



# Inauguration and Celebration a Success

By Katie Flynn and Kate Peddicord

Wednesday night, the Boys and Girls Staters witnessed a rare event: an occasion void of the colorful sea of Girls State T-shirts and the white Boys State T-shirts that for the past five days separated us. As the masses of Boys and Girls Staters filled the Ames Complex, one would not acknowledge the separate programs of American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary but a fine group of distinguished young individuals dressed up to congratulate and swear into office the constitutional officers we have so proudly voted for to represent our voice. The amount of enthusiasm, pride, passion, joy, and unity in one room was overwhelming and beautiful. To see our peers rise up and speak for what they believe in was truly inspirational.

The Girls State 2017 Governor, Richeline Cadet, spoke of her struggles being an immigrant from Haiti but how her welcome of open arms and support helped her rise above this and be inspired to run for office. Her powerful voice and emotion in her words, empowering not just the female leaders in the room but the boys as well, left many in tears. The Boys State 2017 Governor, Jack Lang, had a hard act to follow but incited a heartfelt message by thanking all of the American Legion members

and counselors that encouraged him and honoring his Lt. Governor, Nick Claudio, who stood by his side and how a meaningful friendship blossomed out of his support. Jack's last words stating to the audience that The Girls may run the world but the Boys want Saturdays received a round of applause. After the speeches from both governors, each officer was given a medal to honor their achievement. They and the audience got to hear a few meaningful words from the guest speaker, Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Michael Ricciuti, preceded by an introduction from his son Michael. Both are past Boys State citizens.

After the inauguration formalities, the citizens took part in a dance. The majority of current students attending Boys and Girls State this year have been to a high school dance at least once before. Many regard high school dances from experience as a painful event and have vowed to stray far from any semblance of a dance in the future. However it can also be inferred that many regard their past high school dances as memorable and enjoyable experiences.

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**Inauguration, cont. from pg. 1**



## Stonehill College Forecast

**Friday**  
Mostly Cloudy  
86°F  
20% Precipitation  
71% Humidity  
14 mph Wind



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# Air National Guard Speaker Visits Girls State



Sargent Brianna Johndrow responds to questions on Monday night

By Nicole Berkio

Here at Boys and Girls State, inspiring and motivational guest speakers are presented to the citizens every day. On the evening of June 19th 2017, Sargent Brianna Johndrow, a current member of the US Air National Guard, spoke to Girls State citizens to share her story and her values.

Unlike many of the speakers Girls and Boys State citizens have seen, Sgt. Johndrow, who is not much older than the citizens themselves, immediately came off as laidback and relatable. Because of this, the Girls State citizens were able to picture themselves in her shoes relatively easier than with past speakers, whose maturity and experience made them seem inaccessible to some. Every speaker has had their own

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## OPINION

## The Man, the Myth, the Legend: Donald Trump

By Olivia Guerra, Helia Evora, Jillian Tully, Ludjy Butter, Jenny Bragg

The United States president, Donald Trump, is a frequent topic of conversation between American citizens. People have a variety of opinions regarding the president and virtually no one is afraid of voicing these opinions. Liberals and Democrats tend to stand firmly against President Trump and many of his policies. His insensitivity when addressing certain issues, such as immigrants, often aggravates the blue party. Republicans and conservatives alike, tend to be less irritated about the Trump presidency. The president's proposed tax cuts are exactly what the red party has been advocating for. However, it is important to note that not *all* Republicans support President Trump and not all Democrats detest him. A thoughtful and reasonable American should weigh both the "pros" and "cons" of President Trump's time in office. And in doing so, Americans that have considered both sides equally will stop creating ad hominem arguments and formulate more articulate opposition or support for our president.

Speaking positively, President Trump has redefined the definition of a typical American politician. He draws worldwide attention by his refreshingly outspoken demeanor. Unpolished and unfiltered, he portrays himself to many blue-collar Americans as trustworthy and dependable. His rather blunt manner drew stark contrasts between him and his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. Having been in the political limelight for decades, Clinton's name and experience failed to bring the sense of vitality and excitement that Trump manages to. New to Washington, he shakes up the way American government functions. Not only that, he is

considered by some to be one of the best businessmen in the United States. Through President Trump's economic savvy and skills in negotiation, he was able to become a self-made multi-billionaire. As president, he can capitalize on his artistry to boost our economic strength by creating jobs, as he has for his entire career. Also, his expertise in negotiating could catapult America into new groundbreaking deals and agreements that would focus greatly on the interest of all Americans. Not to mention that with his years in the business world and on the television screen, his connections with the most prominent figures are strong and abundant. Before even entering office, he had the ability to connect with world leaders and the most influential. Now that Trump resides at the White House, the possibilities for trade deals and international relations are endless, culminating into a stronger and greater United States of America.

