Spring 2011
High School Awards Ceremony

Today we recognize those girls who have earned distinction in school activities. We are happy and proud to honor these students.

**ENGLISH**

**Journalism:** This year’s journalism award is presented to **Kristen McNeill**, in recognition of her amazing dedication and incredible work ethic. As a student in journalism class, and as head of The Gates’ staff, Kristen has proven herself to be a talented writer and editor, not to mention someone who is always willing to go above and beyond expectations.

**Gates:** This year’s Gates staff deserves special recognition. In addition to putting together the first two “regular” editions of the year, they also took on the Archives Edition, a project that demanded much time and attention. The result of their efforts is something of which the entire school should be proud. Congratulations to **Kristen McNeill, Rachel Rodden, and Katie Dolan**.

**Forensics:** The Speech and Debate Club, also called Forensics, competes from September through April in biweekly tournaments. Events range from performing selections from published plays or novels to heated debate on current events to writing and delivering an original speech.

In recognition of their outstanding achievement in public speaking the following girls are asked to come forward:

**Holly Flynn,** 7th place, Philadelphia Catholic Forensics League Finals in Oral Interpretation of Prose and Poetry. Holly has achieved our highest level in the National Forensics Honor Society, the Excellence Level. She is also co-president of Forensics.

**Devon Gorbey,** Honors Level, National Forensics Honor Society and Co-President of Forensics

**Sara Sheridan,** 4th place, Philadelphia Catholic League Finals in Dramatic Performance. Sarah has advanced to Nationals in Washington, D.C., and will compete there over Memorial Day weekend. We wish you the best of luck, Sara. Sara has also attained membership at the Honors Level in the National Forensics Honor Society and is our current vice president.

**Jenny Starrs,** 4th place in JV Poetry at Catholic League Finals and Merit Level, National Forensics Honor Society

**Katrina Tacconelli,** 7th place in JV Prose at Catholic League Finals and Merit Level, National Forensics Honor Society

Other students receiving membership this year into the National Forensics Honor Society are:

**Merit Levels:**  
*Kayleigh Makoid,* Original Oratory  
*Tessine Murji,* Prose  
*Courtney Donovan,* Prose  
*Amrita Sukhavasi,* Lincoln Douglas Debate

**Literary Magazine** -- This year’s High School Literary Magazine was a labor of love by two Editors-in-Chief, **Theresa Ramirez** and **Mia DeRitis**. Their vision of a magazine with a strong theme full of artistic works was brought to life through their hours of work at the computer. Because of them, we all can enjoy the creative side of our student body through the Lit. Mag.
Creative Writing: From a man’s commitment to seeing UFOs to a child’s memories of summers with her grandmother to the adventures of a beautiful misfit, the stories written by this year’s recipient of the Creative Writing award are as varied as they are exceptional. Sometimes poignant, sometimes humorous, Marianne Gorsky’s fiction is always graceful and always richly imagined. She is a truly gifted writer.

Writing Center: This year the staff of the Writing Center helped so many of their classmates through the essay writing process. Whether it was helping customers get past writer’s block or proofreading entire research papers, the Writing Fellows did so with smiles on their faces. In recognition for their dedication and service to the school as well as their writing skills, each will receive a St. Francis de Sales medal which pictures the patron saint of writers.

Emily Hallinan
Sam Baldassari
Elisa Oliver
Rachel Rodden
Erica Rubino
Amanda Budzilowicz
Kristen DiDomenico
Elizabeth Sollecito
Amanda Limoges
Stephanie Costa
M.C. McDonald
Jackie Till
Holly Flynn
Nicole Williams
Jamie Sweeney
Alana Stoczko
Kristen McNeill
Madeline Tague
Marianne Gorsky

Shakespeare Award
For many years, Notre Dame has bestowed an award to a graduating senior who has demonstrated, both in and outside of the classroom, a sincere and deep interest in the works of William Shakespeare, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, poet and dramatist of the English language. This year’s winner has shown her interest in the Bard’s work through frequent participation in class discussions and performances in school and in competitions outside of school. It was a difficult decision this year; however, it is with true pleasure that we present the 2011 Shakespeare Award to senior Tabatha Barton.

