

## Blood Drive

On November 11, 2008, The National Honor Society sponsored its semi-annual Blood Drive. Over 60 students and staff signed up to donate blood and the Red Cross was able to collect 46 units of blood, exceeding our goal of 45 units. Our next blood drive will be held on Wednesday March 25, 2009. All students that are 17 years of age by this date are eligible to give blood.

*Contributed by Mr. Affie*

## Financial Literacy Challenge

In the Month of November, students from Mr. Affie's AP Statistics classes and Mr. Borne de Araujo's Housatonic CC classes participated in the *U.S. Department of the Treasury's 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge*, which consisted of an online exam of 35 questions on a range of financial topics including investments, stocks, loans and financial terminology. Over 75,000 students across the country took the exam and the following students scored in the Top 25%. Most of the students have not had a formal high school financial course.

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| - JAVIER M. ARGUELLO      | - JOHN A. DEARBORN     |
| - MELANIE M. DEFRANK      | - PAUL A. EFTHYMIU     |
| - JOSEPH R. KRAYNAK III   | - CHRISTINA L. MILAZZO |
| - MARITZA MONTANEZ        | - JOSHUA PALMQUIST     |
| - IKECHUKWU E. UMEUGO     | - SARAH R. WYANT       |
| - MATTHEW M. CARRASQUILLO | - NOEL P. CIELO        |
| - GARRETT M. CONNORS      | - MEGAN T. DUMAS       |
| - ASHLEY LANGRIEGER       | - NICHOLAS T. O'CONNOR |
| - STEPHANIE A. SEELEY     | - KELLY A. SMITH       |

*Contributed by Mr. Affie*

## YEARBOOK ORDERS

The deadline for ordering the 2009 Yearbook is January 30th!

Cost is \$65. until January 25th

Price goes up to \$85. from January 25th to January 30th

Orders can be placed online or directly through Ms. Mudry

**ORDER NOW AND SAVE!!!!**

## CONTRIBUTORS

Many thanks to the contributors to this issue of the *Charger Times*:

Susan McKernan	Principal	Karolynn Williams	Student
Pamela Mudry	Media Specialist	Kenneth Firmender	Guidance Counselor
Amy Boccamazzo	Guidance Counselor	Christopher Affie	Teacher
Gale Dicosimo	Guidance Counselor	Maria Tangredi	Teacher
Sara Baldino	Teacher	Susan Nargi	Teacher
Frederick Hashemian	Teacher	Gerri Southard	Secretary
Lida Princevalli	Secretary	Anne Pedevillano	Secretary
Karen Rzasa	Teacher		



# The Charger Times

## Students of the Month

The votes have been counted and in some very close races, three new *Students of the Month* have been named!

### November — Bryan Pasqualucci

The November Student of the Month is Bryan Pasqualucci. His teachers have described Bryan as a smart, funny and helpful student who is also very reliable and respectful. Bryan is an active participant in our AHS community, holding the position of Senior Class President and President of the Student Government. Bryan is also an active and exemplary member of the AHS Band, an office intern, and his voice can be heard daily doing morning announcements.

### December — Anna Konopka

The December Student of the Month is Anna Konopka. Her teachers have described Anna as a thoughtful, exemplary student who always goes above and beyond. Her manner in the classroom is commendable. Anna is an active member of the French Club, CISP, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Tennis Team.

### January — Jenna Turner

The votes are in and Jenna Turner has been named as Student of the Month for January 2009. Her teachers have described Jenna as a very hard working student who is highly motivated to graduate this year. She is very polite, mature and willing to help out her peers whenever necessary. Jenna plans to pursue a career as a history teacher upon completion of her college studies.

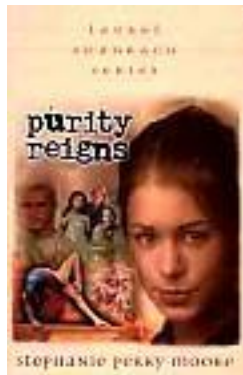
Please be sure to congratulate Bryan, Anna, and Jenna for this outstanding achievement.

