

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

November 17, 2017

## Hall of Honor Inductees Inspire Students

by Alicia Myung '20 and Ella Marin '20

Amity Regional High School hosted alumni speakers who were being inducted into the Amity Hall of Honor on October 19th and 20th. The graduates spoke about their experiences at Amity and how they pursued their careers after leaving high school.

One of the speakers, Scott Savitt, is a profound journalist and has been published in the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and many other publications.

Savitt is also the author of *Crashing the Party: An American Reporter in China*, a book about his experiences studying abroad

and living in China.

When Savitt came to Amity on October 20th, he talked about where he came from and how he got into journalism. He discussed his inspiration which came from when he first started watching classic movies as a teen. From these movies, he became very interested in the Oscar process.

He started his career blogging about Oscars and movies in high school. He gained lots of popularity from his blog. Having found his true passion, he then went off to college where he pursued many journalist jobs and eventually worked his way up to writing for major newspapers such as The Los Angeles Times.

Senior Nitya Bhattarai

really enjoyed Savitt's talk. He said Savitt was a very

think it's really awesome that he gets paid to do what

see the what it looks like to find a job and make a life out of following your passion.



Scott Savitt talking to student in the auditorium  
Photo by Howard Ding '18

“interesting and inspiring person.” Additionally, he added that he loved “how he created his own future by taking action when he was in high school. I also

he loves.”

Savitt was quite effective in inspiring students to begin finding their passion right now, in high school. Students got to

Scott Feinberg, an accomplished entertainment journalist, visited Amity to talk about his career on October 19th. His career in journalism began with his report of the Board of Education's meetings, something that is still done today by Amity students. Much of his career is based on his predictions of the Oscars. This interest began with classic Hollywood movies and grew immensely when he “got hooked” with the “VHS tapes from the Woodbridge library.” The library staff had talked to the New Haven Register where Feinberg predicted Oscar winners. Each year until he went to college,

*Continued on page 2*

## Teachers Visit Classrooms in Instructional Rounds

By Tracy Lu '20

Amity High School recently conducted a cycle of instructional rounds, in which teachers observed other classes, had their class observed, or both. The purpose of these rounds is to allow teachers to learn from one another, as well as see how students respond to alternate teaching methods.

Throughout the process, faculty members would enter a classroom in groups of two to four and observe the activities going on for five to ten minutes.

Tasia Kimball, an English teacher, was an observer twice and had her class observed once. From these experiences, she says that “observing

other classes and seeing what goes on there has been really interesting to me because I can watch and think about why things happen the way they do. This helps me think about what I'm teaching, how I want to do something differently, or how I want to be able to be a better teacher.”

Liz Smolinski, an art teacher, whose class was observed, said, “I really actually appreciated instructional rounds visiting my classroom because not many people get a chance to see my students in action. I teach a very performance-based subject, and I liked the fact that people visiting my classroom could see my students achieving. I liked the fact that my students were given a chance to

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## Amity Hosts Event and Welcomes Speakers in Honor of Veterans Day

by Niha Irshad '19

Amity students and faculty commemorated Veterans Day on Friday, November 10th by meeting with former members of the armed forces as they discussed their time in service.

All students had the opportunity to listen to a panel consisting of three former members of the armed forces and Amity alumni as they discussed their time in the service as well as what initiated their decision to join.

Students also were able to speak with veterans who told of their duties and experiences throughout their time in the armed forces, as well as view the various weaponry that was used throughout history.

This event, organized by Bob Catalde and Chris Borelli, was intended

to give students more insight into the importance of Veterans Day and a better understanding as to the sacrifices and responsibilities made by all members of the armed forces.

Catalde said, “My hope is that this event brought a sense of understanding of the sacrifice Americans have laid at the altar of freedom and that students will walk away with a better understanding of this.”

The planning that went into this event proved to be a success as several students noted their respect and gratitude for these veterans as well as for all members of the armed forces.

Billy McKeon '19 said, “I thought this event really gave us a reason to be more grateful to everyone who fought and continues to fight for our country.”

The veterans them-

selves were also very pleased to be meeting with students about their experiences and informing students about the historical aspect during the time they were in service.

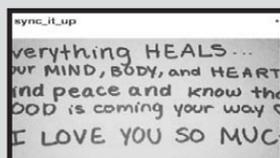
Lewis Merritt, a former Post Officer and veteran of the American Legion said, “I feel it was very important for me to come here because not only do I like to teach history, but I like to see people understand what it takes to defend our nation, and I really want students to understand the value of service.”

The administration felt a special bell schedule needed to be implemented on this day to give students enough time to meet with these veterans.

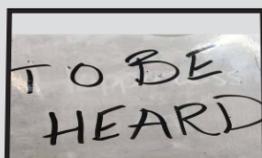
Periods one and two were each extended to be an hour long to give students enough time to meet with

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## Amity Hosts Event in Honor of Veterans Day

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veterans. However, it was noted that even with this extension, there was still not enough time as many students hoped to speak with the veterans for a little longer.

Sarah Bullers '19 said, "I felt that it was very rushed and some of the veterans did not have enough time to talk about what they did or share their stories."

Commemorating this event proved to have a positive effect on students

as well as on the faculty at Amity as it emphasized the importance of why Veterans Day is commemorated, and the acknowledgment of the sacrifices given up by all members of the armed forces for the safety and freedom of this country.

## Creative Writing Students Share Work at Poetry Slam

by Marty Gnidula '20

On October 26th, Amity held a poetry night to showcase the work of Timothy Gaipa's creative writing class.

The event was held from 6-8 pm in the Amity cafeteria and featured many of Amity's most creative students who read a variety of their own poetry and poetry that they found to be inspiring. The night allowed students to have fun and participate in a relaxed atmosphere of poetry reading.

This poetry night was unprecedented at Amity. In the past, there have been other poetry reading nights and open mic nights, but a night to display the work of one specific class was the first of its kind.

The night was a way for each member of the class to present their own poetry and express their literature to an audience. Each presenter had three

minutes to read their literature and perform works that they enjoy. There was no restriction on the number of poems read or the topic of poetry, which attracted a wide range of styles, techniques, and performances.

"It was really fun overall getting to read some iconic poems that might not be typically read in a high school classroom," said Ben Kemp '18 who participated in the event.

The night was a casual event with food and fun. The environment that the students were invited to perform in was as just true and authentic as a normal poetry reading night, which allowed students to get experience performing their poetry and other works in front of an audience.

Overall, this event was deemed a major success by students and Gaipa. The goal of this event, according to Gaipa, was "to actually have students perform in front of a live

audience, because that's what poetry is really all about." Students had a great time performing their favorite works while also seeing their friends and classmates perform.

Spectators were also very impressed with the event. "I've never seen a grown man get so excited about a poetry night as Mr. Gaipa did, which was definitely the main reason my friends and I made sure we went," said Micha Aviad, senior.

The poetry night was well received by Gaipa's creative writing class who truly enjoyed the night and had a lot of fun experiencing this.

In the future, Gaipa plans on continuing events like this, but also hopes to try and get other creative writing teachers to join. The night had a great turnout and was a major success, which inspires hope that these nights to demonstrate and showcase literature will become a regular event at Amity.

## Hall of Honor Inductees

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Feinberg returned to continue his segment during the Oscars.

Due to popular demand, Feinberg continued his Oscar predictions and analysis of new movies on a blog called "andthewinneris.blog.com." His blog captured the attention of The Los Angeles Times where he was given a press pass which allowed for access to advanced DVD releases and advanced press screenings. After he graduated from Brandeis, he relocated to Los Angeles, where he became the entertainment editor at the LA Times.

