



*North Allegheny Senior High School  
National Honor Society presents*

*The Twenty-Eighth Annual*

# SCHOLASTIC HONORS BANQUET

*May 17, 2018*



# **National Honors Society**

## **2017-2018 Cabinet of Officers**

*President:* Andrew Chuirazzi

*Vice President:* Margo Weller

*Secretary:* Careena El-Khatib

*Treasurer:* Anna Barton

*Social Chair:* Stefan Bordeianu

*Service Chair:* Zach Shuckrow

*Publicity Chair:* Gracie Limauro

*Technical Chairs:* Dilara Ozdoganlar & Julia Patzak

Mrs. Oliver and Mr. Tengowski are thankful for the NHS officers and the hard work and dedication to excellence they demonstrated this year.

### **2017 - 2018 NHS Service projects:**

- Ingomar, Bradford Woods, and Hosack Elementary Tutoring
- McKnight Shining Knights
- Hosack Elementary Intramurals
- School events such as NASH Open House, Tiger Thon, Project Water, and the Musical
- Packaging supplies for World Vision
- Vincentian Nursing Home bingo
- SAT & ACT Testing
- Blood Drive

And many more projects throughout the year!

In addition to the NASH principals, we would like to thank the entire NASH faculty for their help and cooperation throughout the year!

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# SCHOLASTIC HONORS BANQUET

May 17, 2018

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Andrew Chuirazzi  
*NHS President*

Recognition of Guests and Awards

Mrs. Dana Oliver  
*NHS Adviser*

Dinner and Blessing

Mr. Nathan Tengowski  
*NHS Adviser*

Top Scholars Video

Dilara Ozdoganlar  
Julia Patzak  
*NHS Technical Chairs*

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Andrew Chuirazzi  
*NHS President*

Guest Speaker

Ms. Victoria Abbondanza  
*North Allegheny Alumna*

Presentation of Top Scholars

Dr. John Kreider  
*NASH Principal*

Closing Remarks

Mrs. Dana Oliver  
Mr. Nathan Tengowski  
*NHS Advisors*

# INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2018 TOP SCHOLARS

## *Nikhil Behari*



**College:** Harvard College

**Desired Major:** Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Anticole

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Computer Science A and B, Honors and AP Chemistry, Engineering and Design, AP Economics

**Best experience at North Allegheny:** Throughout my years at North Allegheny, I enjoyed most the freedom that I was given to explore my passions, discover new ideas, create and organize events and activities, and meet new people. This freedom not only allowed me to pursue and achieve the goals I set for myself, but also allowed me to interact with other students, teachers, and members of the community that have and will continue to impact my dreams for the future.

**Quote:** "Passion comes after you put in the hard work to become excellent at something valuable, not before." - Cal Newport, So Good They Can't Ignore You

# Selin Cetin



**College:** Northwestern University

**Desired Major:** Materials Science Engineering

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Hull

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Honors Chemistry was meaningful to me because that was the class that sparked my interest in engineering and set me on my current career path. Honors English in tenth grade also had a big impact on me because that class raised a lot of questions about life in a general sense that I had to confront. That was a class that truly went beyond the classroom.

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I really appreciated the variety of experiences that were available at North Allegheny. Before I came here, I went to a small school without many opportunities, so when I moved I was overwhelmed by how much was open to me. The cross-country team was one of the things I liked most about North Allegheny. I gained some great friends there, and grew in both physical and mental strength during my years on the team. The atmosphere on that team is great, and even though there are so many members, it still manages to feel like a family. I also think that the teachers at North Allegheny are amazing, and their passions for the subjects they teach shine through their work. Beyond that, many of them are just good people who have a lot of valuable life experience to share.

**Quote:** "It is not enough to be industrious; so are the ants. What are you industrious about?" - Henry David Thoreau

# Owen Chase

**College:** Penn State

**Desired Major:** Astrophysics

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Williams

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Human Geography (Mr. Hildenbrand), AP English, Language/Comp. (Mr. Morris), Honors Chemistry (Mr. Anticole)

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The teachers were always more than willing to have discussions that went far beyond the curriculum. I also found that among all the students at NA there are plenty who are similar to me in their passions and interests who I could really resonate with and I really enjoy talking to.