*Contributed by Ms. Baldino*

## AHS Mission Statement

**To prepare every learner to meet ever-changing personal and global challenges, the primary mission of Ansonia High School is to cultivate the emotional, physical, social, and intellectual growth of each student. The success of our mission requires the active participation of students, faculty, parents, and community in the learning process.**

## A Book Recommendation



### *Purity Reigns*

By Stephanie Perry Moore

In the book *Purity Reigns* by Stephanie Perry Moore, Laurel Shadrach is having the perfect senior year. She has the hottest boyfriend, greatest friends and the possibility of a college scholarship. Unfortunately, her perfect year quickly takes an unexpected turn. Her boyfriend Branson begins to put pressure on her to have a physical relationship and she is faced with making a choice between her boyfriend and her commitment to God.

I would recommend this book because the choices Laurel has to make tie into real life. If you believe in God, the story helps you see how life can turn out for the best if you make the right choices and have faith. This book speaks about the righteousness of God's heart, how you can go to Him in your time of need and that He will help you through any hardship.

*Contributed by Karolynn Williams, AHS Junior*

## Cooperative International Studies Program

Students participating in the Cooperative International Studies Program (C.I.S.P.) recently completed research and activities for Semester I. The first Semester revolved around International Art and Architecture. During the fall, students had opportunities to visit the Yale British Museum of Art and the Yale Art Gallery. CISP students also participated in a walking tour of Yale's Public Art. In addition, members became familiar with the BRIC Nations and their unique artistic expression in both art and architecture. Another area of focus for the semester was on the importance of Green Architecture on the environment. The semester wrapped up on December 2nd with Ansonia students spending the day with their sister school, Career and Metropolitan High School. That afternoon, all students participating in CISP spent the afternoon at Amity Regional High School presenting their projects to their peers and sampling a variety of international snacks. The fall program was a complete success on all counts; record numbers of students from AHS enrolled in the program, and the students' great interest and enthusiasm helped drive staff expectations beyond what we had hoped for. The theme for Semester II will be geography. Our CISP staff has put together an interesting and challenging curriculum that we know our students will enjoy. At this time we are not accepting any new students into the program as we already have a waiting list from last semester.

*Contributed by Mrs. Nargi*

### Yearbook Recognition Ads

Family & Friends of the Class of 2009 can personalize the Yearbook in a special way! Ads may be purchased and can include photos and/or text. Forms and further information are available in the Media Center. Deadline is March 16th!!!!

## AHS Students Visit Ansonia Middle School

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, six AHS students went to Ansonia Middle School (AMS) with Mrs. Dicosimo to speak about the seriousness of the attendance policy. This is the third year that the AMS eighth students will follow the high school's attendance policy for the second half of the year. The goal is to help the eighth graders with the transition to high school. The high school students spoke to the entire group of eighth graders in the auditorium about the policy, their experiences, and making the most of their time in high school. They also spoke to some individual classes where they responded to questions from middle school students. Our AHS students did an outstanding job and Mrs. Bennett-Wallick was very grateful for their input. Many thanks to Tim Troy, Megan Jones, John Dearborn, Danielle Todd, Tyrell Moore and Jeanne Whalen on a great job!

*Contributed by Mrs. Dicosimo*

## From the Principal's Desk....

It's hard to believe that half the year is already over! Despite the cold and snow of a true — and seemingly never-ending — New England winter, I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful holiday and that the new year brings good health and countless blessings to all. As I sat to write this, an email popped up from the AHS PTSO providing information and seeking help relative to the Post Prom. I couldn't help but be reminded of how important the Post Prom is in keeping our students safe on Prom night, and the fact that this event would not take place without the ongoing efforts and hard work of the PTSO. As we begin the new semester, I would like to thank them for all they do and to encourage teachers and parents alike to join this important organization and to become actively involved in their many projects.