Despite his redeeming qualities, President Trump is regarded to be a dishonorable man by many Americans. Research has informed the people that Trump has been accused of fraud, and he has been seen as incompetent by many buyers and investors. Although his experience in business has allowed him to push his demands through, he has decided to surround himself with people that agree with him. This decision, therefore, puts him at a disadvantage because he is only surrounded by those of a similar mindset, which, in turn, creates a one sided point of view. President Trump is used to getting his way, and because of this he seems incapable of compromising. A president is supposed to be a man of the people, but it would seem that his interests are more set on personal benefit, rather than one of the

country, allies, and our nation. In addition to these questionable choices, President Trump has recently decided to leave the Paris climate agreement despite the fact that he wishes the US to remain the leading country in the world. This logic does not appear to be sound and, like Larry DiCara says, "We cannot be a part of the decisions if we are not in the room." Although he is a man that speaks his mind, his choice of words and use of social media are highly offensive to many (such as minority groups like the LGBTQ community and African Americans). He is considered, by some, to be a "volcano waiting to erupt," and could quite possibly start a war with his harsh attitude and seemingly reckless decisions (i.e., the illegal missiles released in Syria).

Unfortunately, it would seem as though President Trump's shortcomings outweigh his reasonable assets in the eye of the general public. He claims to strive for unity and a greater nation while simultaneously marginalizing minorities, mocking those with disabilities, and involving government in issues regarding women's bodies (a place where, perhaps, the government does not belong). On the other hand, a blunt and "let's-get-to-work" type of man could be exactly what is needed to propel the United States forward. He brings innovative and helpful ideas to the table, yet thus far he has failed to see any of these proposals through and remains vague in his descriptions of how these ideas will become realities. No matter where one stands on the matter of "Donald Trump," we all should remember that there is still plenty of time in his presidency for his policies to be enacted. And furthermore, as Americans we should hope for his success in the oval office.

## Sitting Down with Larry DiCara

By Alexander Flagg

Larry has been participating in Boys State since 1966. With his campaign slogan, "Flying high with LSD", he made his way up to Boys Nation. After getting so much out of the program, he returned the next year as a counselor and has stuck with it ever since.

Larry hopes all members attend all their classes, participate in all the sports they are interested in, and run for office as

many times as possible. Talk to anyone and everyone, get outside your comfort zone, and surprise yourself. "Be here to the max... you all can do it." His mission is to teach young minds the importance of civic duty, government, patriotism, and history, as well as to stress the dangers in failing to understand democracy. In addition to encouraging awareness of this program, above all Larry hopes that members

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## OPINION

## Tim Smith on College Admissions

By Caroline Arcari

On Wednesday June 22nd, the presentation by Tim Smith, a Harvard University Admissions Counselor, wrapped up, leaving many students eager to start their college search. The speech that Mr. Smith gave was flawlessly executed and very informative. This presentation was something that every upcoming senior needed to hear, no matter what college they are applying to. Mr. Smith mentioned many of the difficult requirements necessary to get into an Ivy league school and other prestigious universities. The grueling hours of studying, long list of extracurriculars, interviews and near perfect grades are just a few of the requirements and efforts Mr. Smith touched upon. In reality, this talk was exactly what was needed

### *Air Nat. Guard, cont. from pg.1*

unique way of capturing their audience's attention. Sgt. Johndrow took a slightly different approach.

Right away, Sgt. Johndrow was engaging as she began her speech by giving background information about herself. The conversational way in which she spoke quickly engaged her audience. She joked that, at twenty-three years old, she was the proud mother of a "beautiful baby boy... bull dog," causing the dining hall to erupt in laughter. After catching everyone's attention with her witty jokes, she moved on to more serious topics, including the life she had growing up. She began by discussing her main source of motivation - her mother - who had been a single parent throughout Sgt. Johndrow's childhood.

Growing up with the income of a single parent, Sgt. Johndrow wondered if she had a future attending college at all. However, her grandmother, who had been in the Air National Guard for more than thirty years, influenced Brianna to join the Guard as well. Ultimately, Brianna ended up attending Bridgewater State University as well as becoming a Guard member, which helped her pay for school. She splits her time between taking classes and serving her country.