Feinberg left his position at the LA Times and instead created a new blog, [scottfeinberg.com](http://scottfeinberg.com), where he sold ads to stimulate his income. Eventually, he garnered the attention of the Hollywood Reporter in 2011.

He is currently an awards columnist for the Hollywood Reporter and the host of the podcast "Awards Chatter." Through his career, he has been able to interview many famous figures such as Snoop Dogg, Oprah, and Steven Spielberg.

Feinberg talked of how many believe his job to be easy and glamorous because of his interactions with celebrities, but he says "95 percent of it is work, 5 percent is fun".

As sophomore Olivia Gross puts it, seeing Scott Feinberg talk was "really interesting to see an unusual yet successful life story that came out of Amity. He showed that there isn't one route of a life." Feinberg was inspiring in showing young and impressionable students how they could be successful in life while following their dreams.

## Teachers Visit Classrooms in Instructional Rounds

show their process and not just their finished product."

Despite the positive experiences expressed by teachers, several students had differing opinions on instructional rounds.

Abigail Slanski '20 said, "It's good to share ideas between teachers, but you have to consider that they are entering a classroom of students who are distracted or feel pressure from the extra attention."

Some students, however, stated that they did not mind the observers in the classroom.

The instructional rounds will continue throughout the year so that every teacher has a chance to observe a class as well as be observed.

Through this process, it is hoped that teachers will be able to garner a better understanding of the school and different teaching methods.

## Amity Reinvents District Webpage

by Khaled Jarad '19

During the week of November 6th-10th, the Amity Regional 5 District website experienced a major transition. The new district website now has a more user friendly and modern look, and includes many handy features.

The wide drop down bar allows easy access to many categories and separate links that bring a new level of organization not previously present in the old layout. From each of these subsections, one can access school specific links for students, parents, and faculty.

Additionally, the website includes a new directory feature, which allows students to easily find their teachers' or faculty's emails in order to contact them individually.

Technology coordinators in the district decided to make this change because, according to Lisa Lassen, District Curriculum Facilitator, it was "determined that the website was outdated and that we should switch to the same company that the other BOWA schools use: Finalsites."

Essentially, the change was spurred by a desire to remain consistent with the technology used by other schools in the district. The process of shifting the website to a different site and platform took about four months.

Lassen says, "I began working on the new website the end of last school year. Finalsites selected the template that was most compatible with Amity's content and web needs, and then migrated about half the content. I spent

the summer migrating the remaining content and formatting."

Despite major efforts from Lassen, this was not a one person job. Other key contributors were Pam Pero, Administrative Assistant in Central Office, Kevin Keller, Network Specialists, and Shaun DeRosa, Director of Technology.

According to Lassen, "the Technology Committee, including the Superintendent, reviewed the site and made suggestions for improvements which were integrated prior to the site going live." Though students only really get to see the finished product as the new website, a lot of work, consultation, and time went on behind-the-scenes of this process.

In addition to organization, the website is much more aesthetically pleasing and easy to navigate.

It comes with a few new features including the interactive direct news section and the district calendar.

The district news section displays important and update news for the entire district. This feature helps create a great sense of community and awareness. The district calendar is also a very great feature in that it helps display important information in an organized way. This feature will help students stay in tune with happenings in the district.

Another great feature that enables a sense of community is the Amity twitter page. It is embedded directly to the home page allowing students to view events and other information in a familiar way.

Students have had different reactions to this

change. Junior Elina Yang stated that "The website doesn't seem very different than it used to, however, it does have a more clean and organized look to it."

On the other hand, Rhea Dey '20 admitted that the website "is very aesthetically pleasing, but it is definitely going to be a challenge to adapt to it."

For some students, the change in a platform they commonly use may be confusing at first, however, the general student view of the website is that it has a much more modern look.

Overall, this upgrade has left Amity with a very organized and up-to-date looking website. The new website improves on organization and accessibility to information, and ultimately addresses many concerns about the previous website.

## Winter Is Coming. Is Amity Prepared?

by Amanda Hendrick '18

Every day, students walk into Amity with a long sigh of relief, eager to take off their thick coats and layered jackets. However, what should be a well-deserved break from the bitter cold of November quickly turns into just another mini winter wonderland.

If you have ever sat in a second floor math room, you know the feeling. Jack Frost creeps up the main science stairs in the morning, ignoring the fact that a school should definitely be warmer than a freezer. Is the heat broken, or are we waiting until January to turn it on? Students whisper amongst themselves while shaking in their seats and desperately trying to warm their hands before class starts. Although the sea-

sons cannot be changed, it is reasonable to expect that these whispers should have been put to rest as soon as the weather reached the forties.

The cool air bringing little discomfort in early August has not only brought a slew of puffy parkas into Amity, but also distraction. Instead of focusing on the Do Now on the board or class discussions, one can only focus on the ice running through their veins and feeling like they will never be warm again.

The idea that these feelings repeat themselves not only every morning but throughout the school day raises concerns as to how it is impacting not just education, but student health. With flu season hanging over Amity like a dark cloud, sitting in the cold for seven hours does not do students any good.

Listening to surrounding conversations before class yields constant complaints of being cold and the sound of teeth chattering.

Although this issue may soon be resolved, it is important to bring to attention the impact it has on students every single day. The outside temperature should not follow students into school along with the swirling fall leaves, and both teachers and teenagers alike should not have to dress like they are going into a blizzard.

The weather situation at Amity raises the question of if the beginning of winter will finally initiate the powering up of our trusty old heater, or will students be expected to carry gloves and hats to class? Although our hands are cold, our hearts soar with hope as winter approaches Amity.

# THE TRIDENT

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## Cam Newton Catches Heat After Sexist Remark

by Ricky Fagan '18

Cam Newton, star quarterback of the Carolina Panthers, threw a disrespectful remark at a female reporter during a press conference on October 4th when Jourdan Rodrigue asked a question about wide receivers' routes.

"It's funny to hear a female talk about routes like,... it's just funny," said Newton in response to the question Rodrigue asked. The quarterback was the only one who found it funny as he put emphasis on the word "routes" as if it was unimaginable to hear a woman talk on the subject of wide receivers doing their job.

After the press conference Rodrigue took to Twitter, posting a tweet which read, "I don't think it's 'funny' to be a female and talk about routes. I think it's my job."

Rodrigue also tried to talk to Newton after the press conference more on the topic and to get things squared away. According to another one of the reporter's Twitter posts the encounter was worse than when the star QB originally made the remark.

Rodrigue has blown this situation up as big as she possibly can, and she has every right to. The strong independent woman that she is takes

her job very seriously and will not tolerate anyone belittling her or her ability to do her job. Rodrigue has made life difficult for Newton by making him regret what he said in whatever way she can.

The quarterback should have known better than to make a comment like that. Women have taken on with full hearts the criticism of people thinking they are inferior at certain jobs, as we can see in this situation. They continually prove people wrong with the amazing things they can accomplish like being a reporter in the NFL family.

I support all of Rodrigue's responses and actions towards this disrespectful remark by Newton. She has knocked him down and shown him that stars like him are not untouchable especially when they make comments like this one.

The Carolina QB has missed two press conferences this past week. Some people have theories that he is avoiding the media to refrain from slipping up again or having to talk on the subject of his remark. His team's public relations gave no clear reason as to why Newton has been absent from two press conferences. I think the QB is just being a coward and is hiding from the fact that he screwed up and now there are consequences for him to

face. Ditching these conferences leaves him susceptible to fines from the league.

Newton also claims he tried to give Rodrigue a compliment through sarcasm. I feel like this is just an attempt for Newton to save his own skin and try to take the heat off of himself. Why else would the QB wait several days later to say he was attempting to give a compliment to the reporter?

