

THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

June 5, 2020

Bus Tour and Senior Week Celebrate Class of 2020

by Jennifer Xu '21

In response to school closures for the 2019-2020 school year, Amity has adapted and come up with new ways to connect the Class of 2020. With a bus tour around the BOW region by the administration from May 27th to May 29th and a virtual Senior Week from June 1st to June 5th, Amity administration has made sure to celebrate the Class of 2020.

Preceding Senior Week, Amity administration partnered with B&B Bus Company to take a school bus tour to each senior's house to visit and deliver a gift to all 371 seniors over three days, traveling 310 miles and spending nine hours on the bus per day.

Principal Anna Mahon said that administration and the PTSO buy seniors a gift every year as "a small token of our esteem for the graduates" and distribute them during graduation.

However, since the traditional graduation ceremony will not be occurring this year, the administration decided that a bus tour to was a suitable alternative to give the seniors their gifts, which were laptop covers with the Amity logo, and connect with each senior before graduation.

Mahon said, "The administration wanted to do something special and unique for this group of students. It was great to have a chance to

see the seniors face-to-face and have the opportunity to express our congratulations and appreciation for each of them."

All of the administrators went on the trip, including Mahon, Associate Principals Monica Kreuzer and Miguel Pickering, Assistant Principal Frank Barretta, Director of Counseling Jill LaPlante, Athletic Director Ernie Goodwin, and

one of my most memorable Amity moments."

Rachel Christie '20 agreed, saying, "It was super sweet and meaningful that [administrators] came out on the bus to hand-deliver the senior gift to me. They certainly did not have to go out of their way to do that for all us seniors, so overall I'm really grateful that Amity has faculty who sincerely care about their students."

Amity continues the celebration of its senior class with Senior Week. Like the bus tour, Senior Week is new to Amity. The week is filled with virtual challenges, as well as graduation rehearsal, awards night, and returning of Amity materials.

Starting on June 1st, there will be one challenge per day for a total of five. The challenges are to post favorite Amity memories, after-high-school plans, pictures in prom attire, friendship meet-up stories, and pictures in the cap and gown on social media.

Though seniors cannot see each in person, Rhea Dey '20 said, "Senior week will be a great way for the seniors to reconnect. And even though we missed prom and internship, we will still be able to put on our dress and participate in other various activities."

Though the seniors are all apart, Amity administration is finding ways to bring them back together to close out their high school careers.



Administration visits the house of Ella Marin '20
Photo by Audrey Marin '22

former Associate Principal Jason Tracy, now principal of Amity Middle School in Bethany.

Olivia Gross '20 expressed her gratitude for the efforts the administration put into the tour, saying that she "absolutely loved that admin gave us one last surprise. It was kind of unreal to see [them] in my yard, but it was definitely

Seniors Offered Options for Graduation Ceremony

by Audrey Marin '22

The 64th Annual Commencement Ceremony will take place for graduating seniors; however, this year, there is a bit of a twist. To maintain the safety of all in the presence of COVID-19, graduating seniors will be offered two options for graduation: a drive-through graduation on June 10th or an on-field graduation during the week of July 6th.

The on-field graduation proposal was created in light of the new information passed by the state on Friday, May 29th. New regulations permit the gathering of up to 150 people past July 6th. However, this plan is presented with the assumption that health trends regarding COVID-19 continue in a downward trend. If trends do not demonstrate that larger gatherings will be feasible, administration will stick to the initial June 10th date.

The proposed ceremony for the week of July 6th will be conducted on the football field. Based on Spartan Seminar, seniors will graduate in waves no greater than 45 students. Each student is permitted two additional guests, who will sit adjacent to the student in groups of three on the field. Each student will be called up to receive the diploma, and a professional photographer

will picture the student. The ceremony for each wave will last 1.5-2 hours, and students/guests are required to stay for the full duration.

Principal Anna Mahon said, "Based on this new information, we wanted to include this option for those students/families who are passionate about receiving their diplomas on the football field and are less concerned about having large numbers of family members be able to watch."

For the June 10th option, the drive-through graduation ceremony is planned to be split up into three distinct parts: virtual introduction and speeches, awarding of diplomas, and a radio message to conclude.

Olivia Gross '20 says, "I'm super grateful that we are able to graduate in person at the school... It's a sad ending to high school but it's good that everyone is in the same boat- our class has really connected."

The virtual ceremony piece will be posted for seniors on the Amity High School YouTube on the evening of June 9th. This address will include speeches from the Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education Chairperson. Additionally, three notable seniors will be selected to speak during this ceremony. Sydney Reiner '20 says, "While it is certainly disappointing that our class will not experience the graduation we expected, I feel as though this is

the best alternative given the current situation. This is the best recreation of a normal graduation possible, and I'm honestly really excited!"

For the conferring of diplomas, seniors will be assigned to one of four waves throughout the day on June 10. These groups are organized by Spartan Seminar. Wave One runs from 8:30 am to 10:30 am, Wave Two runs from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Wave Three runs from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, and Wave Four runs from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

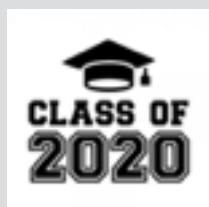
Each graduate will be permitted two vehicles for the drive-through. The cars will assemble at the Our Lady of Assumption Church parking lot before processing into the back gate of the school campus. There will also be police available to assist with direction and order.

At 5:00 pm on June 20th, radio station WPLR (99.1) will air a final sendoff for seniors. Parts of each initial speech will be recited in addition to the names of each graduate.

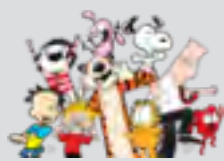
Mahon sent out an email with additional information on the new proposal and a Google form for seniors to indicate their preferred method of graduation.

Mahon stated, "I am excited to see our seniors, regardless of the day, receive their diplomas and take the next step in their journeys."

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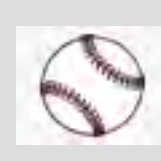
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The Future Remains Uncertain as Connecticut Reopens

by Hyunjin Kim '21

On May 5, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an executive order canceling on-site learning for Connecticut schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Shortly after the executive order was signed, Principal Anna Mahon addressed the impact that the announcement had on school plans for the rest of the school year.

Mahon said "I am extremely proud of the continued hard-work and creativity of the Amity educators, including teachers, counselors, administrators and support staff. By working together, we have been able to continue a semblance of school at ARHS and we will be well-positioned to begin school-in whatever form it takes-in the fall.

"I am continuously reminded of the core belief of 'persistence' and am able to witness resilience daily in my work with my Amity colleagues and students. She also said that she is continuing "to work with ALL of the student government class councils (each grade) to help transition to summer and prepare for next year," she added.

On May 14, 2020, the

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) wrote a letter to the superintendents of Connecticut on high school graduation ceremonies. CSDE and DPH have set guidelines for any in-person gathering in their letters to the Connecticut Superintendents of schools.

They remarked in their letter that any "creative variations of outdoor gatherings for graduations that involve any in-person congregation must receive approval from their local health department" and follow the strict prohibition of social and recreational gatherings of more than five people outlined in Executive Order No. 7X.

Although this year's Amity graduation will not resemble the traditional graduation ceremonies, seniors will still be able to celebrate the end of their high school careers through Amity's Senior week and a drive-through graduation ceremony on June 10th.

The class of 2021 has also attempted to adapt to these unprecedented times and cope with the loss of Junior Prom by emailing surveys about possible Junior Prom alternatives. Juniors were sent a survey about possible alternatives

to Junior Prom. Of the 97 respondents, a majority said that they wanted "a prom-like dance where [they] can wear my prom dress/suits." The juniors were also asked whether they wanted to have a virtual prom, and most of the respondents either wanted a physical prom or no prom at all.

Students like Mason Zhang '21 voiced their concern. Zhang said, "I think that there is no good solution for an alternative prom because the pandemic has really thrown a wrench into everything and every plan." These concerns add to the fact that this pandemic has been a major upheaval for the majority, if not all, of the Amity student body.

Signs of normalcy have started to resurface as Governor Lamont has started to reopen Connecticut with his current three-phase plan. Phase one of the reopening plan began on May 20th with some businesses reopening with strict guidelines. Phase two of his plan is expected to begin in June but is subject to change.

Although isolation has already set a gloomy and dismal mood for many students, signs of hope and revitalization are potentially closer than one could imagine.

Community Shows Appreciation for Amity's Teachers

by Isabella Pfannenbecker '21

The week of May 4th marked Teacher Appreciation Week. As a way to thank all of the wonderful teachers here at Amity, Student Government organized videos for departments and individual faculty. Teachers received short 10-20 second video messages from various students throughout the school.

Teacher Appreciation Week 2020 was a huge success and would not have been possible without the hard work of Student Government members, especially video coordinators Wendy Zhang '21 and Ameya Menta '20.

Zhang said, "Ameya and I wanted to do something special for the teachers this year especially because we wouldn't have been able to see them in person and give them our appreciation—we ended up deciding on making videos and thank-you cards for each department."

She was grateful for the participation that came "because many of the student government members stepped up and took charge of collecting videos for each department."

Zheng added that "it wouldn't have been possible with all the stugov leaders and the students that were willing to

spend a moment to write a note or make a video about all the ways that Amity Teachers go for gold!"

Distance learning has put a strain on teacher-student relationships, but with the help of these videos, teachers and students alike were able to connect while still being apart. Although the messages were short, the meaning within them was timeless.

Nina Carmeli '23, a Student Government representative, recalled her video-making process, saying, "I kept retaking my video over and over again. I wanted to make sure that it was just right for my teachers and that they know how much of an impact they've had on me. I really miss them, and I'm so happy I was able to do this for them."

These videos had a true impact on many teachers. Science teacher Reidun Wallin said, "I was thrilled to see that my students had taken the time to record a Teacher Appreciation video! One of the hardest parts of online schooling has been missing the smiling faces of my students. To see them in the video, smiling and offering kind words truly made my day! I have the best students ever!"

Amity students hope that these video messages were able to brighten their teachers' days, even for a second!