At nineteen years old, Sgt. Johndrow was appointed as an intelligence analyst. After announcing this, she an-

swered the question that had been on everyone's minds - how, at such a young age, did she get appointed to such an important job?

She explained this through the three values that she lives by everyday. The first value was hard work. In order to get where you want in life, you have to work hard to get there. You have to work hard to get an education, to start a career, and to chase after your dreams. The second value she emphasized was competition. You have to first compete against yourself in order to be the best person you can be, always asking, "How can I be and do better?" Sgt. Johndrow stated, "When I'm asked about who my favorite person is - me. I'm my favorite person." You also have to compete against others, because there will always be someone fighting for the same position as you. The third, and final, value, was looking for the silver lining, the positive in all the negatives to keep you moving forward. Sgt. Johndrow said that she does this by counting her blessings and everything she has to be thankful for when she is feeling down and uninspired.

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Sargent Brianna Johndrow's speech left Girls State citizens with the message of continuously setting goals and having values to follow, and to remember why you are pursuing the path that you have chosen.



Boys and Girls State statewide officers pose in their inauguration attire



Going into Boys and Girls State, one couldn't infer whether the inauguration celebration held on Thursday would be one to remember or forget. The dance was held immediately after the emotional inauguration speeches by Boys State Governor Jack Lang and Girls State Governor Richeline Cadet along with many amazing guest speakers. Citizens of both Boys and Girls State rushed the dance floor coming together as one for the first time this week. The girls counselors enthusiastically danced through the countless number of sweaty teenagers powering through their fatigue. Flo and other Auxiliary members, along with Legionnaires, joined students on the dance floor. Citizens formed circles around the members of the American Legion to give them a chance in the spotlight. The Inauguration Celebration and the dance that followed brought Boys and Girls State together in an indescribable way that allowed everyone to enjoy themselves after a long week of hard work.

**DiCara, cont. from pg. 2**

will continue learning about what they are passionate in. He hopes both Boys State and Girls State members consider running for office and voting for all levels of government. Larry shared a lesson he once gave two members of Boys State: "There were two roommates discussing parallel universes, and they said that maybe in one parallel universe everyone could be short and bald and wear glasses, and I said 'Yeah! Maybe they do. And in a parallel universe maybe nobody votes, but in this country people vote, and that's what democracy has been based upon'".

These programs are designed to further develop our beliefs. Recent acts of censoring discussion of certain ideas, especially on college campuses, has left many afraid to express ideas that may result in attacks on their character, reputation, or person. Larry stands as a beacon of protection from persecution, allowing members to speak their minds without fear of violent repercussions. He hopes to have his presence promote discussion, and he remembers plenty of crazy ideas discussed around him in the past, and wants us to feel safe when talking about beliefs. He specifically mentioned Girls State for their intelligent conversations, glad to

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**Admissions, cont. from pg. 3**

ence between a student with good grades or a student with decent grades but a personality and motivation that will be able to carry him/her through the tough years of college ahead.

Another focus of Mr. Smith's presentation was in fact the grades needed to enter well known universities and be able to succeed. While it is tough to hear he talks about how important it is that we have improved through high school with the grades we receive and the difficulty of the classes we have taken. He talked about how as upcoming seniors there is not much that we can do at this point regarding improving our GPAs, unless we ace the first semester senior year. This was another statement that we needed to hear. The basic gist is that all of the work we have done thus far has paid off to the point where it will get us into a college, whether it is Umass or Princeton.

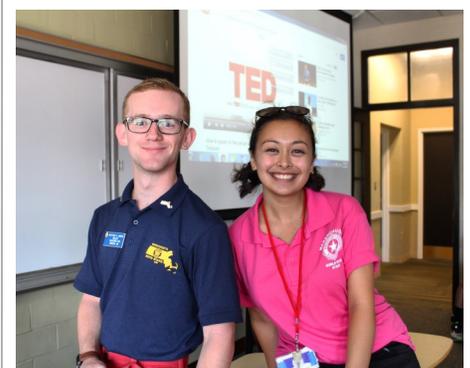
The last important piece that Mr.

have had extraordinary talks with bright young minds from the other side of the campus. On the topic of making Boys State and Girls State co-ed, Larry sees that it is important for Girls State to vote for their own officials, and sees the level that we are at now is the best course of action. When mentioning co-ed dorms, he said "I'm too old for that."

