

THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

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Amity's Inaugural "Make It Happen!" Day

By Tyler Jennes '17

On October 19th the administration invited Amity class of 1999 alumni and current SportsCenter anchor Darren M. Haynes to speak to the senior class during what Principal Anna Mahon has called her "Fall Make It Happen Day," which took place while both the sophomore and junior classes were taking their PSAT's.

This meetup started off with some technical difficulties, which Haynes joked about with the crowd. While administration was fixing these issues, Haynes carried on with his lecture, in which he talked about how he started out from humble beginnings in Mr. Lenny Marazzi's PE class where he instilled a great sense of accountability within Haynes. He went on to discuss such topics as how he moved up in the world of sports news television, the obstacles he, as a black journalist, endured, and his experience working on SportsCenter.

He continued by inform-

ing the senior class about the character that his experience at Amity has allowed him to build, namely, what standards he holds himself up to, later referencing simple sacrifices that you make in everyday life. He gave the example of wearing a full, three-piece suit in the 110 degree heat of Dallas, Texas. Another was moving back in with his parents between jobs.

After the lecture was over, he engaged the crowd with a Q&A, where the questions ranged from what his favorite interviews were (Michael Jordan and Tom Brady) to who his inspirations were (now deceased SportsCenter anchor Stuart Scott and Detroit anchor and personal mentor, Bill Gonillo), what Amity helped him accomplish (he jokingly said "absolutely nothing" quite emphatically before returning to his more serious tone), and at one point, when his birthday was.

After a handful of these interactions, the technical issues were resolved and the students were treated to a video reel showing Haynes' progres-

Music in Motion 2.0 Captures the Spirit of Amity's Music Department

By Neha Sudhir '19

On the evenings of Friday, October 21, and Saturday, October 22, 2016, the John J. Brady Center at Amity Regional High School was abuzz with excitement for "Music in Motion 2016: 2.0", one of the biggest annual events of the Amity music department.

Months of preparation came together to create a uniquely spectacular event featuring various aspects of Amity's exceptionally talented music department.

The tradition of Music in Motion started after the school attempted to form a competitive marching band in 2009. The marching band continued for the next two years before making the switch to Music in Motion.

"We wanted to create a different show that we could do onstage and show our community a different type of musical performance," said Mr. Phil Dolan, the band teacher at Amity who organizes the event.

According to Dolan, the idea behind Music in Motion comes from a Tony Award winning show known as "Blast." Ele-

ments of the former marching band were taken and combined to create a unique stage show incorporating marching, music, movement, and visual pageantry that remains unprecedented by other high schools. Over time, the event has evolved as new layers are brought to the show every year in the form of video and lighting choices, combining these spectacular audio and visual components in ways never seen before.

Dolan outlined the amount of preparation that goes into the event every year.

"The pre-production process starts ten months in advance." In this time, a creative teams meets to discuss ideas for a theme for the performance, such as this year's revolutionary "2.0", and to sketch out the show.

This includes deciding the details of lighting ideas, movement, and music choices. The performers, which include mem-



Amity Band Students Celebrate After the Show

National Honor Society Hosts Annual Blood Drive

By Kate Yuan '19

Amity High School hosted a blood drive in collaboration with the American Red Cross on Thursday, October 24th. Blood is always in short supply in hospitals and medical centers.

As red blood only has a shelf life of 42 days, and platelets only having a shelf life of 7 days, a constant stream of blood flowing in is extremely crucial. This is an annual event organized by the Amity Chapter of the National Honor Society.

On the 24th, the participants were able to donate any time during the first five periods of the day. This event was chaired by Haya Jarad and Katie Gocłowski. Jarad said, "I found it uplifting to see how willing Amity students and staff were to contribute

to the drive." An emergency blood transfusion can be the difference between life and death. With only a few requirements to donate blood, one being that the donors must be at least 17 years old, and the other being that they must meet a certain weight requirement, a high school is a prime place to reach hundreds of potential donors.

Gocłowski said, "The National Honor Society is extremely grateful for the student body and faculty's participation."

There was an excellent turnout of around fifty people, with both first-time and veteran donors. Each person that donated just a pint of blood could potentially save three different people's lives.

Donating is such a simple thing to do, but to the people that receive the blood, it means the whole world.

Amity Holds its Own Mock Presidential Election

by Howard Ding '18

Students from the Critical Issues senior elective and from Student Government organized and conducted a mock presidential election on October 28 and 31, in lieu of the real election on November 8th.

This mock election allowed students to cast their vote for which of the four main candidates they wanted to support. Though most students are not eligible to vote this Election Day, the mock election gave students a way for them to express their opinion about this invigorating 2016 presidential election.

Exposing students to voting is crucial. In the 2012 presidential election, young voters proved to be critical for the Obama campaign in the key states of Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

In preparation for this election, Critical Issues students created informative campaign

ads that were shown to educate students about each of the four candidates during homeroom on October 27. The videos not only talked about Republican candidate Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, but also talked about the less publicized third party candidates: Gary Johnson of the Libertarian party and Jill Stein of the Green Party.

Finally, during Spartan Seminar on November 1st, the results of the mock election were announced over the intercom with Hillary Clinton winning with 40% and Donald Trump in a close second with 36%. Third party candidates Gary Johnson and Jill Stein did pretty well ended with roughly 15% and 4%

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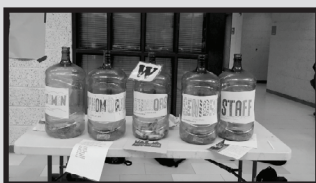


Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, the two major contenders for President

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Amity Holds its Own Mock Presidential Election

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respectively. Last but not least, 5% of voters opted for a write-in. It was also announced that over 1200 students and faculty participated in the election.
Many Amity students had their own opinions on the various candidates and different reasons for voting for certain candidates.
Patrick Burland ‘18 voted for Gov. Johnson and explained, “Governor Johnson has a proven record of fiscal responsibility and has been on the right

side of foreign affairs issues.”
Harris Andersen ‘18 said, “I voted for Clinton mainly because of media portrayal and my parents.”
Jeremy Gustafson ‘18 even did a write-in. He said, “I voted for Jeb Bush, because I dislike the four main candidates. Also Jeb is a centrist Republican, and his views and ideology panders to both Republicans and Democrats alike.”
Most Amity students may not be able to vote, but many have already gotten a sense of

politics whether it be through relatives, media coverage, or a general engagement with it. Students are getting involved with politics and it certainly shows through.
The three individuals interviewed had their own opinions and it brings up interesting arguments to the table about this year’s election.
Though this presidential election has come to a close, civic engagement is still possible for students interested through various clubs and organizations within Amity.

Music in Motion 2.0 Captures the Spirit of Amity’s Music Department cont.

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bers of the band, jazz band, and color guard, rehearse two nights a week after school hours, as well as in class starting from the beginning of the year.
New and unique aspects of this year’s show in particular include an overhead camera that was used to capture the movement from above. Additionally, two HD projectors were used to project the video onto two large screens so that the audience could have a different perspective of the stage.
“We also used black lights this year and did some really great glow in the dark sections featuring the color guard and the drumline,” added Dolan.

The selections this year included music from The Planets, The Chicken, America the Beautiful, as well as original music commissioned especially for the Music in Motion program by EDM artist Scott Osborne.
All in all, the event was extremely successful. The students performed for over twelve hundred people over the two nights. Dolan said, “Over the years, the show has become the biggest music department event of the entire year.”
This event is one of many that has helped the Amity community to develop such a unique and special climate.

Sophomores and Juniors Experience PSATs

by Katherine Handler ‘17

The sophomores and the juniors took the PSAT during the first half of school on Wednesday, October 19th. The PSAT is a preliminary SAT test to help students determine where they stand nationally in terms of scores. The PSAT is especially important for the juniors because the National Merit Scholarship Corporation cosponsors it. This means that the juniors’ scores are sent to the NMSC, which will then determine which students across the nation are qualified for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
For the sophomores, the test they took that Wednesday was just a practice run. Since many sophomores have not taken

all of the math courses tested on the real SAT, the PSAT is more of an opportunity for them to be exposed to the style of the standardized testing they will most likely be taking in the coming years, rather than a useful gauge for their scores and national percentiles. Sophomore Marcelle Gagnon thought that it was a helpful day in terms of getting exposed to standardized testing.
But for the juniors, many took it as a test to study for, since their scores would be sent to the NMSC and could influence their college applications. When asked about her experience with the PSAT, junior Sophie Baum exclaimed, “It was a long test, and I’m excited that I will never have to take the PSAT again!”

Amity’s Inaugural “Make it Happen!” Day (cont.)