**Quote:** "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present." -Master Oogway, Kung Fu Panda



# Tess Christensen



**College:** University of Pennsylvania

**Desired Major:** Linguistics

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Will

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Latin, English, Chorus, Calculus

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Latin class, cross-country, Junior Classical League, good teachers, friends.

**Quote:** "I plan to join the 'SNL' band as a maraca player and stand behind saxophonist Lenny Pickett. That way they will at least cut to me before commercial breaks. I'll be sure to look right into the camera." --John Mulaney

# Maansi Dasari

**College:** Yale

**Desired Major:** Computer Science and Economics

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Morris

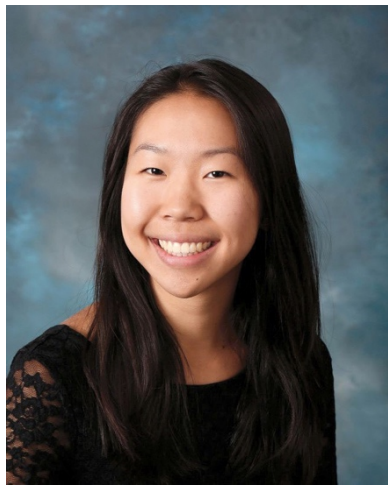
**Most Meaningful Classes:** At NASH: AP Psychology and Gym; At Dow (my old school): Honors Precalculus and AP Computer Science

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Coming from a smaller school in Michigan, I've been inspired by the ambition of so many of my peers at North Allegheny and the desire to live up to the high expectations that the teachers have for us. Over the past couple of years, I've discovered that having high aspirations is the norm here, and it encouraged me to work hard towards my own goals.

**Quote:** "She who has been through the fire will not fade in the sun." - unknown



# Sharon Dong



**College:** University of Pennsylvania

**Desired Major:** Digital media and design

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Rosato

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Definitely AP Physics 1&2. Selin and I struggled through that one, but we learned so much along the way.

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** When I think of my experience at NA, I automatically think of all the people here. I am extremely thankful for my teachers and my friends for their unending inspiration and support. There's no way I could have done it alone.

**Quote:** "Never lose the childlike wonder." -Randy Pausch

# Shirley Dong

**College:** University of Pittsburgh

**Desired Major:** Biology

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Scholtz

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Chemistry and Organic Chemistry have been my most meaningful classes. I learned how to adapt my study habits through the courses, and the content that was covered deepened my interest in the science field.

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Although the academic environment is extremely competitive, I cannot imagine graduating with another class. Getting to know and learn with such self-motivated and disciplined peers is truly rewarding. I also could not be as prepared for college as I am without the teachers at NA, who never fail to motivate me to put forth my best effort.

**Quote:** "Accept who you are; and revel in it." - Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie



# Mason Gonzalez



**College:** Stanford University

**Desired Major:** Biomedical Engineering

**Teacher Guest:** Coach Semler

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Orchestra, Honors Organic Chemistry

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I loved having such a challenging group of individuals to share my high school years with. From my teammates who constantly test my limits in the pool, to my classmates who strive for academic excellence, NA has immersed me in such an amazing group of people. I have been able to take both my sport and my academics to levels I never thought were possible through the culture that NA provides its students.

**Quote:** "For myself, losing is not coming in second. It's getting out of the water knowing you could have done better."-- Ian Thorpe, five-time Olympic gold medalist

# Elizabeth Guo

**College:** Carnegie Mellon University

**Desired Major:** Economics

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Morris

**Most Meaningful Classes:** It's hard to pick! But I would say I loved how my English and history classes made me rethink life philosophically, and my STEM classes made me rethink life scientifically.

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The people. Whether it's in classes, dances, or clubs, North Allegheny is lively and filled with such diverse people. If you want to be a semi-artistic, dancing, writing, Model UNing debater, you have the opportunity!

**Quote:** "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." - Maya Angelou





# Tess Hancock



**College:** University of Pennsylvania

**Desired Major:** Chemistry

**Teacher Guest:** Madame Zaun

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Chemistry, AP Language, AP Literature

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I love that the teachers are so talented and dedicated. They provide a great atmosphere for getting an exceptional education!