Some of the responses from sources linked to Newton have taken action on the matter. The star lost a sponsor with the Dannon Yogurt company and many fans question his personality and his ability to be a role model for people like he has been for so long.

The QB has gone through the humiliation of giving a public apology for doing something so incredibly childish like insulting someone based on their occupation and gender. Cam Newton deserved to be put under the spotlight like that to prove that he is in fact capable of making mistakes too.

The NFL has condemned the athlete's response to Rodrigue's question and is making it clear that Newton does not speak for the entire league. I hope Newton has learned from his mistakes as he will not be living this fiasco down for a while.

## CORRECTIONS

In the October issue of *The Trident*,

Tracy Lu '20, not Erin McCormack '19, wrote

"Debate Begins Regular Season with Novice Scrimmage."

Ella Marin '20, not Danielle Grosso '19,

wrote "Student Government

Inaugurates Freshmen Representatives."

Ryan Anastasio is a member of the Class of 2020, not 2019.

For any corrections or tips please email  
amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com

To sign up to write or take photographs for the Trident contact the Editors-in-Chief, Mrs. Clark, or email

amitytridentnewspaper@gmail.com.

To view the newspaper online go to

<http://ourschoolnewspaper.com/Trident/>



## IT'S THE MOST STRESSFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

by Eva Glassman '18

Quarter two is upon us, and as most have learned over our years in high school, this is the busiest and most stressful marking period between cramming before holiday break, cramming before midterms, and everything else that school entails.

But what if it didn't have to be this crazy? What if there was something that could be changed that would truly allow every-

one a break?

My proposition is this: we start the school year approximately three weeks earlier. Let me explain using this year as an example.

There are four important dates to consider here: our first day of school this year August 28th, our December break this year December 23rd-January 1st, the week of midterms January 16th-19th, and finally, our last day of school June 6th (assuming no snow days, but

that is subject to change).

Between the end of our December break and the start of midterms, we have approximately two weeks, and those two weeks are some of the most hectic ones of the year due to the limited amount of time that teachers have to refresh everyone's brain for the imminent midterm exams in mid-January.

Even before that, teachers cram in content before December break because they know that

the week off in between is like a wedge right in their curriculum, and so they assign students homework over the break so they retain as much knowledge as possible.

So, in short, teachers are stressing, students are stressing, everyone is stressing. Here's where the three week shift comes in.

Let's assume that we indeed do start school three weeks earlier. August 28th becomes August 7th, December break re-

mains the same of course, midterms week becomes December 19th-22nd (I push this back an extra week because otherwise it would overlap into December break), and the last day of school is May 16th.

Did you notice how midterms are now before December break, with approximately the same amount of time to prepare still? Pretty sweet to cruise right into December break without having to worry about exams, right?

# IT'S THE MOST STRESSFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

*Continued from page 3*

Okay, I see how school starting smack at the beginning of August is a little scary looking. But, imagine having the last day of school in the middle of May. For those of you who are AP students, you'd probably be very grateful for this. This year, the AP exams run from May 7th-18th, so you would have all your final exams altogether around the same time (this may seem more overwhelming, but now you don't have to worry about missing your other classes to take your AP exams). Oh, and cover for those two AP exam days after May 16th.

Fine, we'll start school on August 9th, last day May 18th. It's not a perfect system, but there's room to be a little flexible.

So, my plan is entirely laid out, and I think it makes more sense than how we run things now. Having midterms before December break is how colleges do things anyway; it reduces stress for both teachers and students, so that teachers aren't cramming work around the holiday season, and students aren't drowning in it, either. Arriving at December break, knowing that all your exams are done, entering a new semester upon returning to school,

seems like a more practical school year to me. And although we would start school earlier, think about being done with school by the middle of May. It's a nice thought, isn't it?

This isn't a radical idea, and I certainly am not the creator of it, either. According to a CNN article written in 2015, there are actually more places in the United States that begin the school year in July or early-mid August than in September. The places that still start school within the first days of September are, unsurprisingly, among us in the north-east.

The reasons why many

boards push back start dates significantly before Labor Day is because 1) it gives teachers more time to prepare for spring assessments, as I mentioned, 2) it allows students to finish the first semester before December break, as I also mentioned, 3) it allows time for more breaks in the school year (schools in Atlanta, Georgia have an October break and February break in addition to the ones in December and April), 4) kids don't take school seriously after Memorial Day, entering June (you're lying to yourself if you don't go into Summer Mindset immediately on June 1st), and 5)

the school year would align more closely with those of colleges and universities, as I also noted.

So, all this begs the question: why haven't we, the Amity school district, done anything to keep up with the majority of the country about this? My guess is that us grouchy New Englanders don't like change, so why try and fix something that isn't broken, but my argument to that would be broken things aren't the only things that need fixing. When there's an opportunity to make anything better, I would certainly take that chance, regardless of how acceptable it already is.

## Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1. Common way to express laughter over text
- 3. Jack-o-\_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Behave at the airport, or they'll get mad!
- 10. This department can help you with your computer difficulties
- 12. Monsters, \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. With 3-down
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_, Phone Home
- 19. Greatest of all time (plural)
- 21. Trademark
- 22. President of Amity's 16-down
- 26. "I'm gonna swing from the chandelier" was written and performed by her
- 28. A person's relatives, as defined by Merriam-Webster
- 29. Cotton gin invented by this local inventor
- 30. International Standard Serial Number

DOWN

- 2. How to tag someone on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.
- 3. ACT is focused on this
- 4. Neck \_\_\_\_\_ or bow \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. A list sometimes ends in \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. We are the Knights who say \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Eight
- 9. Dalmatians have these
- 13. Postal code for a US state that starts with N
- 15. Physical therapy is to PT, as occupational therapy is to \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Popular government club at Amity
- 17. Elephant \_\_\_\_\_ are used for ivory
- 20. Month of AP exams
- 23. Not not not yes
- 24. \_\_\_\_\_ and Hers
- 25. Women's clothing store: \_\_\_\_\_ Taylor
- 27. Et \_\_\_\_\_, meaning "and others"

1	2		3			4	5		6		7
	8	9				10			12	13	
		14		15	16			17		18	
	19										
20		21			22	23			24	25	
		26		27				28			
			29				30				

**If you correctly complete this crossword puzzle, email a picture to [amity-tridentnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:amity-tridentnewspaper@gmail.com), and the first person to send us a correct puzzle will receive a prize (likely a gift card).**

**Submissions will be accepted after 3 p.m.**

# Netflix Show *Stranger Things* Takes Amity by Storm!

by Ella Marin '20

The Netflix original television series *Stranger Things* has captured the attention of many Netflix-loving teens across the nation. It is considered both a drama and a science-fiction show that takes place in the fictional town of Hawkins, Indiana, in the early-to-mid 1980s. Season One is about the disappearance of the young Will Byers. When Will disappears, the whole town bands together in order to try and figure out how he went missing just as they do when another character, Barb, goes missing later in the series.



A student enjoying the new Netflix season.

October 27, 2017, proved to be even more exciting than the first. Fans were ecstatic. Season Two is all about the advancements of the supernatural force and explores the repercussions of the events from the first season.

The release time was perfect because *Stranger Things* fits in the Halloween spirit. Teens even hosted *Stranger Things* viewing parties where they binge watched the entire season.

Another student, Alicia Myung '20, said: "I think it's a really amazing show that's both lighthearted and dark. It [second season] stayed true to the first season, but created a larger conflict. The new characters are archetypes used many times but are entertaining in the show."