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sion throughout his 10+ years in the industry. His main point to the crowd throughout this whole event was telling them to discover their interest and stick with them, no matter how difficult they might seem.
“Don’t let anybody tell you otherwise,” Haynes said. He also emphasized the importance of networking, pointing out the fact that he can now call up such stars as David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox, and Doc Rivers, formerly of the Boston Celtic on command.

Ultimately, Darren Haynes left us with this: “Be politely aggressive, and don’t be fake. If you’re fake, everyone will know you’re fake. Take full advantage of what you know, and do that one thing that will distinguish you. After all, ‘today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.’”
He also asked Amity to tune into ESPN this week at 9pm because while motivation in a guest lecture is a key element, so is self-promotion. One could really say that Darren M. Haynes has “Made it happen.”



Amity Senior Chris Mastrangelo pictured with Haynes

Trump’s Unexpected Victory and Connecticut House and Senate Elections

by Ryan Anastasio ‘20

The election of 2016 has come to an end, and it will definitely be an election to go down in the history books. Donald Trump finished with 306 electoral votes compared to Hillary Clinton’s 232. While Trump won the electoral vote, he lost the popular vote, earning approximately 200,000 votes less than Clinton’s 59,814,000 votes. Prior to the election, the polls were in Clinton’s favor by a small margin. However as election night went on, the assumption that Clinton would win started to change.
Traditionally democratic states such as New York, California, and Virginia went to Clinton while traditionally republican states such as Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi went to Trump. The battleground state of Florida was too close to call early in the night, until Trump took the lead and clinched the state winning by a margin of 49.1% to 47.8%, winning 29 electoral votes.

Another pivotal state, North Carolina was extremely close with Trump winning 50.5% of the vote compared to Clinton’s 46.7%, earning him 15 electoral votes.
Towards the end of the campaign, the state of Pennsylvania had moved from a swing state to leaning democrat. However, Pennsylvania’s 20 electoral votes went to Donald Trump, who won 48.8% of the popular vote. Donald Trump won Wisconsin and Michigan by less than 1%, expected to be won by Clinton.
In the state of Connecticut, there were many local and state races. The Connecticut General Assembly, which consists of the State Senate and State House, saw very tight races this year. The state senate has 36 members across the state of Connecticut, Joe Crisco being the state senator for most of Woodbridge and Bethany, and Gayle Slossberg being the senator for part of Woodbridge and Orange. After the election, the state senate became tied 18 democrats to 18 republicans.

Senator Joe Crisco lost in a very close race to political newcomer George Logan in the 17th senatorial district. Gayle Slossberg defeated Pat Libero in the 14th senatorial district by a substantial margin.
The Connecticut House of Representatives consists of 151 leaders across the entire state, where representatives for Amity students include Themis Klarides, Charles Ferraro, Pam Staneski, and Lezyle Zupkus. Prior to the election the state house was controlled by the democrats by 12 members, which has been reduced to a 5 member lead.
Democrats maintained control of all 5 congressional districts. The US Representative for Amity students is Congresswoman Rosa Delauro, who won by a substantial margin. In the United States Senate race in Connecticut incumbent Senator Richard Blumenthal defeated Dan Carter, with 63% to 35%. The close results, show the political divide within the country, based on values by each individual.

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Be Thankful this Thanksgiving

by Sarah Saxe '17

All it took for my twelve-year-old self to realize that commercialism had gotten out of hand in the United States was witnessing a man get tasered in the middle of a Target during a Black Friday rush. Except it wasn't even Friday yet, but Thursday night: Thanksgiving. From what I saw, it should definitely have been off limits for children, but at the time, my family was just hopelessly ill-informed and naïve about the primal aggression that shoppers willingly display in their conquest for a good deal. What we expected to resemble a slightly more crowded President Day's Weekend or Memorial Day sale that comprised of somewhat slashed prices and idle shoppers hoping to stumble upon something good was far from what we witnessed. Instead, shoppers came with sharpened nails and a game plan.

I had initially asked to stop by Target during the sale after spotting a video game that I knew my brother wanted for Christmas in a flyer. When we walked through row after row of now deserted barricades that had once held a restless crowd, I began to expect the worst. Finally, when the automatic sliding doors opened, I was immediately overcome by the stench and heat that accompanies an overcrowded room. Immediately, I dragged my mom to turn around, but she told me that it would be fine and that we would quickly buy the game and leave. Unfortunately, she was wrong.

It took us twenty minutes

to make our way through the store to the video games section. When I finally saw the game and scooted through a line to grab it, multiple adults began shouting at me to watch where I was going and to not cut or they'd throw me out. Here were grown adults yelling at a clearly terrified child just trying to walk around the claustrophobic space. Employees either looked flustered and on the edge of tears or extremely irritated and ready to quit their jobs in retail forever. People shouted at each other and most seemed to dump items into their shopping carts without even checking what they were grabbing. The climax of my excursion, however, occurred when I saw two grown men fight over an electronic item until one finally got tasered by the police, handcuffed, and led out.

And all this chaos was for what? A couple of dollars saved on a new TV? While I understand that money has been tight for many families across the country in recent years, I hardly believe that Black Friday is the proper remedy to fulfill one's materialistic needs. Because if money is so tight that you are willing to put your life on the line (in the past decade, 7 people have died and another 98 have been hospitalized) to search for a deal, then maybe the question you ask yourself shouldn't be "which store offers the lowest prices?," but rather "do I even need that new TV in the first place?"

As technological advancements occur at an exponential rate and last year's models seem almost obsolete, most people's wallets and bank accounts aren't ready to keep up with the newest

models and devices and retailers are well-aware of this. To accommodate the public's "keeping up with the Joneses" mentality, many stores have begun to offer various services, such as layaway, that put unnecessary gifts and products into consumers' hands. The number of credit card accounts being opened has risen in recent years despite the simultaneous rise in credit card debt.

I challenge you not to get caught up in this year's race for materialism. Consider the families of the employees who must see their relatives leave early from Thanksgiving dinner to work their 8 pm shift during the event that continues to encroach on a holiday centered around giving thanks. It's the absolute epitome of irony that this holiday's origins, rooted in being thankful for what we have, has been overtaken by a materialistic zoo of consumers only wishing for what they don't have.

I'm not saying that you need to return to the dark ages and buy a flip phone, but ask yourself if upgrading to an iPhone 7 from last year's 6S is really going to make that big of an impact on your life. But, if shopping on Black Friday is a tradition or necessity for you, then I urge you to at least avoid doing so on Thursday for the sake of employees' families and your own.

Instead, continue to spend time with your loved ones on Thanksgiving because I'm pretty sure that a story from your quirky aunt about how you are related to John Howland, the boy who fell off the Mayflower, is much more valuable than any discount you'll find at the store.

Stay Calm and Stress Less

by Alison Hagani '17

Ever hear the adage "youth is wasted on the young?" The popular expression generated from the negative mindsets millennials have evolved to acquire. A beautiful sunrise is undermined by the need for sleep, and the overall greatness of our youth is degraded by the fixed mindset to compete and succeed.

Rewarding moments of our teenage years are darkened by late nights of studying, and the greatness of obtaining knowledge is devalued by school days which seem to drag on forever.

However, what many of us fail to realize, or push to the back of our minds, is that the moments we have are fleeting. Nothing is guaranteed, not even tomorrow, yet an excess of stress still settles on a future that we could easily be deprived of.

We plan to go to college, take a gap year, or pursue some other career path after high school, but those plans could easily be extinguished.

Now I don't mean that you should flunk every test and drop all regards for your duties because of the unpredictable nature of tomorrow. Rather, our aim should be to grow as individuals and students and to make the most of every day. We should

remain loyal to ourself and our individuality while acknowledging that one test or one bad day won't break us unless we allow it to.

Simply, high school is a chapter revolving around good memories and personal growth. Flourish in the fact that every morning, you are waking up to go to a community that cares deeply in the beauty of your dreams.

You are never alone and each day has the potential to be great. If we all maintain that positive outlook and realize the power we have over the direction of our lives, then as long as we apply ourselves, we can all lead a happier life.

THE TRIDENT

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A Senior’s Perspective: Town Hall Meeting a Success

by Robert Mofta ’17

When the Amity administration told us there was going to be a senior town hall meeting, I wasn’t really sure what to expect. For a few seconds, I envisioned a student portraying Donald Trump exchanging jabs with another student imitating Hillary Clinton.

I pictured students arguing and making themselves look childish. I should have realized that administrators wouldn’t waste an hour to watch two students joke around on stage when they could plan something of actual substance.

We were all funneled

through the auditorium doors, and I saw this was not going to be spectacle I had imagined. On the stage, three tables were set up, each representing one of the three leading presidential candidates. Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and Gary Johnson each had a team of three seniors as representatives. Once every senior had made it into the auditorium, the forum began.