**Quote:** “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-- I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” - Robert Frost

# Sebastian Immonen

**College:** Brown University

**Desired Major:** Urban Studies

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Lester

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Human Geography, AP Statistics, AP Calculus

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The most incredible thing about North Allegheny is the excitement and enrichment of the field trips, especially the ones where we got food! The bonding with friends was what made my experience great.

**Quote:** “I suppose if we couldn’t laugh at things that don’t make sense, we couldn’t react to a lot of life.” -Hobbes from Calvin and Hobbes



# Akshath Jain



**College:** Carnegie Mellon University

**Desired Major:** Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Prosser

**Most Meaningful Classes:** 8th Grade Social Studies, Computer Science A, Honors Chemistry, AP Human Geography, AP English 3

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The broad range of opportunities. I'd be at a debate tournament one week, a science fair the next week, and still have a dozen other new things to look forward to lined up for the rest of the year.

**Quote:** "In a dark place we find ourselves, and a little more knowledge lights our way."

— Yoda

# Grant Jiang

**College:** University of California, San Diego

**Desired Major:** Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Davis

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Computer Science, AP Physics 1/2, Latin 3, APUSH, Honors English 3

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I made some very close friends.

**Quote:** "You've got to get the fundamentals down, because otherwise the fancy stuff is not going to work." - The Last Lecture by Dr. Randy Pausch



# Surina Jindel



**College:** Rice University

**Desired Major:** Economics

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Keats

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP U.S. History, AP Literature, AP Human Geography

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** My favorite part my North Allegheny experience was being part of an intellectual community created by amazing, dedicated teachers and thoughtful, hardworking peers. It is truly something I will miss about NA.

**Quote:** "This is no time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure." - Winston Churchill

# Mohammad Khatami

**College:** Duke University

**Desired Major:** Electrical/Computer Engineering and Applied Economics

**Teacher Guest:** Coach Abe

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP HuG, APUSH, AP Euro, AP Comp Sci, Game Dev

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The best aspect of my NA experience was that the district managed to bring all the things I hate into one crowded cesspool of a high school. And by seeing the fall of humanity before my eyes each and every day at school, I was motivated to work hard and get as far away as possible.

**Quote:** "Even the greatest Saiyans experience failure, but what makes a true Saiyan is the courage needed to overcome any setback. Now, pick yourself up, kid. You must push through this pain. Giving up hurts more." ~ Prince Vegeta, Dragon Ball Z



# Sharon Kim



**College:** University of Pittsburgh

**Desired Major:** Biology

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Lavelle

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Chamber Orchestra, AP Stats, AP Bio

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I liked that there were windows in 5 of my classrooms senior year.

**Quote:** "The more charming person is the person who admits the other person is more charming." -Benedict Cumberbatch

# Eugenia Lee

**College:** University of Chicago

**Desired Major:** Biology

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Volpe

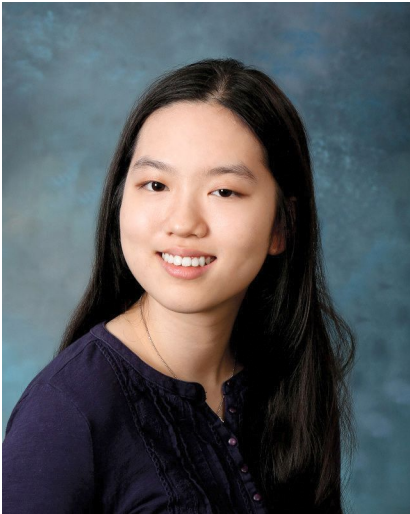
**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP English Literature, Honors Organic Chemistry, AP Psychology

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I liked the options I had academically, the teachers for all my classes, and the opportunity to meet new people every year.

**Quote:** "If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely." -Roald Dahl



# Heya Lee



**College:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

**Desired Major:** Biology

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Ruffolo

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Biology

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Much opportunities for academic growth

**Quote:** "This too shall pass." - Persian adage

# May Lin



**College:** Case Western Reserve University

**Desired Major:** Dental PPSP

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Volpe

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Physics 1&2, AP Calculus BC, AP English 3, Honors Organic Chemistry, AP Statistics

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The people. My teachers always work tirelessly to provide the best education and inspire us to follow our passions. While my peers are competitive, they always push me to be my best and go beyond expectations. I could not survive without my friends that support me through the tears of taking AP classes.