The second semester brings us ever closer to graduation for the Class of 2009. Seniors should be monitoring credit requirements to ensure no surprises in June. They should also pay close attention to college application, scholarship, and senior activity deadlines. We don't want to see anyone excluded because they missed a due date! In addition, students in grades 9-12 and their parents should be focused on what can be done to maintain and or improve academic achievement. Quarter 2 report cards will be distributed to students on February 10th. If any concerns, parents should contact teachers right away so that students get the help they need to meet success for the remainder of the year.

I'd also like to express my sincere thanks to all the parents, staff, and students who participated in the Cambridge review. Their report should be coming out soon and will be shared with all constituents.

Finally, a reminder that CAPT testing will take place during the first two weeks of March for all Freshmen (practice testing), Sophomores, and those Juniors who did not yet meet proficiency on any of the sub-tests. Meeting proficiency on the CAPT is a graduation requirement.; it is therefore of the utmost importance that students are present and well-rested each day of the testing to ensure their best performance.

*Contributed by Mrs. McKernan*

## AHS Interact Club Sings

The club members sang Christmas carols at Crosby Commons along with representatives from the Valley United Way .

## Ansonia High School Student Ambassadors

The primary mission of the Student Ambassadors is to guide and welcome new students who are coming into Ansonia High School as well as those students that visit (shadow a student) the high school with possible intentions of becoming a future student. The president of the Student Ambassadors is Penny Efthymiou (Class of 2009). What is the role of a Student Ambassador?

The assigned Ambassador would spend the day with the new student to make sure that he/she gets to his/her classes and gets familiarized with the building. Often newcomers feel a little out of sorts when they transfer to a new school or area. The Ambassadors make them feel welcome and hopefully ease any concerns or anxiousness a new student may have. They would have lunch with the new student and explain some of the rules and regulations of the school (refer to the Student Handbook for all rules).

During the 2008-09 school year, the Ambassadors served as guides for parents/guardians during the annual Parent-Teacher Conferences, participated in the eighth grade Open House as tour guides and put together a student panel for questions and answers.

During the holidays, one of the members brainstormed an idea to do something different amongst all that was already taking place such as the Canned Food Drive, Toys for Tots, the Warming Tree, etc. This member, Angela Khan, originated and coordinated a campaign to help the Ansonia Animal Shelter. This campaign became known as **Paws for a Cause**. Members were asked to bring in and have others donate animal food, treats and warm blankets. Each member was also expected to sell at least eight paper paws for \$1.00 each. Purchasers put their name on the paw and members displayed them in the AHS Main Lobby. We are happy to report that the response to this worthy cause was well represented. This spring the group intends to participate in the **Bowl-To-Benefit the Umbrella program**, to raise money and awareness of domestic abuse in our community.

A Student Ambassador must show responsibility and demonstrate that they are reliable, helpful and also friendly. We are proud of the work they do and the manner in which they represent our school.

*Contributed by Mrs. Southard*

### New Staff Member

**Thomas Pepe**, teaches AP Environmental Science, Integrated Science, and General

Science. He worked for the DEP Fisheries Division for 6 years and as a Graduate Research Fellow at SCSU, studying coyote populations before becoming a teacher in 2003. He taught in Meriden for 5 years before coming to Ansonia this year and plans to conduct a lot of outdoor studies with his students.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 11th, 7 pm	AHS Talent Show. Tickets are \$5 and sold in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.
Feb. 26th, 27th, 7 pm	Ansonia Society of Theatrical Artists presents Alfred Uhry's <i>The Last Night of Ballyhoo</i> . Tickets are \$6 and will be sold in advance and at the door.
March 19th, 7:00 pm	Mr. AHS. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold in advance.
March 24th, 7:00 pm	Fashion Show. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.

## Graduates Visit AHS

On Tuesday January 13th, five AHS graduates (Class of 2008) visited our school and spent the morning speaking to eight various junior and senior classes. These volunteers spoke specifically about high school preparation for college and the reality of beginning and completing their first college semester. Topics covered were: high school course selection, G.P.A., SAT implications, study skills, time management, college course selection, college syllabus, college grading, college dorm life, and college social life.

