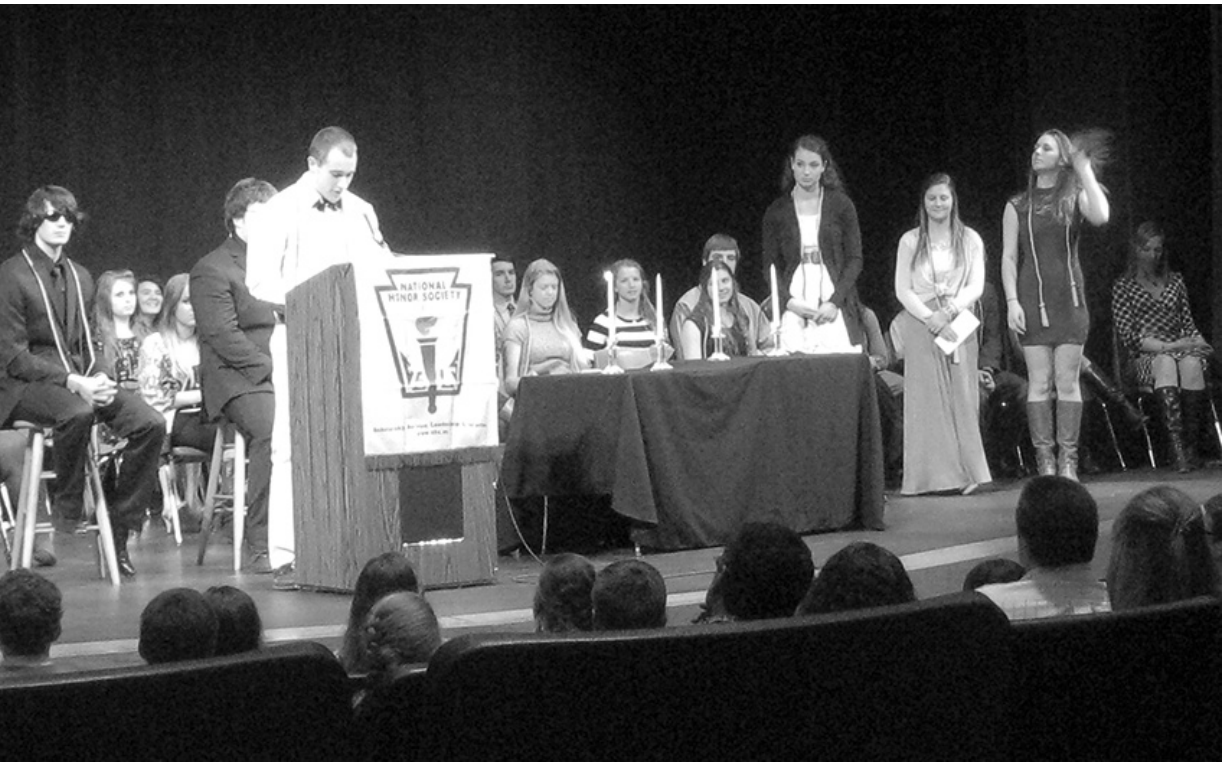


## Schools



SHS NHS President Drew Prescott addresses current and new members during the Candle Ceremony (scholarship, leadership, character, service) at the new member induction recently held at Souhegan High School.

## Souhegan High School Inducts New National Honor Society Members

Current members of the Souhegan High School National Honor Society individually welcomed the 59 new members to their ranks during an evening ceremony on March 19. It is an SHS tradition that a member welcome each inductee with a short, personal introduction and then the traditional pin and cords are presented. All students are selected by the faculty for demonstrating leadership in areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Faculty speaker Gavin Sturges noted to the assembled staff, parents and friends that “Souhegan students are defined by a commitment to respect, trust and courage” and that by their membership in NHS, members “also embody Souhegan’s unwritten fourth value: excellence!” Sturges went on to say, “I urge you to not see this ceremony as an end or conclusion but as the beginning of the creation of a great work. And each one of you has a responsibility to now ask, no – demand of yourself – where does my next success lie? Where is my next challenge? Who next may I serve? Where shall I lead?”

