Marie Bartholomew**

Accomplishments: Amy Marie presently has achieved the highest GPA in the history of\_\_ our school. Her interests are so varied that they span from ballet and French to Physics\_\_ and Chemistry. Her academic awards include: Gov. Scholar, Harvard Book Award, AP\_ Scholar, National Honor Society, Rennsaeler Medal, National Merit Finalist, and a State\_ Winner in National French Exam. She is President of Key Club, Academic Team, and\_\_ Team America Rocket Club. Outside of school she pursues the arts as a member of the\_\_ New Haven Ballet Co. and Irish Step Dancing – Amy is truly a young woman of integrity & principle in all that she does.

Future Plans: Will attend either Yale University or Connecticut College.

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### **Mark T. Sheehan**

*Rosemary Duthie, Principal*

#### **Lisa Cheung**

Accomplishments: National Honor Society; CAPT Scholar; Varsity Tennis, captain; Indoor Track; Field Hockey; CT USA Team Tennis Indoor League; Science Club; Spanish Club; Key Club, secretary; Student Council; Peer Advocate; Math Team; Students Against Destructive Decisions; Choate Summer Program; Star Talk: Discover Chinese Summer Academic Program; Yale Saturday Seminar; Recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award; SCC All Academic Team Award; Bristol Myers Squibb Summer Science Program Scholarships.

Future Plans: Lisa will attend Brown University where she will major in engineering.

#### **Stephanie Dubois**

Accomplishments: Field Hockey, captain; SCC All Academic Team; CHSCA Academic All-State 2008 Field Hockey Team; Debate Team, Secretary and President; Student Council; National Honor Society, President; New England Math League; Powder Puff Football; Peer Tutor; Contributor to Visions Literary and Art Magazine; CAPT Scholar; High Honors distinction each year; Volunteer at Ned Conley Open and Red Cross Blood Drive; Sunday School Teacher.

Future Plans: Is considering majoring in psychology, English or medicine in college.

### **Shelton**

*Dr. Beth Smith, Principal*

#### **Margaret Ercolani**

Accomplishments: Peter Jennings Fellow, History Award, Girls State, French Award, CAPT Scholar, AP Scholar, Oberlin and Gettysburg College Book Awards, Governor's Scholar Semi-Finalist, Elementary School Tutor, Volunteer Cancer Drive/Relay for Life, Brown University Summer Program, Yale Daily News Summer Program, World Language National Honor Society: Vice President, Students for First Amendment Rights: President, Peer Tutor, Make a Difference Club, Latin Club: President, Gael Winds Newspaper Staff: Editor in Chief, French Club: President, East Asian Club, CT Post Teens Editor and Commentary Intern

Future Plans: Margaret plans on pursuing post-secondary studies in English.

#### **Neville Commissariat**

Accomplishments: Academic Bowl Team: Captain, Future Business Leaders of America, Gael Winds Newspaper Staff: Copy Editor, Interact Club, Make a Difference Club, Math Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, Tennis Team, AP Scholar, CAPT Scholar, Columbia University Book Award, History Award, Math Award, Church Youth Group, Hospital Volunteer, National Merit Scholarship Commended Student, Sudoku Club: Secretary, Yale Physics Olympics Captain: Bronze Medal, US Presidential Scholar

Future Plans: Neville plans to pursue post-secondary studies in finance.

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### **West Haven**

*Ronald A. Stancil, Principal*

#### **Taylor Norton**

Accomplishments: Year Book, Class V.P., Honor Society Vice President, Peer Advocate, Peer Tutoring, DECA Reporter, Grass Roots Action Club V.P., Varsity Soccer All Conference, Varsity Ice Hockey All League, Captain Varsity Softball, CIAC Scholar Athlete, Yale Book Award, Connecticut Bar Association State Wide Essay Contest Winner, National Honor Roll, Laurel Girls State Delegate State Treasure.

Future Plans: Taylor will be attending college.

#### **Thomas Ciarleglio**

Accomplishments: National Honor Society President, Honor Committee Representative, Cross Country Captain, Wrestling Captain, 2008 CSC- 119 lb. Wrestling Champion, Varsity Tennis, Rotary Club Scholar Athlete, SCC Scholar Athlete, Blue Devil Marching Band Drum Line, Concert Band Percussion Section Leader, Brass Wind Ensemble.