After hastily finishing Season Two, many fans are awaiting the third season of this exciting show. Unfortunately, fans will likely have

to wait a long time, perhaps a year, until season three is released because of the massive amount of time it takes to write and film all the episodes. Natalie Prinz '20 is extremely excited for the new release and says, "I think Season Three will be as great as both Seasons 1 and 2. I hope they continue to have different creative

enemies that contribute to an exciting plot. I'm excited for what the creators will come up with." Hopefully the producers can continue creating content just as riveting as the two seasons they have already released and therefore keep Amity students entertained and excited!

Natalie Prinz '20, describes the show as "so exciting and has many plot twists in every episode. The show also does an amazing job developing characters, especially over the course of the two seasons. 10/10 would recommend, one of the best shows I've ever watched."

Photo by Ella Marin '20.

When it becomes clear that the cause of disappearance is due to a monster, the whole town works together to try to potentially kill it. Key characters include the four boys, Will, Mike, Lucas, and Dustin, as well as a unique character who goes by the name Eleven.

Season Two of *Stranger Things*, released on

# Carly Chervenak Spreads Kindness Throughout Amity

by Arielle Lavi '19

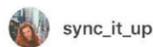
As a member of the junior class, Carly Chervenak has strived towards spreading kindness and positivity among others. Through interactions with her peers and her social media platform, she has impacted the lives of many individuals, and hopes to continue extending her message of love and acceptance. Chervenak's ability to empathize with others is shaped by hardships during her early life, met with unkindness by some peers.

"It greatly shaped my outlook on life," says Chervenak. "From then on I wanted to make sure everyone has support within their lives, to help them get over obstacles." Since then, she has dedicated herself to encouraging others, hoping to be a positive influence on them.

Her motivation for positivity stems from the impact she has on others, loving to watch individuals feel good about themselves. A lot of her inspiration is

spread through her posts on Instagram, using it as a pulpit to transmit her kindhearted messages.

Realizing the negative impact social networking sites has on individuals, Chervenak desired for her page to rather have signifi-



Everything HEALS...  
YOUR MIND, BODY, and HEART.  
Find peace and know that  
GOOD is coming your way ♡  
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH

An example of one of Carly Chervenak's posts on Instagram spreading love and positivity.

cant meaning for others. "I want others to feel happy about themselves on social media, rather than lead them to question who they are," she said.

Through her Instagram posts, she hopes to inspire individuals to realize "the best is yet to come" and their struggles will only become easier here on out.

Brooke Pethigal '19, said, "She's one of the sweet-

est people I know. She's never afraid to be herself and through kindness helps others love their true self."

By recognizing the healing powers in inspiration, Chervenak has not only spread messages of acceptance and positivity to others, she has aided individuals in realizing their inner beauty and being content with who they are. Her goal for all Amity students is to spread a feeling of self-worth and belonging within the school community, and the knowledge of their unique strengths and qualities, not matter how bleak their situation may seem.

Chervenak is passionate about making sure no student at Amity feels alone. By using her inspirational messages, she hopes to reach each and every student. She understands the tendency for individuals to doubt themselves and feel isolated, yet hopes that kindness can inspire students not to give up and realize there are individuals out there who care about them in times of despair.

# David Levithan Sparks Amity's Reading Passion

by Elana Bershtein '19

Highly acclaimed writer and editor David Levithan visited Amity Regional High School on Monday, November 6th. Levithan has much experience in the literary world, as his career as an editor and writer has been quite successful. He is known for writing a series of novels as well as editing popular books such as *The Hunger Games*.

Commonly known to the Amity community, Levithan is the author of *Every Day*, the One Book One Amity selection from last summer. Levithan was welcomed to the school with great enthusiasm.

Committee head and chair of the English Department Julie Chevan worked particularly hard to plan this visitation, explaining that since choosing the book, the committee always had hopes of asking the author to visit the Amity community.

"I thought he was really personable and unpretentious," said Chevan. "I think he answered a lot of questions many people had about the

David Levithan's speech. He was very genuine and relatable, and I was truly interested in what he had to say. I am very thankful for the One Book One Amity committee's efforts to organize this event, as it was intriguing as well as entertaining."

Students were also pleasantly surprised with Levithan's reading of excerpts from his upcoming novel, *Someday*, a sequel to *Every Day*.

Emma Grabowski '20 says, "I loved hearing about his new novel and am excited to read it when it comes out!"

To close his presentation, Levithan answered various questions that readers had in regards to the novel. Students had the opportunity to, in advance, submit questions about the novel that particularly piqued their interest. Levithan did a great job at answering these questions, treating each response with total sincerity.

He explained his clever naming of the character "A" as well as his standard approach of writing the novel. For example, he explained that the plot of the novel was created by expanding on the



David Levithan speaking to Amity students.

Photo by Howard Ding '18.

book. And I know he loves meeting readers....it was very special for him."

Based upon this year's success, the committee will continue to contact authors of each year's chosen novel.

Despite his prior fear of public speaking, as he mentioned in his lecture, Levithan spoke rather eloquently. He used comedy to keep the audience engaged, while still giving great insight regarding his career and his writing process.

Lindsey Kupcho '19 says, "I thoroughly enjoyed

first thought that popped into his head for each chapter's character.

Rachael Crow '19 says, "When he described the method of creating *Every Day*, I was shocked. His standard approach of writing made him much more relatable and interesting."

Overall, David Levithan's visit was a success. It helped students connect with the book better by providing insight regarding the reasoning behind occurrences in the novel as well as his writing process.

•••••  
: Happy Thanksgiving :  
: from *The Trident!* :  
•••••

# AMITY THINKS ABOUT

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the interpretations of free speech, we asked members of the Amity community what free speech means to them and why they think it is important in today's society. Here's what they said:



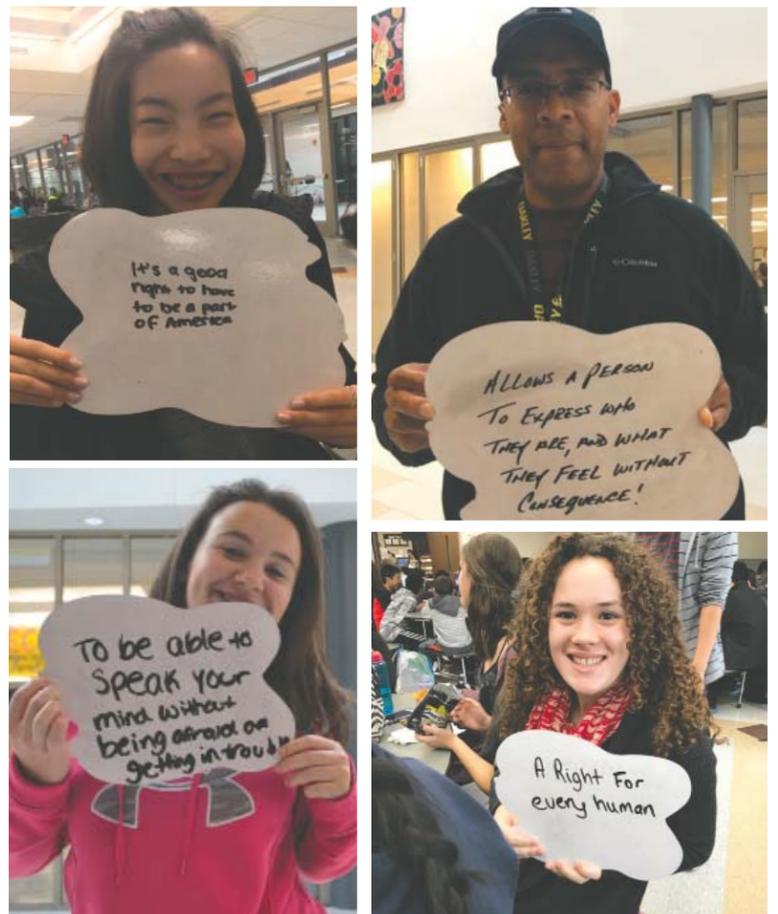
The First Amendment has very important implications in today's society. It enables an individual to express and practice what they personally believe in. Many aspects of our daily life that we take for granted are protected under the First Amendment: it guarantees us the freedom of religion, expression, speech, assembly, and press. Despite the specifications of the First Amendment, there are still many gray areas as to what is or is not unacceptable. This is especially prevalent to the free speech clause.