May Brings Mental Health Awareness

by Simran Jain '23

May 1st marked the beginning of Mental Health Awareness month. According to the CDC, 7.1% of children ages 3-17 years (approximately 4.4 million) have diagnosed anxiety, and 3.2% of children ages 3-17 years (approximately 1.9 million) have diagnosed depression.

Mental Health Awareness month was created in 1949 by the Mental Health America organization and is observed around the world. It is represented by a looped green ribbon. The goal is to reduce the stigma around discussing mental health.

About over a hundred years ago, mental illness was considered a sign of the devil. Following World War one, many soldiers returned with shellshock, which is now known as PTSD.

As a treatment, they would receive electric shock therapy or undergo physical conditioning. Little was known about mental illness, but the world's knowledge and understanding has thus expanded.

With Mental Health Awareness month well underway, many Amity students have taken time to reflect.

Jayden Benichak '23 said, "I think the stigma around mental health is formed off of a lack or false knowledge."

Aanchal Poddar '23 similarly stated, "I think the stigma around it [mental illness] was made by people that had a twisted view about mental illness and the best way to get rid of it is to talk about it."

With clubs such as the UMTTR Club, Mental Health Awareness remains an important topic within the Amity community. The UMTTR Club is part of a nationwide initiative to spread information about good mental health.

The club raises money for school activities, educates people on mental health awareness, and promotes a happy and inclusive school atmosphere to make everyone feel included.

Amidst the current pandemic, Mental Health Awareness month has taken on a new significance. As Amity remains closed, national and local organizations will continue to guide the community.

Students Take AP Exams Virtually

by Nicole Grosso '22

While there have been many changes and cancellations this year, one thing remained the same-- AP week. AP or Advanced Placement exams are offered to students every year and take place within a two-week block that is generally in mid-May.

Students across the world take classes at their school or on their own to prepare for their respective exams and potentially gain college credit for the course. AP exams are scored on a scale of 1-5 points, and credit can sometimes be earned through a score of a 3, 4, or 5.

In the past, exams took place on a designated day within the two AP weeks at a specific time so that students within different time zones could not leak information to each other. This year, this concept was the same, except the exams were online.

To ensure academic integrity with online exams, the College Board decided to have all exams be open notes. This included allowing students to use Google and other online resources to collect information during

exam time. Students, however, were prohibited from collaborating with anyone else during their tests. The majority of AP exam testing time was shortened to 45 minutes. Additionally, the format was changed drastically. The exams, which were usually multi-part exams, were made into one or two short response questions, an essay, or a digital submission of other sorts.

With all of this new, untested technology comes lots of confusion and sometimes failure. Numerous students from across the country noted difficulty submitting exams, and many will be retaking exams during the first week of June.

This is one of the many reasons that the College Board is being sued-- along with gross negligence, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment. The lead opposition in this lawsuit is the National Center for Fair & Open Testing, which feels that the College Board did not provide fair tests for all of their students who needed accommodations.

Natalie Prinz '20 is not surprised by this lawsuit. "All students work their butts off all year and try to get col-

lege credit so it sucks that there were problems submitting work that the College Board was responsible for," she said. She also finds that the exam process was very stressful, noting that it was difficult to budget the time necessary for completing and submitting work.

Ava Gross '22 agreed with Prinz about the stress of the exam, stating, "It was very nerve-racking... I had heard all of the experiences about being unable to submit."

However, despite these challenges, Amity students such as Lauren Walsh '20 are still hoping that their hard work throughout the year pays off.

Walsh took the AP Art exam in which students had to submit a portfolio that was a compilation of the year's art that all centered around a specific question that the student chose at the beginning of the year.

Walsh stated that "It wasn't until recently when all the pieces started coming together that it showed how hard we really worked... hopefully it all pays off."

With the 2020 AP exam season completed, students can now only wait for their scores to be released in July.

The Critical Issues With Critical Issues

by Matthew Aferzon '20

When I look back at my time in Critical Issues, I can't help but feel conflicted about my standpoint on the course. On one hand, Crissues is definitely the class that I enjoyed the most this year. I constantly find myself gushing about it to family and friends, going on and on about how it explores various political viewpoints and places an emphasis on application rather than memorization. And yet, when I look back at everything we've done this year, two words immediately come to mind: missed potential.

Here's a course that supposedly fosters conversation among its students, a course that (as written in its syllabus) encourages "dynamic inquiry, conflict, and debate in every class session." Well, regardless of what its syllabus may say, Critical Issues is not a discussion-based class. Though on rare occasions we may have talked about topics as a group, the majority of class-time was spent doing work that was largely independent.

There was less of an emphasis on current events, and a greater focus on broader issues. The course's general tendency to not stray from its curriculum greatly diminished its appeal. While the topics covered were certainly interesting, there were many more pressing issues that

were rarely mentioned. It seemed like every time something major was going on (impeachment, Iran, COVID-19, etc), we were always in the middle of a certain unit and thus barely discussed the important current event.

One such day sticks out to me in particular. After listening to Mr. Borelli give his opinion on democratic candidates for president during the first half of class, the bell rang for B Lunch. During our time in the cafeteria, my friends and I discussed the matter further, with many of us deciding on things we would bring up when class resumed.

However, when we returned to Room 117, Mrs. Browett and Mr. Borelli informed us we would instead spend the rest of the class working silently on a narrative that had been assigned to us a week earlier. Needless to say, I and many others were puzzled and disappointed by this decision.

One of the course's main assignments was a series of two-on-two debates that concerned various aspects of America's domestic policy and were structured around CDA guidelines. These guidelines work well... when the only spectators are a couple of judges. However, when twenty other students are forced to watch these debates for over 40 minutes without being allowed to say a word, it may be necessary to rethink the way things are organized. In my opinion,

it would've been much better had the debates been run in a style similar to those at JSA, where spectators have a chance to ask the speakers questions after they have presented their case. This would've made the debates much more engaging for the students watching them, as well as making sure that the debaters themselves knew more than just their prewritten talking points.

In a way, it feels like the course is at odds with itself. Impromptu conversations about current events are constantly overshadowed by month-long research projects about predetermined topics that are much less relevant and engaging. In the future, I hope that students will be able to partake in more class discussions about more contemporary issues.

Despite these criticisms, however, I thoroughly enjoyed many aspects of Critical Issues and would strongly recommend it to anyone who is on the fence about taking it. Mrs. Browett and Mr. Borelli are outstanding, both as teachers and as people, and I liked how the classroom environment always felt accepting of everyone, regardless of their opinions or political outlook. I also agree with the sentiments expressed by many students that the class is a fantastic introduction to real-world issues. However, the course is not without its flaws, and I sincerely hope that it is only improved upon in the coming years.

Why Biden's Fallibility Makes Him a Good Leader

by Alison Bowler '22

Joe Biden is a flawed man. The Democratic presidential nominee has a sketchy track record when it comes to interactions with women and has more than a few times made questionable remarks about people of color, most recently when he commented that "if you have a problem figuring out whether you're for [Biden] or Trump, then you ain't black."

This statement overgeneralizes the attitude of an entire race of people towards the Trump administration and undermines the different struggles faced by unique individuals within the group. This combined with his previous controversial offenses may make it seem like Biden is almost certainly set up for disaster in a general election.

But when the presidency is contested by two very imperfect candidates, one begins to want the lesser

of two evils. This ideology that so many Americans have adopted is problematic because it causes the public to abandon many of their values in hopes of getting a win. Both the Republican and the Democratic parties fall victim to this, where extremes on both sides are so desperate to beat the other that they begin to overlook the real personalities of their candidates. However, Biden has proven himself unique in that he actually admits to his mistakes, of which there have been many, and apologizes for them.

While political parties grab at the presidential seat by pitching their candidates' respective humanity and ability to relate to the average American, Joe Biden proves himself to be the most down to earth and earnest elect by openly admitting to his mistakes. President Trump's administration is one marked by scandals left and right. Where there is an opportunity for him to admit to his

wrongdoings and pitch himself as a man of the people through his inherent flaws, Trump all too often turns to blame others and places himself on an untouchable pedestal. The Biden campaign has plenty of opportunities to do the same. Instead, Biden and his team acknowledge his mistakes. This level of honesty is a breath of fresh air in the current political climate.

This is not at all to say that this justifies his actions, but the action of admitting to his errors and promising to improve is so incredibly refreshing compared to almost 4 years of blame and self-superiority. It's this simple practice that so many of us do, apologizing and accepting our mistakes, that we have not seen from a leader in a while that draws Americans to Joe Biden. His failures and his acceptance of them as well as his ability to learn and adapt are what make him an incredibly imperfect leader for a divided country.

THE TRIDENT

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*Stay Safe and Well
this Summer, Amity!*



Space Is Vast, and So Are Its Possibilities

by Mathew Haiday '20

To many of us, outer space is just home to a bunch of nothing with a planet or star here and there. In reality, the endless space beyond our atmosphere is home to endless benefits and possibilities.

Many companies are bringing programs to the table offering deep space exploration, and even Mars missions in the near future. Space exploration can push the development of new technologies and capabilities, expand our world economy and resources, and bring mankind to new planets.

Just the idea of space exploration advancement has a great influence on others. In a survey done during the Space Technology and Applications International Forum, there was a drastic rise in science and engineering Ph.D.'s earned during the Apollo program.

In the same survey, 89 percent of respondents agreed that spaceflight inspires younger generations to study science-related fields.

In a write-up done by NASA, they stated that "the program's high public profile and dramatic achievements had a

widespread influence on the level of US technical education."

One of the biggest aspects of space exploration is asteroid mining. Asteroids contain many raw materials such as gold, silver, nickel, and iron. These resources can be exploited and used here on earth and for further space construction. Asteroids pass very close to earth fairly regularly, so long-distance travel isn't an issue. The only current problem is how expensive it can get.

However, as more advancements are made in the industry, this process becomes cheaper and easier.

Expanding space-related fields will cause an increase in jobs. However, organizations such as NASA get funding from the government, so their budget is always fluctuating. Therefore, cuts in funding, projects, and employees can happen often. Fortunately, private companies such as SpaceX are bringing new ideas to the field.