The event was very organized. It was obvious that a lot of hard work and many hours of preparation had been put in. Every student was dressed professionally and carried themselves maturely. It was apparent that the students did a lot of research on their candidate and their policies. Each group answered questions

with the same policy that the candidate they represented hoped to implement if elected. Performing in front of the entire senior class must have put a great deal of pressure on all of the representatives.

Nonetheless, they handled the pressure flawlessly, as if they didn’t feel it at all. The style of this forum was great. Even though I’m not yet able to vote in the election, I am much more informed about all of the policies each candidate stands by.

Ultimately, this event was a success. It informed the students who are able to vote in this year’s election of the different policies of each candidate. I hope the school hosts more interactive events such as this one in the future.

Do the Presidential Debates Matter?

by Ryan Anastasio’20

Some people say that presidential debates are the Super Bowl of politics. Yes, presidential debates are very important events, but have they influenced the results in the election as much as we think?

The first formal presidential debate occurred on September 26, 1960 between then Senator John F. Kennedy and then Vice President Richard Nixon. These debates were a crucial part in the very close election. During these debates, Kennedy was cool and collected, while Nixon was sweating and appeared nervous. Some experts say that Nixon’s debate performance could have cost him the election. In 1950, just 11% of American homes had television, but by 1960, that number had surged to 60%.

This surge in television ownership made these debates even more important, as more voters began to pay attention to a candidate’s appearance. The final result of the election of 1960 was Kennedy with 49.72% of the popular vote and 303 electoral votes. Nixon got 49.55% and 216 electoral votes. This was one of America’s closest elections, and the presidential debates had an enormous impact on the result.

Arguably, the debates had the greatest impact in the presidential election of 1980 between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Before the final debate, Carter held a lead in the polls. However, Reagan excelled in that pivotal debate, and it drove him to victory in the election.

Assistant Director of the Quinnipiac Poll Timothy Malloy said in an interview with the Amity Trident that,

“Reagan, as a performer, was far better than Jimmy Carter. Reagan was Reagan.” Later in the interview, Malloy explained the build up that comes before presidential debates saying, “There is a lot of hype before. They are like one hit wonders.”

These two were some of the most watched and close elections in American history. However, not all elections have had such an impact. While some presidential debates are very important, generally they barely have a significant impact on election results. There is usually around a few points surge for a candidate after a successful debate performance.

Malloy explained that, “A great performance or a troubled performance can make all the difference in the election. However, that said, a lot of these debates are kind of boring, so there are some that are no consequence and there are some that are really important.” Malloy is correct in this point.

In the 2012 presidential race between then Senator Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney, Romney had a surge in the polls after the first debate. Before that debate, Romney polled at 45% to Obama’s 49%. Following that pivotal debate, Romney had closed the gap and was now behind Obama by less than 1%.

However, the two following debates had a significantly less impact and the polls did not change notably after the debates. As shown in the results of the 2012 election, some presidential debates barely change the polls, and when they do it is only changed by a few points.

In this election, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in what some people

have called a miracle. The results were surprising to many because all the polls were wrong. I believe that the presidential debates barely had an impact on the results. While these were important face offs which told the people about some of the candidates’ policies, they barely influenced the results and what people thought of either of the candidates. During the debates, Trump was being Trump; he talked and acted as he has since the beginning of his announcement.

Likewise, Clinton stayed in character. Debates, such as the ones between Kennedy and Nixon and Carter and Reagan were influential because of how the candidates appeared on stage. Trump and Clinton only appealed to those who were already in their corner.

The presidential debates were not a turning point of the 2016 election. Rather, what probably influenced the results more were the FBI investigations into Clinton’s emails and Trump’s comments about women and racial minorities. Most people’s minds were already made up about who they were going to vote for. After all, campaigning started nearly a year and half ago. Both candidates were plagued with news stories of scandals, and it’s difficult to remain undecided for a year and half.

To Trump supporters, Clinton is a criminal because of Benghazi and her emails. To Clinton supporters, Trump was a misogynist, sexist, and racist. By the time the debates came around, most people already knew who they were going to vote for. There may have been fluctuations in the poll, but I can conclude that presidential debates did not have a huge impact on this election.

Mrs. Mahon’s Principal Honor Is Well Deserved

by Audrey Regan’17

Some may recognize the name as a local Olympian, but Anna Mahon has much more than that to add to her list. Mahon was appointed Amity Regional High School Principal in 2015 after being with the district for fifteen years. Starting as an English teacher, she then became department chair, then assistant principal and now principal.

Though she has only had this leadership position for a year, I believe Amity students and staff should be grateful for what she has already brought to the school.

Since taking lead at Amity, Mahon has flipped this school upside down. When she started, she introduced yearly themes, the first one being “Find your Passion.”

This generalized advice is meant to be used in any and every way Amity students and staff could think of. When I really thought about this, my mind went to clubs. After hearing stories from Amity’s own veterans, I was motivated to create the 365 Day Hero Project (365DHP). In this club, I wanted to find a group of students who shared a passion for giving back to the men and women who dedicated their lives for the nation’s peace.

This year’s theme is “Make It Happen.” With the 365DHP planned in my mind, I was ready to make it happen, starting off with a Club Day table. As the door in my high school career was quickly closing, I saw the determination of Anna Mahon continuing to make Amity the best it could possibly be for its students.

Recently, Mahon was honored with the First Year Principal of the Year award. Speaking as an

Amity student, I think Mrs. Mahon has been a blessing to the school.

In my opinion, while there were no issues in my first two years in the high school, the former principal did not play as large a role as Mahon does now.

During passing time, Mahon is always in the hallway, offering a big smile and hello to as many people as she can as opposed to the former principal who I really cannot recall ever seeing around the school building.

Mahon is like no other high school principal. It’s the things like her “Out of the Office Days” that set her apart. She really treats every student as her own children.

Most people work to get a paycheck at the end of the week and then go home.

However, from the time Mahon walks into the school to the time she leaves the last soccer game, she strives to provide the very best for all the students of Amity. Regional High School.

I have been an athlete since before I can remember. For over five years, rowing has been my main sport. Rowing is a costly and unpopular sport, thus Amity does not host its own team. As soon as I entered 9th grade, I went to Mahon with hopes to bring my passion to my school. Unfortunately, the plan didn’t work out, but Mahon tried her hardest to bring what I love to Amity.

Mahon may only be in her second school year as the principal, but I know she is on an upward staircase of success in the years to come. Her motivation, passion, and enthusiasm does not go unnoticed. Even with experience in many other roles, Anna Mahon surely takes the gold as principal above all else.

A Pleasant Surprise from the Cafe

by Suvasini Balaji’17

I admired my friend’s pair of cheese-stuffed breadsticks with eager eyes, their warmth and savory aroma radiating towards me. Upon asking her for a bite, I was taken back by the heartiness and melt-in-your-mouth goodness of the school cafeteria food.

For the past three or so years, I have never purchased a meal from our cafeteria, thrusting the responsibility of energizing me for the school day to my mom’s home-made fried rice and pasta.

However, the cheese inside these breadsticks, paired with the warm, wholesome tomato sauce, spurred my desire to stand in line amidst other hungry, impatient students. It was then quite the adventure to finally venture through those sketchy doors towards the back corner of the cafeteria.

Once on the other side of those doors, I felt lost and disoriented. Everyone around me seemed to know what they were doing: students knew ex-

actly what they wanted to get and those in the check-out line kept spitting out their student IDs (numbers which I had never bothered to remember until this moment) like robots reciting a programmed code.

With the disposable tray and breadsticks in hand, I walked back into the cafeteria feeling like I had just undergone a rite of passage and promptly devouring my second lunch.

As a whole, my first experience with Chartwells was a pleasant surprise. Prior to this, I had always stereotyped school lunch as something kids ate because they had to, not because they wanted to. I never even realized that these lunches could be just as delicious, or even more delectable than those brought from home.

Now firmly committed to buying cheese-stuffed breadsticks at the first opportunity I get, I encourage all you school lunch virgins to give Chartwells a shot!

It just might open your eyes (and your mouth).

Inside Look at Leslie Fazzini

by Emma Gehr '17



Photo by Christine Ruenhorst.

Some people struggle to find their passion in life; outreach counselor Leslie Fazzini is not one of them. Through the guidance and inspiration of her teachers, Fazzini knew at a young age that helping others was what she was meant to do. Throughout her life, Fazzini has been around many people who

have inspired her. As a young girl, she loved her own teachers and learning. At that time, many women became nurses, teachers, or counselors, and before you could become a counselor, you had to be a teacher. Thus, that was the path Fazzini chose to take.

Following her completion of college with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and psychology and a master’s degree in counseling, Fazzini began her teaching career. Shortly after this, Fazzini followed her passion and began working as a counselor.

When asked when she made the decision to begin counseling, she replied that she loved teaching “but realized I could be a little bit of both” by becoming a counselor.

