

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Woodbridge, CT 06525

May 24, 2024

## Environmental Green Career Day Prompts Student Exploration

by Armaan Shrivastav '27

On Wednesday, May 1st, outside the cafeteria during lunch and SSP, Amity hosted an Environmental Green Career Day. Tables

were set up where visitors from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and other state organizations could talk with students about their jobs and future careers.



Photo contributed by Alex Klee '25

Students learn about careers at recent fair.

At their tables, DEEP showcased opportunities in geology, forestry, ecology, paleontology, and entomology jobs. Each table had different activities for students to interact with different fields of study.

One table had Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches with bones outside their bodies. Students were allowed to pet or let them crawl on them. The geology table had a three-dimensional topographic map and a rock with the mineral prehnite, which is grown by volcanic activity. The forestry table showed how they determined the cleanliness of water by collecting and putting water samples through a machine. There was also a model of an aquifer, which is an underground layer of water-bearing material, consisting of porous or fractured rock, or of unconsolidated materials. It showed how water moved inside the earth.

Students from all grades visited the tables and interacted with the experts who had come to talk to them about their careers.

Victoria Pelton '27 said, "Environmental Green Career Day very helpful for people to learn from it, especially with one-on-one contact with experts." She found the information on the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches very interesting as she learned that when something scares the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, they get shocked, so their muscles contract, and they make a hissing sound.

Sarina Tian '27 said she hopes they come back next year as she found talking with experts very interesting.

Overall, the Environmental Green Career Day was a success, driving some students to learn interesting facts, talk with experts, and explore different career opportunities. It is a wonderful initiative that enhances Amity students' educational journey by offering practical experiences beyond the traditional classroom setting.

## Distracted Driving Presentation Promotes Safety Among Students

by Sabrina Osowiecki '25

Particularly during the season of proms, graduation, and the fast-approaching end of the school year, the issues of impaired or distracted driving are highly pertinent to the Amity community. On April 24, juniors and seniors attended a gathering held for the purpose of spreading this message.

While usually arranged in the form of a mock car crash to simulate the true realities of driving under the influence, this year's event was held as a presentation in the Brady Center as a result of the weather. Directed by student assistance counselor Gary Lindgren, the presentation featured multiple speakers who weighed in on their experiences and thoughts.

One group participating in the event was the Amity SADD club (Students Against Destructive Decision-Making), which is advised by Lindgren and math teacher Greg Twohill. The president, Avery Dillion '24, is highly dedicated to raising awareness surrounding the devastating consequences of impaired driving.

During her speech, she told the story of her cousin, a freshman in college who came home for Christmas but ended up

driving into a tree on his way home after drinking at a friend's house. In addition to discussing the personal loss of her family member, Dillon commented on the lasting damage such a loss leaves on those left behind in its wake.

"You never really think it's going to be you [who is affected] until it is," she said.

Another guest speaker at the event was Anthony Cuzzo, an Amity alumni from the class of 1985. Sharing his own experiences both prior to and during his work as a police officer, he described the story of losing his close friend Steve, who went to a bar with Cuzzo's brother.

The following morning, Cuzzo received a phone call notifying him that Steve had been involved in a car accident after leaving the bar and tragically did not survive.

"When I graduated from the [police] academy, Steve's death had a profound impact on me. I decided to make it my mission to stop families from going through what Steve's family went through," he explained.

According to Cuzzo, Steve's parents were never the same. In his concluding remarks, he advised, "Every day, you get up and make a million decisions. When it comes to risky behavior, just be safe."

## Celebrating Our Teachers who Always "Go for Gold!"

by Emma Imanov '27

Earlier this month, Amity High School came alive with vibrant colors, heartfelt messages, and a spirit of gratitude as we celebrated Teachers Appreciation Week. The theme for this year was "Amity Teachers Go for Gold," and the school community truly went above and beyond to show Amity's amazing teachers and staff how much students appreciate their hard work and dedication.

One of the main features of the celebration was the painted rocks in front of the school. The Principal's Committee students collaborated to transform these rocks into beautiful tributes to the teachers. The rocks were covered with colorful paint and inspiring messages, reminding

us of our teachers' daily impact on us. Passing them on the way to school was a daily dose of appreciation.

In addition to the painted rocks, students wrote personal notes to their teachers, filled with words of gratitude and anecdotes of how they have made a difference. Many teachers were touched by the thoughtfulness of these messages.

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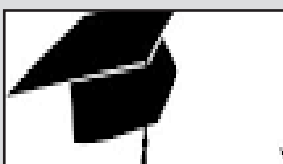
Photo contributed by Trident staff

Teacher Appreciation banner still hangs in the hallway.

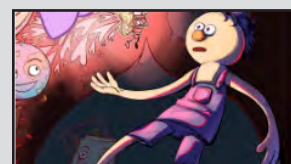
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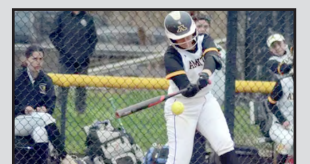
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## Red Cross Blood Drive a Success



Photo Contributed by Gary Lindgren

The National Honor Society partnered with the Red Cross to hold their annual Blood Drive. Students, faculty and staff all had the opportunity to help others with their donations. They surpassed their goal and donated 52 units of blood.

## Students and Teachers Enjoy Cheshire High School Leadership Conference

by Aryan Shrivastav '27

A group of enthusiastic student leaders and faculty from Amity Regional High School attended the Cheshire High School Leadership Conference on April 30. This annual event, which aims to increase leadership skills and build connections between student leaders across the state, proved to be a valuable experience for the students.

Eric Rothbart, a Health and Physical Education teacher who attended the conference, said, "The trip happens every year after I was invited to attend as a community leader several years ago, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to get our Amity students to learn from other student leaders around the state."

The conference started with a breakfast expo, setting a highly energetic and vibrant tone for the day. The expo allowed student leaders from various schools to meet each other and connect, encouraging an environment of togetherness.

The day was filled with hands-on collaborative activities and interesting speakers who spoke about their experiences and talked about the main theme of the conference: being selfless. Rothbart explained, "The topic of serving others and stepping up to make the school and community a better place was included in conversation throughout the day."

The Amity delegation actively participated in all of the programming. They showcased their leadership skills

during a morning scavenger hunt that allowed Amity students to interact with students from other schools and contribute to discussions. A highlight of the day was the cooperative activities with the Coordinator for the Greater Waterbury YMCA, who does team building and collaborative challenges for groups all over New England. By participating, students got a chance to work with others and learn from each other's skills in leadership.

This conference was a learning experience not just for the students but also for the teachers. "This year even the teachers had a session on building student ownership of leadership in their schools. This was centered around promoting authentic learning through the types of activities put on by classes like our very own Amity Advocates class, which was modeled after their Peer Health Class as well as the Duke University Service Learning Program," Rothbart noted.

Mia Martire '27 felt this conference set a positive example and allowed her to connect with others in the community. "As one of very few ninth graders at this conference, I was able to use this as an opportunity to gain new perspectives on sports, community, and initiatives within other schools that help make a difference among students," she said.

The delegation looks forward to collaborating with Cheshire High School and participating in similar leadership skills in the future. They say it has been a great experience and a great resource for contributing positively to the school.

## Teacher Appreciation Week

Continued from page 2

Students awarded "gold medals" to their teachers, representing the level of respect and admiration they have for them.

The Principal's Committee also organized a special staff appreciation breakfast on May 7 before school began. This event was a wonderful way to kick off the day and show Amity faculty that their efforts are recognized and valued. The breakfast

featured an array of delicious pastries and gave teachers a chance to relax and enjoy some time together before the school day began.

Teachers Appreciation Week was a tremendous success, thanks to the efforts of students, staff, and the Principal's Committee. It was a week filled with joy, gratitude, and a sense of community. Teachers are the heart of Amity, and this week truly showcased how special they are to their students.

## Principal's Committee Column

by Avery Ketchian '26

While the Principal's Committee may only be a group of 15 people, it offers immense opportunities for students to get involved with the school, giving back to the students and staff with their service-oriented activities, by addressing students' concerns, and by working to improve the school climate.

In addition to supporting students, they give back to staff as well. Recently, this committee focused on new activities for Teacher Appreciation Week. They wrote handwritten notes of appreciation, handed out medals to every staff member, hung a banner in the hallways, served a breakfast of bagels, fruit, and baked goods, and painted the rock at the front entrance.

English teacher Nicole Yancey said, "It was nice to get personalized notes because it made me feel like what I'm doing

is important, and I felt recognized by my students." Staff felt widely appreciated by this committee.

In terms of further enriching the school community, this group has also been working towards fixing the sewage smell in the classrooms. The Principal's Committee mentioned this problem to the office, and they thought of a plan to fix it. The plan got custodial staff involved, who found a device that automatically fills the water traps in certain rooms with big and unused drainage systems, like the auto shop and the girls locker room. Currently, this device has been ordered, and it will be installed soon.

This committee brings positivity to the school and is a great asset to the student body. If this sounds like something you would enjoy next year or if you have any concerns for Amity administration, get in touch with Alexander Klee '25 and Aarushi Trivedi '24, the co-chairs of the committee.