Some modifications

have been made as a result of Supreme Court landmark cases. For example, in *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire*, the Supreme Court ruled that "fighting words," or language intended to spark hate, are not protected under the First Amendment. *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District* even ruled that although students have the right to express themselves in a school setting, their expression cannot disrupt the educational process. Despite these modifications, some still believe the First Amendment is too lenient and dislike that some

types of speech, such as hate speech, are still protected under the Constitution.

However, others argue that this is the epitome of the First Amendment which doesn't put strict limits on beliefs and what people say. Instances like the Charleston protests and the frequent kneeling of National Football League players during the National Anthem resurrect this discussion. Within reason, the First Amendment enables Americans to express their own opinions, however popular or unpopular they may be.



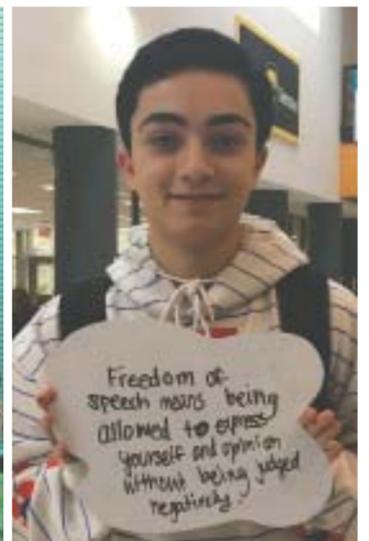
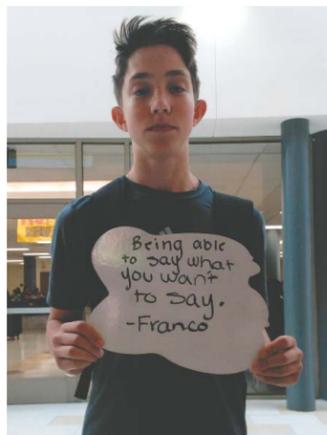
**Centerspread Writers and Photographers:**  
Olivia Gross '20, Gillianne Nugent '20, Hailey Pryor '20, Sheariah Stevens '18, Jack Tajmajer '20

### Additional Resources:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/05/30/hate-speech-is-not-protected-by-the-first-amendment-oregon-mayor-says-hes-wrong/>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-hate-speech-protected-first-amendment-20170614-story.html>

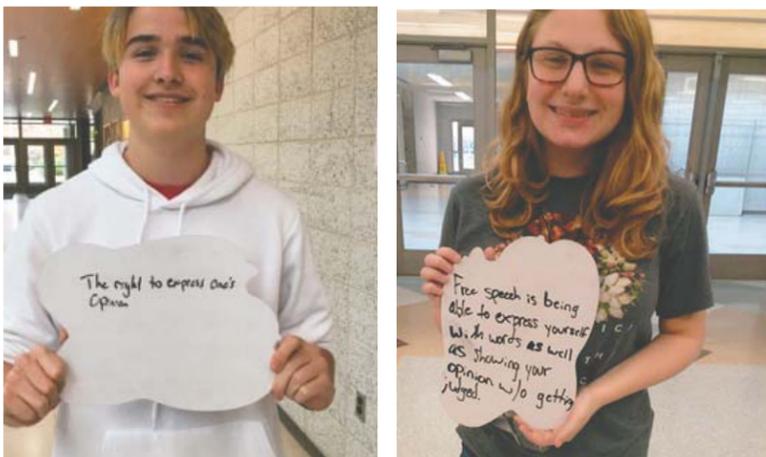
Special thanks to all who participated in this by telling *The Trident* your opinions on free speech!



# FREEDOM OF SPEECH



The responses (left page then right page) and the pictures (left to right from top to bottom):



**Abby Wisnewski '20 and Mina Kim '20:** Free speech means that we can speak out without fear of prosecution.

**Mr. McWilliams, Security Guard:** Allows a person to express who they are, and what they feel without consequences!

**Megan Ciarleglio '18:** Being able to say whatever you want without facing legal consequences -usually.

**Rachel Weidenfeller '20:** To be able to speak your mind without being afraid of getting in trouble.

**Mr. Cofrancesco, CTE Department:** Being able to express what you believe.

**Alejandra Barry-Ruiz '19:** A right for every human.

**Sarah Richter '18:** That people can express their opinions/ ideas freely!

**Jonathan Franco '21:** Being able to say what you want.

**Hayden Nork '19:** Freedom of speech gives all people the opportunity to express their true beliefs!

**Mr. LaRochelle, Counseling Department:** Essential to preserve democracy.

**Talya Braverman '20:** Freedom of speech is important because it can spark change.

**Tassos Kyriakides '20:** Freedom of speech means being allowed to express yourself and opinion without being judged negatively.

**Adaiah Stevens '20:** Freedom of speech is important because it shines a light on the perspectives of others and allows us as a society to understand the minds of those around us.

**Brian Carson '18:** Free speech is the only way to change the views of others, other than violence.

**Arvand Golbazi '18:** Free speech allows for the exchanging and understanding of different ideas.

**Mrs. Bonaldo, English Department:** To me, free speech means I have the right to disagree with those in power without fear.

**Mike Ficaro '18:** Freedom of speech is important so others can express their views and opinions, and shows everybody's differences in the best way.

**Emmy Steinbrick '18:** Freedom of speech is being able to think & speak freely.

**Mr. Downhour, History Department:** When people have free speech, I know that I live in a free society.

**Ana Chinchilla '20:** Speak your mind with no judgement.

**Jocelyn Eagle '18:** Freedom of speech is expressing yourself.

**Mrs. Grace, Physical Education Department:** Positive communication.

**Tyler Cole '18 and Irina Ahmed '18:** The ability to have the right to believe in what you want.

**Antonia D'Hue '21:** Being able to say what's on your mind.

**Mr. DeMeo, Math Department:** So that everyone can have a voice.

**Sakinah Abdul-Khaliq '18:** Openly expressing ideas despite the opinions or judgement of others.

**Isabella Pfannenbecker '21, Andy Kim '21, and Jennifer Xu '21:** Free speech means being able to express yourself without being held back.

**Mounisha Anumolo '19:** Free speech means the right to fight for what you believe in.

**Elisabeth Barbieri '21:** Expressing your personal opinions.

**Tim Frieden '19:** Free speech means that I can say that *Embers* is better than *Trident*.

**Micha Aviad '18:** The freedom to say what you want.... except shouting "FIRE" in a movie theater.

**Jared Sullivan '19:** The right to express an opinion.

**Lila Swift '21:** Free speech is being able to express yourself with words as well as showing your opinion without getting judged.

# The Amity National Art Honor Society Hosts Reception

by David Chen '18

Amity held its National Art Honor Society reception at the Woodbridge Town Library on November 6th. There, attendees got the chance to preview works made by Amity students.

A variety of art forms, from photographs to sketches, were on display and exemplified the innovative minds that make up Amity's student body. For many, it was an exciting moment to witness the talents of other artists and to introduce different artistic approaches.

Tracy Lu '20, a member of the National Art Honor Society, said, "The reception was an excellent way

to see works outside of my own and expose myself to new styles. Ultimately, it inspired me to try utilizing different styles and shaped my goals for the future."