The SpaceX Starship program was created to get men onto the Moon, Mars, and deep space. The Starship rocket will be constructed out of stainless steel. Although this material makes it heavier, it also makes it much less expensive to man-

ufacture and it is fully reusable. The ship is capable of carrying 100 metric tons of cargo and people out of Earth's orbit. The company first plans to make trips to the moon to build a moon base.

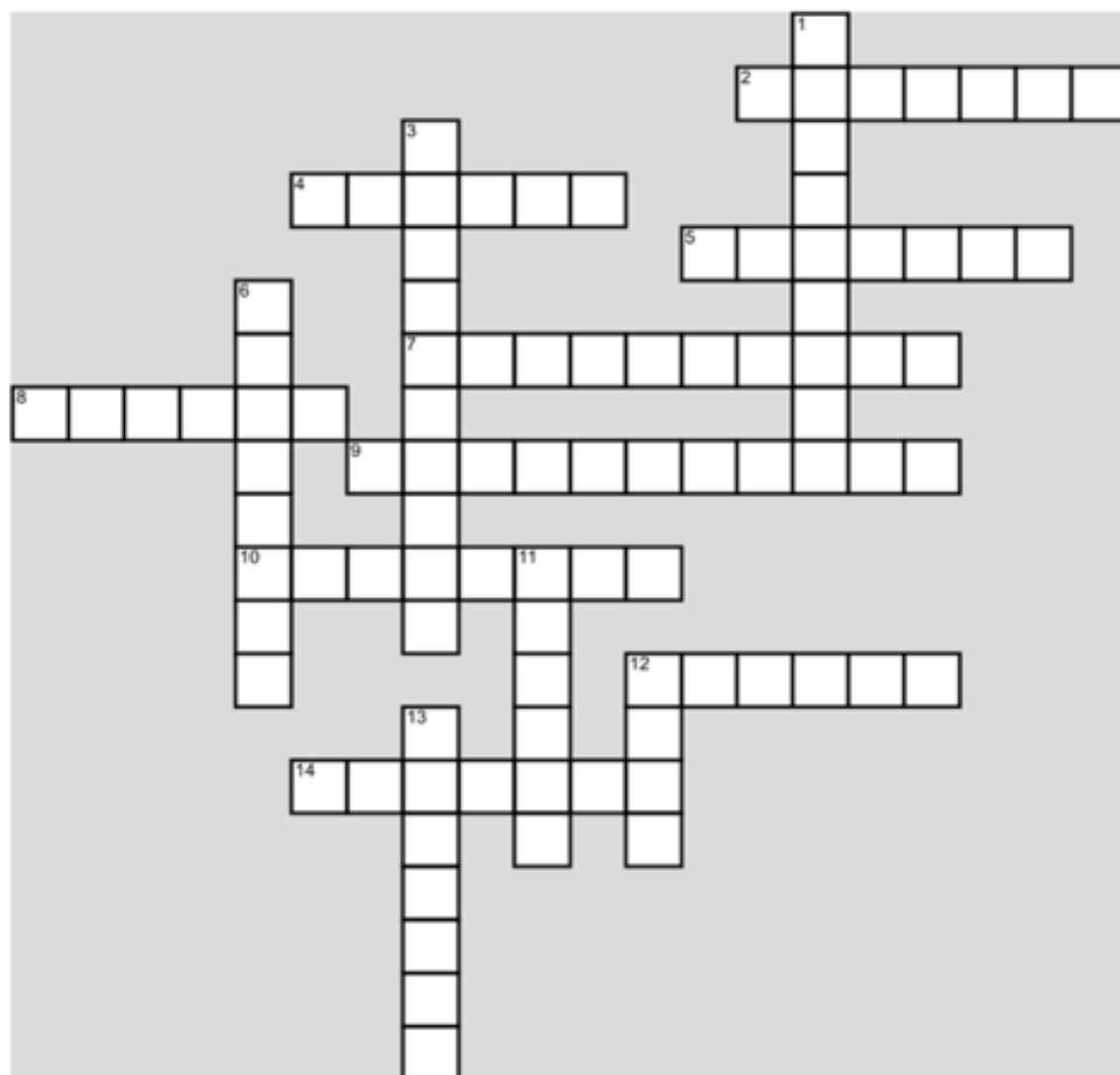
Their statement on the website says, "The fully reusable Starship system is capable of supporting this effort by carrying the building blocks needed to enable a Moon base and by informing the development of propulsive landing systems to help realize this future."

The Moon will make base stable for humans to live and study space; from there, we can expand our horizons and branch out new possibilities, including colonizing Mars, which Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, plans to do with their Starship soon.

Outer space is home to a plethora of resources and explanations to the mysteries of our world. It is important to understand what is out there, and along with education comes inspiration.

Advancing our technologies now can inspire the next generation to continue the research and exploration we begin now. Space exploration holds a wide range of opportunities for us; we just have to harness it.

June Crossword by Ian Glassman '21



Across

- 2 Purplish plant; color
- 4 Fuse of punk rock and heavy metal
- 5 Two authorities
- 7 Old record player
- 8 Keyboard guitar mashup
- 9 Perpendicular to frictional force
- 10 Nearby Scorpio
- 12 Done by hand; instructional guide
- 14 Perpetual pattern occurring naturally

Down

- 1 Green pokémon
- 3 Fear of mice
- 6 Type of onion
- 11 Requires dental filling
- 12 Shopping center
- 13 Latin for 'snackshop'

Amity Students Unite to Help Frontline Efforts

by Mason Zhang '21

Although many extracurricular activities like volunteer work and spring sports have been cancelled due to the pandemic, Amity students are still finding ways to give back to the community and support the first responders who are on the front lines daily while we practice social distancing and stay at home.

The student-founded CT Corona Crew is one Amity group that is giving back to the community. The organization takes on a variety of roles to help frontline workers and has raised more than one thousand dollars for meals to hospitals, like the Waterbury Hospital.

Gabby '21, one of the founders of the program, really wanted to see all the doctors, nurses, and essential workers lines as well as small businesses. "Our efforts have greatly to local and small businesses, which taken significant economic deficits during the pandemic.



Amity students volunteer at Waterbury Hospital
Photo Courtesy of Isabella Pfannenbecker '21

Urban founders of said, "We give back to nurses, first responders, and essential workers on the front lines. Indeed, their contributions have been significant.

These students were inspired to unite during these tough times, hoping to show appreciation and support for those who are working tirelessly amidst uncertain times. Simple gestures like giving meals to nurses can truly make their day, and this voluntary effort to get out of their houses and act selflessly should be commended.

The CT Corona Crew's efforts have reflected this year's message from Amity: Be true, be you. These Amity students aren't allowing the pandemic to stop them from being true to themselves because they found a way, by donating meals, to show their support and most importantly, their gratitude.

Junior Places First in Writing Contest

by Jonathan Wang '21

This past April, Sydney Cohen '21 participated in the Thornton Wilder Writing Competition and won the First Place Prize for Prose. This contest was established over thirty years ago by the Friends of the Hamden Library and was named after a Pulitzer prize-winning playwright and author. Every year, students throughout New Haven County are invited to submit short works of fiction, including short stories, poems, and scripts for the chance to earn cash prizes.

Cohen's winning short story, "Toy Soldiers", was originally written for her creative writing class, but she decided to participate in the competition after her English teacher posted it on their class page. Following her submission, Cohen stated that she was "super surprised" that she had won. Overall, she says that her win was "such great news during a boring time stuck at home."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the contest's award presentations have been altered. Typically, after presented, the winners read their pieces to an audience. However, this year instead had a reading posted on the Hamden Library website.

How COVID-19, recording of her to the Hamden Library. A long recognition, Cohen success in the current will be donating to COVID-19.



Thornton Wilder Certificate of Recognition
Photo courtesy of Sydney Cohen '21

Cohen will put the remaining money towards a new Amity Writing Contest. This writing competition will be implemented through the Calliope magazine, and all Amity students are encouraged to participate. Any student can submit a piece, but to be eligible for the competition, students must submit either a poem or short story incorporating the theme of isolation.

One participant, Eesha Acharya '21, states that she is "taking people's thoughts on isolation" for her piece because she feels that "isolation is a very complex feeling," and she hopes to "show that complexity through her writing."

Entries were due by May 28 and had to be submitted through the Calliope submission platform. Two winners chosen by Sydney and the Calliope editorial team will receive cash prizes, and these winners will be announced in early June.

How to Make the Most Out of Your Summer

by Abby Ball '22

With the onset of COVID-19, many students at Amity and beyond have been left with much less to do than before. As summer approaches, the days seem increasingly monotonous and lengthy; many students' spirits are down because they will most likely be unable to go to camps, see friends, or travel to large public areas this summer.

However, there are still ways to have a great summer, despite all that is going on! Many students in America are still applying for online summer programs from colleges like Harvard, UPenn, Stanford, and many others. Student Happenings emails have also mentioned the virtual six-week Summer Virtual Stem research program. Programs like these are great for learning about new subjects and expanding your knowledge.

Although many volunteer opportunities have been cancelled or postponed due to quarantine, some are still available. Taking up a job or volunteering is a productive and wholesome way to spend part of your summer! One suggestion is the United Way in New Haven, which has a list of short term volunteer opportunities listed on its website. Libraries, bookstores, and other shops could also be open for volunteers or employees by the time school ends.

You can also check out

volunteer opportunities at local farms like Massaro Farm in Woodbridge, Clover Nook Farm in Bethany, or Maple View Farm in Orange if they are open. One of the best ways to spend your time is to get outdoors and stay active. There are countless parks and forests in Connecticut just waiting for you! They include East and West Rock Park, Sleeping Giant State Park, and any trails in your hometown.

of other activities to take up. Trying out a new hobby is always a good plan. You can take up a new sport or instrument, bike, and even roller skate. Arts and crafts, such as sewing, photography, drawing, and painting, are also a relaxing and enjoyable outlet. Learning how to cook or bake is another contender since we are now mostly cooped up in our houses.