## JSA, Haven's Harvest, and Green Team Showcased at Earth Day Event

by Charlotte Stannard '26

The Woodbridge Earth Day celebration took place on the Town Center Green on April 27th. This was a community-wide event hosted by the Woodbridge Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee and the Woodbridge Town Library, featuring tables from local and state businesses involved in sustainability, social action, outdoor activities, and public health groups. At this event, Amity students volunteered through Green Team, Haven's Harvest, and Amity Junior State of America (JSA).

The Green Team focuses on spreading environmental awareness and battling pollution and climate change in the local community. Their table included provided a space for children to make a cardboard city of recycled boxes.

Molly Womer '25 said, "The recycled cardboard city was an efficient way to foster conversations about sustainable urban planning. It was great to connect with people at an event dedicated to environmental awareness and sustainability!"

Haven's Harvest has been able to save 8,000 pounds of food from the school cafeteria and attended to inform community members on how the club is combating food waste in the BOW district. Co-president Youlmin Lee '25, said, "We work with a New Haven nonprofit; they come and pick

up the food, which then goes to shelters and communities in the greater New Haven area."

JSA, a non-partisan, civic engagement club focused on public speaking and government that is part of a much larger national organization, also hosted a table with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District. They educated the community on local substance use trends and how to recognize and reverse an opioid overdose.

Alex Klee '25 said, "JSA was able to teach over 50 people the signs of an opioid overdose, how to help a victim of an overdose, and how to use Naloxone to reverse an overdose." They also distributed 24 doses of Naloxone in addition to providing resources for purchasing Naloxone locally.

Overall, the Woodbridge Earth Day celebration was a major success, with countless local organizations coming together to help educate and improve the greater Amity community. It was also incredible that Amity's very own clubs were able to take part in this festival, allowing them to positively represent the school and spread their influence.



Photo contributed by Alison Nork

Students interact at Woodbridge Earth Day.



*Editorial*

# A Powerful but Lost Tool to Educate on Distracted Driving

by Alex Klee '25

Amity juniors and seniors feel disappointed. The classes of 2025 and 2024 will never get to experience the mock car crash, a staple of the Amity high school experience.

Typically, a mock car crash occurs every two years on the Amity football field for juniors and seniors. Organized by a group of student volunteers in a club called Students Against Destructive Decision-making, or SADD for short, it is an incredibly well-executed production. The whole effort incorporates countless volunteers in the greater Amity community, including our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel.

The mock car crash is a tremendously powerful tool to educate on drunk and distracted driving. Students often feel much more impacted by this lesson than when these messages are conveyed through videos and discussions in a typical classroom or assembly.

While it is still important to experience this instruction in the classroom, the hands-on and personal experience of the mock car crash is unparalleled.

This year, the mock car crash was unfortunately rained out. The experience was replaced by a class meeting in Brady Center where students watched videos and heard from speakers about the dangers of drunk and distracted driving. It's not that these impactful speakers were not enough, but rather that the actual mock car crash sends home a much different understanding of impaired driving.

Under the existing structure, no current junior or senior will have the opportunity to

experience the interactive mock car crash demonstration, which is unbelievably unfortunate. This begs the question, should we restructure the lesson so that every Amity graduate can receive this life-saving instruction, and how?

I believe that there are two flaws with the current format of the presentation: the audience and frequency of the lesson. To fix this, I think that the crash should be presented specifically to the junior class and occur every year.

By only presenting the crash every two years, the school misses out on giving this instruction to our community's newest drivers (the junior class), potentially making our roads and community members less safe. Additionally, if the mock car crash occurs every year, this can help mitigate the possibility of students missing out on the lesson before graduation, including the current junior class who can still see it as seniors.

While this change may put more strain on the SADD club and the community volunteers, this negative is outweighed by the sizable positive impact on the student body. Of course, organizing the mock car crash is a big task, and having this event every year should not solely fall on the backs of these kids. With the supervision and help from our guidance department and community partners, like the Bethany Orange Woodbridge Drug & Alcohol Action Committee (BOWDAAC), this can become a yearly staple in our school, and better serve our students.

High school is designed so students can be prepared to lead safe and productive lives as adults, and the mock car crash is one lesson that Amity students will remember forever. Let's make sure no Amity student misses out on this powerful lesson.

# Looking Back at the Past Four Years: Reflections of a Senior

by Jack Morrison '24

In the last few years, I've lost all sense of time. Freshman year feels simultaneously like it was eons ago, and also like it was last month.

This year, I kind of put my head down and tried not to think too hard about all the last this and last that until all the decisions and tasks were finished. Now I'm emerging from a bunker into this alien world that's nothing like what I remember it being from a couple years ago.

It's so hard to believe that I'm basically done with high school, and that in a few short weeks, I won't be walking down the halls anymore.

Something I learned along the way was that first impressions count. Everyone will make countless, potentially life-altering decisions based on the first impression they get of a club, a class, or a person.

Unfortunately, my first impression of Amity sucked. I missed the bus on the first day of school. The computers were unreliable, and the wifi more so. Oh yeah, and the school was in the middle of a pandemic, with ridiculous one-way hallways. Half of the school was gone, and the other half masked up, most of their faces completely obscured.

Well, granted there were a brave few who kept their masks below their nose, fighting to maintain their identity . . . or something like that. But for the most part, the virus had taken the humanity out of high school.

So . . . not a great start. Still, I was re-

quired by law to come here, so it's a good thing my impressions over the years saw a marked improvement. I met some great people who helped me find my passions and let me grow. I joined and stuck with clubs like jazz band and rhythmix, then even made my own. One might argue that I even grew too much -- I definitely had more than my fair share of the spotlight during MusicFest.

To all the people out there who have yet to reach the ripe old status of amity graduate, don't worry about colleges too much. Yes, the decision will affect you for the rest of your life, but so will the person you sat next to at lunch that one day, and so will that club that you signed up for on a whim.

You will not choose the wrong one, because they will all help you reach the next step in your education... albeit at an exorbitant price. I urge you all to not make the mistake of choosing an activity because of how it will look on a college application.

An honors society or leadership position is not going to be the deciding factor that gets you into your dream college. What is way more important is doing things that you enjoy.

You will only have more responsibilities as life goes on, so don't burden yourself with a bunch of activities you hate just because you think it'll make a difference to some admissions officer.

Enjoy your last few years of childhood, have fun doing the things you like to do, be that a sport or game or instrument. Because before you know it, your time within these walls is going to run out.

# The Amity Trident

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## That's All, Folks

*Thanks for reading, and we will see in the fall!*



# Voices in Conflict: Upholding Free Speech Amidst the Current Campus Protests

by Ellen Ko '24

As a senior about to graduate high school, my excitement for the future is now tinged with apprehension. The recent clashes between pro-Palestinian protesters and university administrations across dozens of campuses have left me questioning the very nature of the college experience I've been eagerly anticipating. These events, involving the arrests and detentions of over 2,900 students, have sparked a profound concern in me about the state of free speech and the values that higher education institutions claim to uphold.

Colleges and universities are supposed to be sanctuaries of free thought, places where the exchange of diverse ideas is not just encouraged but celebrated. These institutions promise a haven for intellectual exploration, where students like me can challenge the status quo and grow through rigorous debate.

Yet, the chilling reality of mass arrests at places like Columbia University, where 217 students were detained, casts a long shadow over these ideals. This crackdown, prompted by university administrators' commitments to Congress to curb protests, has ignited a firestorm of student activism—and with it, a wave of repression.

As I stand on the threshold of my college journey, the importance of protecting free speech on campus feels intensely personal. Universities should be arenas of free expression, where students can voice their beliefs without the looming threat of punishment. The right to protest, to voice dissent, is a cornerstone of a healthy democracy and

essential for our growth as informed, engaged citizens.

However, it is also crucial to acknowledge that some protests have unfortunately veered into anti-semitism, which is not only deeply hurtful but also counterproductive to the cause of advocating for justice and human rights. True activism should aim to unite and educate, not alienate or spread hatred.

*It's crucial for these institutions to align their policies with their professed values, ensuring that the rights to free speech and peaceful assembly are protected.*

Yet, the suppression of student activism not only silences individual voices but also betrays the educational mission of these institutions. When students are scared to speak out, the vibrant exchange of ideas that defines a thriving academic community is stifled. This atmosphere of fear and repression is antithetical to the very essence of higher education, which should be about fostering open-mindedness and critical thinking.

What's even more disheartening is the stark

contrast between the lofty values universities claim to uphold—diversity, inclusion, social justice—and their actions in these moments of crisis. Many colleges proudly declare their commitment to these principles, yet their aggressive responses to student protests suggest a troubling prioritization of order and control over genuine engagement with these ideals.

It's crucial for these institutions to align their policies with their professed values, ensuring that the rights to free speech and peaceful assembly are protected.

As I prepare to step into the world of higher education, I yearn to be part of a community that not only tolerates but actively encourages diverse viewpoints and robust debate. The ability to engage in meaningful discussions, even on contentious issues, is vital for my growth and development.

