

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXV-No. 8

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

June 7, 2022

## Science Research Holds 16th Annual Symposium

by Shreya Hebbar '23

The Science Research Program (SRP) held their 16th annual science symposium on Friday, May 20th- the first in person symposium since 2019.

The program started at 6:00 pm and posters of everyone's projects were set up around the cafeteria for friends, families, and incoming freshmen to view and ask questions as the SRP students presented. Students were able

Despite being in the program for 3 years now, we haven't been able to have a proper symposium until now, so it was super rewarding to be able to have this showcase for all of the work done by SRP this year."

This year's emcees were Scott Lowder '22, Ava Gross '22, and Brodey Lu '22. The emcees introduced the presenters and commented on the program.

Excited to be an emcee, Scott Lowder said "It was awesome to see

the SRP symposiums for so many years (in person and virtual), so to finally be given the opportunity to be a part of it as an MC senior year was really special. It was also my last "assignment" I did for the program before signing off my past four years."

This year's main presenters were Sophia Messina '25, Aditi Bhattamishra '24, Melinda Lu '23, and Mason Beau-dette '22, who all went up on stage to present their projects to the audience.

Along with that, Science Research Program Director Cathy Piscitelli announced all the awards that were given out throughout all the science fairs students participated in. To name a few, CT STEM, JSHS,

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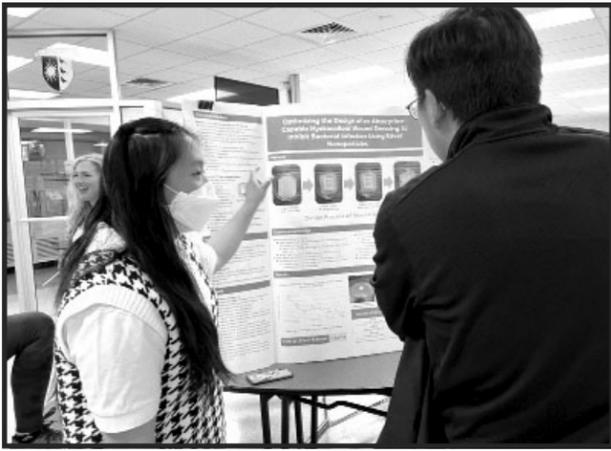


Photo by Trident Staff

A student presents at the symposium.

to eat good food, present their projects, and join everyone in the Brady Center for the main presentations and senior slides

Allen Liu '23 said, "It was really exciting to have our first symposium.

## Farewell to Our Principal Dr. Anna Mahon

by Anchal Bahel '23 and Andie Napolitano '24

The morning of Thursday, May 19, 2022 right before morning announcements, Amity Principal Dr. Anna Mahon shared with students, faculty, and community members that she has accepted the Assistant Superintendent position at the Brookfield School District.

Dr. Mahon has been an educator for 25 years, 22 of which have been spent at Amity Regional High School. Dr. Mahon started her career as an English teacher at Darien High School from 1997-1999. From 1999-2000, she taught English at Stamford High School.

In 2000, Dr. Mahon became an English teacher at Amity, a role she held for 7 years and eventually became the head of the English Department In 2010, Dr. Mahon had the opportunity to step into an administrative role and become an associate principal then principal at Amity in 2015.

In addition to these roles, Dr. Mahon is an accomplished athlete. In 2001 and 2003 she represented the United States in the hammer throwing World Championships in Edmonton, Canada and Paris, France respectively, placing 7th in the 2003 World Championships-delete. In 2002, at the World Cup in Madrid, Spain, she placed 4th for hammer throwing.

In addition to various other international competitions, she also represented Team USA in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

While Amity students are sad to see Dr. Mahon leave, they are happy for her new career opportunity in Brookfield. Grace Mahon



'23, the daughter of Dr. Mahon and her husband Sean Mahon, Amity's Physical Education and Health Department Chair, said "I'm so happy for my mom, and although I'm going to miss her, I can't wait to see what she will accomplish in years to come!"

Dr. Mahon has not only left an impression on those who have been here for multiple years, but her impact has been well-received

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## SSLP and SIP Return to Pre-COVID Status

by Erika Fontana '22

Although most of the seniors are no longer in the building, you can find a majority of them at a wide variety of job sites throughout the area, taking part in either the Senior Service Learning Program (SSLP) or the Senior Interest Project (SIP).

Three hundred and fifteen seniors have wrapped up class work and have started to get some real world experience prior to graduation and their future careers.

Each spring Amity students are given the chance to complete an 84-hour internship - if they are in good standing - during the last three weeks leading up to graduation.

With COVID-19 allowing for more job sites than last year, the sites range from boutiques to elementary schools to doctors' offices and more. This year's SSLP includes 305 students, with 10 involved in the SIP.

Senior Hadley Boguniecki is interning

with Kellie Martino, her former elementary school teacher at Racebook School in Orange. Martino has had a lasting impact on not only Boguniecki, but her friends and peers as well.

"I hope to bring joy to the students like Mrs. Martino once did to me," Boguniecki said with a smile. "It is quite crazy to reflect on the fact that I once too was in that same class."

Though the senior hopes to pursue a career in business, the communication skills she is learning while being back in Martino's classroom will help her communicate with future colleagues and supervisors in the workforce.

Senior Allie Hurlburt has chosen to do her internship in dentistry, as she wants to be a cosmetic dentist. Each day she shadows a dentist on how to clean teeth, read dental X-rays, and even do fillings.

"The dentist even offered me a part time job in the summer, and I could never turn that down," Hurlburt said.