Massaro Farm in Woodbridge, CT
Photo courtesy of Woodbridge Town News

If you play a sport, you can always keep practicing and try to stay in shape. Even if we do not return to school in the fall, it is still best to practice. This summer is the perfect time to hone your skills or pass your time doing things you enjoy. Particularly in the summer months, when all we have is time, you can practically teach yourself any new skill or educate yourself on a number of things.

Some suggestions include watching new shows or movies, listening to podcasts, or reading books. Reading is a wonderful pastime, especially with the OBOA memoir we all have to choose! You can find a reading list as well, like the one the National English Honor Society has provided. Of course, if reading is not for you, there are plenty

Another option is to start a business or raise awareness for a cause you are passionate about. An example could be creating an organization for COVID-19 relief, but you can raise money or supplies for any charity. Starting a local business can be as simple as offering to mow lawns or walk dogs—anything to keep you on your feet. Helping out your community is especially important in this time of hardship.

Overall, there is an endless amount of hobbies, opportunities, and new activities you can immerse yourself in this summer. Given the challenge of staying active during lockdown, what's most important is that you focus on what can still be done, given the many alternatives which can temporarily replace our usual activities. Staying positive is difficult, but trying out new pastimes that spark your interest might help.

Remember, simply spending time with your family and staying healthy by following COVID-19 guidelines is what matters the most. We are all in this pandemic together, and as long as you do what you love and love what you do, you will be just fine. Hopefully, some of these tips help you make the most out of your summer!

End of Year in Quarantine

by Caelan Watson '20



That's All, Folks...So

SORTED BY NAME

Alexander Ablozhey Virginia Tech
Taraneh Abolfath University of Alabama, Army Reserve
Anastasia Abriola Bryant University
Matthew Aferzon Northeastern University
Alishah Ahmed University of Connecticut
Ayah Almashi University of New Haven
John Alvarado East Carolina University
Ryan Anastasio George Washington University
Evan Arovos Virginia Tech
Jeremy Bachman University of Connecticut
Michael Baitch Roger Williams University
Alexandria Barnes Boston University
Katie Barretta Fairfield University
Madison Barretta Syracuse University
Julian Barroso Pratt Institute
Zara Barsky Bernstein University of Colorado Boulder
Connor Bath University of Maine
Timothy Belcourt University of Connecticut
Vera Belfonti Babson College
Quinton Belton-Tilghman Southern Connecticut State University
Nicholas Bevvino Gateway Community College
Mackenzie Black Union College
Meadow Blakeslee Quinnipiac University
Cooper Blanchette University of Connecticut
Koda Blue Saint Joseph's University
Ali Bobi Northeastern University
Grace Bohan Temple University
Mallory Boiano Middlesex Community College
Skyler Boyle Gap year in CT, then to Naugatuck Valley Community College
Max Boynton Western Connecticut State University
Talya Braverman Northwestern University
Grace Bretthauer University of Connecticut
Robert Brinton University of Connecticut
Hanna Brochinsky Temple University
Mitchell Bronson University of Connecticut
Emily Brown Ohio State University
Jocelyn Buynak Gateway Community College
Haley Cable Coastal Carolina University
Sara Cable University of Tampa
Lauren Campos Hanze University of Applied Science
Caitlin Carlson Auburn University
Ana Carney University of Connecticut
Megan Carpenter Quinnipiac University
Christopher Cavallaro University of Maine
Daniel Cavanagh Southern Connecticut State University
Alexia Cha New York University
Ariba Chaudhry Quinnipiac University
Ana Chinchilla Villacorta University of Connecticut

Erica Christensen University of New Haven
Rachel Christie Butler University
Jenna Ciola University of Maine
Cora Cogill University of New Haven
Elizabeth Cohen University of Rhode Island
Nicole Cohen University of Vermont
Gianna Cooper Quinnipiac University
Mauricio Cortes Roger Williams University
Ruth Cortright University of Connecticut
Marlin Cosar Michigan State University
Ciara Cox Merrimack College
Tess Csejka Boston University
Evan D'Onofrio Southern Connecticut State University
Christina D'Ostilio Parsons School of Design
Georgia Dalakas The University of Texas at Austin
Ishmael Davila St. Vincent College
Michael Decesare Southern New Hampshire University
Dana Della-Giustina University of Connecticut
Jerome Delmoro Stetson University
Matteo Delsanto College of the Holy Cross
Mikenna Demorro Sacred Heart University for Athletic Training
Max Deng Rochester Institute of Technology
Rhea Dey Washington University in St. Louis
Joseph Digello Southern Connecticut State University
John Dill Colorado School of Mines
Avery Dillon University of Tampa
Anthony Distefano The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)
Casey Donovan University of South Carolina
Isaiah Duncan Dean College
Angela Duro Southern Connecticut State University
Marissa Dwyer Stonehill College
Rachel Eagle Syracuse University
Haile Ebert Sacred Heart University
Samuel Epstein Tufts University
Maria Farace Indiana University Bloomington
Aidan Farrell University of Rhode Island
Tyler Ferullo Gap year traveling, then Keene State College
Jack Figuly University of New Haven
Simon Flaherty Post Graduate Year at Northfield Mount Hermon School
Abigail Fletcher Smith College
Matthew Floyd Molloy College
Sarah Foley Clark University
Jake Forchetti University of New Haven
Joshua Ford University of Delaware
Jared Gabriele University of New Haven
Ari Gad University of Colorado Boulder
Andrew Gagliardi Sacred Heart University
Ian Gaw Bryant University
Ashley Gelin Pennsylvania State University
Jamie Genovese University

of New Haven
Peter Gianquinto Johnson and Wales University
Adam Ginsberg University of Michigan
Martin Gnidula University of Vermont
Ariel Gordon Northwestern University
Emma Grabowski Florida Southern College
Eve Green New York University
Olivia Gross Vassar College
Alexandra Gu University of Connecticut
Benjamin Gurevich Rochester Institute of Technology
Connor Gustafson Southern Connecticut State University
Kylee Gustafson University of Connecticut
Mathew Haiday Binghamton University
Sofia Halepas Providence College
Saeyeon Han University of Connecticut
Hamza Hanif University of New Haven
John Healey Florida Gulf Coast University
Aedan Heffernan Mitchell College
Lena Hildrich Northeastern University
Rachel Holden University of Connecticut
Evan Hollander University of Pittsburgh
Patricia Holt University of Connecticut
Ulen Honeychurch Purdue University
Bridget Hosey University of New Hampshire
Claire Hosey Champlain College
Mayel Hubbard University of Tampa
Jayson Hutchinson University of Rhode Island
Claire Jackson Pennsylvania State University
Reyheim Jackson St. John's University
Madison Jennes University of Tampa
Eric Jiang Brandeis University
Ruiqi Jiang University of California, Irvine
Ethan Kaempffer University of Massachusetts Amherst
Jason Kang University of Connecticut
Joseph Kaoud Fairfield University
Sam Kaoud Quinnipiac University
Kira Kelly Dutchess Community College
Aidan Ketchian University of Rhode Island
Liam Keylock Albertus Magnus College
Matthew Keys Bentley University
Shahood Khan University of Connecticut
Mina Kim University of Michigan
Evan Kindseth University of Massachusetts Amherst
Nicholas Kiwanis University of Rhode Island
Jordan Klein University of Connecticut
Emily Kline University of Vermont
Kaitlyn Kline Southern Connecticut State University
Arbesa Koleci University of Connecticut
Emma Kravetz University of Wisconsin-Madison
Akshat Kulkarni University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Annabel Kunitz Champlain College
Tassos Kyriakides Parsons

School of Design
Julia Lagoutis Quinnipiac University
Hunter Laubstein Merrimack College
Breana Lavallee North Carolina State University
Michael Lebreck Boston College
Danielle Lee Yale University
Jacob Lee University of Connecticut
Sean Lee Northwestern University
Sumin Lee Pratt Institute
Daniel Li University of Michigan
Jody Liu New York University
Cecilia Livingston American University
Aedan Lodynsky University of Connecticut
Nicolas Lopez-Vila Boston College
Raymond Lu University of Southern California
Tracy Lu Tufts University
Ningxin Luo Barnard College
Macy Lyons University of Connecticut
Alyssa Macrae High Point University
Sarah Madsen Gateway Community College
Kyle Magri Southern Connecticut State University
Trevor Mahabir University of Connecticut
Eleftheria Maniatis Bryant University
Amber Mansourian Quinnipiac University
Daniel Mao University of Rochester
Joseph Marchitto Seton Hall University
Laurella Marin Dartmouth College
Anna-Maria Marinescu Boston University
Lauren Marino Syracuse University
Jillian Martin Southern Connecticut State University
Alexia Martins University of New Haven
Evauna Matejek Southern Connecticut State University
Emma Mccarson Southern Connecticut State University
Gabrielle McGovern Emerson College
Brenna Mcnamara Appalachian State University
Sean Meehan Moving to Los Angeles to work in the film industry
Shraiya Mehta James Madison University
Ameya Menta Tufts University
Keyana Miller Sacred Heart University
Sarah Milner University of Miami
Jessica Miner Makeup Designory
Nicole Mongillo Northeastern University
Matthew Morbidelli Dean College
Kayla Morgan Yale University
Alicia Myung Brandeis University
Samuel Nagy Arizona State University
Gargi Nandy Brandeis University
Abyan Nawaz Northeastern University
Sai Neelam University of Connecticut
Audrey Nelson Lesley University
Ephemia Nicolakis Quinnipiac University
Gillianne Nugent Trinity College

Ryan Nuzzo University of Connecticut
Conlan O'Rourke University of Maine
Mikayla Oko American University
Daniela Olofsson Southern Connecticut State University
Janek Olofsson University of Maine
Crista Orfiss University of Connecticut
Ryan Ozolins Gap Year in Europe, then University of Connecticut
Gabriel Paglia Albertus Magnus College
Alex Palermo Bryant University
Armando Palma Fordham University
Payton Papa Southern Connecticut State University
Romi Patel Southern Connecticut State University
Akanksha Paul Boston University
Nicoletta Pellegrino Quinnipiac University
Maya Piorek University of Connecticut
Alexandra Plaza University of Connecticut
Alexander Pocwierz West Virginia University
Anthony Pontillo Gateway Community College
Skyelar Poulimas Southern Connecticut State University
Andrew Price University of Miami
Natalie Prinz Boston College
Brianna Prosser Culinary Institute of America
Hailey Pryor Fordham University
Siavash Raissi Tufts University
Alan Reames University of Connecticut
William Regan Quinnipiac University
Sydney Reiner University of Vermont
Blythe Reis Syracuse University
Dominic Rendero University of Connecticut
Nicholas Ricciardi University of Connecticut
Nicholas Robinson United States Marine Corps
William Rotko Quinnipiac University
Samuel Sachs University of Miami, then Cornell University
Saunders Saffran Fairfield University
Jordan Sahlin Naugatuck Valley
Mattea Salati University of Connecticut
Tanner Santos Babson College
Jeremiah Schmidtke United States Navy
Evan Schumann University of Maine
Jeremiah Schurman Quinnipiac University
Ethan Selmon Ithaca College
Nico Semmonella Lafayette College
Andrew Serrano Albertus Magnus College
Mason Shepard Lafayette College
Sydney Sherrick Central Connecticut State University
Carly Silver University of Wisconsin-Madison
Garrett Singleton Southern Connecticut State University
Michael Skerritt Louisiana State University
Abigail Slanski George Washington University
Madisson Smith High Point University

Senior Intentions 2020!