Seeing the current climate of repression on campuses across the nation fills me with a mix of anger, sadness, and determination. It strengthens my resolve to advocate for the protection of free speech and the upholding of democratic values in higher education.

In conclusion, the recent clashes between student protesters and university administrations highlight an urgent need to reaffirm and protect the principles of free speech on college campuses. As I transition from high school to college, I am more committed than ever to supporting these values and ensuring that academic institutions remain true to their mission of fostering open dialogue and intellectual freedom.

My future, and the future of countless students like me, depends on it.



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# Peep Mania Hits Woodbridge

by Grace Millard '27

Peeps. The brightly-colored marshmallow treats that are the staple of the spring holidays have come and gone from store shelves across the country. Their sugary-sticky coating makes them fun to eat, but does it make them a good art medium?

According to the Woodbridge Library, yes! That's right, they just wrapped up its annual Peeps Diorama Competition. They received dozens of dioramas from around the community with every color, shape, size, and theme one can think of.

There were many peep dioramas, but three of the most common themes were TV/Movies, Celebrities, and History. There was a Peperella exhibit which captured a scene from the iconic live-action adaptation of the fairy tale Cinderella. It was complete with a swing, brick wall, rose bushes, and Cinderella's iconic blue ball gown. There was also an exhibit called Taylor Peep which stood as an homage to the iconic

Taylor Swift, specifically when she performed in the Eras Tour Movie. Taylor Peep had a ruffled miniature dress, a golden microphone, and stands of adoring fans watching her perform atop a coffee filter stage.

Another eye-catching diorama was the Mount Olympeeps diorama. Based on the Greek myth of Mount Olympus, Mount Olympeeps had detailed peeps representing the many different Gods who appeared in the stories. Every peep was adorned with a toilet-paper toga, and was holding a paper symbol of their identity. They were surrounded by cardboard waves, paper pillars, cotton clouds and wires which suspended them in the air.

Among the exhibits were three winners. The first, named Peepatar, was a model of the popular Nickelodeon show, Avatar the Last Airbender. It

pictured "Team Avatar," the main five characters, in a superhero pose.

Next was "In My Peep Era," which held 10 eggs inside, each decorated to represent each of Taylor Swift's ten albums (her eras), as well as a yellow and pink version of Taylor herself. Pictures of her and her albums adorned the outside of the box as well. Finally, the last winner was named Peep Ross. This was an extremely detailed 'peep-ified' version of the famous TV painter Bob Ross.

Inside was a Peep with a beard, plaid shirt, brushes, palette, and a perfect painting, capturing the beloved artist beautifully. But even more, the scene was enclosed in a peep-themed TV-set, making it stand out in the crowd of shoe-boxes and Amazon packages.

Each creation was labeled with a number, which is how the winners were announced. This meant that the names of the artists were not present, and therefore artist-name credits cannot be listed in this article.

Last year, Aachal Gupta '25 and a friend created a diorama of a doll house and submitted it for a prize.

Gupta remembers, "It was an overall really fun experience that was very worth it in the end. I think this whole competition is a really nice way to ring in the spring and get people in the community involved. I also love that the Woodbridge Library displays them for the public to see."

Woodbridge Library Reference Librarian Donna Faryna said, "This is the first year that I have run the Peeps event. It was really nice to see different members of the community who may have participated in the past or for their first time. It was also great that the voting was over Earth Day because we got lots of people in the library."

This competition is a classic community event that brings people together to enjoy the spring season, art, and some sweet treats!



Photo contributed by Jacqueline Miller '27  
**Peperella in the Woodbridge Library**

# Future Scientists Shine at SRP Fair

by Nicholas Lu '26

Amity prides itself on being one of a select few to have a full-fledged science research program. In this program, students are able to conduct their own science research projects similar to how professional researchers conduct their own research.

Students are then able to present their projects in science fairs for chances to win prizes and potentially advance to some of the national and international competitions. Students are also able to gain valuable experience presenting to and receiving feedback from academic professionals.

This year's Science Research program has proven to be no less successful than previous years'. All of Amity's SRP students participated in at least one science fair, and many of them were able to win prizes or place in their respective categories this year.

At CT-STEM, one of the primary high school science fairs in Connecticut, Scarlett Zhai '25 was able to tie for first place in the Health & Medical category with her research proposal. Amity students were even more successful for completed projects.

In the behavioral science category, Mila Mejnartowicz '26 was able to achieve first place while Tony Zhang '26 tied for second place. In the medical science category, Amity swept with Charlotte Stannard '26, Soumya Wijsekera '25, and Rebecca Chen '26 achieving first, second, and third place respectively.

In the physical science category, Iris Yan '24 got second place while Jacob Storeygard '26 tied for fourth place.

To round out the individual projects, Molly Womer '25 tied for third in the environmental science category. Last but certainly not least, Alesandro Gopal '24 and Adam Liu '24 won first place in the teams category.

With so many successful projects at this year's fair, many SRP students are feeling very proud of their successes.

Tony Zhang '26, one of the aforementioned students to place at CT-STEM, said "It feels good to win a prize. I worked hard on my project and stayed on task throughout the year."

After learning of Zhang's success, another Amity SRP student Ashwin Menon '26 proclaimed that "Tony is Himmy."

Whether one agrees with the latter's statement or not, it is clear that Amity's SRP students have worked hard on their projects, and they deservedly earned the successes that they had achieved.

Although some students have been able to qualify for other science fairs such as CSEF based on their success in CT-STEM, Amity students have not been able to achieve as much in these other fairs.

Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that this year's crop of Science Research students have plenty to be proud of this year. For the students that will be a part of the program next year, there is lots more room for further success down the road.

*Congrats to all SRP students!*

# Math Team Achieves Remarkable Success in Competitions

by Ziyang Zhang '27

The Amity Math Team has had an exceptional year, not just for their talent and dedication but also for their unique approach to various mathematics competitions. Their achievements reflect their commitment to excellence and their passion for mathematics. The team's strategic participation in prestigious yearly competitions, including the Greater New Haven Math League (GNHML) and the Connecticut State Association of Mathematics Leagues (CSAML), led to remarkable victories.

The GNHML hosts many math competitions throughout the school year to provide a platform for students seeking additional opportunities to challenge themselves mathematically through interscholastic competitions. Participation in GNHML allows students to develop their problem-solving skills further and prepare and qualify for other competitions. Our participants often showcase their talent as members of CSAML (Connecticut State Association of Mathematics Leagues), NEAML (New England Association of Mathematics Leagues), ARML (American Regions Mathematics League), and other national tour-

naments. GNHML aims to deepen students' understanding of mathematics through a unique camaraderie that they will appreciate well beyond their high school years.

The CSAML organization hosts mathematics competitions and provides a platform for students to challenge themselves mathematically through interscholastic competitions. The CSAML aims to deepen students' understanding of mathematics and foster camaraderie among participants. It provides opportunities for students to develop their problem-solving skills and engage in competitive mathematics at the state level.

Joycelyn Romero, the math team advisor and captain, is a source of inspiration for the team. Her experience as a former member of her own high school's math team and her passion for problem-solving and working with students has guided the team to success. Through the math team, she provides challenging experiences, introduces topics beyond the traditional mathematics curriculum, and fosters a competitive space for students with a genuine interest in the content area. Throughout the year, the math team and Joycelyn Romero have been meeting constantly on the second and third Thursday of every month, practicing and working together to fulfill their goal of

competing hard and scoring well in upcoming competitions such as the GNHML and the CSAML.

Despite facing challenges such as budget constraints that reduced in-person competitions and unfamiliarity with some topics more than others (e.g., conics), the Amity Math Team's spirit remained unbroken. They adapted to the circumstances and excelled, demonstrating resilience and determination.

The dedication and hard work of the team members shined through their outstanding individual performances. Iris Yan '24 secured top scorer, and top senior awards, while Hallie Lai '25 achieved the top junior title for both GNHML and CSAML. Fred Xiao '26 emerged as Amity's top-scoring underclassman, highlighting the team's impressive depth of talent and expertise.

The dedication of the math team also allowed the team to claim the "first-place title at the GNHML and the CSAML. They secured the first-place position in the large school division at the State meet. Additionally, three outstanding team members were selected to represent the state of Connecticut at the American Regional Mathematics League (ARML)," commented Joycelyn Romero, a testament to their



exceptional skills and dedication to the field of mathematics.

Looking ahead, the Amity Math Team is not resting on their laurels. They are determined to maintain their success by increasing the number of practices and alternate competitions they participate in.

A fellow math team member, Joy Deng '26, comments, "Math team is super fun! I liked doing competition math with my teammates. I also got to know some people better, like our super-smart captain Iris. The math team is awesome, and Amity Math is first in state!"

This unwavering commitment

to excellence and their ambitious goals for the future set the stage for continued success and growth.

Edward Han '24, a math team captain, advises, "anyone interested in math to join the math team. You don't need to be good at math to join. No one will judge your math level, and I was always happy when someone new came because I like it when people enjoy math."