"The Senior Service-Learning Program

offers seniors an opportunity to learn about a specific career in real-time," said Career Counselor Lynn Cocco.

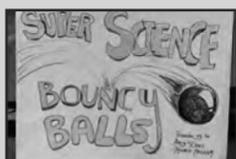
"Seniors are able to physically be at job sites and learn appropriate workplace behaviors as well as facts about their career of interest. Everyone involved, the students, our school and the job sites, gains something from this experience," she added.

That is what SSLP is all about, forming good connections to gain networking and experience.

With graduation approaching, seniors are wrapping up their internships and getting ready to show classmates and teachers everything they have learned through presentations this week. Students and staff can view the presentations in the Cafe on Tuesday from 8:00-9:30 am and 1:00-2:30 pm and Wednesday from 8:00-9:30 am.

The presentations will surely highlight all of the amazing work done by the graduating class of 2022.

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## Science Research Holds Symposium

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NCC, and the UB symposium.

The theme of this year's symposium was mystery. The scenario was that Kermit the frog had gone missing from the classroom and all seniors were suspects.

Seniors completed a Google form prior to the symposium accusing one of their peers with reasoning. These suspicions were later presented in the Brady Cen-

ter and it was very amusing.

In addition, all SRP students were given a tally sheet along with an unsolved phrase before the slideshow, to crack the code and count who got the most votes. One word from the 16 word sentence was written on each of the senior posters and students were given the task of putting all the words together to form a clue.

Turns out the culprit was not even a senior, but the least suspected Mr. NickShamp,

one of the SRP teachers!

Karishma Bulsara '23 helped plan the mystery along with a few others and said, "The mystery theme was planned out really well and the case kept everyone engaged during presentations."

The symposium was a success and an amazing last SRP for seniors Piscitelli said, "It was so nice to hold the Symposium in person. The turnout was a testament to the hard work and success of the SRP students!"

## Farewell to Our Principal Dr. Anna Mahon

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by underclassmen as well.

Sanaa Mohammed '25 said, "As a freshman I have grown to learn that Mrs. Mahon is an incredible principal and she's always there for anyone in need."

The sentiment expressed by students is similarly shared amongst professionals within the community. Amity Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars said, "Dr. Anna Mahon is one of the most selfless educators I've worked with. She puts everyone and everything ahead of herself. Her kindness, caring, and compassion are the essence of her leadership. I never knew Dr. Mahon when she taught English, but I'm sure she was brilliant in her knowledge and pedagogy."

"I've watched her take on challenges, student programs, and new initiatives with the determination, persistence, and commitment she must have shown as an Olympian."

"But in the end it's her warmth and generous heart that makes her a true educator - no matter her position. The Amity community will miss her tremendously, I will miss her personally, but I am genuinely happy for her and confident she will be an amazing assistant superintendent," she added.

Dr. Byars thoughts are reflected by many staff members at Amity, including Thom Jacobs, who has worked with Dr. Mahon for all of her 22 years at Amity. He said "Amity High School is going to be less without Dr. Mahon."

When asked about her departure from Amity, Dr. Mahon said, "It is bittersweet for me to make this professional and personal transition. Being a part of this community has shaped and molded me into the educator I am; it is a large part of my identity. I love this school and this district deeply; it is truly a unique and awesome place."

"I will always be a friend, a colleague, and (for the next 3 years) a parent. I will remain committed to being an active member of this school and community, but my role will now shift. I am excited for my next experience at Brookfield, but Amity will always be my home," she added.

Over the past 22 years, Dr. Mahon has worked tirelessly to improve the Amity community in her roles as an educator and administrator.

The Amity Trident would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Mahon for 22 years of service, contribution, and commitment to our school.

## STEAM Day Enthralls Visiting Elementary Students

**by Audrey Cummings '23 and Shreya Hebbar '23**

STEAM day was an event hosted by a variety of clubs and classes at Amity on Wednesday, June 2.

Different groups, such as Science Research, language honors societies,

the interest of the elementary students in STEAM topics and excite them for what is to come in their education career.

One of the event organizers and director of the Science Research Program at Amity, Cathy. Piscitelli, described that the event was a success, saying "It was great to have STEAM day



Environmental Science, ceramics, broadcast journalism, and art set up stations around the school for the fifth graders from Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange elementary schools to explore and take part in STEAM (science technology, engineering, art, math) related activities.

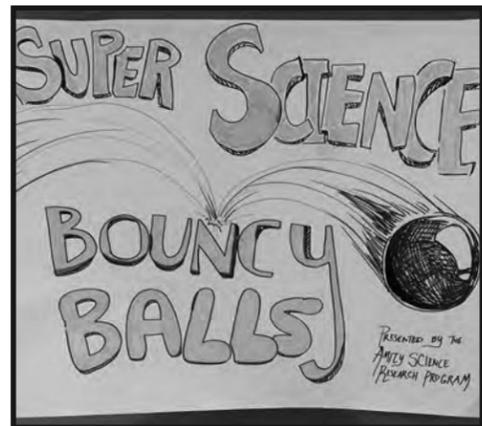
Students participated in

back again. It was rewarding to see all the kids' faces as they explored each booth and what the activities had to offer."

Many students in the Science Research Program assisted with the event. There were two booths hosted by SRP students, and additionally members of the program volunteered in leading

the fifth graders around from station to station.

Fifth grade participant, Rose Drakonakis said, "STEAM day was so fun! I liked going to the stations and learning a lot about different subjects. All of the kids were really nice and made me interested in their



activities in four stations: two stations in the middle gym, one in the black box, and one outside. The fifth graders moved in groups from station to station, and participated in the activities that interested them.