Finally, because the event was fresh on the minds of every boy and girl in the program, people wanted to know what Larry thought about the young man who asked "what are Saturdays for?" "I have absolutely no idea". Larry was upset over the time and place of the question, not the nature of it. Asking a question that is either a reference, political endorsement, meme or inside joke to few should not be entertained when a full line is behind him, ones with questions that may be important to their lives and communities futures. For the future, someone should ask him of his opinion on their own time, not during a Gen Ed. Same goes for the question of Free the Nips movement. If they still are compelled to ask, they should make it intellectually rewarding for everyone else.

Smith talked about was the activities that we all do outside of the classroom. Yes it is cool to be the captain of the baseball team, but Mr. Smith informed us that to catch the eyes of college admissions, we should include the activities that we take on ourselves to better the lives of the community and the lives of others. Just to give a few examples: if one babysits the neighbors kid for free when they are stuck at work or if someone finds a local food cupboard to volunteer at. It is activities like these that not only help boost your application when applying to college, but help better your community as a whole.

Overall, it may have been tough to hear all of the different pieces of the puzzle needed to be accepted into a university. However, the exciting reality is that as upcoming seniors, we have unconsciously completed a majority of the tasks at hand. Mr. Smith gave a great explanation of how to fit these pieces together, plus some extra parts and fine tuning, in order to apply to a college and hopefully



# Inspiring Stories From District Attorney Marian Ryan

**By Sarah Beckwith**

Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan generously spoke with Girls State Citizens on Tuesday night about her life and experiences. Ryan, who has been speaking at Girls State for many years now, described the problems in Middlesex County - such as opioid abuse.

She shared a story of a single mom and three children who had just moved away from their abusive father. The oldest was an eleven year old girl who had two little brothers who were seven and four. The mom worked at night from 11pm - 7 am. Before she went to work she helped her children with their homework, cooked dinner, cleaned the house, and put the two young boys to bed. After she got home from work she made sure her children were awake and ready for school with a packed lunch.

The sister would be the one to pick her brothers up from the bus and one day she picked up the boys a little later than normal because she had walked the long way home with a friend. Earlier that

day, she had fought with her mom and knew she was in trouble, so she wasn't eager to get home. The mother had given the daughter a set of matching rings for the two to try and cheer the daughter up when she was crying about her school picture.

When the siblings got home, they went to open the door it wouldn't open fully, so the sister peeked around the door and saw her mother's body leaning against the door which was keeping it from opening all the way. The kids began to scream and their neighbors came over to see what was going on and helped the kids. Police officers were called and Ryan showed up on the scene. She said she remembered seeing three lunchboxes and drawings done on colorful papers on the steps of the house. It took the DA over twenty one years to crack the case, finding out that it was the mother's coworker who she had turned down going on a date with. The little ring box is what allowed the police to finally crack the case.

Ryan also told short stories of children finding their dead parents due to

an overdoses. She specifically talked about a little girl who lived with her mom and grandma. After her mom had been in the bathroom too long the girl went in to check on her and found that she had overdosed. Ryan has helped create programs for kids and families who witness such events and help with coping with the loss of a loved one. The program is called project C.A.R.E. and it provides rapid response intervention for children and their families who have experienced a loss of a loved one due to opioids. The program also provides a liaison for families to the kids' schools and an open door for counseling.

Once Ryan was finished sharing her stories, she was open to questions from the Girls State citizens. Ryan shared the wisdom of following what you are passionate in. For those who want to go into a law related job, she told them to go to the court and watch cases. Girls State was honored to listen to Ryan share her dedication to her job and the advice that she had for them.

## Singing in the Cafeteria

**By Emma Berkebile**

The Girls State Citizens sing. They sing the Girls State song, "Here's to Girls State," every morning. Some sing while walking to classes, or are in the choir. On Monday afternoon, though, the lunchroom burst into song.

It started at second lunch, when some girls started to sing theme songs from some of their favorite childhood TV shows, gradually getting louder. The rest of the cafeteria soon joined in the fun. Some of the songs were from TV shows such as Hannah Montana, Drake and Josh, Zoey 101, and Victorious. This made for a very musical lunch!

The counselors were happy to see all the Girls State citizens coming together as a group. The Girls State photographer kept the girls going, happily recording the mashup of theme songs. The young ladies had fun singing along, some of them even dancing, until the end of lunch. The girls then had to go off to their party conventions, but not before singing a few more verses on the way out.

One of the songs they sang, from Hannah Montana, can be viewed on the Girls State Instagram @magirlsstate!



Editor Ben Telicki hard at work.

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