The team's accomplishments demonstrate their exceptional mathematical abilities and inspire mathematicians. They reflect the camaraderie, dedication, and passion many have for mathematics.



# That's All, Folks... So

**Daniel Aferzon** Unreported  
**Aiden Ahmed** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Tyson Aksoy** Lincoln Tech-Electrical  
**Giovanni Aldi** University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**Evelyn Alfaro** George Washington University  
**Yamineileen Alica** Gateway Community College  
**Timothy Antalik** University of New Hampshire  
**Alivia Appleby** Endicott College  
**Leela Arvapalli** University of Texas at Dallas  
**Benjamin Aviad** Emory University  
**Samuel Bae** Brandeis University  
**Emily Baitch** University of Rhode Island  
**Vishwa Balamurugan** University of Connecticut  
**Adwaya Bali** University of Connecticut  
**Lea Barber** Western New England University  
**Jillian Barnes** Virginia Tech  
**Julianna Barrett** New England College  
**Claire Bath** Central Maine Community College  
**Filiz Sila Bayram** Albertus Magnus College  
**Dylan Berke** University of Tampa  
**Aditi Bhattamishra** Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
**Mia Bierowski** University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**Lydia Bissenden** Palm Beach Atlantic University  
**Kevin Black** Central Connecticut State University  
**Micah Blair** SUNY at Buffalo  
**Matthew Boccanfuso** Undeclared  
**Elizabeth Bodie** Ithaca College  
**Alexa Bonato** Springfield College  
**Daniella Bondar** Gap year  
**Lillian Bordeleau** Unreported  
**Avery Borelli-Debrito** Unreported  
**Madeline Bosma** Framingham State University  
**Michael Bowman** Unreported  
**Catherine Brinton** Fordham University  
**Courtney Britto** Gateway Community College  
**Aurelien Buisine** Quinnipiac University  
**Cynthia Burns** Central Connecticut State Univer-

sity  
**Lucas Bussert** Saint Joseph's University  
**Mason Butt** Virginia Tech  
**Cecilia Cadelina** Fairfield University  
**Vivian Cain** Sacred Heart University  
**Erin Callahan** University of New Haven  
**Luke Canalori** Providence College  
**Salvatore Cantalupo** University of Rhode Island  
**Timothy Cap** University of Connecticut  
**Caitlyn Carrier** Fairleigh Dickinson University  
**Amelia Casman** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Samuel Cassidy** Coast Guard  
**Alicia Castellanos** Sacred Heart University  
**Melanie Castillo Pacheco** University of Tampa  
**Grace Cavallaro** Western New England University  
**Benjamin Cewe** Rutgers University  
**Luke Chang** University of Southern California  
**Haseeb Chaudhry** University of Connecticut  
**Emily Chen** University of Connecticut  
**Evelyn Chen** Northeastern University  
**Hunter Chiong** Suffolk University  
**Olivia Chomiak** Providence College  
**Mattox Codeanne** Unreported  
**Giovanni Colapietro** University of New Haven  
**Sophia Colapietro** Quinnipiac University  
**Ethan Connors** Lehigh University  
**Megan Connolly** Undeclared  
**Gia Coppola** University of Tennessee  
**Michael Cortes Cardoso** Quinnipiac University  
**Max Corvino** Quinnipiac University  
**Isabella Costanzo** Unreported  
**Michael Crisci** Syracuse University  
**Kendall Crosdale** Unreported  
**Damen Cuamatzi** Unreported  
**Hollis Cunneen** Stonehill College  
**Danielle D'Avignon** Providence College  
**Giovanni D'onofrio** Unreported  
**Alicja Dabrowski** High

Point University  
**Shaina Das** University of Connecticut  
**Samantha DaSilva** Johnson and Wales University  
**Neil Davidek** Unreported  
**Owen Davidek** Culinary Institute of America  
**Ethan DeCure** Syracuse University  
**Benjamin Del Franco** Plymouth State University  
**William Delvecchio** Marine Corps  
**Cameron Delvecchio** Providence College  
**Nicholas Demarco** Central Connecticut State University  
**Thomas Denton** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Kayla Derisse** Central Connecticut State University  
**Tyler Derosa** New England Institute of Technology  
**Avery Dillon** Clark University  
**Matteo Dinicola** Unreported  
**Luciana Dottori** University of South Carolina  
**Jacob Dow** Unreported  
**Nathaniel Dragunoff** University of Rhode Island  
**Dylan Dressler** Unreported  
**Tyler Dressler** University of Rhode Island  
**Timothy Duro** Unreported  
**Julian Duz** Quinnipiac University  
**Jacob Ebert** Rider University  
**David Edwards** University of Maine  
**Kilian Einarsson** Unreported  
**Hayden Einbinder** Unreported  
**Kaitlyn Ewing** Unreported  
**Eliza Factor** Sacred Heart University  
**Sophia Faryna** Sacred Heart University  
**Zachary Fielosh** Undeclared  
**Casey Fish** Unreported  
**Abigail Fitol** Keene State University  
**Kayleigh Fitzpatrick** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Brooke Flaherty** University of Connecticut  
**Camryn Flaherty** University of New Haven  
**Liliana Fleming** Northern Michigan University  
**Sarah Fortin** University of Rochester  
**Raegan French** University of New Hampshire  
**Savannah Gallagher** Uni-

versity of New Haven  
**Atharv Gangwani** Undeclared  
**Kenneth GaNun** Lincoln Tech  
**Marx Gelin** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Samuel Gettinger** Stonehill College  
**Jayson Gherlone** University of New Hampshire  
**Adriana Giachino** University of New Hampshire  
**Serena Giampa** Gateway Community College  
**Sarah Ginsberg** Quinnipiac University  
**Benjamin Glassman** Wit-

**Jackson Hobbs** Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
**Benjamin Hoffnung** Unreported  
**Gregory Hofstatter** Undeclared  
**Charles Hogan** Unreported  
**Ava Holden** University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Alejandro Huber** University of Colorado-Boulder  
**Aya Hurlburt** Quinnipiac University  
**Miranda Hurwitz** Middlebury College  
**Subhawn Hussain** Unreported  
**Kyle Iacomacci** University



tenburg University  
**Samuel Goldsmith** Unreported  
**Mohamed Gooda** Unreported  
**Alesandro Gopal** Brown University  
**Abigail Gordon** Skidmore College  
**Greyson Graham** Unreported  
**Benjamin Green** Bentley University  
**Mia Green** Connecticut College  
**Emily Gu** Boston University  
**Jennifer Gu** University of Connecticut  
**Emin Gulseren** Unreported  
**Joshua Hackett** Dean College  
**Anna Haep** Gap year  
**Maya Haiday** University of Delaware  
**Edward Han** Unreported  
**Dante Hardt** Roger Williams University  
**Ethan Hass** Syracuse University  
**Connor Hayes** University of Connecticut  
**Angela He** Barnard College  
**Tiernan Hennessy** Unreported

of Connecticut  
**Angel Irigoyen** Undecided  
**Suhail Irshad** University of Connecticut  
**Rocco Izzo** Gateway Community College  
**Cayla Jackel** College of Charleston  
**Jeslyn Jacob** University of Florida  
**Taehyun Jeong** University of Connecticut  
**Jenna Kaiser** Coastal Carolina University  
**Alexander Kallmeyer** Unreported  
**Eyad Kamel** University of Connecticut  
**Joshua Kang** University of Connecticut  
**Kristian Kasarda** Unreported  
**Benjamin Katz** Quinnipiac University  
**Miles Katz** New York University  
**David Ke** Cornell University  
**Ryan Kelly** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Grace Kennedy** Gap year  
**Ali Khan** Central Connecticut State University  
**Ashley Kiarie** Unreported  
**Ellen Ko** Williams College  
**Pavan Kiran Tejas Kodavaluru** Southern Con-