Olivia Sopp Louisiana State University
Mitchell Sousa Quinnipiac University
Jesse Spinola Electrical Union
Allison Steigleder Sacred Heart University
Adaiah Stevens Wake Forest University
Jakob Sudhoff Roger Williams University
David Sugarmann Cornell University
Megan Sullivan University of New Haven
Nandan Suresh Kumar University of Connecticut
Halle Syrop SUNY New Paltz
Sam Syrop Central Connecticut State University
Jack Tajmajer Brown University
Zainab Tariq University of Connecticut
Catherine Thomas Dean College
Aoi Tischer University of Vermont
Mariam Tkeshelashvili Suffolk University
Liv Trellevik University of Connecticut
Eric Tudino Keene State College
Jaime Vetro Merrimack College
Inthanhon Vilay University of Connecticut
Evan Walker University of Connecticut
Jenna Walsh Pennsylvania State University
Lauren Walsh University of Connecticut
Sienna Wang Boston University
Sophia Wang Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Caelan Watson Lasell University
Nickolas Wawrzyniak Tufts University
Rachel Weidenfeller University of New Hampshire
Henry Westgard Connecticut College
Jenna Wilde Unreported
Solangelina Williams Eastern Connecticut State University
Abigail Wisnewski Smith College
Ashley Wright Brenau University
Elliott Wyndorf Syracuse University
Ziqi Yang Carnegie Mellon University
Victor You Emory University
Tylar Young Emergency Dispatcher Course
Zachary Young University of Connecticut
Baasim Zafar University of Connecticut
Joyce Zhang Lafayette College
Irene Zheng University of Connecticut
Vincent Zheng University of Connecticut

SORTED BY INTENTION

Albertus Magnus College Liam Keylock, Gabriel Paglia, Andrew Serrano
American University Cecilia Livingston, Mikayla Oko
Appalachian State University Brenna Mcnamara
Arizona State University Samuel Nagy
Auburn University Caitlin Carlson
Babson College Vera Belmonti, Tanner Santos
Barnard College Ningxin Luo

Bentley University Matthew Keys
Binghamton University Mathew Haiday
Boston College Michael Lebreck, Nicolas Lopez-Vila, Natalie Prinz
Boston University Alexandria Barnes, Tess Csejka, Anna-Maria Marinescu, Akanksha Paul, Sienna Wang
Brandeis University Eric Jiang, Alicia Myung, Gargi Nandy
Brenau University Ashley Wright
Brown University Jack Tajmajer
Bryant University Anastasia Abriola, Ian Gaw, Eleftheria Maniatis, Alex Palermo
Butler University Rachel Christie
Carnegie Mellon University Ziqi Yang
Central Connecticut State University Sydney Sherrick, Sam Syrop
Champlain College Claire Hosey, Annabel Kusnitz
Clark University Sarah Foley
Coastal Carolina University Haley Cable
College of the Holy Cross Matteo Delsanto
Colorado School of Mines John Dill
Connecticut College Henry Westgard
Cornell University David Sugarmann
Culinary Institute of America Brianna Prosser
Dartmouth College Laurella Marin
Dean College Isaiah Duncan, Matthew Morbidelli, Catherine Thomas
Dutchess Community College Kira Kelly
East Carolina University John Alvarado
Eastern Connecticut State University Solangelina Williams
Electrical Union Jesse Spinola
Emergency Dispatcher Course Tylar Young
Emerson College Gabrielle McGovern
Emory University Victor You
Fairfield University Katie Barretta, Joseph Kaoud, Saunder Saffran
Florida Gulf Coast University John Healey
Florida Southern College Emma Grabowski
Fordham University Armando Palma, Hailey Pryor
Gap year in Europe, then University of Connecticut Ryan Ozolins
Gap year in CT, then to Naugatuck Valley Community College Skyler Boyle
Gap year traveling, then Keene State College Tyler Ferullo
Gateway Community College Nicholas Bevvino, Jocelyn Buynak, Sarah Madsen, Anthony Pontillo
George Washington University Ryan Anastasio, Abigail Slanski
Hanze University of Applied Science Lauren Campos
High Point University Alyssa Macrae, Madisson Smith
Indiana University Bloomington Maria Farace
Ithaca College Ethan Selmon
James Madison University Shraiya Mehta

Johnson and Wales University Peter Gianquinto
Keene State College Eric Tudino
Lafayette College Nico Semmonella, Mason Shepard, Joyce Zhang
Lasell University Caelan Watson
Lesley University Audrey Nelson
Louisiana State University Michael Skerritt, Olivia Sopp
Makeup Designory Jessica Miner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sophia Wang
Merrimack College Ciara Cox, Hunter Laubstein, Jaime Vetro
Michigan State University Marlin Cosar
Middlesex Community College Mallory Boiano
Mitchell College Aedan Heffernan
Molloy College Matthew Floyd
Moving to Los Angeles to work in the film industry Sean Meehan
Naugatuck Valley Jordan Sahlin
New York University Alexia Cha, Eve Green, Jody Liu
North Carolina State University Breana Lavallee
Northeastern University Matthew Aferzon, Ali Bobi, Lena Hildrich, Nicole Mongillo, Abyan Nawaz
Northwestern University Talya Braverman, Ariel Gordon, Sean Lee
Ohio State University Emily Brown
Parsons School of Design Christina D'Ostilio, Tassos Kyriakides
Pennsylvania State University Ashley Gelin, Claire Jackson, Jenna Walsh
Post Graduate Year at Northfield Mount Hermon School Simon Flaherty
Pratt Institute Julian Barroso, Sumin Lee
Providence College Sofia Halepas
Purdue University Ulen Honeychurch
Quinnipiac University Meadow Blakeslee, Ariba Chaudhry, Gianna Cooper, Sam Kaoud, Julia Lagoutis, Amber Mansourian, Ephemina Nicolakis, Nicoletta Pellegrino, William Regan, William Rotko, Jeremiah Schurman, Mitchell Sousa
Quinnipiac University Megan Carpenter
Rochester Institute of Technology Max Deng, Benjamin Gurevich
Roger Williams University Michael Baitch, Mauricio Cortes, Jakob Sudhoff
SUNY New Paltz Halle Syrop
Sacred Heart University Haile Ebert, Andrew Gagliardi, Keyana Miller, Allison Steigleder
Sacred Heart University for Athletic Training Mikenna Demorro
Saint Joseph's University Koda Blue
Seton Hall University Joseph Marchitto
Smith College Abigail Fletcher, Abigail Wisnewski
Southern Connecticut State University Quinton Belton-Tilghman, Daniel Cavanagh, Evan D'onofrio, Joseph Digello, Angela Duro, Connor Gustafson, Kaitlyn Kline, Kyle Magri,

Jillian Martin, Evauna Matejek, Emma Mccarson, Daniela Olofsson, Payton Papa, Romi Patel, Skyelar Poulimas, Garrett Singleton
Southern New Hampshire University Michael Decesare
St. John's University Reyheim Jackson
St. Vincent College Ishmael Davila
Stetson University Jerome Delmoro
Stonehill College Marissa Dwyer
Suffolk University Mariam Tkeshelashvili
Syracuse University Madison Barretta, Rachel Eagle, Lauren Marino, Blythe Reis, Elliott Wyndorf
Temple University Grace Bohan, Hanna Brochinsky
The College of New Jersey Anthony Distefano
The University of Texas at Austin Georgia Dalakas
Trinity College Gillianne Nugent
Tufts University Samuel Epstein, Tracy Lu, Ameya Menta, Siavash Raissi, Nickolas Wawrzyniak
Union College Mackenzie Black
United States Marine Corps Nicholas Robinson
United States Navy Jeremiah Schmidtke
University of Alabama, Army Reserve Taraneh Abolfath
University of California, Irvine Ruiqi Jiang
University of Colorado Boulder Zara Barsky Bernstein, Ari Gad
University of Connecticut Alishah Ahmed, Jeremy Bachman, Timothy Belcourt, Cooper Blanchette, Grace Bretthauer, Robert Brinton, Mitchell Bronson, Ana Carney, Ana Chinchilla Villacorta, Ruth Cortright, Dana Della-Giustina, Alexandra Gu, Kylee Gustafson, Saeyeon Han, Rachel Holden, Patricia Holt, Jason Kang, Shahood Khan, Jordan Klein, Arbesa Koleci, Nandan Kumar, Jacob Lee, Aedan Lodynsky, Macy Lyons, Trevor Mahabir, Sai Neelam, Ryan Nuzzo, Crista Orfiss, Maya Piorek, Alexandra Plaza, Alan Reames, Dominic Rendero, Nicholas Ricciardi, Mattea Salati, Zainab Tariq, Liv Trellevik, Inthanhon Vilay, Evan Walker, Lauren Walsh, Zachary Young, Baasim Zafar, Irene Zheng, Vincent Zheng
University of Delaware Joshua Ford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Akshat Kulkarni
University of Maine Connor Bath, Christopher Cavallo, Jenna Ciola, Conlan O'Rourke, Janek Olofsson, Evan Schumann
University of Massachusetts Amherst Ethan Kaempffer, Evan Kindseth
University of Miami Sarah Milner, Andrew Price
University of Miami, then Cornell University Samuel Sachs
University of Michigan Adam Ginsberg, Mina Kim, Daniel Li
University of New Hampshire Bridget Hosey, Rachel Weidenfeller
University of New Haven Ayah Almashi, Erica Christensen, Cora Cogill, Jack Figuly, Jake Forchetti, Jared