Following this change, Fazzini began her journey through the various stages of psychology and counseling. She said, “Even within a given occupation, there are many roads you can take.”

From working in a mental health facility, to serving as director of a counseling program for people under 21, and on to directing a foster family agency, she finally ended up at Amity as an outreach counselor.

In this job which she has held for the past 15 years, Fazzini surely has seen it all, helping her become a very well-liked and respected figure in our school.

As an outreach counselor at Amity, Fazzini works with students who are in crisis or who are dealing with problems such as anxiety or depression. When asked what her favorite part of her job was, she said, “I love working with kids and learning things from students every day.”

Her daily duties vary from conducting group meetings, individual meetings with students, and parent meetings, to any other situation that arises. Each day is a surprise.

Here at Amity, it is stressed that we should “find our passion” and “make it happen.” That’s exactly what Fazzini did. Throughout her life she has traveled down many roads and has worked in various places, holding different positions. Her persistence and hard work are just a few qualities that have led to her success in the counseling field. She is truly an inspiration to Amity students, as the perfect example of someone who chose a profession and loves doing her job every day.

Student Feature: Cat Slanski

by Amy Chen '17

In her own words, Annacatherine Slanski is “a carbon-based, beige, and short person.” She is very involved at Amity, participating in clubs like OB/OA (One Book/One Amity), Improv Club, PLAHD (People Leading against Homophobic Discrimination), the NAHS (National Art Honor Society), and the NSHS (National Spanish Honor Society). I personally find her very humorous and authentic in her attitude towards life and a thoughtful person in general. As a senior, Cat believes in reconnoitering the world through different languages, and is enthusiastic about helping other people. I asked her a few questions about the NSHS, and what her experience with the organization.

Q: What do you do in NSHS? What does the club do?

A: So NSHS has historically focused on a couple of things. They help with the culture-week jazz later



Photo by John Slanski.

for the students- we just recently did a bake sale, and are planning another. This year, we’ve been doing a little more- like starting a poster contest for Hispanic Heritage month, running activities with the A School, and are looking at visiting the middle schools to work with the kids to show various Spanish-speaking cultures in interesting ways to get them excited.

Q: Who would you say benefits the most from this club?

A: That’s a good question. I

don’t know if I could point to one group specifically. I think that the funds and food we raise is really helpful for the kids overseas and in North Haven, so from a pragmatic standpoint, you could argue that it’s the people who need these things for their physical persons. But I think that we also really benefit future Spanish students and current students at amity high by helping build the community.

Q: How does this influence who you are and what you’d like to do in life?

A: I just love the idea of exploring the world through a different language, you know? I love English, and I love linguistic history, but you don’t see the quirks of your own language half so well when you don’t have anything to compare it to. I love how people have learned to communicate in so many ways, and how some things are the same and some things are different. It’s just really cool.

Cat is a considerate and attentive person who brings good vibes to the Amity community!

Thanksgiving Through Time

by Jasmine Moon '17

Thanksgiving is not only a time to stuff our faces with a bunch of food. As a senior, Andrew Zhang, says, “Thanksgiving is a great time to spend it with friends and family.”

From the very beginning to now, Thanksgiving has always been about sharing the time and giving thanks with others.

In 1620, the Pilgrims sailed the ocean blue from Plymouth, England to the Massachusetts Bay. The Pilgrims began to establish their village at Plymouth, Massachusetts. After surviving gruesome weather conditions and disease, the Pilgrims’ first corn harvest proved to be successful in the November of 1621. A celebratory feast was in order; the Pilgrims invited many Native American allies, and the festival last for three whole days. This was the “first Thanksgiving” in America. For more than two centuries, Thanksgiving was celebrated by individual colonies and states. It

wasn’t until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day a national holiday to be held each November.

Today, traditional foods such as turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cornbread, and sweet potatoes are served. The whole family may help prepare the Thanksgiving meal. Some may argue that the best part of the Thanksgiving feast is the dessert pie: pumpkin, apple, pecan-there are so many different types to choose from!

Furthermore, some families include breaking the turkey’s wishbone as part of their celebration. After the turkey’s breast meat has been removed and the wishbone has had a chance to dry, two people take one end of the bone, make a wish, and pull. Whoever ends up with the larger part of the bone gets their wish! People may also travel because spending time with the extended family is one of the best ways to celebrate Thanksgiving. Either going on vacation or visiting far

away relatives, Thanksgiving unites people. A fun fact: Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year!

Thanksgiving is a very special day for Amity students. Senior Alex Provost explains, “Thanksgiving is a special day when we reflect on what we are thankful for in our lives. It’s a day when we give thanks for having the astonishing friends and family that have helped to support us throughout our lives. It’s a day when everyone comes together as one to enjoy one of the best meals of the year!”

Senior Emily Mullins says, “For Thanksgiving every year, my family and I run the Turkey Trot 5K in the morning, then come back and eat dinner as a family around 1pm or 2pm. Then we go to a relative’s house for dessert with the extended family.”

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time so spend it with your family. Take this holiday to appreciate your family and friends and all that you have. Happy Thanksgiving!

Coats: Over, Under, Everywhere!

by Emily Bacal '17

As the temperature drops, so do hemlines – and thoughts inevitably turn to dreams of a new topper. Every time I’m outside and it’s under 60 degrees, which

it has (sadly) been the norm lately, visions of coats dance behind my eyelids, accompanied by curses directed at myself for eschewing one in the hope that warmer weather will return.

Well, it won’t, and we would all do well to start making coats a constant for the next six months. That being said, not all coats are created equal.

That pea coat may obstruct an early November breeze, but come February, you’ll want a bit more substance. Here are some different types of coats, and the pros and cons of each.

The Velvet Duster. Starting with a favorite. Not the warmest of options, but uncontested in trendiness and character. They also signify a commitment to fashion. Non-luxury examples are hard to come by, so acquiring one is a testament to your digging abilities, whether that means trolling the ether of the internet or the thick racks of vintage stores. **Pros:** relevance and glamour, high-impact texture and instant cool-factor. **Cons:** a velvet coat’s main con is fragility. If you get your hands on one of these, do not wear it when any sort of precipitation is falling from the sky! They are too precious to be ruined by the rain.

Long puffy down coats. Yes, the ones that make you look like a human marshmallow. There comes a time each winter when the cold becomes so unbearable that you just stop caring about looking semi-normal. Plus, toddling around in a giant, puffy coat is actually kind of fun; sitting down is great, because you have a fluffy cushion over your butt at all times. But seriously, these things are cute. I’d recommend selecting a tasteful shade, like a nice navy or burgundy- because there will be a LOT of that fabric. **Pros:** your warmest option. Literal winter armor. Getting hit by snowballs in this thing will feel like tiny butterflies brushing softly against you. I defy you, snow! **Cons:** mobility, probably. I personally don’t mind having my range of movement restricted to a stuttering shuffle, but, hey, to each her own.

The Cocoon coat. Mmmm. Just as cozy as it sounds. Many examples come in wool, which means these keep you pretty toasty. Try one in a fun, unexpected shade like bright salmon or seafoam green. These can brighten up the often monotonous shades of winter, or provide contrast to a traditionally hued fall ensemble. **Pros:** they look as cozy as they are. A seasonal classic, investing in one of these will have you donning it year after year. The perfect balance of pretty and functional. **Cons:** if you don’t like alliteration, these are probably not for you. Cocoon Coat. CC. No? Okay...

Menswear-inspired outerwear. I’m looking at you, knee-length blazers. Their structure



Maggie Collins trying on a coat from the Michael Kors Collection at Harrods in London. Photo by Emily Bacal '17

makes any outfit look put-together, and oversized versions are still super-cozy. Pair with literally anything and your look will be upgraded. **Pros:** these come in tons of different fabrics. Tweed, camel, wool, plaid... okay, plaid isn’t a fabric, but these coats also look really cute in plaid. **Cons:**

if you aren’t into structure (which I totally get) you probably won’t dig these. Try the next type... Knee-length Bombers. For those who despair over having to retire their favorite jacket, there is a cold-weather friendly version. Just make sure yours is quilted or lined if you intend to use it as a serious coat. **Pros:** major friends with athleisure of all types.

They can take your leggings and sneakers from lazy-comfy to Intentional Fashion Statement. They also come in lots of patterns and colors: patched versions are cute and kitsch, while satin versions come across as slick. **Cons:** cheaper versions might not do much in the way of keeping you warm. Still, thin versions are good for layering- a longer bomber under a shorter menswear-coat? All kinds of goodness.