# Senior Intentions 2024!

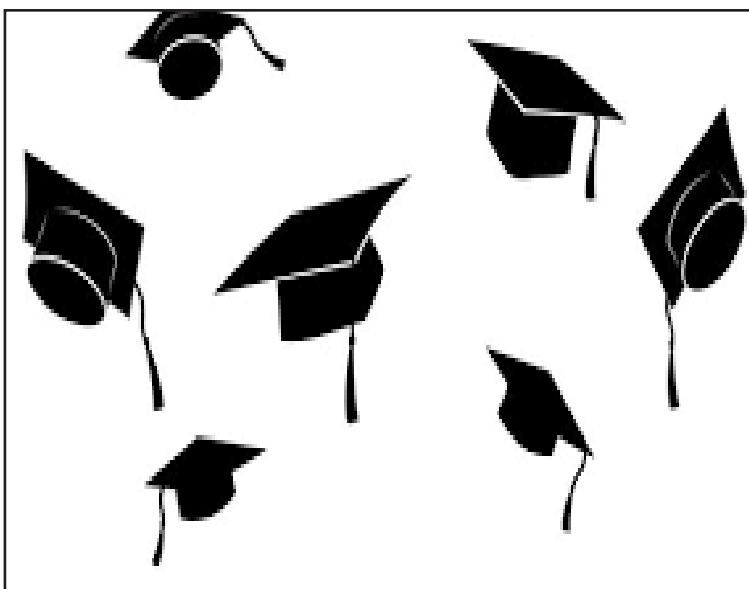
necticut State University  
**Sumukhi Charvi Koniki** University of South Florida  
**Amanda Koola** Spelman College  
**Joseph Kopel** Northeastern University  
**River Kranz** Unreported  
**Selma Krehic** Suffolk University  
**Deen Krehic** Unreported  
**Avani Kulkarni** Tufts University  
**Elvin Kuru** University of Connecticut  
**Oliver Kusiak** Unreported  
**Daisy Kusnitz** Western Connecticut State University  
**Jonathan Kwon** University of Connecticut  
**Joslynn Laird** Christopher Newport University  
**Nicholas Lappos** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Grace Launder** University of New Haven  
**Noelle Launder** Unreported  
**Eydan Lavi** Dartmouth College  
**Rhiannon Leandres** Johnson and Wales University  
**Donna Lee** Boston College  
**Justin Lee** University of Connecticut  
**Carson Lee** Lynn University  
**Erek Leszczak** University of Delaware  
**Gordon Levasseur** Unreported  
**Jack Lewis** Western New England University  
**Alex Lin** University of Connecticut  
**Luna Lipnickas** Quinnipiac University  
**Randy Liu** Dartmouth College  
**Adam Liu** Princeton University  
**Bridget Lowder** University of Florida  
**Harley Luciani** Quinnipiac University  
**Virginia Luciano** Dickin-

son College  
**Anthony Lucibello** Endicott College  
**Deborah Luo** University of Texas at Dallas  
**Elena Lupoli** University of Colorado-Boulder  
**Aidan Lydon** Plymouth State University  
**Reesa Malish** Mulhenberg College  
**Erica Manandhar** Quinnipiac University  
**Samuel Mank** Unreported  
**Craig Mann** Unreported  
**Daniel Manning** Wesleyan University  
**Gianna Manuele** Auburn University  
**Devin Maroney** University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**Mackenzie Martin** Auburn University  
**James Matta** Unreported  
**Andrew Maung** University of Pittsburgh  
**Daniel Maurer** Unreported  
**Madeline Maus** Post University  
**Kylee McLain** Monmouth University  
**Rose Megyola** University of Connecticut  
**Jaan Melville** University of Florida  
**William Mennillo** American University  
**Frank Millard** Rutgers University  
**Nathaniel Millea** University of Connecticut  
**Allen Miller** Unreported  
**Amaia Miller** Quinnipiac University  
**Ella Moffett** American University  
**Nate Monschein** Quinnipiac University  
**James Morrin** Quinnipiac University  
**Bridget Morrison** University of Delaware  
**Jack Morrison** Brandeis University  
**Lee Morton** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Alan Murray** Florida Southern College

**Yade Mus** University of New Haven  
**Christopher Nam** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Andie Napolitano** University of Connecticut  
**Will Napolitano** Stonehill College  
**Ariz Nawaz** Northeastern University  
**Julia Nguyen** Springfield College  
**Karena Norko-Allain** Springfield College  
**Edward Norton** Gateway Community College  
**Sean O'Brien** University College Dublin  
**Manasse Ogendi** Undecided  
**Rebekah Oh** Syracuse University  
**Shaofei Ong** Unreported  
**Brendan Palazzo** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Justin Palmer** University of Connecticut  
**Lillian Parady** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Matthew Parker** Pace University  
**Mallory Parlato** Quinnipiac University  
**Aarav Patel** University of Pennsylvania  
**Yana Patel** Quinnipiac University  
**Drew Pedigo** Ohio State University  
**Charlotte Pellegrino** Roger Williams University  
**Frank Pena-Abosaid** Quinnipiac University  
**Marco Perfetto** Unreported  
**Mathew Pessoa** Union College  
**Lindsey Pidlipchak** University of Connecticut  
**Braeden Piper** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Azillia Plang** Sacred Heart University  
**Dana Pletter** Lafayette College  
**Victoria Pocwierz** Coastal Carolina University  
**Joseph Pontillo** Unreported  
**Caden Prokop** Unreported  
**Ian Rady** Clemson University  
**Ava Ramadanov** Community college  
**Henry Ranani** Wake Forest University  
**Jonah Randis** University of Connecticut  
**Anton Rathjens** Skidmore College  
**Carter Reynolds** Unreported

**Zainab Rizan** Undecided  
**Gabriella Rosa** Quinnipiac University  
**Ian Rosenay** Quinnipiac University  
**Robert Ruggiano** Mechanic Apprenticeship  
**Maeve Russell** Providence College  
**Sheng Russell-Tang** University of Toronto  
**Emily Russo** Villanova University  
**Joshua Sagliano** Unreported  
**Yasmin Santos** Air Force  
**Kyla Santulli** Fairfield University  
**Amara Santulli** Western New England University  
**Gavin Sassenger** Hofstra University  
**Feras Sawan** Vanderbilt University  
**Chloe Schaffer** Undecided  
**Lucien Scianna** Unreported  
**Caroline Scott** College of Charleston  
**Dmitri Scrimenti** Trade school  
**Samuel Sender** University of Delaware  
**Michael Serafimov** Unreported  
**Anousha Shahid** Cornell University  
**Alaa Shahin** Unreported  
**Ava Shanbrom** Purdue University  
**Mark Sheehe** Purdue University  
**Isabella Sicignano** Quinnipiac University  
**Sofia Silva Rodriguez** Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Maxwell Simons** Quinnipiac University  
**Amani Skrieh** Unreported  
**Ryan Slugoski** Sacred Heart University  
**Kasey Smith** College of Charleston  
**Melissa Sofuoglu** Quinnipiac University  
**Romera Spears** Quinnipiac University  
**Mischa Stacy** Unreported  
**Katherine Stage** University of New Haven  
**Anthony Stankye** Gateway Community College  
**Alexis Steger** University of South Florida-St.Petersburg  
**Wendo Steinhard** City College of San Francisco  
**Molly Stratford** Bryant University  
**Taylor Student** University of Tampa  
**Karolina Suarez** Connecticut College  
**Jiayue Sun** Peabody Conservatory

**Kalel Testa** Undecided  
**Taylor Thomas** Undecided  
**Nicholas Tice** Undecided  
**Caroline Tirollo** University of Rhode Island  
**Simon Tishkoff** University of Cincinnati  
**Zaiya Toussaint** North Carolina Central University  
**Leonardo Tregger** Boston University  
**Lorenzo Tregger** University of Connecticut  
**Aarushi Trivedi** Northeastern University  
**Bowen Tullo** University of Miami  
**Silas Turner** Unreported  
**Jamie Urbano** Naugatuck Valley Community College  
**Forest Van de Flor** Culinary Institute of America  
**Robert Velazquez** Unreported  
**Sofia Vitiello** University of New Haven  
**Derek Vuolo** Bryant University  
**Isabella Walther** Stonehill College  
**Chantal Wassef** University of Connecticut  
**Jay Waters** Unreported  
**Liam Watson** Gateway Community College  
**Justin Whalen** Amity Transition Academy  
**Benjamin Wilson** University of New Hampshire  
**Jack Windsor** University of Connecticut  
**Ava Wooldridge** Clemson University  
**Tristan Wuerth-Stricker** Roger Williams University  
**Alice Xu** Brown University  
**Iris Yan** Princeton University  
**Carlos Yanqui** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Nicholas Young** Plymouth State University  
**Emmanuel YouYou** Naugatuck Valley Community College  
**Jade Yumbla** Pace University  
**Annika Yun** University of California-Berkeley  
**Owen Zaharewicz** University of California-Berkeley  
**Alexander Zaldo** Unreported  
**Grace Zhang** Gordon College  
**Kyle Zhang** University of Rochester  
**Eric Zhang** Sacred Heart University  
**Riley Zielinski** University of New England  
**Alden Zimmerman** Moravian University





# Tri-M: A Concert of Harmonious Possibilities

by Chloe Chang '27

This month, talented music students performed at the Brady Center for the annual Tri-M Concert. This event was organized and MC'd by Tri-M's executive board: Ben Aviad '24 as president, Yunah Kim '25 as vice president, and music teacher Lisa Serio.

Tri-M is an honor society that is available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have gone above and beyond in music in school. The Tri-M previously stood for Modern Music Masters and was developed to promote leadership and to create buzz around service towards the community and enthusiasm toward scholarships. Tri-M has hosted several other events that have also produced outstanding results, such as Music Fridays, where a select group of students perform for the entirety of the student body on a Friday afternoon.

The concert highlighted many incredible

acts, such as piano pieces, singing, and group performances featuring different instruments and hobbies. Highlights of the show included soloists such as Luke Chang '24, Yunah Kim '25, Brayden Zhang '26, and group performances such as Heather and Monsters Inc.

Unfortunately, this performance may be one of the last for many of the members, and this was also an opportunity for them to say goodbye to the Amity Performing Arts. Many of them will continue their musical career elsewhere, but the impact that they have made on this school will not be forgotten. Spectators felt that they could connect deeply with the emotion expressed during the performance, and felt inspired to work towards performing in the concert, as well as joining the community in the future.