This inspiration that Lu felt towards pursuing art represents the very purpose of the National Art Society. The organization aims to magnify the creative forces and abilities within a school, and by recognizing those who show outstanding capacity for art, it serves to help these individuals capitalize on their potential.

To others, the Amity organization's reception was a great opportunity to see young, local art talent.

Jack Tajmajer '20, an attendee of the event, said, "Overall, the event was incredibly enjoyable. I was

most captured by the sheer range of ideas, each being wildly different and impressive in their own way. Along with the large attendance, I found that the reception successfully blended the unique perspectives that make up the school."

Another attendee, Arvand Golbazi '18, said, "I was so impressed by the works at the reception. At first, I didn't know that the artists were from my school and thought it was some national student gallery, but then I recognized some of the names. I was completely stunned."

Ultimately, the reception was an excellent gathering place for art appreciation. The gallery will be available to view until the end of November.

**Below left: Puja Sinha's '18 artwork. Below Right: Heagan O' Rourke's '18 work. Photos by Ben Sauberman '18.**



# Duality School of Music Fosters Local Talent

by Kayla Morgan '20

The Duality School of Music is a non-profit national organization that takes a progressive approach to musical education. The intensive six week course meets once a week to teach students about the music industry. Throughout this time, students learn skill building in traditional and modern music technology and instruments.

Joel Mega, an instructor, says, "The Duality School of Music incorporates a curriculum that infuses music technology, music business, and music theory to help future music industry professionals have a full grasp of not only the music side but also a firm grasp of the business."

This program is run by an industry veteran, Jeff Gitelman, who graduated from Amity in 2000. He pursued his love for music by going to the Berklee School of Music in Boston. His greatest accomplishments include working as touring guitarist for Alicia Keys, and performing with David Bowie, Stevie Wonder, and Chance the Rapper.

Throughout the six weeks of the

course there have been multiple guest speakers, including Swag R' Celious, who has worked with Kehlani and H.E.R., and BAM, who has worked

talked about their experiences in the music industry, discussing how they started, the problems they encountered, and all the lessons they learned from overcoming these problems.

The most recent guest speaker was Grammy award winning producer, Om'mas Keith. He is the producer of Frank Ocean's Channel Orange, and has worked with other artists like John Legend and Jay Z.

Most importantly, he is Gitelman's mentor and manager. In his talk, he stressed the importance of creative minds obtaining legal fluency in order to protect and represent themselves in the face of industry pitfalls. He also provided inspiration anecdotes for Duality students.

After Keith's lecture, Arianna Marie, a student at Co-Op High School in New Haven, remarked, "He talked about how if you keep pushing forward, showing up to places, and keep your creative flow going, you will succeed."

The last three weeks of this program are devoted to creating a collaborative final project that shows what they have learned from participating in this program.

However, even after they have presented their final project, these musicians' industry aspirations won't stop.



*Above, The Duality School of Music Logo.*

*Below, Gitelman speaks on WTNH to promote his school.*

*Photos Courtesy Duality School of Music*



with Usher and Chris Brown.

At these talks, the producers

# Music in Motion 2017 Stands Out From Years Past

by Ella Marin '20

Music in Motion at Amity is a dynamic show involving music, movement, and lighting all relating to one central theme. It serves

While the music is key during a Music in Motion production, the movement is what brings the show to life. Not only did the students perform high level marching patterns, but the students also incorporated



**Amity Band practices for Music in Motion 2017 during their dress rehearsal.**

*Photo by Sophie Baum '18.*

as a platform to let band students not only perform music but incorporate marching into the curriculum.

The show is put on annually by the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Color Guard. The students put in lots of practice during September and October to put on this year's show of Music in Motion, Grammy Night.

Before its October 27th opening night, students rehearsed Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:30 to memorize various songs and then the corresponding movements to go with each of their numbers.

The show was undeniably a success. With fun songs like "Happy" by Pharrell, "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars, and "Empire State of Mind" by Alicia Keys, the crowd couldn't help but clap along to the rhythm of the music. Audience member Sydney Reiner '20 said, "The music was very energetic and engaging. I really enjoyed the show because most of the songs that were played I knew well and could follow along with."

Additionally, the set and lighting enhanced the show's ambience. Talya Braverman '20, commented that the show had "exciting imagery." Phil Dolan, director, is to thank for the outstanding scenic design and Dan Hassenmayer, for the impressive lighting.

theatrics into many parts of the show.

In "Living for the City," students started the performance by acting as if they were on a subway. During Adele's "Skyfall," students pretended to be on a spy mission. Students pretended to look through binoculars and sneak around the stage.

This element of theater brought the show to life and engaged the audience, making them feel they were truly in the city or on a mission. The coordinator of movement in the show, Danny Steffieri, masterminded these creative additions.

Music in Motion 2017 was especially outstanding due to its improvement from last year. Symphonic Wind Ensemble member Olivia Gross '20 said, "It was a lot better than last year. People were more excited to be in it because they wanted to improve. We were proud of all the shows we put on and got a lot of compliments afterward. The success this year makes me excited to see what we can do in the future."

After Music in Motion 2016, many band members were embarrassed at their performance. This year, due a tremendous amount of work, amazing production, and a fun theme, the Amity Music Department was able to put on an incredible show, and rebound from an off year.

# A Closer Look at Amity's *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*

by Olivia Gross '20

*The Trident's* Olivia Gross sat down with Maren Westgard '18 to discuss Amity's production of *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*.

A veteran Amity actress, Westgard took on five different roles in the play. Gross looked to discover why Westgard was so passionate about the production.

Q: If you had to summarize the play into one sentence, what would it be?

A: It is the sequel to *The Laramie Project*, which was about a hate crime that involved the murder of a gay person. This play checks in with the town where the tragedy happened ten years later and it discusses some of the misconceptions that have manifested about the crime over the years, and it aims to see if there has been any progress in tolerance in that community.

Q: What do you want people to take away from this?

A: I hope that they'll do their best to pay attention; it is hard to keep up with because there are a lot of characters. I hope they'll follow it and think to themselves whether there has been progress in the last 10 years about LGBTQ rights and equalities. I hope they will also think hard about their actions, not just regarding the way they talk about LGBTQ people, but also any minority, and if they are an instigator or a bystander. It is hard to believe that we live in a world where a hate crime like this is possible.

Q: Do you think people will react to it differently, and how?

A: I think there will be some people who are confused, but the play does allow you to draw your own conclusions of whether you believe the 20/20 episode that is referenced in the play or whether you will disagree with it. The play doesn't tell you what to think, but it states the importance of being accepting, and thinking about your actions. It doesn't force you to have the same opinions as the authors of the play. It is all primary sources, because the whole thing is a series of interviews, so there are no opinions from the author's perspective. But, also, there are a lot of differing opinions at Amity, so I don't know how people will take it. But the main thing is that it tells the truth.

Q: What did you think of the play when you first read it as opposed to having discussed/rehearsed it with your cast members?

A: When I first read it, I liked it. I have always been educated about the issues, but it educated me about LGBTQ issues in a new way. It is an enticing

narrative even though it is all interviews mainly because it leads up to an interview with the murderer. It has a good story line. The writers put the interviews in an order that makes it dramatic and interesting to watch and experience.