The Fur coat. Requisite. A cold-weather classic; go faux, though, unless you want PETA to chase you down come Anna Wintour. Furry toppers tend to fall into one of two categories: Classic, realistic-looking (or real) coats that are thick and glamorous and should probably be worn with red lipstick, and neo-chic candy-hued ones that are blatantly synthetic, sometimes patterned, and always fun, a la Shrimps: a UK based brand that’s worth checking out for major coat-inspiration. **Pros:** warm, dramatic, and unrivaled for texture. **Cons:** not the most versatile weather-wise, and potentially incendiary to people on the street who are sleeper-PETA agents. I have witnessed a faux-or-real-fur questioning, and it wasn’t pretty. The coat, however, was, but that’s beside the point. Military-esque detailing. Not really a coat and a potential overlap with menswear inspired outerwear, but definitely worth mentioning. We’re talking classic military: structured, gold detailing, with cool buttons and elaborate toggles. Bonus points for epaulets.

The base should be a classic color- black, navy, maybe burgundy. This will make that delicious gold detailing really pop. **Pros:** super in right now, a great contrast when paired with a dramatic, Victorian-style top. **Cons:** more suitable to brisk weather than the legit cold. These aren’t necessarily the most comfortable option, and you probably don’t want to have that many layers underneath. Still, if you want to look ultra-trendy and so classic that you’re hip, and then break out the surcoat and the military-dress style coat. Also, Zara has a black velvet version with gold detailing. Just saying.

Overall, (get it? Over- like an overcoat? Ah, forget it.) there is a coat for every style. Whether you insist on being as warm as possible or scoff in the face of the cold, a quality coat is a must have for the fall-winter season. And with so many great options, choosing only one might be the real battle.

THANKSGIVING AND AMITY

This year, Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 24. Beginning as a simple meal between the Pilgrims and Native Americans, Thanksgiving has emerged as one of the United States’ most celebrated holidays, one in which Americans express gratitude. The Amity community has deemed November 2016 as the “Month of Gratitude.”

A Look Into the Goods for Good Organization

Malawi, a country in southeast Africa, is currently the eighth poorest country in the world, and over two million children are living in extreme poverty. Half of all the people in Malawi are living on less than 32 cents per day, which makes for a life of malnutrition, poor education, and high susceptibility to disease. The problem is that there is little support for these children in need, but that is where the Goods for Good Organization comes into play.

Goods for Good recognizes that every child deserves a chance at living without extreme poverty, violence, or the threat of diseases like HIV or AIDS. The lives of half of all children under five years of age are cut short by malnutrition. Of the 1.3 million already in an orphanage, a million children will be orphaned because of AIDS related causes this year. Half of all children drop out of school before fifth grade.

These problems need to be addressed immediately so that more Malawians can pull themselves out of poverty and afford the resources they need to raise their children.

The Goods for Good organization empowers the people of Malawi by helping them jump start a business that works for their community. This business sell their products in lo-

corporations, and shortly they will be starting honeybee hive farms. The money that comes from these businesses allows the creation of feeding programs, HIV/AIDS prevention classes, nursery schools, school scholarships, and emotional support. In addition, the money is also used to train caregivers, teachers, and local leaders in instructing others on how to provide for their family throughout the year.

The results of this organization have helped over 95,000 children, with many more to come. They have created and supported nine community centers and 182 satellite centers. Once one community becomes financially stable, more satellite centers are created, aiding tens of thousands of children in surrounding villages to have a better life.

If you want to get involved in helping the children and orphans of Malawi, visit <http://goodsforgood.org/> for more information.



Children in Malawi

cal markets, then uses the money they receive to help the children in need.

The organization has created egg-laying farms, broiler chicken farms, tailoring



Left: William Kamkwamba, author of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, working on his windmill.

Right: The Goods for Good Organization logo
Below: The flag of Malawi. The colors are black, red, and green.

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Malawi

Y'S MONTH OF GRATITUDE

Throughout the year, the One Book-One Amity Committee has been planning and continues to plan activities relating to the book all students and staff read this summer: *The Boy Who Harnassed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba. In order to learn about the committee’s involvement in the Month of Gratitude, as well as the related activities on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, we talked with Vince Li (‘18) and Ali Hagani (‘18), two members of the OBOA Committee, as well as Mrs. Julie Chevan, English department chair, and one of the leaders of the Committee.

Lessons from OBOA

What’s the committee’s role in the “Month of Gratitude” and Wednesday’s activities?

Mrs. Chevan: We’ve been brainstorming how to integrate the book into the school year, and we sort of thought that this day, the day before Thanksgiving, was a natural because... enough people don’t take it seriously, some teachers teach, a lot of teachers don’t teach. We’ve tried different things over the years to make the day have some meaning to it, so we thought it was a perfect opportunity... it’s really going to be a wrap-up of the 2016 book.

What has your experience on the OBOA committee been like?

Vince: I enjoyed working with the teachers, and admired the passion everyone on the committee had for this book. This was the first time Amity has ever done anything

like this, so it was great to listen to interesting ideas.

Ali: We’ve been doing a lot of collaboration and have been focusing on making the fundraisers successful and efficient. It’s been a great experience so far.

How do you think the book relates to the “Month of Gratitude”?

Vince: The impoverished conditions William grew up in highlights everything that we have to be thankful for: food, shelter, and comfort.

What have you learned from the OBOA book?

Vince: No matter the circumstances, hard work and diligence pay off.

Ali: William didn’t have the best circumstances; he couldn’t go to school; he didn’t have money, but he found ways to work with his limited circumstances. I found that very

hard-hitting and inspiring, and I think it also shows how fortunate we are in many regards, education being one of them.

Mrs. Chevan: [The book] is about William’s drive... he faces incredible obstacles and he just figured out a way to do what he wanted to do. But he had a lot of people he reached out to who did a little; from the people at the library, to the people who lent him things, to his parents who helped him by just getting out of his way and letting him be unstoppable. I don’t think they understood him, but it’s kind of amazing. Also, one of the things that’s feeding into this event on Wednesday is that we learned about a part of the country [most of us] knew very little about. Malawi has a very specific culture, and that was part of our thinking: to pick a charity and raise awareness for what’s going on in that specific part of the world.

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Penny Wars at Amity

Autumn is in the air at Amity. The American holiday, Thanksgiving, is just around the corner. With spices wafting from the culinary rooms and leaves falling around, the time has come to be thankful.

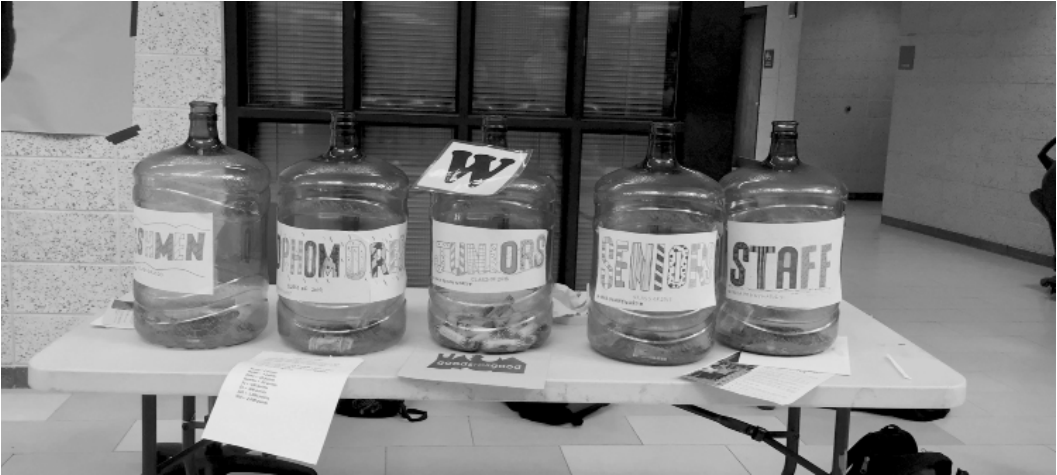
Many individuals nationwide participate in the common fall tradition of a month of gratitude, during which those celebrating try to give thanks to something or someone every day of the month. This tradition typically parallels Thanksgiving,

popular.

Penny Wars is a game designed to encourage people to fundraise in a friendly competition. In the game, multiple jars are set up, and in the case of our school, there is one for each grade, as well as one for the staff. Anyone can place money into any of the jars, but while pennies help a team, other coins and paper money detract from the team’s total. As Amity students and staff become competitive, the leading team seems to

As an extension to the book the school community read over the summer, *The Boy who Harnassed the Wind*, the Penny Wars will be donating the proceeds to the Goods for Good organization, which will help Malawi, a country suffering from great poverty.

The Goods for Good organization (see the article on this program) has helped create community businesses and assisted over 95,000 children in need in Malawi.



Penny Wars at Amity


and before this year, the month of gratitude was somewhat unfamiliar to most students and staff. However, the programs that Amity staff and students have developed at the school, especially the Penny Wars, have been enormously successful and

change every day. The competition began on November 7 and will end on November 22.