Freshman Haum Ahn '27 recently attended the concert, and she expressed that the performers looked very jubilant and excited to be there.

"It made me want to join, because of the

possibility that I could also perform with my friends and be able to play pieces in that way," Ahn said. "I felt that the feeling that the concert gave off was distinctly different from the concerts that we are used to, because of the diverse sets of performance groups that were present."

Similarly, Anaya Kaoroptham '27 stated that the concert was an extremely impressive display to her. "From a spectator's point of view, I believe that the time and effort that would have been spent by these talented performers truly showed on that day on the stage, because we were all able to see the results clearly outlined with their performances," she said.

The performances that were given can be taken out of high school, and are very memorable from the perspective of spectators, and those performing. The Tri M Society's members have been able to display their exceptional musical talents with this show, and the concert next year awaits!



Photo contributed by Chloe Chang '27

## Musicfest Ends the School Year on a High Note

by Grace Millard '27

Throughout the school year, ARHS hosts a multitude of performances ranging from band, theater, dance, choir, and more! However, with the end of the school year fast approaching, these performances are coming to an end. But the last performance of the year, Musicfest, did not disappoint. On May 16th, four Amity Ensembles performed; Amity Band, Amity Choir, Jazz Band, and Rhythmix (the acapella group). Every performance was special in its own right, and each performer had something different to take away from this magical night.

First was the Amity Band. The Amity Band performed six songs at the concert. They have been working on these for months. Flute player Alex Chimid '27, said, "Band has been such a fun experience." She continued, "Though freshman year can be

stressful, Band has been the class that I look forward to at the beginning of the day!" Music can be such a powerful influence in the lives of students, and it is interesting to hear from real people how much it impacts them.

Next up, the Amity Choir. They performed five songs altogether, with two exclusively performed by the Honors Choir. A member of both, Milki Ejara '26, had this to say about MusicFest, "Performing is so fun! Mrs. Rizzotti makes classes, rehearsals, and singing with my friends a great way to spend my time." Ejara has been in choir for two years and is extremely passionate about it. She had her own solo this year in "Survivor/I Will Survive".

Then came the Amity Jazz Band. They played two pieces. Fynn Vouras '26 summarized their performance as such: "The songs were really upbeat and fun to play." The performance certainly spoke to that as the pieces were lively in every way. Vouras expanded on this, and spoke on the

program itself: "It was such a welcoming atmosphere and I loved every concert."

Rhythmix, the school acapella group, also captivated the audience. They only sang one piece, however, it was quite a performance. One of the soloists, Daisy Kusnitz '24, had a lot to say about this song. She is a senior, and this concert was the final performance she will have in Rhythmix, and on the ARHS stage. She said, "Getting the opportunity to do Rhythmix at Musicfest was amazing! It's really nice to see all of our hard work pay off, especially being a part of an acapella group."

Finally, readers can hear from an audience member in the crowd that night. Levi Lopez-Perez enthusiastically explained, "I honestly thought it was amazing, [everyone] did such an incredible job and is so incredibly talented."

She continued, "Seeing everyone up there made me want to join the choir next year, it was so inspiring.

There were certain points where I had literal chills from the songs that were sung and played, I even teared up a little during 'Seasons of Love'."

Not only do the shows encourage performers, but they even encourage other students to join the shows!



Photo contributed by Grace Millard '27



Connecticut  
Orthopaedics

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Spine, Back & Neck



## Keep an Eye Out to Discover Art Everywhere

by Grace Millard '27

When the final exam bell rings, students at Amity Regional High School will flood out of the school doors, leaving until they return again next fall. With just a few short weeks left of this school year, the student body is buzzing with excitement.

But though many are looking forward to the three months of downtime ahead, many more have no idea how they will spend that time. Here are five unique summer art events within 30 minutes of New Haven that any student can do for \$20 or less!

On Thursday, June 6th Sidewalk Studio is hosting a FREE Sidewalk art-making Pop-Up in New Haven. Hosted at the Yale University Art Gallery it is on a first-come first-serve basis and will be open from 2:00-4:00 pm. That's two glorious hours in which students can make their very own pieces with no prerequisites, right in our local city of New Haven!

Next up is the film tour of Amm(i)gone, which will appear in the Yale Theater and Performance Studies Blackbox. This show is open 18 days during the month of June, however, it has specialized shows on June 5th, 6th, 8th, 12th. It has two showings that will play at 6:30 for audiences to have the opportunity to observe the Islamic Prayer time.

It also has an open caption showing on the 6th at 7pm, as well as an ASL translated showing on the 8th at 2pm; both of these are for individuals with hearing challenges. This film explores the relationship between Islam, queerness, and the afterlife through the

eyes of Adil Mansoor and his Pakistani mother. It attempts to answer the difficult question, "How can one locate love across faith?"

All students who are a part of ARHS, including seniors, can attend for FREE. However, the content is rated 16+.

Located in Three Saints Park in Bethany on June 8th is the 10th CT Localpalooza Music and Art Festival! It is extremely close to most students at ARHS and is a full day of live music from local artists, as well as multitudes of booths where New Haven area craftsmen will be selling unique pieces!

There is a poetry/acoustic Open Mic hosted on the 1st Thursday of each month. So June 6th, July 4th, and August 1st from 7:00-8:30 pm (sign-ups for performers at 6:30) at the Vicinanza Studios & Gallery, anyone of any age can watch or perform in the Open Mic for FREE!

Fianlly, students can attend "JAM AT THE MUSEUM 2024 - BLUEGRASS JAM!" It is a unique exhibit that will be open at The Shore Line Trolley Museum. his activity is at 6:00 pm! Even better, for students 15 and under a ticket is only \$8.00, and for a highschooler above 15, a ticket is only \$12.

Jam at the Museum is a program that the Shore Line Trolley Museum runs, which combines their usual historical museum program (which is set on a moving trolley) with a live bluegrass band for visitors to learn all about the history of American Bluegrass.

Get a taste of one of your favorite art mediums this summer, or try something new!

## Student Art Showcased at Ansonia Gallery

by Sarah Shaikh '25

The Amity art department is very diverse and offers many different classes to let students get a true feel for various art mediums. Many students had the opportunity to showcase their work at an art gallery recently this semester.

This event took place on May 2nd at the Ansonia Main Street Art Gallery, and it was hosted by art teachers Jessica Zamachaj and Lisa Toto. This has allowed many students to experience having their work displayed in a real art gallery rather than just at school.

This event usually only displays photos taken by the honors photography students, but this year Zamachaj asked her students if they were interested in displaying their own creative work in a gallery. It seems a good number of them were. She believed that this allowed her students to get a feel for an "authentic real gallery experience."

She even featured a few of her own ceramic works that she had "created in the pit and wood firing." These two distinct types of firing allow for her art pieces to be truly unique as the color and pattern are all determined by the firing process.

After displaying her work at the gallery, one of Zamachaj's honor ceramics students, Amelia Casman '24, talked about how she really enjoyed having her work displayed professionally and how it was "really exciting" to see one of her ceramic pieces "in the front window."

She also talked about ceramics as a means for her to "express her emotions, thoughts, and feelings of myself and my surroundings." One of her pieces called 'Waxing Moon in Starry Night' is a narrow curved vase that has splotches of black and white dripping across which is done with a blow torch, Casman explained. She described having to create pieces to put in this gallery really pushed herself to make large items.

Casman appreciated getting this opportunity and said that she would have loved to do it again next year if it were possible.

However, the majority of the gallery featured photographic pieces taken by higher level ceramic students. Toto herself even displayed one of her own works of art called 'Covid Chokin'. It shows pictures of her taken at different angles to depict the loneliness and seclusion she experienced from her friends and families during the Covid Era.

Meanwhile, Toto's students also had plenty of opportunities to showcase their own works. One of the photography students, Lily Green '25, wrote about how she "loved taking photos and documenting her life" when she did a semester abroad during sophomore year. She talked about how including some of the photos she has taken about important moments in her life helped preserve those memories.

In addition, Frank Millard '24, a senior photography student, said, "Photography helps me relax while also seeing beauty in the world." He described his experience as helping to "refine his skills and improve my creative vision."

## Artists of the Month: Scout Ring and Simon Tishkoff

by Karishma Balamurugan '27



Art by Scout Ring '27

In this month's Artist of the Month spotlight, the focus is on two talented artists from the colorful corners of our school: freshman Scout Ring and senior Simon Tishkoff.

Ring initially fell into the world of art as

a way to express herself, letting her thoughts run wild as they filled up page after page, using intricate shapes and vibrant colors to act as the written words of their piece.

Through Ring's years as an artist, she has been able to blend traditional and digital art forms but digital art holds a special place in their art. She loves digital art due to its practicality and room for experimentation and growth with full freedom to bring vivid ideas into a reality.