Some of the booths included: sticker-making, bee-keeping, a cloud formation experiment, a Spanish art and culture activity, the mechanics of pulleys, recycling, and even an EMT truck where kids learned some of the basics about how first responders help victims with methods like CPR and AED. The purpose of the event is to stimulate

projects."

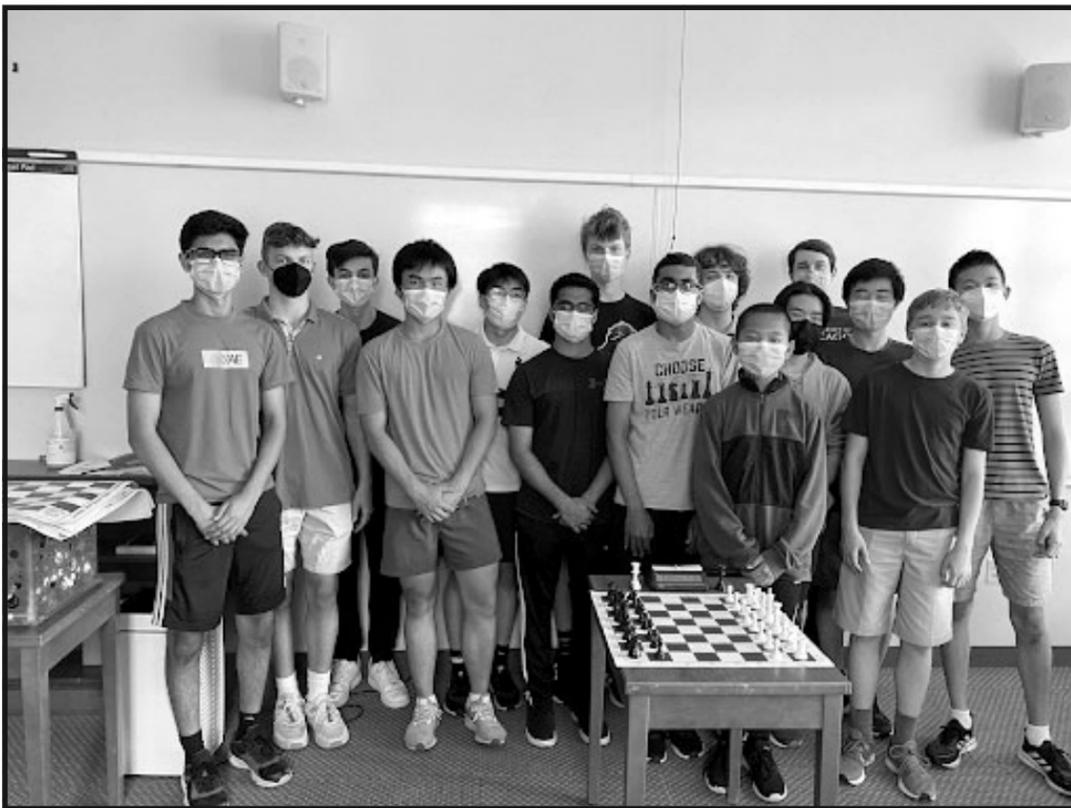
There was a lot of additional positive feedback from other elementary schoolers as well who also enjoyed the day.

One of the hosts of the station on the mechanics of pulleys, Matthew Li '23, said, "Kids love science when they can actually do something. I taught them about the mechanical advantage provided by a pulley system and they definitely enjoyed lifting the buckets with the pulley."

STEAM day was a huge success as fifth graders engaged in interactive activities led by highschoolers.

## Chess Team Victorious Over Hopkins

*Players Hope to Continue Winning Streak*



*Photo by John Laliberte*

On Monday, May 16th, the Amity Chess Team faced off against the Hopkins Chess Team. Amity's top player, Piyush Bahel '23, went undefeated, winning all four of his matches. He said, "It was very exciting to play again, and shoutout to Allen Liu '23 and Hopkins for organizing it. I'm hoping to play with Hopkins again soon and continue Amity's win streak."

**Check out our Instagram for more STEAM Day photos!**

# What Happens Now? A Junior's Perspective on Becoming a Senior

by Sena Ho '23

Since the majority of the seniors departed on May 13th, the Amity hallways have become empty- almost eerily silent. As a junior, I am preoccupied with thoughts of the near future: college applications and summer internships, for instance. Time has passed by quickly, and now our class will become the long-awaited seniors. Despite the amazing futures that lay ahead for our seniors, there is a residual bittersweet tension that lingers through Amity. We will miss having those upperclassmen to lean on, to support, and most importantly, to look up to when our own problems have become too heavy to handle.

I had never comprehended the exact responsibility of being an upperclassman until this moment. We will become the school's leaders, and so the fate of Amity's reputation will be transferred into our hands. While many credit junior year to be the toughest year of high school, I would say that senior year will certainly be filled with stressful moments as well. We must

brace ourselves for the rocky journey that lies ahead. Even though I am excited and anxious, for the experiences that are soon to come, I am also reluctant to let go of the seniors who gave us all so much comfort and hope. They displayed perseverance throughout the COVID-19 online year, and I am proud to admit that their determination has fostered a desire for improvement in my own line of work.

I want to pose a question for my class: have we accepted the fact that our last year of high school is encroaching upon us? These past few years have taught me independence and persistence in the face of adversity, and I can say the same for my peers. I have never witnessed such a hard-working group of students who seek excellence in their every action. The fate of Amity is now in our hands, and we must have the courage to tackle the obstacles that await us. We must not replace the wonderful memories that our seniors have gifted us but add to those fleeting moments. We must stay united and strengthen the already tight-knit community in these dire times.