Q: Who do you play and what has it been like to get to know

the murder. She knows about how people think of it nationally. She is very involved with LGBTQ rights at the university. Beth is involved in making changes we want to see. She truly is an honor to play because she works so hard to make the LGBTQ community in the country an accepting

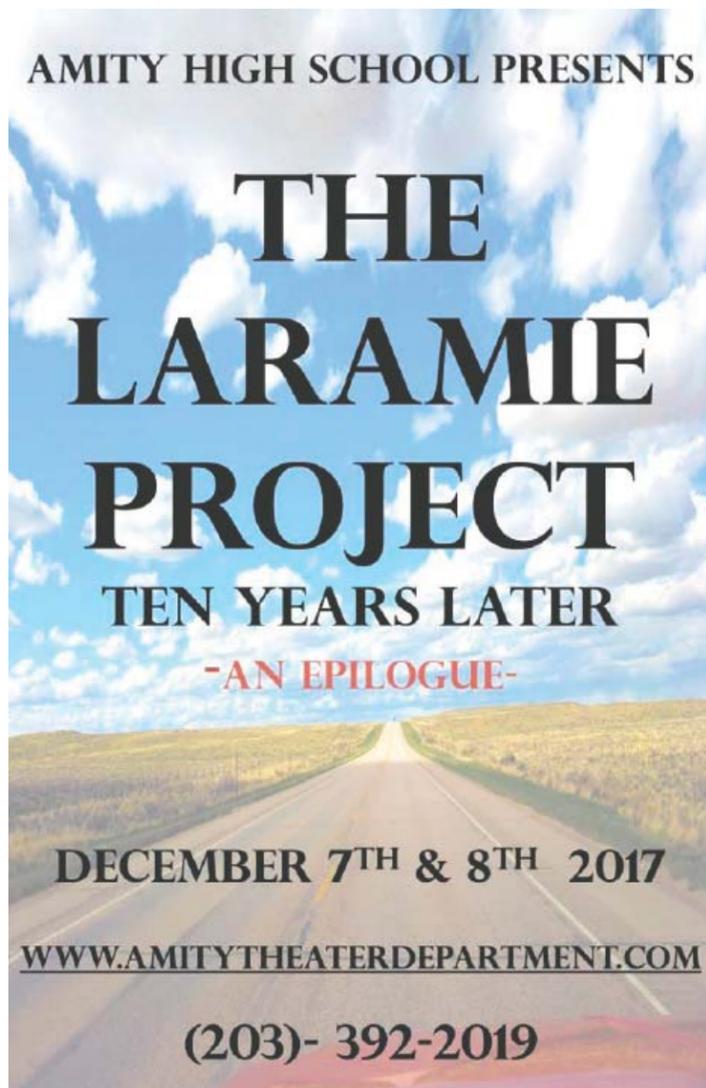
very accepting people, and I lost sight of the fact that some people don't understand different minorities and communities, which leads them to think that some of these things are wrong. Doing research for this play makes me remember that some people aren't up with the times and don't feel for others the way they should. In class we don't do a unit on LGBTQ issues so this is good to teach the uneducated people. I don't see bigotry and hatred at Amity, but I know there is some intolerance here and it is good to acknowledge it and remove it from our community.

Q: Do you think it was a good choice?

A: I think it was a very good choice. The original reason behind picking this play was because it has been 10 years since putting on *The Laramie Project*, so it is appropriate because the play is called 10 years later and it has been 10 years. I think that this play is good at illuminating issues. The fall play is supposed to be the "issues" play, it should cover an important topic and be educating. This should be more educating than the play last year, *Our Town*. Every audience member is going to learn something about others or about themselves. Also, it doesn't tell you what to think, which was good choice from the authors. This is not just pushing an agenda, the playwrights made a good choice to not have their opinions featured in it, instead showing quotes and therefore reality. That is what makes this play so powerful and makes people think of their own truths upon seeing it.

Q: Is it relevant to political and social movements going on today?

A: Yes, which is another thing that makes it appropriate to this year. Usually we expect progress to be in a linear upward movement that never wavers. Today we see that progress and acceptance isn't exponentially growing in our country. This play is well timed because we are experiencing a resurgence of non-acceptance. We see opinions that have previously been held back that are not socially acceptable. This play reminds us why respect and tolerance and compassion are important, because when you don't prioritize that kindness and acceptance, that's when hate crimes like this happen. That's when people fall through the cracks and hate crimes like this occur. You would think in 1998 there wouldn't be a hate crime happening like this, but there was. The cast was just talking about how in the South recently a kid was burned to death because they were transgender. It still happens today and people need to talk about it. These things need to be said.



The Amity Theater Department posted this flyer to promote its upcoming play. Photo courtesy Amity Theater Department

this particular person?

A: I play five characters, but the main person is a University of Wyoming professor, Beth Loffreda. She is my favorite

place and solidify it through legislation, unlike some others who are against that. Beth is very hardworking and was amazing at using this tragedy



Westgard, second from left, performs in *Our Town*, Amity Theater Department's 2016 fall production. Photo Courtesy Amity Theater Twitter

character because she is very articulate, and she thought a lot about the attack after it happened and even wrote a book about it called *Losing Matt Shepard*. She is gay and studied the national responses to

as a springboard to make progress for the LGBTQ community and make it more accepting. Q: How has this play changed your outlook on the world, or has it not?

A: It has because I hang around

## ACT Hosts Charitable Cabaret

by Ella Marin '20

Amity Creative Theater (ACT) hosted a cabaret for music lovers to showcase their talents on November 2. ACT created a platform for people to express themselves creatively through song.

The event featured many Broadway hits such as "I Get a Kick Out of You," from the musical *In the Heights*, "Not for the Life of Me," from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, "Requiem," from *Dear Evan Hansen*, and many others.



**TRICK OR TREAT SO KIDS CAN EAT!**

Photo Courtesy TOTS

Talya Braverman '20, a second-year member of ACT, participated in the cabaret and described the event as "really fun to be apart of because it was in a casual setting and we were able to see a lot of talent, and a lot of new members of ACT performed, which was cool."

Cans of food and other non-perishable items were collected at the cabaret to give to the founda-



From right: Maren Westgard '18, Kayla Zamkov '18, Ben Kemp '18 perform in *The Black Box* at a Cabaret. Photo Courtesy Amity Theater Department

tion Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat. Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat is the International Thespian Society's nationwide community service initiative, in which they collect and distribute food to those in need.

Alaina Dwyer '18, the vice president of Amity Creative Theater, said, "A lot of people came out to show their support; we made some donations and we have a lot of cans, and overall it was a great event and it was a fun time for everyone."

Altogether, the cabaret was a successful event that brought people together to celebrate their favorite tunes and contribute to a charitable cause.

# Zakarai Schneider: An Amity Story of Inspiration & Perseverance

by Nitya Bhattarai '18 and Jacob Gross '18

The Amity Boys Football Team is known for being tough and pushing its athletes to work hard and play harder. The starting varsity squad represents some of Amity's best athletes, but every member of the team is committed and shows talent. And team member Zakarai Schneider '21 is no exception.

However, he truly is exceptional. Throughout his Amity career, he has overcome obstacle after obstacle, and served as a source of inspiration for all around him. He was born with numerous physical and mental disabilities, including apraxia, mental retardation, Down's Syndrome, sensory deficiencies, limited communication abilities, and weak muscle tone.

When he was young, doctors thought that he'd never even be able walk without

braces, let alone play football. Despite these difficulties, though, Zakarai has persevered and surpassed all expectations. It's almost unheard of for a person facing the challenges he faces to be an active member of a high school sports team, not to mention a full contact sport, but Zakarai defies the odds. He comes to a number of practices throughout the season and attends every game he can.

Zakarai's positive attitude is infectious. Linebacker Clayton Fischman '18 says, "Zakarai's been on the sidelines for most of our games, always cheering us on. We all love to see him there. He brings nothing but smiles to all of our faces."

Wide receiver Ricky Fagan '18 echoed Fischman. "My favorite thing is the smile on his face," he said, "and he lights up like a Christmas tree every time he sees us."