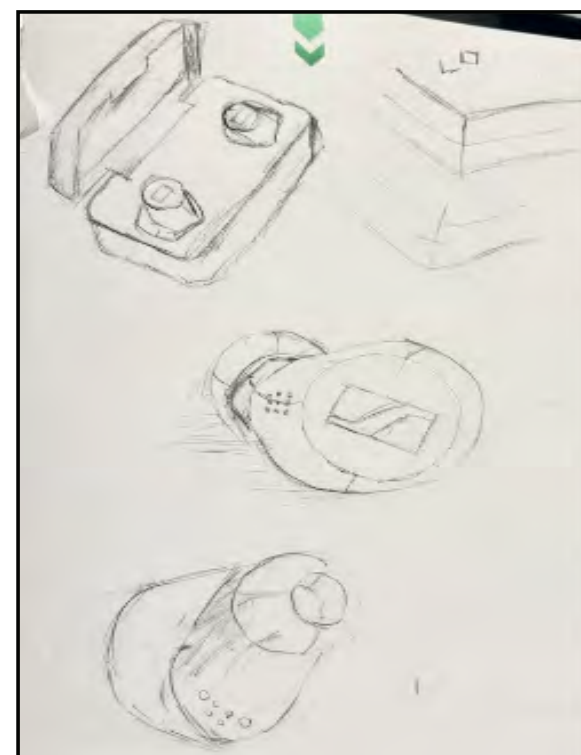
When Ring was asked about their opinion on what art is, they simply answered, "Creating is art. It just depends on which style you prefer. As long as you are creating it is art."

She takes inspiration and values from both seasoned and emerging artists drawing information from their diverse perspectives. Though Ring doesn't limit herself to one style, she does take a special interest in illustrating comics.

Inspired by her uncle's work, Ring sees comics as a powerful storytelling medium. The discovery of her favorite colors, purple and yellow, came from her stepping out of her comfort zone and taking on an art challenge. In the future, Ring hopes to continue creating art as a hobby and a potential career.

Let's shift our spotlight onto Simon Tishkoff '24, who takes an interest in freehand traditional art taking extra care in perspective and detail. As a primarily self-taught artist, starting his journey at 8 years old, he believes there is no one correct way to do art, with it all being about interpreting artistic skills and finding a fusion of methods that teachers have taught and you have discovered along the way.

Tishkoff can't pinpoint his art to a specific



Art by Simon Tishkoff '24

style, with it being a blend of many styles he has taken inspiration from. He states, "I try to focus and narrow down on what I am trying to achieve, whether it be coming up with a concept or just choosing a color," displaying his perseverance.

With the idea in mind and the mindset to create, he can focus and get engaged with his pencil flowing freely across the paper.

*Congratulations to all the Amity seniors!*



# Spring Teams Prep for SCC and State Tournaments

by Claire Theiss '26

As finals approach, so do SCC (Southern Connecticut Conference) tournaments for a variety of sports teams. Teams have spent their entire seasons working up to the SCC tournaments and State tournaments that follow them, so athletes are excited about these events.

The girls' tennis team has won their SCC championships for the past three years, and by working together in the upcoming tournament they are looking to continue this streak. So far, the team has a record of 12-2 and is ranked #1 in the Hammonasset Division. This spring they have played against teams including Guilford, Cheshire, and Daniel Hand. Going into the SCC tournament, Isabella Cohn '26, a member of the team, explained that the team "has a pretty strong record" which they hope to maintain.

When asked about the team's goals, Cohn said, "Our goals are just to prioritize our mindset and not psych ourselves out during our matches because we're playing against top teams." Their SCC championship is on May 21.

The boys' tennis team also has the SCC championship on May 21. The team currently has a record of 15-2, placing them in 1st place in the Oronoque district. This season they have played many teams including Fairfield Prep,

Cheshire, and Notre Dame.

The softball team heads into the SCC softball playoffs as the defending SCC champion. Their quarter finals are on May 20. So far, the team has an overall record of 14-5. The team is the #4 seed going into the quarterfinals.

The girls' track and field team competed

team is now looking forward to the SCC Outdoor Championships on May 21, which will be hosted at Amity. Following this meet, athletes who qualified for the CIAC Class L Girls Championship will compete in that meet. In the SCC Eastern Sectional meet, the 4x100 relay team of Liliana Quill '25, Liisu Melville '27, Riley Zielinski '24, and Grace Launder '24 won first place with a time of 50.99 seconds.

Athletes competing in field events also had a successful meet. At least one Amity athlete scored in the top 3 for long jump, pole vault, high jump, triple jump, and javelin throw. Quill placed first in the pole vault with a height of 11 feet, 2 inches.

With the upcoming meets approaching, Margaret Kershner '27, who has qualified for the State meet in both the 800m and 4x800, said, "I'm looking forward to it." Kershner explained the SCC meets are "such a fun, competitive environment."

The boys' track and field team has also competed in the SCC Eastern Sectional meet. The team placed 3rd against the competitive teams of Daniel Hand and Lyman Hall. The boys' team took home first place in a multitude of events. Micah Blair '24 won first place in the 110m hurdles, long jump, and triple jump. Luke Cushing '26 won first place in the 1600m and 3200m. Lastly, Nate Monschein '24 won first place in the javelin throw. Good luck to all Spartans spring teams!



Photo accessed from @amitygirls.track on Instagram  
The girls' track team after practice

in the SCC Eastern Sectional meet on May 13. The team got 3rd place, competing against strong teams such as Sheehan and Shelton. The girls'

## Class of 2024 Athletes Plan to Continue Their Sport in College

by Liliana Fleming '24

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to an end, so do the athletic careers of most of the Class of 2024. With that, however, many of them will begin the journey of being college athletes in the fall.

These soon-to-be former Spartans are taking different paths, going to different schools, and playing different sports at varying levels.

The girls volleyball team has been a very successful program and three of their seniors will continue to play in college. Lea Barber '24 will be playing at Western New England University. Her two other teammates Karenna Norko-Allain '24 and Lexi Bonato '24 will continue playing together at Springfield College.

Bonato talks about how Amity has helped her, saying, "Amity has helped me prepare by having such an amazing volleyball program. We strive for excellence and teamwork and that will definitely carry over into college."

A member of the girls soccer team, Julianna Barrett '24 will be continuing to play at New England College.

Rocco Izzo '24, who played for the boys soccer team, will play at the University of Bridgeport.

A senior captain of the field hockey team, Riley Zielinski '24 will play for the University of New England.

Although Amity does not have a rugby team, two students will continue their rugby careers in college. David Edwards '24 will play at the University of Maine and Sean O'Brien '24 will play at University College Dublin. Not only will O'Brien be playing rugby, but he will also be playing American football.

O'Brien talked about his choice to continue playing in college and even gave some advice. He said, "Enjoy the current sport that you are in. You don't have to be the best at it as long as you love doing it."

Amara Santulli '24 will attend Western New England University and continue her wrestling career.

The boys baseball team also has been very successful and has seniors continuing to play in college. Samuel Gettinger '24 will be playing at Stonehill College, Jack Lewis '24 will be playing at Western New England University, Anthony Lucibello '24 will be playing at Endicott, and Timothy Cap '24 will be playing at UConn Avery Point.

Kylee McLain '24 will continue playing softball at Monmouth University and Avery Dillon '24 will continue playing at Clark University.

Isabella Scicagnano '24 will continue her tennis career at Quinnipiac University.

Two players on the girls lacrosse team will continue their collegiate careers. Maddie Bosma '24 will play at Framingham State University and Liliana Fleming '24 will be playing at Northern Michigan University.

Josh Hackett '24 from the boys lacrosse program will play at Dean

College.

Boys tennis player Ben Glassman '24 will continue playing at Wittenberg University. Micah Blair '24 will continue his track and field career at the State University of New York - Buffalo.

Blair talked about his decision to continue athletics in college and said, "Ever since I was a kid I've always dreamed of one day going to the Olympics, so to reach that goal, the next step is to continue my track and field career at the collegiate level which allows me to go against more challenging competition."

Although many athletes know where they plan to go and play beforehand, some students may decide to join a club sport when they get to college. All of the athletes have worked hard and come so far.

## Update on Boys Volleyball and Senior Night

by Soma Kim '25

As the end of the school year draws near, Boys Volleyball has not stopped persevering through their season. All 20 team members have given their all against other strong volleyball teams such as Cheshire, Staples, and Shelton. Led by team captains Oliver Kusiak '24 and Salvatore Cantalupo '24, the team secured a record of 7-13.

The boys had senior night on May 6th. Putting up a fight against Xavier, the team displayed a desire to win. Despite losing the match, they concluded the night with food, drinks, and laughter. Parents and players alike spent the night appreciating seniors' presence and contributions to the team.

Continued on page 11



Photo contributed from Sila Bayram '24  
Nathaniel Dragunoff '24, Neil Davidek '24, Carlos Yanqui '24 during a game.



# Coach Harold Freedman: A Decades-Long Journey from Classroom to Tennis Court

by Soumya Wijesekera '25  
and Scarlett Zhai '25

Coach Harold Freedman has been the backbone of the Amity Girls Tennis (AGT) team for almost 50 years, guiding them through numerous triumphs and unforgettable moments. AGT has excelled under his direction, winning three straight SCC championships and making strong showings in the CIAC state tournaments, where they advanced to the quarterfinals in 2023 and the finals in 2021 and 2022. It was a pleasure interviewing Coach Freedman and learning about his philosophy and passion that has endeared him to the Amity Regional High School community.