Future Plans: Will attend either Rutgers University or Centenary College.

### **Wilbur Cross**

*Rose B. Coggins, Principal*

#### **Zach Kofoglis**

Accomplishments: Zach volunteers at the Amistad House and the New Haven Youth Soccer League. He presently works as a Soccer referee for the New Haven Youth Soccer and an accounting assistant for Ayer's and Associates C P A firm. Zach has been a member of the Student Council for the past two years, a member of the Prom Committee, Cooperative International Studies Program, Diversity Dream Team Math Team, Literary Magazine, and has a role in this year's musical production, "Grease". He has received notoriety as captain of the varsity soccer team receiving all state, conference, division and the team's M V P. He is a member of the varsity baseball and indoor track teams. Zach's awards include AP Scholar with honors, New Haven Math Competition, National Merit Scholarship, USMC Scholar Athlete Award, National Spanish and Honor Society.

Future Plans: Zach will attend college this fall, but hasn't yet made his decision where.

#### **Iryna Mohylnytska**

Accomplishments: Presently, Iryna serves as president of the Future Business Leaders of America and is active in the Model United Nation's Club, National Honor Society, School Youth Council Representative for the March of Dimes and Peer Leadership. She has participated in "21st Century Conversations" Youth Forum on Issues of Concern and volunteers at New Haven Reads tutoring kids and organizing books, worked to raise funds for the March of Dimes, and help organize the Red Cross Blood Drive. Iryna plays piano, sings the Church Choir, dance with Ukrainian National Dancing and works at Aeropostate as a Sales Associate and Cashier. She won 1st Place in the COLT Poetry Recitation Contest,

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Excellence Award for the NFTE Entrepreneur, Certificate Cum Dignitate of the CT State Latin Exam and the Junior Achievement Titan.

Future Plans: Iryna will attend college in the fall.

### **Xavier**

*Brother William, C.F.X., Headmaster*

#### **John Daniel McGrath**

Accomplishments: In addition to taking all Honors and AP level classes throughout his four years, Dan is integrally involved in student life at Xavier. He has served as Class President, Student Activities Council President, and Football Team Captain. Dan has participated in Junior Volunteer, Junior Retreat, and the Xavier Leadership Institute. Additionally, Dan is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Dan has earned a reputation as an intelligent, hardworking student leader.

Future Plans: Dan will attend either Providence College or Fairfield University next year. He intends to major in pre-law or politics.

#### **Adam J. Tomasiello**

Accomplishments: Adam has taken all Honors and AP level courses and is ranked 6th in his class. In the National Honor Society, Adam has served as Treasurer last year and President this year. Adam is a leader of the Math Team, having earned several awards. Adam participates in the Golf Team, Intramural Basketball, Concert, Pep and Jazz Bands, Chem Olympiad, and Debate Club. Adam has earned the Brother Celestine Award and attended the Xavier Leadership Institute.

Future Plans: Adam has been accepted to five colleges. He plans to attend either Duke University or the College of William and Mary to major in Business Management.

### **“Bill O’Brien Community Service Scholarship”**

Bill O'Brien served as Commissioner of the SCC for 10 years (1994-2004) and remains active with the conference. A retired banking executive, Bill is well-known for his passionate and unselfish community service efforts throughout the greater New Haven area.

At the conclusion of tonight's awards presentation, two \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Worthy recipients have a healthy balance of school and community activities that are value-added and embody the “spirit and passion” of Bill O'Brien.

To “fairly” identify the recipients, the league requested for those interested scholar-leaders to contribute a writing piece in addition to their resume of activities/achievements.

# CORPORATE SPONSORS

The Southern Connecticut Conference is celebrating its 15th year in 2008-2009. The SCC recognizes the following corporate sponsors who help support the league's various athletic and non-athletic events and programs.



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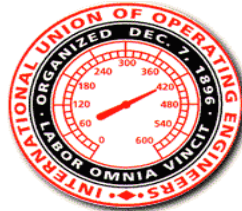
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