

PRESS RELEASE
AMITY HALL OF HONOR
Amity Regional School District No. 5
25 Newton Road
Woodbridge, CT

April 2009

Six distinguished graduates of Amity Regional High School comprise the 2009 class of inductees to the **Amity Hall of Honor**. The induction ceremony will take place on May 7, 2009 at Grassy Hill Country Club at 6:00 p.m. For tickets/information contact, Beth Moffat at 397-4815 or by email beth.moffat@reg5.k12.ct.us

To be nominated to the Hall of Honor, a candidate must have consistently demonstrated the highest standards of excellence and honor in his or her chosen vocation, including leadership, innovation in his or her field, excellence in his or her vocation or avocation, integrity, dedication, and an obvious exemplifying of the Amity District Mission Statement, being “a lifelong learner and a literate, caring, creative, and effective world citizen.” The Hall of Honor nomination form is available on the Amity website www.amityregion5.org

Education

For nearly two decades, **THOMAS W. MURPHY, VI** has served as Cabinet member and advisor to the Connecticut Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education. He works with superintendents of schools and boards of education in the state’s 166 public school districts. In this role, he also serves as chief spokesperson for the Connecticut State Department of Education on numerous public policy issues and concerns.

He has responsibility for the State Education Department's Public Information Office, including liaison with other agencies and organizations, press and media relations, and the public reporting of educational research data, and annual statewide SAT and Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test results. He represents the Department on the Connecticut Coalition for Public Education which is comprised of the leadership of the seven major education groups in Connecticut.

Mr. Murphy has spent nearly thirty years working with government, the media and the education community. He has worked closely with school superintendents, boards of education, mayors and first selectmen, legislators, the Governor’s Office, and the local, state and national press.

Early in his career, he served as Director of Communications for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) -- Connecticut's municipal league-- which represents Connecticut's cities and towns in Hartford and in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Murphy then served as Associate Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), where he worked with the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Association of Schools and statewide teachers’, administrators’ and parents’ associations.

He helped to found and was the editor of two statewide journals: *Connecticut Town and City* which is read monthly by more than 5,000 municipal officials statewide and *The CABE Journal* which is published for Connecticut's local and regional board of education members and school superintendents. He also published the book: *A Community Relations Guidebook for Connecticut's Public Schools*. He has lectured on public policy and education issues at several colleges and universities including Central and Southern Connecticut State Universities, St. Joseph College, Trinity College, the University of New Haven and Yale University.

For the past seventeen years, his work in the Office of the Commissioner has brought him close to such issues as No Child Left Behind, Universal Preschool, Closing the Achievement Gap Initiatives, Sheff v. O’Neill, Early Reading Intervention programs and Public Secondary School Reform.

Fine / Performing Arts

JODY SAVIN is a writer and movie producer. Under her production banner Unclaimed Freight Productions, Savin and her partner/husband Randall Miller have written and independently produced *Marilyn Hotchkiss’ Ballroom Dancing & Charm School* (starring Robert Carlyle, John Goodman, and Marisa Tomei), *Bottle Shock* (starring Alan Rickman, Bill Pullman, and Chris Pine) and *Nobel Son* (starring Alan Rickman, Mary Steenburgen, Bill Pullman and Danny DeVito).

Savin also produced Miller's studio films *The Sixth Man* and *Houseguest* for Disney. In 1989 Savin won a Cine Golden Eagle for her work as a writer on the Turner documentary, *Chico Mendes: Voice of the Amazon*. She has been nominated for three Emmy's for her work in musical direction. She graduated from Amity Senior High School in Woodbridge Connecticut in 1978. She received a BA from Princeton University and an MFA from the American Film Institute.

Savin is currently prepping Unclaimed Freight's next independent film, *The Raise*. She and Miller have joined the publicly traded company Consolidated Pictures Group (CPG) as its Co-Heads of Production and Acquisitions. CPG will be doing film acquisitions and distribution as well as production. CPG's first release will be *I Love You Phillip Morris*, starring Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor, which Miller and Savin picked up at Sundance 2009.