Overall, this friendly “war” has been enormously successful, with people actively bringing in money to contribute, not just donating spare change.

This season is about giving and truly appreciating everything in our lives. So, at all lunch waves until November 22, drop your spare change in one of the jars, and help change the lives of the people in Malawi.

We all inevitably face challenges in our lives. Yet this Thanksgiving and during the remainder of Amity’s “Month of Gratitude,” take some time to appreciate the people, opportunities, and good fortune in your life.



On behalf of the entire Trident staff, we would like to wish you and your family a happy and relaxing Thanksgiving.

Our Town: Q & A

by Katie Handler ‘17

Emily Killian, one of the stars of Amity’s fall performance of “Our Town,” was interviewed by Katie Handler on the premise of the play and its rehearsals. Following is the interview.



Pictured: Emiliy Kilian ‘18, Eric Greenbaum ‘17, Harrison Paek ‘18.

Photo by Yuliya Faryna ‘17

Can you tell me a little bit about what the play is about?
The plot is centered around a love story, but underneath it is about much more. It is about love, parenting, growing up, and life, and how to cherish the time we have here on earth.

What character do you play? And how does she fit into that story?
She is the daughter of the Webb family and falls in love with George Gibbs, played by Harrison Paek.

What is the main obstacle she struggles with?
She struggles with acceptance of herself and her life.

As you delve into her character, have you learned anything about yourself?
I feel that I have learned to notice how precious my own life is and have become more positive. I also realize how fortunate I am to have the life that I do and to not take that for granted.

Do you think that message will come across to the students in the audience?
I really hope so. This play is incredibly famous and you can find a piece of yourself in at least one character. I hope they are able to connect to the strug-

gle and gain a new outlook on life.
What has it been like working on such an insightful play?
It’s really hard work to try and piece together all the symbolism and the inner meaning to these characters but it’s also rewarding.

Yes. There is a choir in the play.
Oh wow! So how many characters are there in total?
Nineteen.
That’s a much bigger cast than last year right?
Yes, more than double.
Do you think that has en-

How did Mr. Kennedy help you and the other actors connect with your characters?
When working through our lines and scenes we tend to stop and take time out of rehearsing to discuss as a cast what certain lines mean. Also, before we even got onto our feet to start performing this show, Mr. Kennedy asked us a series of questions, which really forced us to think more deeply about the play.

Can you give an example?
We were asked, “If you knew you were going to look back on your life one more time, what would you say goodbye to?” It was pretty deep and hit an emotional place for many cast members. The topics discussed were extremely intricate.

Yeah, I can imagine. So I know you were in the musical last year. Is this a completely different experience? And which do you prefer?
This experience is different in my role in the show but not as different as you may think. There is more music in this show than most plays, but I don’t sing at all. It’s a strange thing for me to be in a show and not sing when others are.

So the other characters sing at times?

riched the rehearsals or taken something away from them?
Absolutely enriched—the more people working to create art the better, in my opinion.

When did rehearsals start?
September 26th

Do you rehearse every day?
Monday through Thursday.

Is each day typically run in the same manner or does the schedule change from day to day?
It changes.

What are some of the things you guys do in rehearsals?
We work through scenes, sing through choral arrangements, and talk about the meaning of the show.

And when are the performances?
December 7th through the 9th.

Are you more excited for the student audience or the community audience?
The student audience because you never know how they will react.

Cool thank you so much! Do you have anything else you want to say?
I hope everyone enjoys “Our Town”!

Emanuel Xavier Visits Amity

by Annacat Slanski ‘17

Renowned poet and out-spoken member of the queer Latinx community Emanuel Xavier visited Amity Regional High School to talk to students about his experience as a professional writer. Orchestrated by English teacher Jeni Bonaldo, the event drew students from the creative writing classes and Amity PLAHD to the Media Center on Monday, October 24th. Other students from various other English courses also attended.

Xavier began by reading from his own poetry. He started with “Becca,” a poem looking back on the bullying he experienced as a youth, and moved on to “Runaway,” “Outside,” “Nueva York,” “Step-father,” “Americano,” and others. As a member of the queer Latinx population of New York, Xavier felt that he had an obligation to write about his life and the culture that had affected him growing up. The subsequent themes in his writing include religion, homelessness, cultural identity, social hypocrisy, and his eventual growth.

Despite these heavier topics and the melancholy remembrances of a queer youth who fell victim to intolerance, a few of Xavier’s poems drew laughs with their unique construction and bluntness.

“A lot of the work I do is in ‘Spanglish,’” Xavier said, explaining how the mix of English and Spanish represented in some ways his cultural identity, proceeding to read “Nueva York,” one such piece that described how his demographic circumstances shaped him as a person.

Following his readings, he opened up a Q&A. He addressed questions about his writing process, telling how, while he often writes in response to the world around him, he often doesn’t know where a poem is going until he’s finished writing it.

Xavier also discussed his influences and inspirations. After having been kicked out at 16 for being gay, he experienced a difficult adolescence on the streets, and early on, much of his poetry was fueled by anger and hate. Still, he said, writing has been a very healing exercise for him.

“Inspiration is everywhere,” Xavier said, recommending that writers keep a journal or cell phone with them at all times.

He became interested in writing after seeing Spoken Word Poetry. “I knew I had a story to tell,” he said. He chose poetry, and specifically spoken word poetry, but encouraged young writers to make their own decisions.

“It isn’t a matter of how you express it and how you reach people. It’s a matter of getting it out there,” he said. Xavier also gave advice to the young writers and poets in the room, saying “To be a poet, you must be hopeful and romantic without understanding why.”

More than anything, though, he says, “Keep doing what you’re doing. Be happy.” In the future, Xavier plans to continue writing and working in publishing. Though he did write a short novel, he said that he feels most comfortable with poetry and feels that he is fulfilling an important role by sharing his poetic voice.

Bonaldo, who organized the event, chose to reach out to Xavier specifically not only because of his experience as a notably accomplished writer, but also because of the way his subject matter fit into the creative writing course.

“I think we had a pretty good turnout,” Bonaldo said, “considering it can be hard for students to leave classes.” She remarked further that the audience was big, but still intimate and engaged.

Charlotte Gorham, a senior in Don Barkin’s poetry class, said she enjoyed the visit. “The best part was learning how he wrote his poems,” she said. “It inspired me to start writing poems again.”

Gorham said she has a particular interest in slam poetry, and so was intrigued by his description of spoken word poetry in contrast to written poetry. She also added that were there to be a similar event in the future, she would be eager to come.

After the Q&A, Xavier closed with a Maya Angelou poem “Still I Rise.” The session ended with a poem read by senior Jamie Unger in response to an assignment from Bonaldo’s creative writing class.

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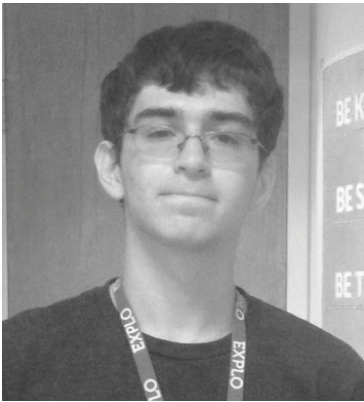
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At the Movies With Tyler Jennes: Doctor Strange

by Tyler Jennes ‘17



Two years ago, Guardians of the Galaxy changed everything about the Marvel Cinematic Universe by stressing its cosmic side, showing audiences strange new worlds and civilizations found in the deepest reaches of outer space. Now, Doctor Strange has done likewise, introducing the concepts of magic and mysticism never before seen in this universe. The movie has opened up new possibilities for future stories unlike any that we’ve witnessed previously, as it introduces the man named Dr. Stephen Strange, who will step into the cloak and robes that he will don in many yet-to-be-seen adventures.

The doctor in question (played by Benadryl Cabbagepatch) starts out in our story as a conceited and arrogant man, not quite unlike Tony Stark’s character in the Iron Man films. The difference here is that Strange is swept into a new way of life full of magic-wielders led by the enigmatic Ancient One (Tilda Swinton) – in a place that contains powerful artifacts and even more powerful spells. One of these sor-

cerers, Kaecilius (Mads Mikkelsen), has deviated from the others and seeks to make contact with dark forces, the likes of which could threaten the entire world. In typical Marvel fashion, the scenes that include Kaecilius are at times disappointingly sparse. This is a character that I would like to see more of – as Mads Mikkelsen dominates and captivates with the material he is given. What’s interesting about Kaecilius is that his motivations are not incomprehensible. Even Strange at times agrees with the points that he tries to make. Another character affected by the villain is Baron Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofer), who in the comics has always been a Dr. Strange enemy, but is vastly different in this film. He assists our hero throughout the whole story, and maintains pure intentions on what it means to be a sorcerer and a guardian of the planet.