The 2014 Inductees to the SHS National Honor Society are Kaley Ahern, Katherine Almeida, Madison Angulas, Eryn Bardsley, Jessica Barlow, Samantha Beaudry, Alexander Bedard, Sydney Bertrand, Morgan Brady, Moriah Calfin, Meghan Camello, Devon Casey, Jordan Catanuso, Kiley Charbonneau, Hannah Culver, Dean DeFilippo, Stefan DeShazo, Olivia Duval, Charlotte Dyer, Emma Fleurette, Kathleen Foley, Emily Gaukstern, Jarod George, Alexander Girard, Dakota Hamele, Katherine Heaney, Rose Hegfield, Matthew Hopfenspirger, Alison Hull, Jasper Jones, Lauren Kalties, Hannah Kenney, Courtney Kenny, Seth Learned, Alyssa Lederhos, George LePage, Alexander Maresco, Lauren McCormick, Kali Mondor, Natalie Nelson, Patrick Noble, Rebecca O’Dowd, Melissa Paladino, Tyler Pike, Jackson Pollio, Molly Reagan, Gabrielle Sellers, Bidisha Sen, Anna Smith, Anna Sparks, Steven Upton, Andrew Winter, Erin Woods, Haven Young, Teigue Young. SHS National Honor Society advisor is Kim Theriault.

## SHS Student Honored with Writing Contest Award



AMHERST -- Julia Brackett’s essay, “Letter from a Disappointed Teenager,” was selected as one of two winners in the high school category of the New Hampshire Writing Project’s essay contest, One Pen Can Change the World. The essay prompt asked students to address an injustice in the world today, stating, “In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., penned ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail, addressing the injustice of racial segregation. His words roused a nation to change its laws. Think about an injustice/unfairness that you see in our lives today.’”

### Excerpt from “Letter from a Disappointed Teenager”

By JULIA BRACKETT

*There are people in the United States who claim that racism is no longer an issue, who say that we are done with the topic of racism; that the fight ended, because black people gained their rights; “We have a black president now, don’t we?” “We’re integrated now, aren’t we?”*

*Here’s your wake-up call: we are not done. And racism is just as evident now as it was years ago; it’s simply accepted.*

*When a black college student is arrested for buying a 350 dollar designer belt because it is assumed he is stealing it, we know that the fight is not over.*

*When the statistics show that, while people of color make up about 30% of the United States’ population, they account for 60% of those imprisoned, or when statistics show that one in three black men can expect to go to prison in their lifetime, or when statistics show that, once convicted in the federal system, black people receive sentences that are 10% longer than white people for the same crimes—we know that the fight is not over.*

*When an Indian-American girl wins the Miss America pageant and is attacked with racial slurs and bigotry, we know that the fight is not over.*

~ Julia Brackett,  
Souhegan High School

## SHS Students Participate in Wintercession Activities



Gunnar Baum (Baltimore Habitat)

Sophomores participating in the annual Wintercession program at Souhegan High School: Gunnar Baum painting ceilings as part of the Baltimore Habitat for Humanity trip; Laylee Gibson posing on camera as part of the Guerilla Film course; Dillion Pollio rock climbing at Joshua Tree National Park in California; Hannah Camplin (front) and Katherine Casey (rear) at the Ice Hotel in Quebec.



Hannah Camplin –front, Katherine Casey – rear



Kaylee Gibson (Guerilla Film)

## Mont Vernon Student Inspired by Trip to China

What teen wouldn’t want to experience a whirlwind tour through two of China’s biggest cities, attend a two-day conference packed with famous keynote speakers, student collaboration, dancing pandas, and eat delicious Chinese food? This March, that is exactly what Matthew Lefebvre a homeschooled junior residing in Mont Vernon, did after receiving one of fifteen Global Citizen Scholarships provided by EF Tours. Matthew entered this contest as part of his homeschool curriculum. He had traveled to China in the previous year with his former school as a fourth year Mandarin language student, fell in love with the country, and was determined to go back. “I didn’t really expect to win,” says Matthew, “There were over five hundred entries for the fifteen spots at EF’s Global Student Leaders Summit.” To compete for this scholarship, students were required to submit an essay or a short video presentation outlining a socially responsible business they would create with unlimited startup funds. Of the five hundred entries received, sixty students were then selected to participate in an interview with a member of the EF Tours staff. These were further narrowed down to the fifteen recipients of this year’s scholarships. “The wait to hear after doing an interview was a really nerve-wracking experience,” Matthew says with a laugh, “I put a lot of time into that project and I really hoped it would pay off.”