Gabriele, Jamie Genovese, Hamza Hanif, Alexia Martins, Megan Sullivan
University of Pittsburgh Evan Hollander
University of Rhode Island Elizabeth Cohen, Aidan Farrell, Jayson Hutchinson, Aidan Ketchian, Nicholas Kiwanis
University of Rochester Daniel Mao
University of South Carolina Casey Donovan
University of Southern California Raymond Lu
University of Tampa Sara Cable, Avery Dillon, Mayel Hubbard, Madison Jennes
University of Vermont Nicole Cohen, Martin Gnidula, Emily Kline, Sydney Reiner, Aoi Tischer
University of Wisconsin-Madison Emma Kravetz, Carly Silver
Unreported Maame Aggrey, Gabrielle Alers, America Balfour, Christopher Barretta, Amanda Breving, Justin Cassidento, Dylan Chizmadia, Garrett Cunningham, Vince Cypress, Steven Dalle Ave, Fayha Dar, Alexander Drezek, Patrick Dudra, Brayden Esposito, Gregory Everett, Victor Federico, Carsten Fielosh, Sydney Forlano, James Fortin, Andrew Gnidula, Adrian Gonzalez, Bayley Green, Anthony Guerra, Grayson Guerra, Rika Howard, Carolyn Iff, Ryan Ignatowski, Zain Jabbar, Yevgraf Jakimowicz, Brandon Jennes, Alexander Johnson, Genti Koleci, Bryan Laskowski, Kalin Lopresti, Samantha Louros, Volodymyr Lukiv, Hailey Lyle, Lena MacDonald, Nicholas Marinko, Andrew Martija, Kayla Meunier, Elizabeth Morgan, Makayla Moriarty, Gabriel Morin, Matthew Morrow, James Myers, Ryan Oakley, Zachary Paiva, Henry Pan, Cassandre Parkinson, Owen Parr, Sam Pascucci, Alexander Perry, Isabella Pucillo, Jake Pucillo, Logan Rios, Kevin Rocheleau, Paul Romanovsky, Tyler Roy, Amanda Scanlon, Lillie Scanlon, Sebastian Scrimenti, Michael Singer, Jake Slesinski, Abigail Smeriglio, Sophia Soldra, Shea Sprosta, Ahmad Suleiman, Jason Talnose, Leah Turner, Jenna Van Hise, Serena Velazquez, Megan Volk, Jake Wajnowski, Evan Walker, Sida Wang, Zhuoyi Wang, Jenna Wilde, Kenneth Xavier, Valeria Yanqui, Christopher Zeek
Vassar College Olivia Gross
Virginia Tech Alexander Ablozhey, Evan Arovas
Wake Forest University Adaiah Stevens
Washington University in St. Louis Rhea Dey
West Virginia University Alexander Pocwierz
Western Connecticut State University Max Boynton
Yale University Danielle Lee, Kayla Morgan



TV Review: The Plot Against America

by **Evan Hollander '20**

During this pandemic, most of us are finding ourselves watching more television than ever. In most cases, the shows are just entertainment; while fun to watch, they are otherwise meaningless sources of background noise. Other shows, however, can serve both to fill our time and teach us valuable, pertinent messages. In my recent experience, the HBO miniseries *The Plot Against America* served exactly that purpose.

Based on Philip Roth's book, the *Plot Against America* is an alternative history of the United States, though it parallels our current climate. It takes place during the early 1940s, when America, like the rest of the world, faced the threat of fascism. Jews and other minority groups were under attack.

Moreover, the country began to fracture between more global-minded politicians, like President Roosevelt, and isolationists, like Charles Lindbergh.

We immediately see parallels to today. The most terrifying aspect of the show is that parts of the story are completely true. Just like today, minorities faced increased hate crimes. Just like today, some politicians opposed globalism and declared "America First."

This is where *The Plot Against America* begins. The story is through the eyes of the Levin Family, living in a Jewish neighborhood in New Jersey. The Levin Family, like many Jews in 1940 and today, considered themselves fully assimilated.

The patriarch, Herman, played by Morgan Spector, was a proud American, and he believed himself a beneficiary of the American Dream. He and his wife, Bess, played by Zoe Kazan, raised their two sons, Sandy and ten-year-old Phillip in a two-family house that they shared with another Jewish family. Herman considered his identity to be American-Jewish, where his religion and patriotism did not mix. Herman spends a lot of his time listening to radio commentators, during which he hears a report that Charles Lindbergh is preparing to run for President.

Lindbergh, an aviator and war hero, angers Herman with his

anti-war message and his recent trips to Nazi Germany, where he met Adolf Hitler and received the Service Cross of the German Eagle.

The Levins, through Bess' sister Evelyn Finkel, played by Winona Ryder, meet Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf, played by John Turturro. Bengelsdorf, whose Carolinian accent identifies him as a German Jew, as opposed to the New York accent of the Levins and other Eastern European Jews, is much more conservative than Herman and Bess. In fact, Bengelsdorf soon declares his support for Lindbergh, despite his Nazi sympathies. Evelyn joins him, and they successfully elect

Lindbergh and are given local roles in the new administration.

Evelyn and Bengelsdorf consider themselves as aiding the Jewish cause by setting up a program to relocate Jewish children West.

They would call themselves liaisons, or court Jews.

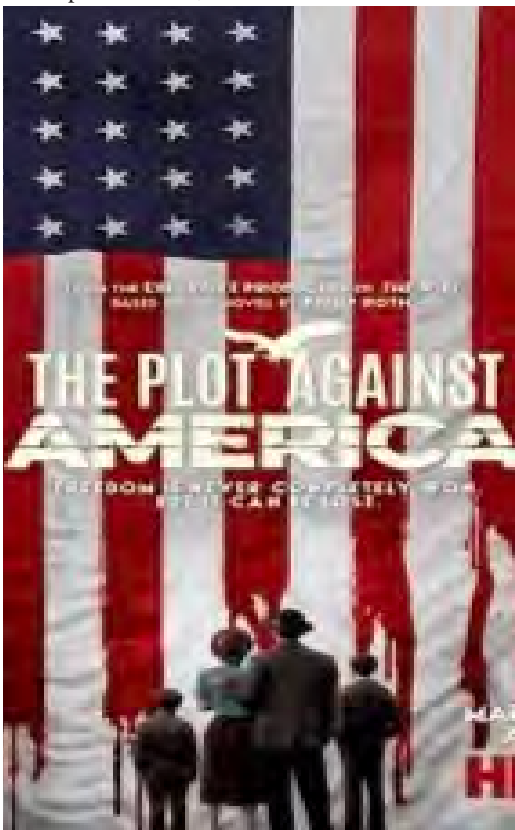
Herman, on the other hand, despised their work, especially as his son Sandy, considered rebellious in his support for Lindbergh, accepted the offer of relocation. Herman would have called them Judenräte, the derogatory name for Jewish liaisons to the Nazis.

Over the course of the series, anti-Semitic attacks escalate severely, much like the increase in hate crimes over the past few years. Moreover, the rift between the Herman, Bess, Phillip, and other Jews; and Evelyn, Bengelsdorf, and Sandy fractures the previously cohesive family.

Indeed, many families today find themselves reevaluating whether to remain close with relatives with whom they disagree politically. Eventually, as the Lindbergh Administration and gentile supporters become more openly hostile towards Jewish Americans, his Jewish supporters are forced to reconsider their support for him.

I highly recommend *The Plot Against America* for its deep connections to our current political climate. It teaches about a dark chapter of American history (one which we luckily avoided entering fully) as well as the story of American Jewry.

Moreover, the cast's impeccable execution and the script's attention to detail make for an evocative, dramatic six episodes.



Student Artist Feature Mingyue Zha

by **Annie Liu '23**

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life," Pablo Picasso proclaimed, and in difficult times, such as now, people often need to create a reality that is familiar to themselves.

For freshman Mingyue (Ming) Zha, art is what is familiar to her. "I was first inspired to pick up a pencil and paintbrush because of my godmother, who is an art teacher. She visited us and encouraged me to draw," Zha says. "I've been drawing for my whole life, so I cannot even remember a time where I didn't draw."

Zha is extremely involved in the school as a member of student government and multiple clubs, including Debate and Science Olympiad. She's also a talented musician, playing violin in orchestra and having many years of education in piano. Many know her, however, for her distinctive and beautiful works of art.

The first piece is an oil painting from "back in the days." The second piece is a work of digital art, which she says she chose because "I like the colors; also, other digital art is kinda weird to show." However, Zha's most recent works have generally been works of digital art, as shown by the third image, which includes many of her latest drawings. It was assembled for the #artvsartist 2020 challenge on social media, where artists surround a selfie of themselves with a mini-portfolio of their artwork. "I do really love seeing all the digital drawings together," Zha states.

Looking at all of them together, Zha was asked what she thought her artistic trademark was. After deliberating for a bit, she said, "I would say my artistic trademark is playing with the light and atmosphere of the drawing. It does not directly define my style, but I truly love to experiment with it in my art. This is especially seen with my digital pieces."

When asked what her favorite medium of art is, Zha responded, "Digital art. I love many different art mediums, such as oil painting, watercolor, and other forms of traditional art, but there's so much freedom in digital art."

She added, "right now, I'm really focused on it." As for the tools she uses to create her digital masterpieces, she confirmed that she works with her iPad, an Apple pencil, and Medibang Paint, which is a popular free-to-use multi-platform drawing program.