What can I say about the visuals other than how stunning they are? This is a must-see in 3D, as the special effects are that of kaleidoscopic masterpieces. When Strange traverses through the different dimensions, the cosmic imagery is utterly breathtaking and sharply contrasts with other Marvel films, which have in the past been criticized for the sameness of their visuals. The final act in particular is truly something to behold on as large a screen as possible to ensure maximum jaw-droppage. The soundtrack, composed by Michael Giacchino, complements the visuals nicely with its Eastern sound and mystic tone.

Like every other Marvel film, the story is laced with quips and visual gags. Much of the humor in this film revolves around how the modern world contrasts with the ancient ways of the sorcerers,

especially with the wise servant Wong (coincidentally portrayed by Benedict Wong). His character, a stoic and wise servant, provides a good chunk of the film’s comedy when the contemporary world creeps in. Another key player in this is none other than Strange’s cape, which almost acts like the carpet from Aladdin in the ways that it interacts with the other characters. It proves to surprisingly be one of the most memorable characters in the movie.

The film plays with the perceptions of time and space in a very unique way, and will undoubtedly change the entire way these concepts are conveyed in the future. The third act provides a good deal of this, as Strange combats the forces of evil in a way that provides a breath of fresh air to audience members tired of the inane fist fights of recent comic book movies. On the subject of comic books, this movie feels like a moving comic, with fantastical ideas and imagery propped up by a story with just the right amount of self-awareness to not be too alienating.

All in all, this movie has proven to be a radically different entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe in terms of the ideas that it introduces, but still remains familiar structure-wise to other Marvel films. The usual tropes are there, from the Hero’s Journey storyline to the weirdly-dressed and weirdly-named characters. No doubt, this film will prove to be even more insightful towards the upcoming entries in this cinematic universe upon repeated viewing. So, as the good doctor would say, “In the names of the Vishanti, with their hallowed scripture... Drop what you’re doing and go watch this picture.”

Final Verdict: 8/10

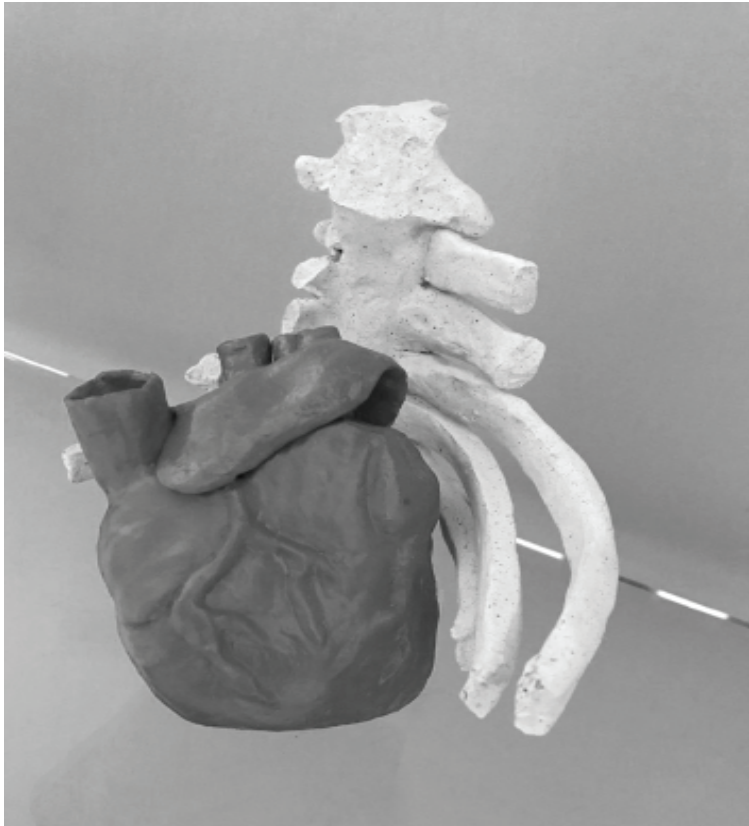
Artist of the Month: Jackie Snow

by Karianne Canfield ‘17

Jackie Snow is a senior artist here at Amity who has been working in the ceramics class for a while now. Her sculptures are featured around the school, as well as in last year’s calendar, and now she has been nomi-

play with the idea of turning metaphors into actuality and perceiving objects with emotion. These help her to develop her ideas and to build on her creative mind-set.

As for artists Snow takes inspiration from, she says that she really loves impressionism and the distance from reality it holds.



Recent clay sculpture depicting a heart, and a broken spine with ribs by Jackie Snow ‘17.

nated by ceramics teacher Jessica Zamachaj as artist of the month.

Jackie began art in kindergarten. There, she took art classes at school and continued doing so all the way up through now, her senior year in high school. She’s excelled in clay and glassing skills, and recalls ceramics as her favorite of all mediums to work in.

Currently, her favorite piece is one that she just made, entitled “Pour Your Heart Out. Snow says “It half fell apart in the kiln, so the broken ribs were unintentional.”

The heart is a teapot—hence the literal “pouring your heart out.” She likes to

She recalls Frida Kahlo’s “The Two Fridas” as one of her favorite pieces, as she enjoys its theme. “It’s morbid,” she says, “but that’s what life is.” Snow also loves surrealism, which takes reality and skews it ever so slightly. Kahlo and Salvador Dali are two of her favorite artists.

As for the meaning in her work, Snow says, “it’s a metaphor, clever or ironic,” and hopes that each individual can bring to her work their own understanding.

If you are ever looking for a good philosophic chat, look for Jackie; she keeps her mind open and her art increasingly inspiring.



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Music in Motion: a Success!

by Emily Criscuolo ‘17

What is Music in Motion? We’ve heard of people going to Music in Motion practices, rehearsals, and concerts, but what is it exactly? A trumpet playing senior, Zach Simon, explains, “Music in Motion is halfway between a parade, and a concert. It’s like regular concert music, with choreography.

Think of the marching bands on football fields during half time. We do that, but on a stage with awesome lighting. It’s a lot more entertaining than just a regular concert, because there is constantly something going on, so it’s pleasing to the eye and ear.”

So there you have it. Picture a more flamboyant display

from the Amity marching band: complete with lights, dancing, and a greater variety of music. Sadly, if this was new information to you, you already missed out on buying your tickets.

You also missed out on the concert itself. This year’s concert, entitled Music in Motion 2.0, took place on October 21 and 22, during which the Brady Center was filled to the brim with parents and peers to watch the Amity band perform songs such as America the Beautiful, Beam Me Up, Tio Macaco, Rhythm X, and The Chicken.

Harris Andersen, a junior who performed this year commented, “I think one of the highlights of the show was Holst’s The Planets, which consisted of Mars, Venus and Jupiter. They were really



Saxophone players participate in the show donning tie-dye shirts. Photo taken by Michele Grande.

strong and showcased some of the lesser known instruments like tuba and trombone.

The three jazz numbers were particularly fun. Hymn

of the Axiom was another song that we played and was

a slow, powerful, ballad-type song.”

He felt that this year was especially difficult due to fac-

tors that shortened rehearsal time, but the band was able to come together right at the end and put on two great nights of shows.

Aviva Green, another participant this year, agreed that the most recent show was difficult because it was more technical than past years; it had a lot more lights, cameras, and props.

Overall, it sounds like this year’s show went really well, and we might be in for some even more lights and eye-catching props next year.

Now that you know what Music in Motion is, and how much work is put into the production, I urge you to show support for your friends’ hard work next year and buy your own ticket to see a quality production in person!

Spartan Athlete Spotlight: Dustin Gad

by Anthony Tom ‘19

Amity Trident’s Anthony Tom sat down with Captain Dustin Gad of the Amity Boys Soccer Team to discuss the his personal careers, 2016 season, and future team goals.

Q: How long have you been playing soccer?

A: Since I was four years old.

Q: Have you been playing competitively the entire time?

A: I started off with Orange Rec Soccer, and then when I was about 10, I started playing competitively on travel teams.

Q: Did you play at the Middle School?

A: No, I didn’t go to the Amity Middle School [Dustin attended Ezra Academy].

Q: So, you started playing at the high school freshman year?

A: Yeah.

Q: Did you know you wanted to be a captain then?

A: I always kind of wanted to be a captain, but last year I realized it was more of a reality.

Q: What got you interested in soccer?

A: Probably having parents from South Africa. Soccer is huge over there.

Q: What’s the best part of leading the team?

A: I enjoy leading the team and getting all the kids ready for

the game and pumped.

Q: Do you have multiple captains?

A: Yeah, it’s me and Alex Friedman.

Q: What position do you play?

A: I play left back.

Q: How does the team work together?

A: We have good chemistry. A lot of the guys have been playing together for a lot of years w h i c h makes the team close.