FINE ARTS

Music: Would the following girls please stand and be recognized for their participation in the All Catholic Programs. All-Catholic Orchestra: Alicia Kenyon, Toni Mastropieri, Becca Robbins, All-Catholic Band: Madison Welsh, All-Catholic Chorus: Kathryn Bisbee, Minyung Cheong, Ellie Finkenaur, Marianne Gorsky, Toni Mastropieri, Hannah Pohlmann, Elizabeth Sollecito and Kelly West,

The Society of Women Engineers’ Certificate of Merit program is intended to honor young women who have demonstrated excellence in the study of mathematics and science. The following girls have received the highest honor offered by the Society of Women Engineers: Bree Buysse, Jamie Sweeney, and Madeline Tague.
FOREIGN LANGUAGE

National Spanish Exam
We would now like to recognize those students who received medals for their performance in the National Spanish Exam, a 90-minute test which was taken online in April. The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the organization that sponsors the exam awarded medals in three categories Bronze, Silver and Gold. Girls, as I read your name, please come forward to receive your award from your Spanish teacher.

Those students whose scores merited bronze medals are:
Level 2: MacKenzie Bonner, Emily Faught, Anna Gillin, Dana Hogan, Lindsey Santerian, Erica Westlake
Level 3: Morgan Abate, Elysia Burke, Juliana Guarino, Jaimie Lafferty, Juliana Lamond, Victoria Monzo, Emily Reckmeyer, Morgan Sanei
Level 4: Brigh Desjardins, Lili Evans, Anna Colette Heldring, Kayleigh Makoid, Emily Shanley, Shelby Tana
Level 5: Julie DuPont

Those students whose scores merited silver medals are:
Level 2: Mackenzie Abate, Leah Bury, Grace Desjardins, Laura Haggerty, Aria Kovalovich, Danielle Lorenz, Caroline Manion, Katherine Shimkus
Level 3: Madison Welsh, Kristin Yeakel
Level 4: Katie Schultz, Kelly Smemo
Level 5: Tabatha Barton, Emily Hallinan

Those students whose scores merited gold medals are:
Level 2: Olivia Feehery, Alicia Kenyon, Katherine Schneider
Level 4: Brady O'Brien

National French Contest
Each year, roughly 100,000 students across the country compete in the National French Contest, or Le Grand Concours. Students who score in the top 20% of their local chapters receive certificates of achievement and those who are within the top 10%—both locally and nationally—receive special plaques and medals. I am proud to announce the following winners from the Academy of Notre Dame’s French Department:

The following girls scored within the top 20%:
For level 2: Isabella Cattori and Hannah Pohlman
For level 3: Carolyn Erikson, Katherine Carroll, Amrita Sukhavasi, Tracey Merz and Devon O'Connor
For level 4: Lindsay Hueston and Daiyon Kpou
For level 5: Tessine Murji and Nicole Williams

Marissa Laws and Maureen McGrath both received Honorable Mention for ranking 11th and 12th respectively within our local chapter.

Freshman Emily Carr ranked 10th both in our local, Philadelphia Chapter and nationally. Finally, Sachi Simpson is the top winner for the Academy of Notre Dame, ranking 6th both locally and nationally.

National Latin Exam
Each year the American Classical League sponsors the Nation Latin Exam, which tests students’ knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, history, and mythology. This year’s award winners are,

Level 1, Claire Higgins, maxima cum laude (silver medal)
Level 2, Siobhan Dougherty, maxima cum laude (silver medal) and Rachel French, cum laude
Level 3, Maria Seykora, summa cum laude (gold medal) and Tabatha Barton, summa cum laude (gold medal)
Level 4, Maddy Finkenaur, magna cum laude