Our current students responded with a variety of questions while our guests delivered very direct, thought-provoking, and personally insightful responses. We at AHS thank our graduates so much for continuing our legacy of collaboration and service. 2008 graduates pictured from left to right are Jessica Santa, Jessi Mengold, Brittany Henry, and Jen Umeugo (not pictured is Matt Jones).

*Contributed by Mr. Firmender*

## Junior Ring Dance Dazzles

Ansonia High School's Class of 2010 enjoyed a night of dancing and dining at their Junior Ring Dance on November 3, 2008. Grassy Hill Lodge was the site of the ceremony, the memory of which will live on in the many pictures that were taken by those attending. The students shared their special evening with many staff members and other invited guests. The central event of the dance was the distribution of school rings to the members of the Class of 2010. A brief but meaningful ceremony followed, then students danced the night away.

The Junior Class Officers and students worked diligently for two years to plan and fundraise for this special evening. Their efforts paid off as the dance went on without a hitch. The students are now looking forward to the activities and ceremonies that will take place at the end of their Senior year. They are continuing to fundraise and plan for these important dates. Congratulations on a job well done!

*Contributed by Mrs. Nargi*

## AHS WELCOMES NEW ARRIVALS



**Lia Rose Powers** born January 2, 2009, 9 lbs., 1 oz.  
**Jake Carmine Affie** born January 4, 2009, 8 lbs., 1oz.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**

## Music Notes

December was a very busy month for the students in the AHS Music Department. The band performed at both the CIAC Class S semi-final game and final game, while the chorus and drum line brought holiday cheer to the city of Ansonia at the annual tree lighting at Malus Park. Their largest undertaking though, was the annual winter concert on December 10<sup>th</sup> in the Ruth Feinberg-Connors Auditorium at Ansonia High School.

An audience of several hundred enjoyed songs of the season presented by the concert band, mixed chorus, Ladies of Harmony and various soloists. For many students in the program, this was their debut performance on our stage. In fact, over half of the students in the department are brand new this year, but their presence on stage was extremely professional.

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the chorus took their act 'on the road' with performances at both Ansonia Middle School and Mead School. At each location, they were able to walk down memory lane by visiting with former teachers and also show how much they have matured since their younger days. The diversity of the ensemble and their ability to perform so well together sets a wonderful example to which the younger students can aspire.

Currently, the department has already begun preparations for the annual spring concert in April and the Pops concert in June. The April concert will consist of the performance of traditional concert repertoire while the June concert will likely have a Broadway theme. In addition, plans are in the works for the annual spring adjudication.