It is now our turn to aid

the underclassmen on their journey towards success and growing up. We will be a point of comfort for the younger grades, which is particularly important as we return to normal schooling. School activities have found less student activity due to the hard times we have been in for the past two years. We must shoulder the revival of various clubs and programs back to their previous states.

Among the difficult goals we will be tasked with, there are things that I am looking forward to experiencing—taking senior photos, the senior picnic, end-of-the-year internships, and senior prom. There is still a lot left of our high school career, but I am forever grateful for the amazing people I have met thus far, the lessons I have learned in a pandemic school setting, and the inner growth I have displayed throughout the unnatural circumstances.

Although it is hard to see such familiar faces leave the scene, we must embrace the bright year that is before us. It is our time to shine and make the most of our final hoorah. Let's have an amazing 2022-2023 school year Amity!

## Enough Is Enough

by Ellen Ko '24

If I'm going to be completely honest, I am sick and tired of hearing about another mass shooting. I don't mean this to come off as privileged in any way, shape, or form, but I am sick of it. I am tired of feeling another wave of terror and grief after hearing about another shooting. It is time for real change in this country to happen. Now, I am in no way saying that people are not entitled to their Second Amendment rights. But when 18-year-olds are given access to machine guns, that must mean there is something inherently wrong with our gun control laws. When an 18-year-old shoots outside of a K-4 elementary school, there is something inherently wrong with our gun control laws. When an 11-year-old girl smears blood on herself and pretends to be dead, there is something inherently wrong in our country. When glaring parallels can be drawn between two mass shootings in 10 years, there is something inherently wrong with our country.

Why is it that every time a mass shooting happens, only prayers are sent? When will it finally be time for legislators to pass stricter gun control laws? Our country boasts our Constitution; the fact that every citizen has a right to freedom of speech, press, assembly, and easy access to machine guns. But I can't help but wonder, when will the government fulfill its duty to protect us?

Enough is enough. I have had enough of reading about a mass shooting, then going on Instagram to see pretty pink infographics on my feed. I have had enough of going through the comments filled with the same debates regarding gun control or seeing the thoughts and prayers being sent to the victims' families.

It is time to demand more than just thoughts and prayers from senators. Last year, the House passed a suite of gun safety bills. Since then, those bills have been sitting on the Senate floor, collecting dust. It is time for the legislative branch to do what is right for America and step up. There is no way someone can

hear about these mass shootings and continue to advocate for looser gun laws. There is absolutely no reason for someone to own a semiautomatic weapon and have easy access to these guns.

It is time for the US to look at our wealthy democratic peers and their efforts to strictly curb gun usage. If other countries can implement strict gun laws after one mass shooting, why can't America do the same? Let's take a look at our neighbor to the North. In 1989, a student armed with a semiautomatic rifle – much like Nikolas Cruz in Parkland and Adam Lanza in Newtown – murdered 14 students and injured more than a dozen others at a Montreal engineering school. Like the US, Canada's gun laws have often been driven by gun violence. The 1989 shooting is widely credited with driving major gun reforms that imposed a 28-day waiting period before purchase; mandated safety training courses; extensive background checks; greater restrictions on military-style weapons; and bans on large-capacity magazines.

Now, let's also take a look at Japan, a country with low gun homicide rates. Most guns are illegal in the country. Before someone could even obtain a gun in Japan, one must pass an array of written, mental, and drug tests, as well as a rigorous background check. These two countries are two of many of our wealthy, democratic counterparts in which gun control is strictly enforced. So why can't America do the same?

It is time for politicians to wake up and realize that thoughts and prayers no longer cut it. People are dying. Laws must be passed before another mass shooting happens. Restrictions must be placed before another 11-year-old has to smear blood all over her body and pretend to be dead. Restrictions must be placed before another 18-year-old buys a machine gun. There is no way to argue in favor of firearms when the fact remains that over 100 Americans die every day from a gun-related homicide. This back and forth is pointless in the aftermath of 21 innocent people's murder. Enough is enough.

# the TRIDENT

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 Avery Butt Babson College  
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 Brett Chodos Roanoke College  
 Ava Chomia Villanova University  
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 University  
 Roberto D'Onofrio University of Connecticut  
 John Dalas Wentworth Institute of Technology  
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 Liam Danby Undecided  
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 Christian Dastous Rutgers University - New Brunswick  
 Faith Deerfield College of Art  
 Jesse Dellacamera Unreported  
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 Ava DeMaio Florida State University  
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 James Denton University of Connecticut  
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 Erika Fontana University of Mississippi  
 Jacob Fortin University of Vermont  
 Brian Fournier  
 George Washington University  
 Violet Foyer Sacred Heart University  
 Olivia Franke University  
 George Washington University  
 Mairine Franklin Fordham University  
 Tristan French Gap year  
 Estrella Frutis Rui Undecided  
 Sophia Fucci Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Gillian Fuchs Springfield College  
 Hailey Furmane Stone Academy  
 Natalie Furst Boston College  
 Victoria Gados Western New England University  
 Zachary Garfinkle Vassar College  
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 Julia Hogan Post University  
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 Audrey Jurys High School  
 Jordan Kane Salve Regina University  
 Samia Karout Unreported  
 Paige Kergaravat University of North Carolina  
 Wilmington  
 Caroline Keslow Bryant University  
 Madeleine Key University of Connecticut  
 Aidan Keylock Unreported  
 Logan Keys Drexel University  
 Kyla Kneeland Western Connecticut State University  
 Alec Kovalsky Albertus Magnus College  
 Jada Kran Unreported  
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# Senior Intentions 2022!