MATHEMATICS

The American Mathematics Competition is a national math contest. Special congratulations to Bree Buysse and Meghan Riegel who tied for top score among all Notre Dame students. Special congratulations to the following students who were in the next top ten scores:
Megan McGrath
Maria Seykora
Lucy Spellacy
Grace Reilly
Juliana Guarino
Minyung Cheong
Siobhan Dougherty
Elyssa Burke
Katie Ierardi
Marissa Laws
Kelly McNulty

Congratulations to the top scoring student on the Varsity Mathletes team: Maria Seykora. Special congratulations to Stephanie Costa and Lucy Spellacy who attended all competitions and were NDA’s second and third place members. The following students were active members of the Varsity Mathletes team:
Hannah Bartling
Molly Borgese
Parker Conway
Stephanie Costa
Alexis Dankmyer
Brigh Desjardins
Siobhan Dougherty
Rachel French
AC Heldring
Rebecca Koch
Megan Moscony
Nicolette Pepe
Grace Reilly
Meghan Riegel
Rebecca Robbins
Gracie Rosenbach
Maria Seykora
Francesca Sisk
Lucy Spellacy
Madeline Tague
Anna Van Kula
Kelly West

JV Mathletes is a competition for 9th and 10th grade students in the high schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This year our freshmen members came in second and our sophomores took 3rd place in their respective divisions. The freshman with the highest score is Amrita Sukhavasi and the sophomore is Claire Higgins.

**Freshmen**  **Sophomores**
Emily Carr  Mackenzie Abate
Grace Desjardins  Darcy Curtis
Olivia Feehery  Megan DiGuiseppi
The Pennsylvania Mathematics League Algebra 1 Award is presented to Maggie Magnotta.

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SCIENCE

Science Fair
This year, 63 students completed science research projects. These students entered two different types of competitions. Here are some of the highlights:

- 29 projects were entered into the Delaware County Fair – 26 projects earned awards
- Notre Dame students took first places in 9 of the 11 categories to which they were entered at Delco
- At the Delaware Valley Fair, Freshman Aria Kovalovich won a coveted first place in her category. Sophomores Katherine Carroll and Olivia Feehery followed with second place awards. Lauren Casulli won an honorable mention. Our students also won three special awards.
- At the PJAS regional competition, 50 of 59 projects won first awards, Freshmen Amrita Sukhavasi and Katie Schneider had perfect scores.
- At PJAS state, we had 25 first awards and 20 second awards. Again, Amrita Sukhavasi earned a perfect score.
- Juniors Katie Bowman and Catherine Nguyen won Penn State Scholarships.
- Ten juniors and seniors were recognized by the PA Science Talent Search. Priority recommendations will be sent to their top three college choices.
- Lastly, seniors Stephanie Costa and Michelle Dabkowski were recognized with perseverance awards for three years participation in PJAS.
Ninth Grade
Caroline Barker
Mackenzie Bonner
Emily Carr
Shannon Cattie
Grace Desjardins
Kelly Duffy
Olivia Feehery
Dana Hogan
Alicia Kenyon
Aria Kovalovich
Marissa Laws
Megan Logue
Kelly Mannion
Lauren Pease
Hannah Pohlmann
Katie Schneider
O. Sachi Simpson
Madison Snider
Amrita Sukhavasi
Katherine Wagner
Erica Westlake
Lauren Yeagley

Tenth Grade
Mackenzie Abate
Nikki Callahan
Katherine Carroll
Lauren Casulli
Erin Chandler
Haley Curtin
Megan DiGuiseppi
Siobhan Dougherty
Madeleine Finkenaur
Rachel French
Carla Giannandrea
Anna Gillin
Juliana Guarino
Laura Haggerty
Tyshae Hightower
Michaela Jones
Juliana Lamond
Sarah Maloney
Caroline Mannion
Barbara McHugh
Tracey Merz
Devon O’Connor
Emily Reckmeyer
Sara Sheridan
Madison Welsh

Eleventh Grade
Kaitlyn Bowman
Elysia Burke
Ciara Ward
Alexis Dankmyer
Abbey Gilroy
Kelly Goodman
Rebecca Koch
Kayleigh Makoid
Catherine Nguyen
Rebecca Robbins
Francesca Sisk
Sareen Streeter
Allison Zack
Brittany Stokes
SPECIAL AWARDS

State Senator Daylin Leach gives an Annual Award for Good Citizenship to students in his district who are graduating from elementary, middle and high schools. The award is to be given to a student who “embodies the qualities of outstanding character, scholarship and leadership. This year’s award is given to Hannah Gillis.