It most certainly did pay off. Matthew said that attending the conference, dubbed the Global Student Leaders Summit, was one of the best experiences of his life. Some of the highlights included interacting with Chinese students, meeting entrepreneurial-minded individuals, listening to keynote speakers, and



Matthew Lefebvre on the far right.

collaborating with other students. “The best part about this whole experience is meeting all of these great people,” Matthew explains, “I made close friends with the people I traveled with, and even remain in contact with the Chinese students I met!” When asked about what this trip has done for him, Matthew responds, “It inspired me. I really, truly, am inspired to go out and change the world now. I listened to some fantastic individuals speak about the social enterprises they created and how they are making the world a better place. I want to go out and do that now.”

Matthew’s idea for a socially responsible business was named Proj-

ect Elysium. “I think that everyone should have a home and my idea would fix that.” When asked what gave him inspiration for his idea Matthew responds, “I’ve been interested in entrepreneurship and real estate for quite a while now. I’m thinking about it as a career and decided to tie my project in with my interest! The idea just popped into my head one day and after a great deal of research and work, I turned into a viable business.” You can view Matthew’s winning video, along with those of the fourteen others who also received a scholarship, at [www.eftours.com/global-citizen](http://www.eftours.com/global-citizen) and scroll down to view the selected projects link.

## Visitors from Yemen Interact with Souhegan Students

Junior students in the World Studies/World Literature classes of SHS teachers Adam Theriault and Kathy Maddock recently had the opportunity to meet with a panel of three citizens from Yemen and their interpreter. The visitors were in the area for a week in March through the efforts of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire. Their goal was to look at youth engagement in the US political process. The panel asked the students about their volunteer involvement in the school and in local communities; the students asked their guests about life in Yemen. The visitors explained that life in the city was very different from life in the rural sections of Yemen and that American students would more likely relate to the city life style. For example, in the cities, where technology is available, Yemeni young people are as active in social media as their American counterparts. Political unrest and violence are an almost daily experience in Yemen, and the young people (ages 18 to 30) are most active in advocating reforms. Both Yemeni visitors and SHS students noted the cultural differences in making life decisions. Here, decisions begin at



SHS Teacher Adam Theriault, Ms Ebtihag Al-Sharif, Activist & University Student; Mr. Mohammed Muharam, Project Development Assistant; Mr. Mabkhot Adhban, Executive Director, Peace & Development Association; Ms Angel Hermiz, Interpreter

high school and are re-visited often; in Yemen those in their late teens are set in social and career expectations. This program is a part of the

US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It was hosted nationally by the Meridian International Center.

## Student Inducted into Nashua Catholic’s National Junior Honor Society

NASHUA – Nashua Catholic Regional Junior High School inducted two local Amherst and New Boston students into the 2014 class of the Nashua Catholic National Junior Honor Society during a ceremony in the school’s auditorium on March 19, 2014.

“The foundation of the National Junior Honor Society is based upon five pillars,” said eighth grader Sithara Nambiar, Nashua Catholic NJHS Chapter President. “They

are scholarship, service, character, leadership, and citizenship and each of our new inductees have proven himself or herself worthy of selection based upon these pillars.”

Seventh graders Tucker MacLellan, of Amherst joined with 24 other new inductees and 16 standing members to recite the chapter pledge before Mrs. Christofily Baker, Nashua Catholic faculty adviser presented each new member with their pin.



Amherst resident seventh grader Tucker MacLellan, (center) with his mother, Paula MacLellan (left) and his father, Peter MacLellan (right) following the Nashua Catholic National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

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