Sacred Heart University  
 Rhea Kuriose  
 Montserrat  
 Eren Kuru Trade School for HVAC  
 Jason Kwon Vanderbilt University  
 Daniella Landino Rutgers University  
 Meredyth Lasows Providence College  
 Owen Lee Boston University  
 Du Gohn Lee University of Connecticut  
 Alec Lee University of Connecticut  
 Jackson Lee Unreported  
 Maena Legault Fordham University  
 Addison Levy University of New Hampshire  
 Ilana Leyner Undecided  
 Jiahao Li Brandeis University  
 Bridget Lillis Providence College  
 Ryan Lima Syracuse University  
 Wincy Lin Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
 Charlotte Lindsog University of Florida  
 Emma Lindsog University of Florida  
 Maggie Liu University of Connecticut  
 Jiahui Liu Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Grace Lodewic University of St. Andrews  
 Matthew Longo Lincoln Tech  
 Katelyn Losty Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
 Alexandra Louros Sacred Heart University  
 Scott Lowder Boston College  
 Brodey Lu Northwestern University  
 Julia Luciani University of Rhode Island  
 Jillian Lucibello University of New Hampshire  
 Jessica Luo Northeastern University  
 Alvin Luo Gateway Community College  
 Sofia Magliocco Sacred Heart University  
 Isabella Mahabir Iona College  
 Deven Maumdar Unreported  
 Kalliopi Maniatis Stonehill College  
 Madison Marcus Fordham University  
 Audrey Marin Dartmouth College  
 Angelina Marino Southern Connecticut State University  
 Jason Marino University of Southern California  
 Nathan Marsh Naugatuck Valley Community College  
 Jingyu Martin Goucher College  
 Elizabeth Massey University of New Hampshire  
 Nicolas Matee Southern Connecticut State University  
 Gabriel Maus Unreported  
 Laurel Maus Albertus Magnus College  
 McKenna Maxwell Marist College  
 Aaron Mayerson Unreported  
 Bailey McDermott Southern Connecticut State University  
 Bryan McMilleon Albertus Magnus College  
 Kaia Melville University of St. Andrews  
 Felicia Mende University of Delaware  
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 Melissa Musante University of New Haven  
 John Neary Endicott College  
 Kyle Nguyen University of Connecticut  
 Kevin Nguyen Unreported  
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 Emma Pidlipcha University of Connecticut  
 Michael Popel Landscaping  
 Varun Prabhu University of Maryland  
 Anastasia Prentiss Trinity College  
 Emmett Pryor Pace University  
 Joe Prubylos University of Maine  
 Sean Sean Southern Connecticut State University  
 Josephine Uerler Bryant University  
 Ail Raendran Florida State University  
 Goncalo Rebelo Unreported  
 Emily Reed University of New Haven  
 Abigail Ressler Fairfield University  
 Emma Ressler Unreported  
 Liliana Restrepo Bowdoin College  
 Jenna Ricciardi Saint John's University  
 Corey Richards Western Connecticut State University  
 Ben Ricel University of Connecticut  
 Carsyn Ritti Newberry College  
 Amanda Robinson Western New England University  
 Juan Rodrigue Wake Forest University  
 Olivia Romanacci St. John's University  
 Dylan Russ Mount Saint Vincent College  
 Olivia Russo West Virginia University  
 Carly Ryan Colorado Boulder University  
 Alexandra Sachs Indiana University  
 Jonathan Salado Unreported  
 Shahd Salama University of Connecticut  
 Madison Samonci Unreported  
 Isabella Santamaria Unreported  
 Emily Sa University of New Haven  
 Leey-Grace Schaa Unreported  
 Emma Schaffer University of Connecticut  
 Alaina Schneider Sacred Heart University  
 Ryan Schumann Central Connecticut State University  
 Karli Scianna Suffolk University  
 Lauren Sender University of Rhode Island  
 Casey Seton Unreported  
 Syed Shah Naugatuck Valley Community College  
 Aya Shahin University of Connecticut  
 Colin Shannon Springfield College  
 Melanie Sherricratt Institute  
 Gabriella Silva Southern Connecticut State University  
 Nathan Simon Bryant University  
 Daniel Slugosi Marist College  
 Caelin Smith University of Rhode Island  
 Keiah Smith Xavier University of Louisiana  
 Nolan Smith University of Cincinnati  
 Julia Snow Binghamton University  
 Andrew Soldra New Jersey Institute of Technology  
 Eric Song Unreported  
 Gabriel Sousa University of Central Florida  
 Marceline Southworth Gap year  
 Konstantinos Spanolios Bentley College  
 Dylan Speranini University of Connecticut  
 Jonathan Speranini University of Massachusetts  
 Levostacy Undecided  
 Robert Staney Gateway Community College  
 Stephen Stardellis Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
 Gavin Stein Southern Connecticut State University  
 John Stiber Uinnipiatic University  
 Kevin Sweeney Fordham University  
 Evan Talnose Unreported  
 Liam Tassiello Dartmouth College  
 Catherine Tereb University of New Haven  
 Henry Thomas University of New Haven  
 Aiden Tischer University of Vermont  
 Ralph Toussaint Norfolk State University  
 Julianna Tran University of Connecticut  
 Adriana Tuano University of Hartford  
 Domenic Vinci Gap year  
 Drew Visnic University of Alabama  
 Mayee Walsh Unreported  
 Riley Walsh Southern Connecticut State University  
 Ledgm Washington Clemson University  
 Melanie Wasse University of Connecticut  
 Rose Wegman Fairfield University  
 Brynn Weirsman James Madison University  
 Robert White Unreported  
 Jayne Whitman Marist College  
 Adithi Wiесе Wesleyan University  
 Fran Wilde Unreported  
 Gabrielle Winchtern University of Connecticut  
 Ael Woodworth University of New Haven  
 Nayana Wright University of New Haven  
 Roy Wright Unreported  
 Megan Wu University of Rochester  
 Harry Wyndor American University  
 Aviva Wyner Unreported  
 Jiawei Yang Boston University  
 Tiffany Yang Unreported  
 Nolan Young Sacred Heart University  
 Alice Yout Smith College  
 Anna Yout Smith College  
 Nora Yout Smith College  
 Wendell Youyou Undecided  
 Ruby Yumbla Bryant College  
 Yariabel Uinnipiatic University  
 Preethilaman University of California San Diego  
 Upolaman University of California Berkeley and Haas Business School  
 Justin Amov Syracuse University  
 Kelvin Chang University of Connecticut  
 Martin Chang Columbia University  
 Anny Cheng University of Connecticut  
 Ivy Cheng University of Connecticut  
 Richey Cheng University of Connecticut