Q : What does each individual add to the team?

A : Each kid adds something different. There [are] some kids who are good at one thing like shooting and our goalies are really good.

Q: How has your season been?

A: It’s been pretty good. It’s been better than previous years.

There were some games that we’ve tied that we should have won, but more often than not we did well.

Q: What are you looking to do (in States)?

A: Hopefully we’ll make it past the first game.

Q: What have you done to prepare for states so far?

A: Since we didn’t make it to SCCs and we have a few

you have been doing to get ready for states?

A: Speaking to the team, trying to get them ready, and trying to hype each other up.

Q: What do you think the hardest thing about this season is going to be or has been?

A: Keeping everyone focused in the games and in practices because they tend to goof off and that has cost us in some

is going to be focused on that. If everyone warms up focused and stays focused, we should do well.

Q: Besides the varsity team, how have the JV and freshmen teams performed?

A: They both had winning records and there are a lot of good players.

Q: Do you think they have a shot to be as good as or better than you have next year?

A: I think next year they definitely have a shot at being a good team.

Q: What could you do to bring in more kids and stay as deep?

A: If we keep playing well then I think kids will be interested [in playing on] the team.

Q: What do you find most interesting about soccer?

A: The creativity about it. There is an unlimited amount of passing and the flow of it. You’re never limited to one thing.

Q: Is that your favorite part of the game?

A: I like it all. I like to dribble pass and it all.

The Spartans were eliminated from postseason play by Farmington in a 6-0 loss. As captains Alex Friedman and Dustin Gad bid farewell to their team, Amity looks to recuperate, rebuild, and prepare for a successful 2017 season.



Captain Dustin Gad (‘17)
Photo by Andy Koorejian

weeks before the start of states we’ve been scrimmaging different teams.

Q: Besides scrimmaging Seymour, is there anything else

games.

Q: Is there any way you can think of to fix that?

A: Considering we only have a state game left everyone



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Spartans Top Wilbur Cross, Defense Shines

by Evan Arovos '20

The Amity Spartans defeated Wilbur Cross by a score of 21-8 on October 28. Amity responded to the loss to Branford with a very strong outing. Most notably, Amity's defense succeeded against Wilbur Cross.

Throughout the game, the defense only allowed eight points, all of which occurred in the 4th quarter. A defense led by middle linebacker Ryan Bedini had key stops in the red zone and limited the number of big plays allowed.

Injured center, John Benato said, "Defensively we played great by limiting our opponent to only 8 points."

Matt Weidenfeller contributed a "pick 6," returning an interception 90 yards to the end zone.

The Spartans' success could be attributed to their modifications in the quarterback position. Just three weeks ago, Colin Beaulieu was rushing the ball as an all Southern Connecticut Conference running back. Yet plagued by injuries, Amity has been forced to try various players out at the role of

quarterback. As quarterback, Beaulieu found himself celebrating in the end zone two times before the half. Beaulieu opened up the game up with a rushing touchdown and an early 6-0 lead. Then on special teams, he took a sixty-yard punt return all the way to the end zone for a touchdown.

Overall, Al Pacelli ('17), a wide receiver, said, "We did okay on offense with some good drives, but we did not finish them well."

The Spartans managed to score only once on seven trips to the red zone. In the coming weeks Amity will be looking to turn convert more drives into points. This was a must win game after a heartbreaking one point loss at Branford the week before.

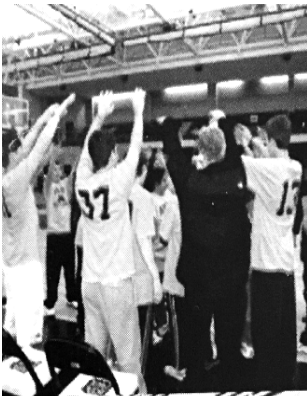
By winning this game, the Amity Spartans improved their record to 2-5 while Wilbur Cross dropped to 4-2 on the year. The next week, Amity faced off against Hamden, winning 40-20. The following Friday, in a nailbiter, the Spartans dropped to Foran 21-20. At 3-6, Amity is having a sub-par season, but is showing signs of improvement from week one.

A Successful Start to Amity Unified Sports

by Nick Ricciardi '20

This fall, Amity Unified Sports has been enjoyable for all the participants, as they practice and play soccer. The season started in the middle of September, and they have played two tournaments. On November 10, they had their final soccer tournament, one that Erin Barillier ('18) categorized as a success. She stated that everyone was "in a really good mood and had fun."

Following this successful soccer season, in the winter, they will move inside to play basketball and then end the



year with volleyball.

Unified runs on a system of athletes and partners. The teams consist of special needs students and partners to help the athletes. Participants regard the program as a fun and beneficial extracurricular activity.

Nick Reis ('17) has been an active member of Unified since the winter of his sophomore year. He said, "Nothing is more rewarding than seeing how much fun the kids are having out there."

Amity Unified Sports meets twice a week for half an hour. It is an easy but fulfilling commitment. When asked

how rewarding it is to help out at Unified, Nick Reis answered "I'd give it a 10 on the rewarding scale. It's totally worth it and the kids really appreciate it." It is certainly a fulfilling experience, and the rest of the season ahead will be as fun-filled as ever. Any students interested in joining can talk to Mrs. Grace or Mrs Fitzgerald.



SPORTS AMITY

A Memorable Season for Amity Girls Soccer

by Jordan Conn '18

The Amity Girls Soccer Team, coached by Ryan Quigley, T.J. Pisano, and Lauren Erwin, is coming off of an impressive 11-2-3 season, and is preparing for the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference State Tournament. The girls' performance was spectacular this year, losing just two games. Their last home game, which was Senior Day, was capped off by a late comeback led by junior Taylor Martin, who scored three of the four goals that afternoon.



Jacki Smith in action; Photo by Mrs. Nevolis

It hasn't been as easy as the team has made it look. They have had big shoes to fill after the graduating class of 2016 made such a large contribution in the prior season.

"Our biggest difficulty was losing Alexa Gibbs last year, since she had scored ninety

percent of our goals," said Senior Captain Jennifer Hauser. "We also lost a solid, strong hearted defensive player, Katie Koshes. Without her, we aren't as defensively sound as we were last year. But, we are coming together as a team and are overcoming these obstacles."

Although they had

lost quite a few talented players from the 2015 season, they have had many upperclassmen step up and play key roles in the team's success.

"Everyone played their part and helped out. But Sarah Nevolis, Emma Gehr,

Jessica Hauser, and Kelsey Morgan played major roles in helping us work as well as we did this season," said Hauser, who has also played well defensively for the Spartans this season.

Amity has been selected to be the eighth seed for the State Conference. After losing in the Southern Connecticut Conference Semifinals to Cheshire 2-1 on November, the Spartans began preparing for success in the first round of the state tournament.

Hauser said, the team prepared well by "putting [their] loss in the SCC Semifinals behind [them]."

Hauser expressed the importance of "coming together and playing as a team."

Unfortunately, on November 11, Amity lost against Newington with a score of 1-0. Despite their loss, their hard work this season is certainly memorable.

Hockey Coach Takes Farewell Tour of Germany with Team

by Jacob Gross '18

The Amity Boys Ice Hockey Team is on track to have an exciting last season with Head Coach Gary Lindgren before his retirement. After last year's less-than-stellar record, the team has been looking to fix its weaknesses and surprise competition.

Jake Silliman ('18), who plays defense, offered some insight. "I think that this is our year," he said. "We'll be able to do a lot better."

And indeed, with captains Mac Deane and Nick Degennaro, the future of this team is promising. The season starts soon, with try-outs on December 3 and the first game on December 17, but the boys have been preparing for months. Multiple times a week, they have drills and workout sessions in order to prepare themselves to compete.

This year marks Gary Lindgren's twentieth and final year of coaching. He coached two seasons from 1993-1995, but due to another position, he did not coach again until 1999. During that year, he and his fellow coaches created a list of goals. The final item on the list



Amity Boys Hockey Team; Photo by Steve Conn

Austria.

The team has done a lot of fundraising, and the administration has been extremely supportive of the team's trip. Mr. Lindgren added, "We are so grateful we've had the support of the friends and family of Amity Hockey. But also so many others, including some local businesses like Subway and Hoffman Press in New Haven; we feel very gracious for all of our support."

Silliman hopes that the experience will be a good way to end coaching legend Gary Lindgren's career. And as Lindgren stated, "It's really a dream come true. I feel very fortunate that I'm able to end my coaching career with this group of kids. They're a really special group."

was an overseas trip. This goal will be fulfilled quite soon.

On December 26, roughly twenty-five players, along with coaching staff and a few parents, will be traveling to Germany. After arriving in Munich, they'll have a week-long vacation with not only local tourism but also games against local teams. The team will play two games in Munich and one in Salzburg.



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