**Quote:** "The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something." — Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture

# Angela Lu



**College:** UCLA

**Desired Major:** Bioengineering

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Ramsey

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Physics, Latin, Statistics

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I liked being in an environment where learning in the classrooms was paired with laughter.

**Quote:** "But you were made to be this brave, little human who does not back down to the things in life that try to tidal wave over you and force you to be small." -Unknown

# Steven Lu

**College:** Carnegie Mellon University

**Desired Major:** Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Lombardi

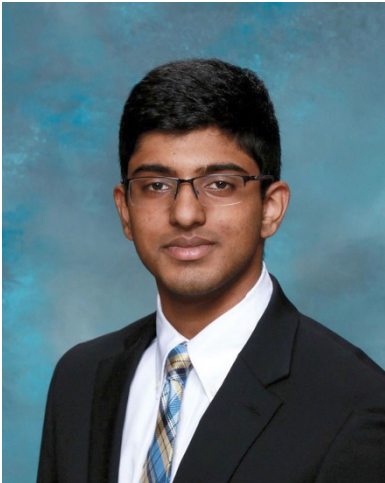
**Most Meaningful Classes:** Band, English, Computer Science, Statistics

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Being surrounded by intelligent peers.

**Quote:** "Get busy living, or get busy dying." -Andy Dufresne



# Siddarth Madala



**College:** Duke University

**Desired Major:** Biomedical Engineering/Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Lyons

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Honors Foreign Policy, AP Biology, AP Calculus, Honors Chemistry

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** My best experience at North Allegheny was finding my voice through our school's Speech and Debate program.

**Quote:** "Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best."

– H. Jackson Brown Jr.

# Tess Majewski

**College:** Northwestern University

**Desired Major:** Undecided

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Baldanzi

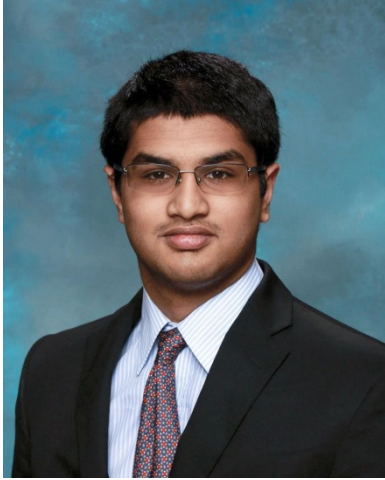
**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Chemistry, Band, Latin, Honors European History, Music Theory

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The marching band family, JCL convention, spring musicals

**Quote:** "It is well that the earth is round that we do not see too far ahead." -Meryl Streep



# Prasheil Mandava



**College:** Washington University in St. Louis

**Desired Major:** Biological Sciences

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Spak

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Biology, AP Psychology, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus BC, AP Economics, AP Stats, and Honors Organic Chemistry

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** North Allegheny provided me with numerous extracurricular opportunities that I would not have had elsewhere.

**Quote:** “Failure is a part of life. It's a part of building character and growing. Without failure, who would you be? I wouldn't be up here if I hadn't fallen thousands of times.”  
- Nick Foles

# Cameron Philips

**College:** Colorado School of Mines

**Desired Major:** Geotechnical Engineering

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Kuffer

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Calculus AB, Physics 1, English III

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Friendships and experiences shared with the cross country and track boys.

**Quote:** “I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.” -John Muir





# Samidha Sane



**College:** University of Pennsylvania

**Desired Major:** Huntsman Dual Degree Program in Economics and International Studies

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Venezia

**Most Meaningful Classes:** APUSH with Mr. Venezia, AP English with Mr. Morris, and AP Human Geography with Hildy! Each of these classes profoundly impacted the way I think about and see the world.