# NAHS Presents Long-Awaited Arts Showcase

by Isabel Barry-Rui '23

On May 24th the art department at Amity along with the work of the National Art Honors Society organized the End-of-year showcase. The event was an opportunity to display all the incredible work students in grades 9-12 have completed throughout the course of the year in their respective art classes.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the art department has been unable to have any exhibitions or events to help celebrate the work of its students. Members of NAHS spoke about how exciting the event was to finally be able to organize an exhibition.



Junior NAHS member Chloe Adzigian stated, "I thought the night was very successful. It was nice to see so much art on the walls after Covid stopped our galleries/exhibitions."

The event was a busy and exciting night with showcases from art classes, students performing in the music fest, and different sport events all happening together.

School hallways on the second floor were filled with art pieces from students of NAHS. The galleries were open for families and members of the BOWA community to come and admire the students' work.

Simultaneously, on the upstairs NAHS conducted their long awaited induction ceremony. The ceremony was an opportunity to induct new and upcoming members into the society and also current members who did

not have the opportunity to be inducted over the pandemic. Members received new certificates and t-shirts for their acceptance into NAHS.

Graduating senior members were gifted with art-related presents to remember and appreciate the work they have done in during their years in the society.

In regards to the art displayed throughout the school, one of this year's newest inductees Selin Ho '23 said, "The showcase was able to display a diverse collection of art from students who are genuinely interested in the field and want to expand the school's creative insight."

Students were also given the honor of listening to special guest speaker, Andrea Hass, an art teacher and NAHS coordinator from Wethersfield High School. Hass spoke to encourage and uplift the new members on the possibilities of what NAHS can do in the upcoming year.

Currently the members have been working on a series of murals for the science department to be displayed next year. Advisor of the NAHS Jessica Amachaj spoke about the whole exhibition stating, "I thought it was a really great idea to be able to do multiple events at the same time. I hope next year we can also work to bring in more people for the galleries."

Ultimately, the End-of-year showcase was an exciting and enjoyable way for students and families to celebrate and relish the hard work of all participating art students throughout the school.

Members of the NAHS hope to be able to continue exhibits and showcases as restrictions from the pandemic continue to decrease, but were finally able to enjoy a very well executed night, NAHS member Hannah Fletcher, to honor their work.



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## First Annual Music Fest Starts New Tradition for Music Department

by Sophia McDermott '23

The first annual Amity MusicFest took place last Tuesday, May 24th. Performers included the Amity Band and Amity Choir, as well as Rhythmics and other individual and small group acts.

The band led off the concert with a performance of "Maynard Madness," a medley including the theme from the movie Rocky. Among the choir's repertoire was "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen.

The program included themes from movies and TV shows such as The Incredibles and the Mandalorian, both performed by the band. Additionally, the choir joined in with the classic "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers.

Individual acts included Sam Bae's '24 performance of "When I Was Your Man," and JJ Sun's '24 performance of "She Used to Be Mine." Small group performances included Rhythmix, Amity's only a cappella group, with "Roar" and "Dangerous Woman."

Other small groups included Jazz Band and the 7's. The final number of the night was a collaboration with both the band and the choir in "Turn the Beat Around."

Philip Dolan, band director, and Marcia Rizzotti, choir director, both worked rigorously to create and execute the MusicFest. However, according to them, it was all worth it.

The energy, I think, was so great, to share the stage together," said Rizzotti. Dolan commented on the preparation process as well, stating, "Everybody—the whole department, all day long—rehearsed together as a group."

Despite it being the first annual

MusicFest, the event felt like a return to normalcy for many. Last year, the band and choir held an outdoor spring concert due to numerous COVID-19 restrictions. The previous year, the Amity Music Department was unable to host any spring concert. This year, the Music Department was finally able to hold a performance free of restrictions.

Si Ru Liang '23, a band member, said, "It was really nice to have such a good performance after so long and go all out."

Katie Sim '23, a Choir member, added, "My experience performing in Honors Choir was super exciting since this was my first Spring Concert not in a parking lot."

Dolan said, "We thought it was a really big success, and the change of format was really awesome, going from a formal concert to a 'O S' style concert. This was, for a large part, an opinion shared by performers and all others involved."

The night ended with the Amity Music Department saying goodbye to all of its seniors: "There were also a few senior tributes and speeches from choir director Marcia Rizzotti, band director Philip Dolan, and principal Dr. Anna Mahon, to honor the outgoing seniors as they took their final bow on the Brady Center stage," said Katie Sim, '23.