Zakarai's impact on the team is huge; the football pro-

gram has not done so well in the past few years, and some players don't feel supported.

Fagan said, "Most people don't really believe in our team, except Zakarai. He loves the team no matter what. And we all love him."

So the next time something in your life goes a bit wrong, or if you feel a little down one day, just remember the challenges that Zakarai faces and how he works to overcome them. His projected life expectancy is about half that of most people, but he doesn't let that get in his way. His passion is to play football, and, against all odds, he's been able to make it happen. Zakarai's story is truly amazing, and is a key part of what makes Amity so great.



Schneider and Ryan Sabo '18 hang out on the sideline during a football game. Photo courtesy Mark Schneider.



Schneider poses with a football on the sideline of a varsity game this season. Photo courtesy Mark Schneider.



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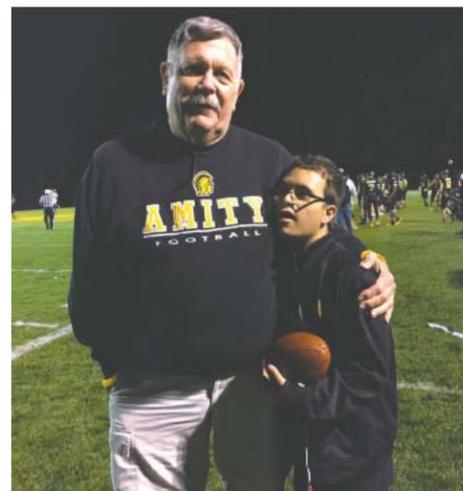
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Schneider and Coach Mozealous pose on the sideline of a game. Photo courtesy Mark Schneider.

# The Blades Strive for Spectacular Season

by Jordan Conn '18

Without a doubt, Amity offers a lot of athletic opportunities. However, there are some sports where there are only teams for one gender. If any Amity girls want to play ice hockey, they can't do it at Amity. Instead, they can join the Blades, a co-op hockey team made up of girls from Amity, Cheshire, and North Haven.

Nine girls from Amity plan to play for the Blades, two of which are captains, Grace Kosh '18 and Olivia Dittmann '18. They have both been members of the team since their freshman years, and have played key roles in the team's success the past few years.

The younger players are going to have to step up this season to make up for the lost talent of Bailey MacNamara '17 and Jena Casman '17, who both graduated last year. Tess Csejka '20, a winger, may be able to help the team recover, along with Andrea Delvecchio '19, another promising young athlete.

The last two seasons, the Blades have made it all the way to the SCC championship, facing Sacred Heart-West Haven both times at Bennet Rink in West Haven.

The Blades won the first matchup, but Sacred Heart-West Haven got the best of them last year.

But even with last year's loss in the final, the team is looking forwards to the season.

"I'm really looking forward to hopefully getting another SCC title and making it to states with some of my best friends," says captain Grace Kosh. "I'm also super excited to meet the incoming freshman and see what they have to bring to the team."

Although the team is made up of three districts, they're still very close. "We may be a co-op team," said Kosh, "but no one is singled out and we treat everyone like family." The team is excited to hit the ice in December, and can't wait to compete for another SCC title.



2016 Champion Blades pose. Photo Courtesy New Haven Register.

# Football Season Closes on Thanksgiving Day

by Jared Beltz '19

As the season winds down for the Amity Spartans Football team, in their wake follows a 3-6 record. Since last month, the Spartans lost to Masuk, 48-10. In that game, they pulled ahead at the start, but slowly lost their lead as the game progressed.

Their next game went better with a hard-hitting win against Branford, 28-3. There, James Laubstein '20 completed the game winning passes for the Spartans. Luke Smith '18 led the team in receiving yards, gaining 42 yards, and four completed passes. The running game was strong, as Ryan Sabo '18 led the team in rushing yards, rushing for 48 total yards.

The confidence from their second win of the season was soon drowned out, when they lost a hard-fought game against Shelton, 27-17. While it may be a disappointing way to head into

the end of the season, the Spartans have seen improvements according to kicker Jordan Conn '18, one of the specialists for the Spartans. Conn described their per-

formance this past season as "[d]isappointing, but a good example of where we need to expand our opportunities as a team next year."

It was especially crushing because the team had worked so hard.

"We'd prepared a lot for this season, both in the weight room and on the field," Conn says, "and worked hard as a team."

Lead players of the season such as Matt Weidenfeller '18, Luke Smith '18, Ryan Sabo '18, and James Laubstein '20 all showed that Amity does have a lot of talent, although their record might not show it at first glance.

The team is looking to head into next season with more preparation, and is determined to do better. With talent coming up from the JV team, it will be interesting to see how their next season plays out.

The season closes on Thanksgiving Day when Amity plays North Haven.



DB Chris Butler jumps for a long pass. Photo courtesy Orange Live.

North Haven.

# A Strong Regular Season Bodes Well for Soccer's Future

by Evan Arovos '20

The Amity Boys Soccer Team saw their season come to a disappointing end as they fell 4-3 to New Milford in the first round of the Class LL state championship. The Spartans finished their campaign with eight wins, seven losses, and a tie.

Winning half the games might not seem amazing, but the team lost ten seniors last season, so their season's performance at the very least proved their resilience. Last year's team put up a 9-6-5 record, and this year they seemed to be continuing the same lackluster trend, with a 4-7 start.

Earlier in the season, the soccer team met the Bran-

ford squad and was downed 5-1. The second time, however, Amity pulled out a 1-0 win over their foe which

'19 took the role as captains for the season.

When asked about his team's performance, Molot said, "We played with a much more aggressive, high pressing style which threw a lot of teams off."

Also, Molot noted that "a bunch of guys stepped up and scored goals who didn't score last year."

These players, such as Dean Saracino '19, Zach Young '20, Ali Bobi '20, and Arian Bobi '21, showed how the team improved as a whole

over the course of the season. And Thomas Kanter '18, was a role model for these newfound talents, as the team's leading scorer day in and day out.

Despite the Spartans' loss in the state tournament, the team sees a bright future ahead.



Amity huddles after their defeat against Daniel Hand.

Photo courtesy New Haven Register.

turned the season around for the Spartans. That win led to a five-game winning streak and a four-game shutout.

Henry Molot '18, Will Hunter '18, and Cole Bova

# Boys Team Swims and Dives Into Preseason

by Nikhil Mali '21 and Kabir Khwaja '21

With fall sports drawing to a close, many winter athletes are eagerly preparing for their seasons. As girls' swimming ends, the boys'

mann said, "There are many potential qualifiers for the Class LL Meet and the State Open."

Head Coach Todd Rainey along with Assistant Coach Jeanine Lambrecht will definitely be training their athletes hard throughout this season. Coaching



Colin Roy competes in the 200 IM. Photo Courtesy The New Haven Register.

swimmers are eager to kick off; many athletes are already hard at work on pre-season conditioning.

Although the season begins in early December, Amity's elite and dedicated began their practice over a month early.

Joseph Sugarmann '18, a long-time member of the team, has big aspirations for the season. "We have some very talented swimmers this year, and we're expecting some big things," he said. And it's true.

With swimmers like Colin Roy '18 and Kevin Yanigasawa '18, the season does look promising. Sugar-

for over twenty years, Rainey is as qualified to help his swimmers realize their full potential. With 14 meets total this season, it will be exciting to see how these swimmers perform in the upcoming events.

Sugarmann may not be overly optimistic in his predictions for the upcoming season. At the end of last season, Amity was ranked 9th in the state. Since expectations are high, Amity will certainly have standards to meet. With rigorous practice and hard work, their training will pay off, and Amity will have an outstanding season this year.

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