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Being surrounded by driven peers that push me to do my best each day, invested teachers that challenge me to think in novel ways, and incredible resources and opportunities that transcend the typical classroom experience

**Quote:** "I can never be safe; I always try and go against the grain. As soon as I accomplish one thing, I just set a higher goal. That's how I've gotten to where I am."  
– Queen Bee a.k.a. Beyoncé Knowles

# Shivashree Sekar

**College:** Drexel University

**Desired Major:** Biology: Guaranteed BS/MD

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Thompson

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Biology, AP English 3+4, Honors Organic Chemistry

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** Debate - I loved practicing/competing with friends!

**Quote:** "Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, it's at the end of your arm; as you get older, remember you have another hand: the first is to help yourself, the second is to help others." - Audrey Hepburn



# Adrija Sircar



**College:** Pennsylvania State University

**Desired Major:** Accelerated Premedical-Medical Program

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Mohr

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy/Physiology, Psychology, Calculus, Economics, English

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** The academics at North Allegheny are particularly strong, and, as such, I thoroughly enjoyed all of my classes. North Allegheny teachers are vested in every student's academic success, and tailor their teaching to ensure all their students understand the material, regardless of subject. The incredible sense of community among teachers and students is what makes every day so enjoyable.

**Quote:** "Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten." - B. F. Skinner

# Yuri Tamama

**College:** Princeton University

**Desired Major:** Astrophysics

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Bugel

**Most Meaningful Classes:** Honors Earth Science and Astronomy; AP Physics 1 & 2; AP Physics C; AP Calculus BC

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I loved how, at North Allegheny, I had the freedom to pursue my passions in astronomy and astrophysics. For example, in freshman year, I was able to create the NA high school Astronomy Club, and I have been leading it since then. This club would not have succeeded without Mr. Bugel, the Astronomy Club sponsor and Honors Earth Science and Astronomy teacher who supported me from the beginning. I am also grateful to have met friends and teachers at North Allegheny who encouraged me to reach for the stars.

**Quote:** "We are stardust brought to life, then empowered by the universe to figure itself out -- and we have only just begun." - Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*



# Janet Wang



**College:** Princeton University

**Desired Major:** Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Hildenbrand

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP HuG, AP Computer Science, AP Biology, AP United States History

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** NA gave me the freedom to try anything and the resources to succeed.

**Quote:** “Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” - Walt Disney

# Yosen Wang

**College:** Amherst College

**Desired Major:** Biology, History, and/or Music

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Zavacky

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP European History, Chamber Orchestra

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** From elementary school to even this day, orchestra class has always been a reprieve in the middle of a busy academic school day. Creating music is a true delight for me, especially in ensembles; the NA Orchestra program helps me to continue practicing leadership skills in my desire to create and share music with others. My participation in the North Allegheny String Quartet has led me to performing in weddings and banquets among other events. I was fascinated during the North Allegheny Distinguished Alumni Banquet to meet various business leaders, city council members, and even an astronaut, all of whom had once been in my shoes. Such enlightening opportunities could never have been conceivable without the NA Orchestra program.

**Quote:** “It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose. That is not a weakness; that is life.”

-Jean Luc Picard



# Serena Yan



**College:** California Institute of Technology

**Desired Major:** Computer Science

**Teacher Guest:** Mr. Allen

**Most Meaningful Classes:** AP Human Geography

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** having the opportunity to do many great things

**Quote:** "It's ok to fail because it probably won't matter in the long run." -Serena Yan

# Judy Zhang

**College:** University of Pittsburgh

**Desired Major:** Biology (pre-med track)

**Teacher Guest:** Mrs. Amoscato

**Most Meaningful Classes:** My most meaningful classes have been organic chemistry, physics, and calculus. While they have been some of my most challenging courses, they've taught me how important hard work and self-discipline are in success.

**Best Experience at North Allegheny:** I am extremely thankful for the diverse opportunities NA offers to its students. Being able to choose from a large variety of classes and extracurriculars has allowed me to explore any subject/activity I am interested in, enabling me to discover what I truly am passionate about.

**Quote:** "The question is not what you look at, but what you see." (Henry David Thoreau)



## **NHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The North Allegheny Senior High School Chapter of the National Honor Society is proud to announce the winners of the 2018 National Honor Society Scholarships.

Anna Barton

Julia Patzak

Shivashree Sekar

Zachary Shuckrow

# Oh, the places you'll go...