It was really well received by our audience, with over 100 people there, and some of them are still talking about it to this day," Rizzotti explained.

This year was the first annual MusicFest, but many hope it is here to stay.

It was a great revision of former Music Department Concerts and something we are going to keep doing in the future," the choir director concluded.

## ACT's 24-Hour Play Festival Returns

by Nina Carmeli '23

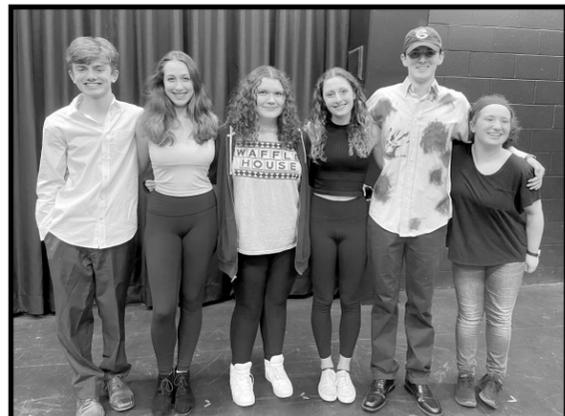
For the first time in five years, Amity Creative Theater presented the 24-hour play festival. Due to scheduling issues followed by COVID-19, the production had been halted year after year. On May 21st, beginning at 12 pm, actors, writers, directors, and designers in the ACT program gathered in the Black Box and were given a full day to create a theatrical masterpiece.

Groups collaborated to design, direct, write, costume, and light their plays. Students in attendance worked tirelessly over the 24-hour time period to formulate a show worthy of a full audience the subsequent evening.

Annika Lyngdal '23, one of the members of the Amity Creative Theater, thoroughly enjoyed it. "The 24-hour play festival was quite an experience! It was a blast to have it return to ACT," she said. "It was a great opportunity to work collaboratively with peers in all fields of the production including acting, creating a script, lighting, blocking, and costuming. Ultimately we created a show that we will never forget and we were able to have a lot of fun. I am looking forward to participating next year."

Robert Kennedy, director of ACT, shared his pride in the success of the event, saying, "It went very well. It was nice to have the event back. Students had an amazing time and the show was extremely funny."

On the following evening, May 22nd, ACT members regrouped in the Black Box and performed for spectators. "We had a packed audience, so it was hugely successful. We are looking forward to bringing it back next year," he said.



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# Girls Golf Team Wins SCC Tournament

by CJ Brinton '24

The Amity Girls Golf Team won the SCC tournament on Thursday June 2nd at the Oronoque Country Club in Stratford, Laurelton Hall's home golf course. Their combined score, 38, bested Laurelton Hall by just two strokes.

Ava Gross '22 was the medalist, with a score of 8. Her closest competitor was eight behind. Gross was also named SCC player of the year, which made her teammates proud.

I am so proud of my teammate Ava Gross who shot a 8! said Bridget Morrison '24. We won this year which was extremely exciting and lots of fun!

The team's coach, Mike Cofrancesco, a business teacher, shared how proud he was of his team.

The girls worked really hard to stay focused for all 18 holes at SCCs, he said. We

play 9 hole matches all season long and then they have to play for 10 hours in the tournament so it can be draining.

In addition to playing in the tournament for long hours, these girls do their homework. After winning SCC's, sophomore Annika un '24 described what the preparation for states is like.

Every team member is going to try to go and play the course where States is held so that we know the course better than our opponents, she said.

States will be held on Monday at Tashua Knolls in Trumbull. Coach Cofrancesco says that to match last year's 3rd place finish would be amazing, but that the real goal is to finish in the top 8 for the third year in a row.

When asked about how the team felt about states, un said, Now that we've won SCC's, playing States will be nice because there will be less pressure and we can just focus on doing the best we can.

The girls were ready to start practice on Monday. States will be held on Monday at Tashua Knolls in Trumbull. Coach Cofrancesco says that to match last year's 3rd place finish would be amazing, but that the real goal is to finish in the top 8 for the third year in a row.



Head Coach Mike Cofrancesco, Bridget Morrison '24, Annika Yun '24, Sydney Melchiorre '23, Ava Gross '22, Avery Butt '22

## Softball Season Comes to a Close with Hopes for the Future

by Raegan French '24



Head Coach and Team Members of the Amity Girls Softball Team

As the school year comes to a close, so does the Amity Softball season. This year, the team went 13-2 in the regular season, and lost to 2 seed Jonathan Law High School in Milford in the first round of SCC's.

Overall, members of the team say the season was filled with highs and lows. Most importantly, their will to adapt and make changes in order to build team chemistry is what carried them.

Some of the most memorable moments this year included senior night, or Jill Day as they refer to it, as well as the many team brunches and dinners that took place. Captain Grace Carrington '23 recalled her highlight of the season.

We won our game against East Haven 1-0, Carrington said. Our freshman pitcher Amara got player of the game after throwing a shutout!

Amara Forstrom '23, spoke about how the team bond encourages her.

My favorite part of the season was having a team behind me who supported me at all times, even when I didn't believe in myself, she explained.

As well as the team did this season, players acknowledge that there is always room for improvements.

Fellow captain Cozette Ito '23

shared how she felt the team could improve for next year.

The team this year was very young but also very strong, she says.

Next year I think we just keep doing what we are doing and the team chemistry will keep getting better.

She's right in this regard. With only one graduating senior and two junior captains, the team is young.

Newcomers Amara Forstrom '23 and Jenna Maus '23 also provide the team with a strong future. Ito additionally noted that working hard in the off-season was necessary for individual and team growth.