The early 1970s marked Coach Freedman's entry into the tennis coaching profession.

"I started at Amity in the early 1970s as an English teacher and later department chairperson," he said. Coach Freedman, who enjoys playing tennis, taught the sport at the Paugussett Club in Orange during the summers. He applied with great anticipation when the chance to coach AGT came up in 1975.

He remembers, "It was a perfect fit." He moved smoothly from teaching literature to coaching tennis because he was able to nurture and mold young minds in both capacities.

For Coach Freedman, the true measure of success extends beyond wins and championships. Accomplishments other than victories and titles, he said, are the real test of success.

"Most of my successes have come from watching my players succeed in tennis and mature as young women," he said.

What he values most are the friendships he made on the tennis court. "It's not always a matter of wins and championships but rather the friendships that girls make that really last a lifetime," he added.

He enjoys staying in touch with previous teammates on Facebook to learn how AGT has positively impacted their lives. Many of his former players have gone on to achieve great success in their careers and personal lives, carrying the lessons learned on the tennis court with them.

When questioned about his methods as a coach, Coach Freedman modestly brushed away any idea of being special. He does, however, take a very deliberate and customized approach.

"I do keep in mind that each player is unique and has a whole set of school, family, and personal issues swirling around while trying to play good tennis for the team," he said.

Coaching is never just about tennis, according to Coach Freedman. It's about recognizing and valuing each player's particular situation and creating a support-



Photo contributed by Harold Freedman

Girls Tennis after a recent practice. Coach Freedman is at the back left.

ive environment that allows them to flourish on and off the court.

Shaina Das '24 and Cecilia Cadelina '24, the current senior captains, talked about the influence of Coach Freedman.

"He is a highly dedicated coach who is fully focused on the team. These last four years have been amazing, I'm delighted to report," Das remarked.

"He always puts the team first and does whatever it takes to ensure our success," Cadelina continued. "I can't imagine our squad with a different coach."

As the AGT continues to build on its legacy of excellence, Coach Freedman's influence remains a guiding light. The numer-

ous lives he has touched throughout the years attest to his passion for the game and his athletes.

"Coaching and teaching have much in common and I think each experience made me better as a coach and as a teacher," he said.

The Girls Tennis team is prepared for further success under Coach Freedman's direction. They are eager to defend their SCC championship and create new memories in the process.

His dedication to his players' overall development guarantees that AGT is more than just a team—rather, it's a family where young women flourish and create enduring friendships.

## Fighting off the Pressure, Spartans Softball Heads to SCCs

by Kathryn Scully '25

With the Amity Softball Team winding down their 2024 regular season, regional championships are bringing the

pressure.

The Spartans have finished with a 14-6 record, and have recently won first place in the Housatonic League. In addition to this, they hope to win the Southern Connecticut Conference title for the second year in a row.

Last year, they managed to make a comeback against North Haven High School in a nerve-racking 7-6 game that kept people on their toes until the very last inning. This year, the Spartans head into the championship season with even more weight on their shoulders than ever before.

The softball team is currently ranked 20th in the state and 8th in the Class LL division. Last year's SCC runner-up, North Haven, is ranked 7th in Connecticut with an impressive 18-2 record. Even with better statistics, though, the Spartans' win against them in the SCC finals last year has helped them hold onto their confidence.

Amity's biggest opponent, the Cheshire High School Rams, has a record of 14-1, is ranked 2nd in Connecticut, and is ranked 1st in the LL division. Being the school's rival, games against the Rams this season have been more pressuring than others. Having unsuccessfully played them twice so far, the team is ready to avenge their losses and come back stronger than before.

Amity's losses haven't stopped them from pushing through the rest of the season. As they are currently ranked 4th in the Southern Connecticut Conference, they have a fair shot at repeating last year's win. Heading into the championship season, the team has steadily picked up energy.

Amara Forstrom, a pitcher for the Spartans, says the team "has been practicing more than ever" and are "determined to go back to the SCC finals."

Keeping their heads up, the Softball team hopes to beat the odds and come out on top in their upcoming games.

Finishing the regular season with a 70% win rate, the girls are fired up for an exciting upcoming few weeks. Both the SCC and the state LL division championship titles are possibilities for the Spartans as they fight their way through the brackets



Photo contributed by Dave Philips/Hearst Connecticut

Jenna Maus during a game against Guilford in April

## Boys Volleyball

Continued on page 11

The volleyball players have set their eyes on the next priority: SCCs. They swept Hand on May 21st, winning 3-0. The next day, Amity advanced to the semi-finals and played at Cheshire where they lost the match 0-3.

Gunnar Poulimas, the coach, has guided

the players throughout the season. He states, "Culture plays a foundational role in the success of any high-level team, and throughout this season, the culture of the team has notably increased as well as skill and effort.

"The amount of times these players could have thrown in the towel is countless yet the team consistently had each other's backs in those pivotal moments," he added.

Along with assistant coach Bobbie Davis, Poulimas has emphasized the necessity of

being vocal and mentally strong on the court. Poulimas's passion for the sport is apparent in his coaching and desire to bring out the team's true potential in every practice and game.

As the season ends, the players reflect on how far they've come. Cantalupo, the team's captain and libero, comments, "I know it's been a bumpy road with many younger players but I know this is the start to great things." With every pass, set, and hit, the Amity Boys Volleyball team strives to demonstrate Spartan pride.



# Learning Beyond the Books

## UELPL Interns in Action around BOW Community

by Luna Lu '27

senior internship program, UELP. The UELP, short for the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program, is a program that allows seniors to spend their day at a job site of their choice instead of attending school. UELP is mandatory for all seniors unless the student chooses to do a Senior Interest Project (SIP) in place of the internship.

The two-week UELP program is an opportunity for seniors to experience life outside of school, as well as to prepare them for adult life by giving them a "trial run at work."

Aditi Bhattamishra '24 decided to participate for the opportunity to intern at Elm City Computing, an IT management company located in Orange. "I'm going to college to be an engineer, so I'm hoping I can get more experience with hands-on skills but also PC troubleshooting, which is a handy skill to have," she said.

She attributes her smooth transition into her internship to Career Counselors Lynn Cocco and Paula Vallie, who helped her in understanding the process and program expectations.

Bhattamishra has been interning with Elm City Computing since sophomore year. UELP offers her a chance to work longer hours, which allows her to experiment with more hands-on aspects of the job.

"I'm excited to work on larger projects and possibly go on-site to help clients, something that I can do more easily now," she said.

Jack Morrison '24 expressed a similar enthusiasm about his UELP internship, where he will serve as a research assistant for physicists at Yale.

"I am definitely excited to see what real physicists are doing since that's what I'm going to intend to major in," said Morrison. He adds that aside from preparing seniors for college majors, UELP

also serves as a catalyst for graduating students to find jobs in the future. "I'm going to be looking for a summer job so my internship will be the warm-up to my part-time job. It's going to help me get used to the routine of waking up and going to a job instead of just school every day," explained Morrison.

Like Morrison, Emily Gu '24 also hopes to zero in on her passion through her UELP internship. Gu had always been interested in education, from assisting her fencing coach to instructing Taekwondo, she consistently serves as a mentor for others.

Among her students, she is especially fond of working with kids. "Little kids are the foundation of society. The way that they're educated shapes their worldview, which shapes their actions, which shapes how our nation moves forward in the future," said Gu.

She goes on to explain how it is not a case of her wanting to teach kids the 'right' thing, but more that she wants to make sure they are able to explore and find what's right for themselves.

Gu will be interning at the Beecher Road Elementary School as a teacher's assistant to both reminisce about her own time in the same school and to experience a schoolteacher's daily life firsthand. Gu will major in education at Boston University, and is grateful that the school offers the UELP internship program to help her prepare.

"Not a lot of schools offer internship opportunities like this, especially to the entire student body of an entire grade," said Gu. "Yes, you can get internship opportunities outside of school, but it's not like an opportunity that you can just take because it's there for you. It's also just really nice to take two weeks off of school and engage in what it feels like to be a semi-working adult."

Another student who is taking advantage of this opportunity is Johnny Aldi '24 who is working at Amity Physical Therapy in Woodbridge. Throughout the next few weeks he will be helping out at the PT office.

"My jobs include keeping the gym equipment clean, doing laundry, filing charts, and helping patients if they need assistance," says Aldi.

He emphasizes the importance of these tasks, as he "finds satisfaction in knowing that keeping the gym clean and neat helps the therapists to work more efficiently, which leads to helping patients more effectively."

The UELP will run until May 28th, and seniors will make their final presentations to teachers and underclassmen during an extended Spartan Seminar the following day on May 29th.



Photo contributed by Jack Morrison '24  
**Jack Morrison '24 at the Yale Beinecke Library.**



Photo contributed by Abigail Fitol '24  
**Abigail Fitol '24 and her mentors a job site with Patriquin Architect**

### Amity High School Athletics Booster Club

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