

**JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL**  
**NOTEWORTHY NEWS**  
*(Highlighting some of our community's accomplishments.)*

**April 2012**

*Dear Barlow Community,*

*Once a month at each Region 9 Board of Education meeting, I have the pleasure of sharing a sampling of accomplishments, recognition, or awards that our students and staff have achieved. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list because we have many people who are modest or whose accomplishments have been noted in some other manner. I invite you to read and share with us.*

*Sincerely,*

**Tom McMorran, Ed.D.**  
**Head of School**

- Cooper D'Agostino has been selected as one of only thirty Governor's Scholars of Connecticut for 2012. Cooper was chosen from an entry pool of more than 150 of the top juniors in Connecticut's high schools and will be honored along with the other designees at the Governor's Scholars Luncheon on Thursday, May 17.
- Cormac Cumiskey, a junior, has received a gold medal in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2012. Cormac was identified by a panel of professional writers as one of the most talented young students in the nation. This year, 200,000 works of art and writing were submitted. Only the top 1,500 were recognized at the national level. These students have been invited to attend a ceremony at Carnegie Hall on June 1 and to participate in showcase events at Parsons, The New School for Design in New York City. Cormac's persuasive essay, "Multiple Choice," was outstanding. In addition, the sponsor of this award, The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, also honored Joel Barlow High School by awarding the school a certificate "for supporting creative excellence as represented by student work selected for national recognition."
- The Easton Learning Foundation recently made a very generous donation of \$6,000 to Joel Barlow High School towards the purchase of an iPod iTouch Learning Lab along with several iTouches.
- Several Easton and Redding students created and donated jewelry pieces for the Project Return Auction, which was held at the Wilton Country Club. This annual auction, which the girls attended, was held to help raise money for abused young girls. In addition to the following students, Joel Barlow faculty members, Lee Skalkos and Jackie Whiting, also created pieces for the auction:
  - Joel Barlow High School: Melanie Ambler (grade 9); Sophie Ota, Kaeli Prevelige, Julia Wargo (grade 10); Jane Skalkos-Baldyga (grade 12)
  - Helen Keller Middle School: Annie Baldyga (grade 7)
  - John Read Middle School: Emma Bowland (grade 6)
- The Connecticut State Student Advisory Council on Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education awarded a Certificate of Participation to our students "in recognition of their notable efforts to improve citizenship education in your school." The students participated in the Statewide Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Program and received the certificate for their "Winter Clothing Drive to Benefit the Underprivileged."

- If you do the New York Times crossword puzzle, you might have noticed that Zoe Wheeler, a 2008 Joel Barlow graduate, constructed the April 4th crossword. In March 2010, Zoe was the first female teenage crossworder in the New York Times.
- On April 9, seniors Noah Sanderson and Maxwell Schwear received the 2012 Connecticut Association of Schools High School Art Award at an awards banquet held to honor students from 142 schools across the state.
- Brooklee Han, a junior at Joel Barlow, recently competed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Triglav Trophy International Figure Skating Competition in Jesenice, Slovenia. Brooklee took 4<sup>th</sup> Place in the Senior Ladies Long Program and 6<sup>th</sup> Place overall. She skated against 21 competitors from various countries, including China, Russia, France, Japan, Mexico, and Italy.
- Senior River Kynoch competed in the U.S. Figure Skating Synchronized Skating Championships in March, where River and her team, the Haydenettes, won both the short and long program segments. The Haydenettes were then named Team USA 1 and went on to represent the United States in April at the World Synchronized Skating Championships held in Gothenburg, Sweden. As Team USA 1, against 21 competitors from various countries, they won the Bronze Medal overall and the Silver Medal in the Long Program. The team was very proud at the award ceremony when the American flag was one of the three flags on display.
- A total of 256 debaters from 30 schools participated in the Connecticut Debate Association's State Finals. The varsity final round was won by the Joel Barlow team of Henry Knight and Sam Torchio, who were also the varsity state champions last year. This is the fourth state title Joel Barlow has won in five years. In addition, juniors Cooper D'Agostino and Cormac Cumiskey were also undefeated in varsity. Freshman Hunter Lightman was the 4<sup>th</sup> place novice speaker of the year.