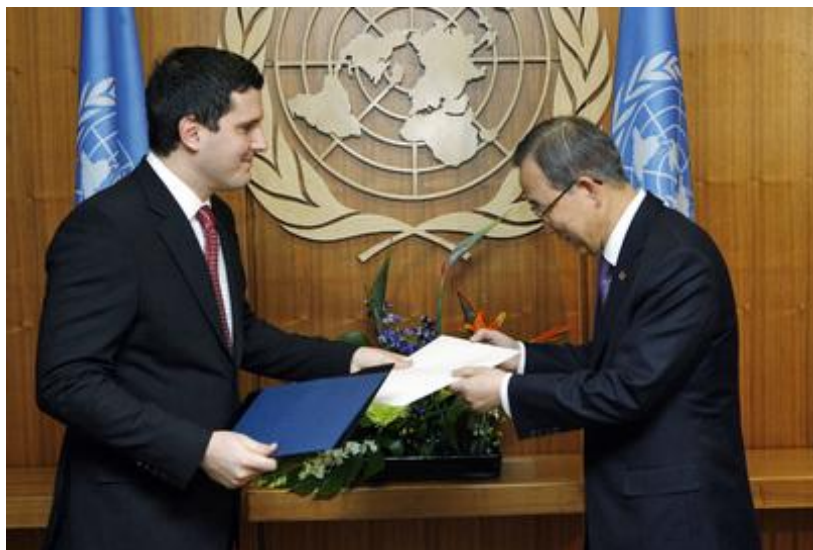
*Contributed by Ms. Tangredi*

## AHS Alumnus Appointed UN Ambassador

Ivan Barbalic came to Ansonia as a foreign exchange student from Sarajevo, Bosnia in the fall of 1992. Intelligent and well-liked, he played on the football team and graduated with the class of 1993. Ivan was then accepted and received a full scholarship to the University of Bridgeport where he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing in 1997. After his return to Sarajevo, he completed a European regional master's degree in 2001 at the University of Sarajevo and a second masters degree from the University of Bologna, Italy. 1998 saw the start of his career as a journalist with Bosnia and Herzegovina's Radio ZID, after which he served as a legal assistant in the Human Rights Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Sarajevo. According to a Press Release from the United Nations, Ivan also served in a variety of positions in international organizations, educational institutions and government. He worked as a public relations and marketing consultant, co-wrote a manual on early warning systems produced by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and lectured on marketing at the Noel Baker Centre for Business and Management. But Ivan's hard work and success did not end there.

Recently, Ivan was appointed as Ambassador to the United Nations for Bosnia by his country's President. At 33 years of age, he is one of the youngest UN Ambassadors ever. Ivan has moved to New York City with his wife, and starts his three-year appointment this month. According to friend and fellow Class of '93 graduate, Eric Breeden, Ivan returned to Ansonia in Dec. to spend time with friends and his old host family, the Virzi's, for the holidays.

Ansonia High School is proud to claim Ivan as an AHS VIP and extends congratulations to him and his family on an extraordinary accomplishment! *Contributed by Mrs. McKernan*



**Pictured above: The new Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ivan Barbalic, presents his credentials to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.**

## From the Guidance Office

The Guidance Department congratulates all students for their various successes in the first marking period. Keep up your hard-work and positive approach to learning!

Seniors, the college application process is in full swing. Please continue to be diligent in seeing your counselor for final review and completion of your applications, which include: teachers' letter of recommendation, transcript requests, essays, resume and application fee or fee waiver, if applicable. Make sure that you are carefully keeping track of application deadlines. A HUGE congrats to seniors who have already been accepted into some of their top-choice universities!

Our office hosted a **Virtual College Fair** from November 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Students were able to research over 200 schools and universities as well as participate in live chats with students and admissions counselors.

Our Financial Aid night on December 3<sup>rd</sup> was a success. The workshop provided an overview of the financial aid process and steps in filling out your FAFSA. You can now find the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Apply for your PIN number and begin the application for financial aid as early as possible beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. We have begun receiving local scholarship opportunities. Seniors, please check our office for the most up-to-date list of scholarship applications and deadlines.

The 8<sup>th</sup>Grade Open House on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> was a success. At the beginning of December, counselors traveled to local middle schools to give an overview of high school and to invite students and parents to the event. Many thanks to all administrators, teachers and students for their support to make this night a success!

The Career Interest Inventory is currently being administered to the class of 2013. Their effort and cooperation has been outstanding and greatly appreciated!

Our office has been hosting many exciting academic and extra-curricular activities! Some of the events include:

- 10/15: Seniors hosted a Club Fair for freshman to sign-up for and receive information about the clubs at AHS.
- 11/21: Seniors visited Porter and Chester to explore their facilities and receive information on career opportunities.
- 12/8: HCC Bridges Program: participants traveled to Housatonic CC for Session #3: Career Planning.
- 12/1-12/18: Interact Club ran a Stuffed Animal Drive where proceeds went to the Ansonia Police Department and the Beanies for Baghdad organization. Members sang Christmas Carols with Valley United Way and will be volunteering at Spooner House next month.
- 1/13: The guidance department invited students from the AHS Class of 2008 to address seniors. The Alumni spoke to the class of 2009 about their first-semester college experiences. Seniors were able to hear about college-level expectations and just how important their senior year is in preparing for their post-secondary endeavors.

*Contributed by Ms. Boccamazzo*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO



Penny Efthymiou & Michael Futschik on receiving the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Award of Excellence



Megan Jones & Ron Bilodeau for being Connecticut High School Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete Nominees