Hi-Q: Congratulations to the 2011 Hi-Q team on a great season. The hard work and dedication of the team was evident in their fine showing during the meets. Dr Califf and Ms. Gallagher thank them, especially the seniors, and look forward to the 2012 season. The following girls were team members: Maria Seykora, Lindsay Hueston, Michelle Dabkowski, Toni Mastropieri, Bridget Maguire, Holly Flynn, Gracie Rosenbach, Stephanie Costa, Tracy Merz, Claire Higgins

The Aimee Willard Award is given at graduation to a strong multi-sport athlete with the highest GPA. This year it will go to Bree Buysee.

BOOK AND MEDAL AWARDS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY:
For her outstanding academic achievement and exemplary community service.
The Princeton Book Award is given to Maria Seykora

RENSSELAER UNIVERSITY:
For the outstanding achievement in the study of math and science.
The Rensselaer Medal Scholarship is awarded to Nicolette Pepe

COLGATE UNIVERSITY:
The Colgate University Book Award to a junior who has achieved high academic distinction combined with outstanding leadership is given to Kathryn Schultz,

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY:
The St. Lawrence University Book Award to a junior who has distinguished herself through her service to others is awarded to Grace Reilly,
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE:
The Bryn Mawr College President’s Book Award to a junior who exhibits an intense intellectual commitment, a self-directed and purposeful vision of her life and a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the world is presented to Alexis Dankmyer.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA:
The recipient of the Penn Book Award, presented to a junior of true merit, which reflects an inclination joined with an ability to serve mankind, one’s country, friends and family is presented to Maureen McGrath.

SAINT MICHAEL’S COLLEGE:
The Saint Michael’s College Scholarship and Service Book Award, given to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism and leadership in her community service endeavors, is presented to Allison Zack.

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE:
The Randolph-Macon College Book Award, which is awarded to an excellent student – one who excels in the classroom and is an active participant in extracurricular activities – is presented to Kayleigh Makoid.

SMITH COLLEGE:
In recognition of her outstanding academic achievement and leadership.
The Smith College Book Award is given to Brigh Desjardins.

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY:
The Chatham University Book Award, given to a young woman who demonstrates promise in the study of science and English, is presented to Kelly Smemo.

ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY:
For her high achievement and rigor in science and high SAT math scores.
The Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award is presented to Anna Van Kula.
For her strong leadership at school, high grades and challenging courses and intensive involvement in extra-curricular activities, The George Eastman Young Leaders Award is awarded to Colleen Hickey.

The Frederick Douglas & Susan B. Anthony Award presented to a junior who has demonstrated a commitment to understanding and addressing difficult social issues, strong grades and rigorous courses, is given to Anna Colette Heldring.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE:
The Middlebury Book Award, honoring an exceptional student who has shown an interest in environmental studies, goes to Meaghan Riegel.

The Our Mother of Good Counsel Award is the oldest award given at the Academy of Notre Dame. The recipient in each grade is chosen by members of the Student Council and Athletic and Activities Association and they embody the spirit of Our Blessed Mother by exhibiting loyalty, dignity, charity and respect. They serve our school community with faith and kindness. As a reminder of their goodness, each recipient will receive a silver medal showing Our Mother of Good Counsel lovingly holding Jesus. The 11th and 12th grade recipients will be announced at the luncheon.

AT AWARD CEREMONY:
Will representatives from the 9th and 10th grades, please come forward to announce your recipients?
- The 9th grade representative will announce the 9th grade recipient (Grace Desjardins).
- The 10th grade representative will announce the 10th grade recipient (Megan Mitchell).