HOWARD SHERMAN joined the American Theatre Wing as Executive Director in 2003. In that role, he oversees all of the Wing's operations, including its "Working in the Theatre" TV program; its radio show "Downstage Center," which he co-hosted for more than four years on XM Satellite Radio; the Theatre Intern Group, SpringboardNYC, and other initiatives designed to help students and audiences understand more about how theatre is made; and the Jonathan Larson Grants for emerging musical theatre creators. He is also the organization's primary representative in the planning of the annual Tony Awards, the top honor for theatrical achievement on Broadway, which the Wing created in 1947.

Immediately prior to ATW, he spent three years as Executive Director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford CT, overseeing the Center's educational and developmental programs, shepherding more than \$1 million worth of physical plant upgrades, and re-branding The O'Neill through a coordinated communications initiative. Sherman was Managing Director of Geva Theater in Rochester (1998-2000), where he completed a \$6 million capital campaign and opened the company's 135-seat Nextstage.

He was the first General Manager of Goodspeed Musicals (1994-1998), working on 24 new and classic musicals, including the U.S. Premiere of Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *By Jeeves*. As Public Relations Director of Hartford Stage (1985-1993), he represented 50 shows, from Mark Lamos' productions of *Hamlet* and *Peer Gynt* with Richard Thomas to *Marvin's Room*, *Other People's Money*, and *Our Country's Good*, the latter three prior to New York runs. He began his theatre career in the box office of the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, followed by press positions with the Philadelphia Festival Theater for New Plays, Westport Country Playhouse, and Manhattan Theatre Club.

He has taught and/or guest lectured at the Yale School of Drama, North Carolina School of the Arts, Hartt School of Music and University of Connecticut; is a corporation member of The Neighborhood Playhouse and on the National Board of Advisors of The Actors Fund; and served as an on-site evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts. He is a native of New Haven, was raised in Orange and is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania.

BRIAN YALE

Brian Yale, originally from Orange, CT, graduated from Amity High School in 1987. While an Amity student Brian studied trumpet and played in the school's marching band. At that time Brian also began playing bass guitar. During Brian's junior year, in Chris Hickerson's music theory class, his bass playing became more proficient and he switched from trumpet to bass full time. That following summer Brian attended the Berklee School of Music bass summer intensive program. During Brian's senior year music became his main focus and he enrolled in Mr. Hickerson's Music Theory Two course. This class of four students spent the entire year dissecting Beethoven's 5th symphony; this type of focus was unheard of in a public school setting. Brian fully believes that it was the encouragement of his teacher, Mr. Hickerson, that instilled the desire in him to study music and made the idea of pursuing a career in music a reality. Brian took part in many of the Amity Music Department events that year, including the annual Pops concert. Brian was then accepted into the prestigious Berklee School of Music.

Brian spent one year at Berklee School of Music in music education, before transferring to the University of Miami. As a student at the University of Miami, Brian majored in Music Industry and immersed himself in jazz and classic rock. His favorite memories of his time at UM are playing in different bands every week for a grade in his rock class, as well as cheering on the Hurricanes football team. Brian received his B.M. in 1993 and proceeded to enroll in the audio engineering program at Full Sail University. Shortly after graduating from Full Sail the band Brian had been playing with, Tabitha's Secret, known today as Matchbox Twenty, was offered a record deal.

Since making their debut 12 years ago, Matchbox Twenty has become one of the most admired and consistently successful rock bands in recent history, with over 35 million albums sold worldwide. Named as the "Best New Band" by the 1997 Rolling Stone Readers Poll, the band has logged an extraordinary string of hit singles, including such chart-topping favorites as "3AM," "If You're Gone," "Bent," "Unwell" and the recent hit, "How Far We've Come." Matchbox 20 has been nominated for four Grammy awards, five American Music Awards, Two MTV Video Music Awards and was the 2004 People's Choice award winner for Favorite Music Group.

Brian currently lives in Florida with his wife Sara, six cats and their dog Lucy.

Government / Public Service

DANIEL I. PAPERMASTER, J.D., is managing partner of Bingham McCutchen's Hartford office. He focuses on corporate law and corporate finance, primarily representing various types of financial institutions, hedge funds and large corporations in financing and restructuring transactions. A significant portion of his practice is concentrated on syndicated bank financings, representing hedge funds in debt and equity investments and cross-border financings representing institutional investors of privately placed debt. He also represents numerous entities involved in economic development projects in Hartford.