Just as Zha is able to work

with many different mediums, Zha is able to breathe life into many different subjects with her artwork. "I draw whatever inspires me in the moment. That could be plants, people, tv shows, et cetera." Her

around me (you know who you are, guys) and I'm inspired by artists online—I can't list them all, and I cannot choose just one." Art can be a difficult process, and mental blocks are all too common for creators; fortunately, it is clear that Zha is a motivated worker and has great inspirations to draw from.

So what is she working on right now? "Believe it or not, I'm planning to open commissions (shameless plug), so I'm working on an artistic info page for that," she replies, which is clearly very exciting! By taking commissions and making money from her work, one can no longer just be called a hobbyist. By selling her work, Zha would then be a freelance artist, which is not only a great way to make money on the side but also a fantastic way to gain experience with working with customers and finances, life skills that

apply far beyond the artistic realm. She is also looking to improve artistically, stating that "I'm also working on improving my style into something more unique as well." As for where she sees her art going in the future, she states that "I don't think it's my career choice, but you can definitely look forward to me drawing for the rest of my life as a hobby!"

When asked about what advice she would give to other artists, Zha said, "the advice I would give is that art, first and foremost, is a creative medium. When you work on something, enjoy the process, don't worry about the final product that much. I mean, the current world is so fast-paced. You can use drawing as an outlet. So basically, have fun with it." Zha shares an important and touching message; in today's day and age, we are all too painfully aware of what is going on in the world, both the "good" and the "bad,"

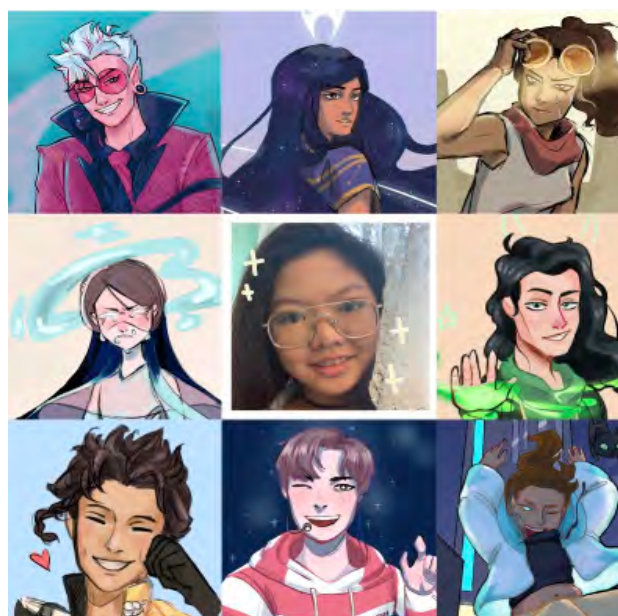
be it on Instagram or Twitter or some obscure Internet forum, it's too easy to compare ourselves to the perfect images at our fingertips or to feel hopeless amidst what the media paints as a world beyond repair, a society beyond fixing. But in this supposedly "perfect" or "hopeless" world, and especially in a time such as now, creators are needed more than ever to create that reality for themselves, to scribble over what Picasso described as the "dust of everyday life" and to create.



Oil Painting of Flowers
Photo courtesy of Mingyue Zha '23



Digital Artwork
Photo courtesy of Mingyue Zha '23



Assembled Digital Art
Photo courtesy of Mingyue Zha '23

early inspiration, however, came from the media around her. "I started drawing for my own enjoyment after reading comic books and watching Studio Ghibli films when I was around seven."

Zha's parents were also supportive of her artistic journey, she suggested, as her parents "motivated me by enrolling me into art classes for the majority of my childhood." Now, she says that "I'm inspired by the artists

to compare ourselves to the perfect images at our fingertips or to feel hopeless amidst what the media paints as a world beyond repair, a society beyond fixing.

The Art Department's Transition Online

by Sydney Cohen '21

Beginning in March, Amity Regional High school made a smooth transition into distance learning because of the continuation of the coronavirus quarantine.

Amity's teachers and staff have utilized Google Classroom, Zoom, Unified Classroom, and other platforms to stay in touch with their students and keep their various curriculums moving forward. These platforms are perfectly suited to facilitate the teaching of subjects like math, english, and social studies, as they allow for posting written assignments and conducting teaching and discussion. However, Amity's various visual arts courses have faced a more difficult challenge without access to Amity's art studios and supplies.

Luckily for Amity's large population of art-loving students, the Amity art department has found creative ways to



An Example of a Photo Assignment Taken by Photo Student Laci Carpenos '21

move their curriculums online. Honors art and portfolio and AP art history teacher Jackie Valenzuela, states "I find distance learning to be an interesting and unique way to teach art. Students are really on their own to be creative and interpret any given assignment. I have truly been inspired at how creative and successful my students have been."

Valenzuela, like many other Amity teachers, has utilized google classroom as a platform to conduct both of her classes. She is able to post assignments for students to complete using materials they have at home, and she grades the assignments based on photos uploaded by each student.

The main struggles of teaching art online, Valenzuela states are "Not knowing what materials my students have access to at home and not knowing how to balance and gauge the time it will take students to complete assignments." Because of these restrictions, Valenzuela has been flexible with the required mediums for her assignments and been open to negotiating project time frames

An Example of an Art Assignment by Sara Shanbrom '21



and materials with her students.

According to Valenzuela, Amity's drawing, painting, and portfolio classes have had a reasonably easy transition to distance learning. Drawing and painting II student and Junior Sara Shanbrom agrees, and adds "I like that our online calendar lays out what our daily work should look like. We do a lot of projects and homework assignments that are easy to submit online". However, some of Amity's other art classes have had to get creative in order to continue their curriculums. Amity's photography classes, for example, have had to find alternatives to using the high-quality cameras provided by the school. Current photo student, Junior Laci Carpenos, said, "The Amity photography teacher, Mrs. Toto, has allowed our class to complete assignments by taking pictures on our phones. This change was really helpful because me and many of my classmates don't have high-quality cameras at home." The photography classes, like the drawing and painting classes, have utilized Unified Classroom on Powerschool to submit weekly assignments.

Like Amity's photography classes, Amity's ceramics and sculpture classes have had to come up with creative methods of distance learning. According to honors ceramics student, Junior Lizzy Buckley '21, "My ceramics class has been using Unified Classroom to post assignments, but it is definitely hard to make projects without all the materials in the Amity pottery studio. Our teacher, Mrs. Zamachaj, has come up with creative projects that we can do in our journals or build using things like paper mache."

Each of Amity's art teachers has done their best to transition into online learning, even if that means slightly modifying their usual curriculum to fit these unprecedented times.

Writing Contest Pushes Creativity for the Isolated Students of Amity

by Sena Ho '23

During this time of self-quarantine, there is little people can do to improve their social lives or hang out with friends and family. However, this time shouldn't be taken for granted. Thousands of creative outlets lay in front of us, whether it's painting, learning new languages, or practicing your favorite sport. Across the country, there are many programs being held such as songwriting contests, art contests, and even learning platforms like Masterclass. While thousands of people are stuck in their homes, it's the perfect time to learn something new and crawl out of our comfort zones. Luckily, Amity's Calliope literary magazine has the perfect solution for that.

Every year, the Calliope publishes a new version of their magazine which includes everything from poems to short stories to drawings. Even with the pandemic, the Calliope team has worked hard to publish this year. This was the perfect opportunity to let those who are cooped up in their houses let loose since they have a platform on which they will have a chance to show their work. Writing can help clear the mind and transform the world into an alternate reality. The Calliope's supervisor, Anatasia Kimball, and its editors decided that this year's theme would be ISOLATION: Experiences of Submissions were not limited to any style of creative writing, so both prose and poetry were accepted. This was not just an ordinary contest, but a way of expressing how we all feel during this crisis. It was the perfect opportunity to turn to something productive and still have lots of fun. Senior Olivia Gross, an editor for Calliope, states, "I'm super excited to be a part of this program in the last few days of my time at Amity because it is really representative of how strong the community is staying together and productive during difficult times." Everyone at Amity is working together to keep connected, and the contest is just one way in which the community strives to diminish the feeling of desperation and loneliness. Judges will make their decisions in early June, and cash prizes will be given out to the two chosen winners. While we all are all isolated at home, it's best to take advantage of this free time and maybe start writing a few sentences or two.



The Calliope Flyer Contributed by Amity Calliope

Amity High School Writers. Junior Sydney Cohen is both the main sponsor and one of the judges for the competition. After winning first place in the Thornton Wilder writing contest, she decided to donate some of her prize money and give back with this great opportunity. Cohen states, "I'm super excited that my plans for the contest were able to be achieved." Thanks to her, students could engage in a friendly competition to share their creative writing.

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Baseball Team Cleans Up in the Community this Season

by Jacob Silbert '21

Like so many athletes around the country, the Amity baseball players had their spring season canceled by the current pandemic. However, despite the cancellation, the team has been making the most of its freetime.

Each week for the last couple of months, the coaches have created at-home drills and practice routines for their players. However, the players have taken it upon themselves to find another way to stay productive:

stay connected through a common goal as well as give back to such a supportive community.”

Even though they cannot be together in person, the Amity baseball players are as much a team as ever before.

Another reason for the rise of the Spartan Cleanup Project was school spirit. For the players, winning games is a way to represent the team and the high school as beneficial to the community.

Unfortunately, the opportunity to play was taken away, but the team refused to let their impact be diminished.



Amity Spartans in Action as Part of the Amity Spartan Cleanup Project
Photos Contributed by Jacob Silbert

community service.

They call it the Spartan Cleanup Project. For the last six weekends, the baseball team has gone around the neighborhoods of Amity with trash bags in hand, picking up any garbage or recyclables left along the sides of the roads. So far, this initiative has been a success.

“Amity baseball players are always goal-driven,” said varsity captain Julian Stevens '21, and many have made the cleanup their mission.

Stevens also noted “Picking up trash in the community allows us to

“The Amity baseball team has always been looked at as some of the most well respected students that Amity has to offer,” said Will Rotko '20, another varsity captain.

“Considering we can’t still have a positive impact within the school, going out and cleaning up our community is the next best thing we can do.”

The Spartan Cleanup Project has given the team a way to showcase the school as it usually does.