Despite losing early on in the SCC tournament, both Hannah Fletcher '23 and Carrington were named to the All-SCC first team.



## Boys and Girls Tennis Tournament Update

by CJ Brinton '24

Amity boys tennis seeded 8th in the team state tournament. They upset the #1 seed on June 2nd, cutting off Enfield from a chance at the title. Amity lost 6-1 to Enfield, ending the tournament in 4th place. As for individuals, Ethan Hass '24, awaits his match in the Round of 4 against Anil Siddarth of Masuk on June 4th.

Speaking on the team's performance this season and hopes for the future, Captain Akil Rajendran '22 said, The team should be proud of the way they performed. We achieved something we weren't supposed to achieve, and I really believe that the boys tennis team can be SCC or State Champions next year.



Head Coach and Team Members of the Amity Boys Tennis Team

Coming off of an SCC tournament win, Amity girls tennis is set to play in the team state championship on Saturday, June 4th.

In individual standings, both Bell Sicignano '24, and Kylie Pickens '23 are still in the tournament. The round of 32 kicks off on Sunday. Pickens is seeded first and looks to win individuals for a second consecutive year.



Head Coach and Team Members of the Amity Girls Tennis Team

# Four Amity Boy Scouts Receive Eagle Scout Award

## Town Officials Encourage Them to “Inspire Others”

by Grace Cavallaro '24

On Sunday, May 22, six boys from the Troop 12 boy scout troop re-

ceived their Eagle Scout awards, four of which were from Amity. Jason Byun '23, Benjamin Cap '22, Frankie Cavallaro '23, and Zack Geremia '22 were honored in a special court of honor at the St. Agnes Church Hall in Milford.

The Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in boy scouts, with only about three in every hundred scouts reaching this rank. It takes a great deal of time, dedication, and service to reach this achievement. It is a ranking that these four boys have spent nearly ten years working toward, from the first year of cub scouts as first graders all the way up to now. Each of the boys truly values the time he spent as a scout.

Cap said, I just know, because of all the things that I have done in Boy Scouts, it has made me a stronger person.

Similarly, Byun explained, It has been a long time since joining the scouting program. Through that time I've tried my best to keep with the scouting law and oath.

Although at times I've failed I think through constant perseverance I've developed to be a good person and the person I am today, he added.

At the award ceremony, each boy had his family in attendance, as well as a few special guests from the community. The mayor of Milford, Benjamin Blake, was present and congratulated the group.

I read through each of the eagle scout projects these six men have accomplished and they were not just things that help support the community, but things that are truly exceptional for the communities, he said.

Now that you are eagle scouts and you have demonstrated that you can accomplish terrific things, it is not simple enough to continue on that path; you have to inspire others to do those extraordinary things

as well, and I know you will.

This same sense of excitement and pride for each of these strong young men existed in each person that spoke throughout the afternoon. The first selectman of Orange, James Eoli, said, You've achieved a goal that many have achieved before you and probably few will achieve after you. I think it's harder to find good young men who pick up on scouting and continue all the way through to the Eagle Award.

Each of the eagle scouts gave speeches as well, in which they reflected on their years as a scout and gave out special mentor pins to the leaders who inspired them the most.

During Byun's speech, he explained, Being a part of cub scouts, and then becoming a boy scout right after, scouting has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Ever since joining boy scouts, I remember the eagle scout as being this very intimidating but a huge honor that a scout could get. It has been my goal to be where I am right now ever since I attended my first court of honor, and after years of requirements and merit badges, I can finally say I made it."

Cap's reflection was similar, as he explained, Scouting is such an adventure. Going through this has changed my life. I'm going to live by it, and I want to thank everyone for supporting us and my fellow scouts. These aren't just my fellow scouts; they're my brothers. They've been with me every step of the way, and they each deserve to be up here.

Cavallaro said, Through scouting, I have developed many of the qualities necessary to become a man in the world.

To this end, he explained in his speech that Through boy scouts I've become so much more independent. I've also become a stronger leader. Leadership is an ability emphasized by scouting, being a model of the scout oath and law to other scouts and people in the community.

Finally, Geremia reflected by saying, Scouting is very fun, it's been a really good ride, from all of the memories I've made to all the stuff I've done. I probably wouldn't be so active if it wasn't for everyone here. I've learned to do things as a person that I never thought I would from tying knots to first aid and diving."

Overall, the ceremony spoke to the amount of time and effort these four boys put into their experience at boy scouts and the tremendous amount they have grown over their many years in this organization.



Benjamin Cap '22, Francis Cavallaro '23, Jason Byun '23, and Zack Geremia '22

State representative Mary Welander also spoke to the group, saying, I know that the proclamations I have here are specifically mentioning the eagle scout project, but I know that the work you have done started a long time ago.

Though the service projects that the boys completed were truly special and showed their care for the community, it is certainly true that the work the boys have put in to achieve this award extends for many years and is something to be truly proud of.

## Senior Send-Off Messages

To: Audrey Marin  
Thanks for being a great pres! Have a great time at Dartmouth bb  
- Anchal and Elise

To: Melissa Musante  
Hia Melissa!! You've got this!! Table Top was so much fun with you and I'll forever remember all of the things we talked about lol. I hope we bump into each other sometime in the future!! Have a great day!!  
- Ella Urban

Live well, enjoy life, and don't let your studies interfere with your education. I'm proud to retire with the Class of 2022.  
- Mr. Clifford

## Thank You and Best of Luck to Our Retiring Teachers!

Jim Clifford

Betsi Grace

Pete Silva

Mary Carlson

**HAVE AN AMAZING SUMMER, AMITY!**