Dan earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor at the University of Texas School of Law. Dan has long been active in Connecticut politics. In March 2009, he was appointed by Sens. Christopher J. Dodd and Joseph I. Lieberman to serve on the select committee to screen candidates for high-level federal appointments, including Connecticut's next U.S. attorney and federal magistrates in Connecticut. He also served as general chairman of Hartford Debate '96, the organizing committee that hosted the first presidential debate of 1996 between Pres. Bill Clinton and Sen. Bob Dole. He acted as senior adviser to Sen. Joseph Lieberman's 2000 vice presidential campaign, as legal counsel to Sen. Lieberman's 2006 U.S. Senate campaign, and as the lead negotiator of Sen. Lieberman's Senate debates. He has also worked on the transition teams of both U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro and U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman. In addition, Dan was a member of U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd's campaign and senate staff. In 2003, he was appointed by the mayor of the City of Hartford to chair a commission to reorganize the Corporation Counsel's office of the City of Hartford.

Dan is also involved in community activities. He serves on the board of directors of Camp Laurelwood. He has been the chairman of Hartford's Mark Twain Days Festival. He also served on the original steering committee of the Connecticut Capitol Region Growth Council for the Millennium Project and on the board of directors of the Community Relations Council of Greater Hartford Jewish Federation, the Mark Twain House and the WKND Greater Hartford Initiative.

Daniel has received many honors and awards: Twice named one of the "40 under Forty" by the *Hartford Business Journal* (1997, 2000); Recipient, Chairman's Award from the Hartford Downtown Council (1997); and Recipient, "Bring it Home to Hartford" Award from the Greater Hartford Convention and Visitors Bureau (1996).

Science / Technology

BRANDON JAMES BREI was a resident of Orange, CT for most of his life. He received his primary education in the Amity School System from Kindergarten through Senior High School. During his Elementary School years at Peck Place School, he was active in the Cub Scouts and served as an Altar Boy at Holy Infant Church in Orange. While attending Amity Junior High School, he played Baseball with the Orange Little and Babe Ruth Leagues. He was also active in the Boy Scouts attaining the achievement of Eagle Scout. During his attendance at Amity Senior High School he was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, Youth and Government Club, and the Embers Business Board. Additionally, he lettered in Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track. Brandon was a member of Amity's 1994 Graduating class.

After high school, he earned his Bachelor of Science summa cum laude at UMASS with a double major in Biology and Entomology. He was accepted to the Ph.D. program in Microbiology at Yale University in the fall of 1999. He joined the Vector Ecology Laboratory of Dr. Durland Fish at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH).

After his first semester at Yale, Brandon was granted a leave of absence for one year for a Fulbright fellowship in Brisbane, Australia. There, he was able to take classes in microbiology, parasitology and tropical medicine as well as research the biology of a biting midge species.

Brandon returned to Yale in 2001 and began work on a diversity of research projects. His overall research interest focused on the ecology of vector-borne spirochetes, including the Lyme disease spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and a recently discovered relapsing fever group *Borrelia*. The primary aim was to determine how these tick-borne *Borrelia* populations are maintained in nature.

As one of five recipients of a CDC Fellowship in Vector-Borne Disease at Yale University, Brandon traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico to spend a week studying Dengue Fever at the CDC Dengue Research Lab. During the week, the group, which consisted of 10 doctoral and masters students from the Departments of Epidemiology and Public Health and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, listened to presentations on the ecology, epidemiology, and entomology of Dengue, met with local mosquito control officials, and learned to trap and identify mosquitoes.

In March of 2003, the group planned to spend the day snorkeling and swimming near Fajardo, a town on the northeast coast of the island. It was here that Brandon drowned while rescuing another student who was caught in the strong current.

Brandon's research has been published in several academic journals in both the U.S. and Australia. In addition to research, Brandon maintained a close relationship with his family and friends that represent all facets of his life. He touched the lives of everyone who knew him. Brandon will be dearly missed and remembered forever.