This spring season may not have been ideal, but, clearly, there are still ways to make the most of it.

CIAC Scholar Athlete Virtual Banquet Honors Seniors

by David Sugarmann '20

Every year, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) holds a scholar athlete banquet. Each school in the CIAC picks two students, one boy and one girl, to attend. The students who are chosen are those who excelled both academically and athletically. This year, the two Amity seniors who received this honor were Raymond

that these student-athletes got the recognition they so rightfully deserved.

“The CIAC had a half hour program on TV where they honored the awardees and dove into the stories of some particular student athletes that were quite accomplished. They ran out names of every honoree across the bottom of the screen,” Marin said.

Considering the circumstances that we are currently in, this virtual

specific practice times and game times during the week, so I knew exactly when I had time to complete my schoolwork.”

Seeing that both these honorees have been so involved in athletics over the past four years, it makes sense that they plan on continuing their athletics in college. Lu said, “I don’t know if I’ll swim next year, but I’ll definitely do some club sports.”

Marin said, “I’m likely go-



2019-20 Scholar Athletes Ella Marin and Raymond Lu
Photos Contributed by Ella Marin and Raymond Lu

Lu '20 and Ella Marin '20.

Typically, the scholar athlete banquet is a large and extravagant event. Each school gets its own table. The table consists of: the two award recipients, their parents, each of their coaches, the principal, and the athletic director.

This award is the culmination of years of hard work, so it is fitting that the event is as special as possible.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the in-person event had to be canceled. Despite this setback, the CIAC made sure

ceremony seems like a very nice way of honoring the recipients of this prestigious award.

In order to be a scholar athlete, one has to be able to balance school work with athletics. While this is much easier said than done, both Lu and Marin have found ways to successfully manage this balance.

Lu stressed the importance of staying organized, saying, “I just kept all my assignments organized and written down so I could stay on top of everything.”

Marin also emphasized organization, saying, “I mapped out my

ing to try and play club soccer... and become more involved with outdoor activity.”

This scholar athlete award is not a new one by any means. To the contrary, the CIAC has been honoring scholar athletes for the past 37 years, spanning back to 1984.

In the previous five years, the Amity recipients were Kate Yuan '19, Thomas Livesay '19, Yuqi Zhou '18, Joseph Sugarmann '18, Bailey MacNamara '17, Jethin Gowda '17, Nicole Feng '16, Eli Silvert '16, Lisa Gorham '15, and Sricharan Kadimi '15.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Football Makes Strides Towards the 2020 Season

by Ben Martin '21

Normally, during the offseason the football team would be lifting



Amity's Sam Sachs Powers Through the Middle During the 2019 Season
Photo from New Haven Register



Amity Vs. Newington During the 2019 Season
Photo from Gametime CT

after school in the weightroom, but in these times they can't go to school. This has not stopped Amity Football's preparation for the 2020 season. Amity's Coach, Craig Bruno, looks to continue preparation for the upcoming season despite the uncertain circumstances.

When I asked Amity Junior Cameron Luciano '21 how the team is staying connected throughout the quarantine, he said, "we've been having monthly Zoom meetings with our coaches, and before the quarantine we set up a group chat to keep everyone in touch."

This will help the football team build chemistry as well as stay motivated, which they will need to be successful in the upcoming 2020 season. In addition to meeting with coaches and working out in home gyms, Cameron stated that "personally, I've been training and lifting with my trainer three days a week, and so have several of my teammates."

Fellow players have also been doing further preparation in addition to the workouts. One of these players is Amity senior and starting quarterback from this

past season Ben Iwaszkiewicz '21. Ben, like all the quarterbacks and the receivers on the football team, has been meeting up to throw and catch to get some much needed reps in before the season. One of

the most important components for a successful football team is that the quarterback and the receivers work together and communicate well. This will cause the entire offense to run more smoothly throughout the season. When I asked Ben about the catching sessions, he replied, "I feel a lot of us have been making a good effort to come out and get together as a collective to try to work through these unexpected events. A lot of us have been getting together 2-3 times a week. It's nice to see everyone's drive to get better and get ready for the season." This, like the workouts and meetings with coaches, gives the quarterbacks and receivers an opportunity to talk, and that will also help add to the team chemistry needed to succeed in 2020. Last year Amity finished with a record of four wins and nine losses which is a record the team would like to improve upon in 2020. So hopefully this preparation ends up paying off and the Amity Spartans walk away with another state title at the end of the 2020 season.

Alumni Spotlight: Catching Up with Tyler Thomas

by Larry Lambiase '21

If you followed Amity Boys Basketball in 2018, then you remember the "Mohegan Sun" game. Our team was in the state championship game that year, and in that game, Tyler Thomas was playing through an injury. Even though the team lost 53-34 to Immaculate, people will never forget how much progress the basketball team made. One big key to the team was guard Tyler Thomas, who was one of the best players in the state and was inducted into the Amity High School 1,000 point club in 2018. Nowadays, he plays guard for the Sacred Heart University Boys Basketball team.

Just before college basketball ended due to the COVID-19 virus, Sacred Heart University had a record of 20-13 and was 4th overall in their conference. Unfortunately, their season ended just short of the pandemic when they lost to St. Francis 84-72 in the semifinals of the playoffs. As for Tyler Thomas, he made a tremendous effort in his first year as a Pioneer, scoring a total of 186 points, 77 rebounds, 18 steals, and 9 blocks, all good stats for a freshman in college basketball. I asked him about his two favorite games so far. He liked the Merrimack game individually because even though the team lost, he scored a career-high 18 pts playing a big role in the game. He liked the Quinnipiac game because that was when he struck the Bobcats with 17 points, and the team earned a victory by a margin of 17 points. But when there are ups, there are also downs. When I asked him what it felt like having bad games, he

said, "In some games, it just felt like we never really reached our full potential when we lost. Like there are games when you say to yourself, 'Dang we're really good,' and then you have games were it's

Thomas gave his thoughts on going from high school star to college freshman: "To me, basketball is to put the ball in the hoop, and just try to be better than the other guy. I wasn't nervous, but rather confidence



Tyler Thomas During His Time at Amity
Photo from Gametime CT



Tyler Thomas in his Sacred Heart Uniform
Photo from SHUBigRed.com

like, "Wow, this isn't a team we're used to."

Few sports are being played right now, and no one knows how long it will take for sports to come back. When I brought up the issue, Thomas said that he thinks that sports will definitely be on campuses, but he doesn't know if crowds will be at the games and if students will even be back on campus.

changed during the adjustment process." His mindset never changed, which allowed him to stay calm during games and be better. But one thing that did change was confidence, because he was playing different teams. He played teams that were either

as good as his or better. He faced this feeling in Bobcats Invitational

pre-season games when his team won just 2 out of 6. In those games, he averaged just 3.6 points per game, and his confidence changed.

Having put this experience behind him, he played with more confidence in the regular-season games. Thomas appreciates the abundance of team chemistry at Sacred Heart, where the Pioneers have each others' backs.

He definitely misses his teammates, teachers, and classmates from Amity High School, but he misses the loud student section at Amity games even more, especially at the state finals. College is far different in his eyes. Tyler finds

that the biggest difference is the crowd's size at

the games.

At Amity games Thomas knew most people in the student section, but at Sacred Heart he does not. He wishes he could have familiarity with the crowds like he did at Amity High School.

Ironically, Thomas hopes to play basketball professionally either in Europe or the United States in front of crowds of strangers.

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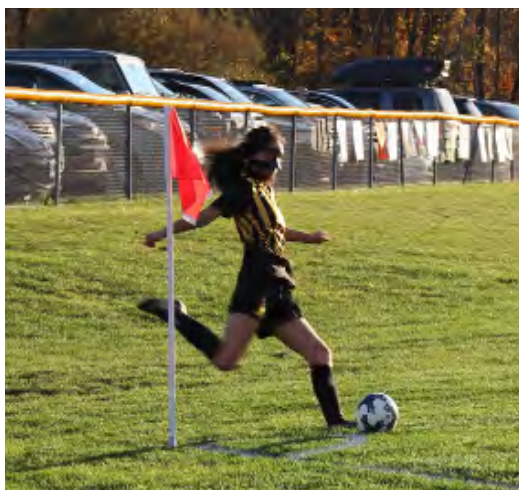
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Trident Seniors Share Favorite Amity Memories



“My best experience at Amity was being in Junior State of America (JSA). I joined the club my freshman year and it was by far my best experience at Amity. I met so many people from Amity and in other parts of the country because of JSA. The debates and discussions we had were always memorable and sometimes contentious. JSA was such an important part of my high school career, and I am especially grateful to our advisor, Mr. Downhour.” - Ryan Anastasio



“My favorite experience at Amity was probably everytime that I was at the school late at night whether it was for band, soccer, or yearbook. Being at the school at night gives you a different perspective about what Amity means since there are only a few people in the whole school, but it’s still open.” - Kayla Morgan

“Connecting with my friends, classmates, and teachers has definitely been one of my favorite experiences while at Amity! One time, in math class, we all brought in Rubik’s Cubes to celebrate our love for the puzzle. Amity is just one of those communities that is accepting and inclusive, and you can definitely find like-minded people.” - Sophia Wang



“My favorite experience at Amity was Empty Bowls. It was fun to help organize the event with the National Art Honor Society, and I really enjoyed having soup while taking pictures with friends.” - Tracy Lu



“My favorite memory at Amity was when I started my first Varsity match for the tennis team. I was behind for most of the match, but I fought back and ended up winning. Having all my teammates there to cheer me on, combined with the thrill of victory, made this an experience I will always remember.” - David Sugarmann

“My favorite memory at Amity playing soccer my senior year. I had the opportunity to lead the team alongside some of my closest friends who I had grown up playing with. I’m so proud of all we accomplished and am so thankful for the experience of growing up on this team!” - Ella Marin



“I absolutely loved being captain of the dance team this year. My teammates and I truly became a family, and they mean everything to me. We had so many crazy moments like our pony-parties, dancing to our hype up song on the bus, late night camp memories, and countless more, and I wouldn’t trade them for the world. I will miss them more than anything!!” - Sydney Reiner