We would also like to honor Alex Cheu, Brendan Coppinger, Matt DiPalma, David Freeman, David Kang, B.J. Lewson, Nicolo Marzaro, Daanish Siddiqi, and Emma Tower who all fought hard to get to states, along with Jack Cartafalsa, Christoph Dow, Craig Raskin, and Caroline Ryng. Everyone turned in performances they should be proud of. In 1991, Debate Coach and faculty member, Randall Smith, won state finals as a high school junior debating for Hamden Hall.

- Come one! Come all! **Barlow Palooza will take place on Thursday, May 31**, at the high school. Our evening event will run from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Students will be giving presentations throughout the school. Don't miss out on this great Celebration of Learning!

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**March 2012**

*Dear Barlow Community,*

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*Head of School*

- On Monday, March 19, Joel Barlow High School hosted a St. Baldrick's event. The St. Baldrick's Foundation coordinates its signature worldwide head-shaving events where volunteers get bald to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer and raise money to support lifesaving childhood cancer research. Although the donations are still being counted, we believe that the donations may amount to \$12,000. An extra thank you to those special twenty-three teachers and students who not only gave from their wallets, but also bowed their heads and were shaved bald for a great cause.
- Recently seven Joel Barlow students competed in the 2012 Connecticut Science Fair, which was held at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. The topics of their amazing projects are listed below. Morgan Jordan's project won the First Place High School Sustainability Award, which includes a trophy, \$800 cash and a trip to compete in I-SWEEP - the International Sustainable World Project Olympiad, which is held in Houston. In addition, Morgan was awarded a \$20,000, four-year scholarship to Quinnipiac University. All of the students should be commended for their fine work, which will be on display at Joel Barlow's Science Symposium to be held at the high school on June 4.
  - Lia Cirelli: "Epimorphism in Varying Species of Planarians as Relation to Neoblasts (Stem Cells)"
  - Jamie Curtis: "Feasibility of Identifying Different Auditory Qualities in Violas Via Audacity"
  - Samantha Goldberg: "In Vitro 5-Lipoxygenase Inhibition of Polyphenolic Antioxidants from Malae Domesticiis (Red Delicious Apples)"
  - Peter Gombos: "The Effect of Ocean Surface Temperature and Overfishing of Carcharhiniformes on Human Attacks"
  - Morgan Jordan: "Surfactants: Emulsification Effects of Synthetic, Microbial and Plant-Derived Surfactants"
  - Ruth Lee: "Minimizing Eutrophication Through the Use of Clay and Plastic Lining for Manure Lagoons"
  - Ben Rigby: "Global Warming vs. Gross Domestic Product of America"

In addition to the state science fair, these same students, along with Adam El-Wardany, and Chemistry teacher, Dr. Katherine Nuzzo, participated in the Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. The symposium, which brings together high school students and teachers from across the state was held at the University of Connecticut on March 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>. Lia Cirelli's project was chosen, along with seven other students from area high schools, to be on display under the title of "Rising Stars Poster Presenters." Morgan Jordan placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 11 poster presentations and was awarded \$50.

- The boys swim team had an amazing (but long night) at the CIAC Class S State Championship on March 13. We are very proud of the boys and their amazing accomplishments under the leadership of Coach Nigro and Coach Earle:
  - Michael Pilyugin (gr. 12) set a Class S state record in the 100 Freestyle with a time of 46.55. Mike also set the Class S record in the 100 Backstroke as well as the OVERALL STATE RECORD (best time ever in the State in any class) with a time of 50.88!
  - Sam DeLise (gr. 10) won the 500 Freestyle and placed second in the 200 Individual Medley.
  - Bobby Lesko (gr. 10) placed third in the 100 Breaststroke.
  - Lastly, our Medley Relay team, comprised of Mike, Sam, Bobby, and Ray Bortolot (gr. 10), finished second.
- Congratulations are in order for senior Matt DePalma, who qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME) on March 15. This three-hour exam is the qualifying test for the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad.
- Art teacher, Michael Angelis, has 14 amazing works of art on display at Gateway Community College in New Haven. The 14 works in oil, entitled "Urbanlandscapes of New Haven," are on display from March 1 through March 31 at the Long Wharf Campus, 60 Sargent Drive, in New Haven.
- Jack Powers, English teacher and Co-Director of the Writing Center, has poems appearing or forthcoming in the *Clackamas Literary Review*, *The Fiddleback* and *(en)Gage(d)*.
- Seventy-seven students have volunteered to help tutor their fellow students during their free periods. Just a small sample of some of the subjects include: Chemistry, Pre-Calculus, Algebra, English, Latin/Spanish/French, and History.