

The Prophet...the voice of the students

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THE ANNUAL SJB FILM FESTIVAL

By *Sari Avila-Franklin*

Throughout the school year, students from Long Beach High School, Wilson Tech High School, and St. John the Baptist, along with one elementary student from St. John Paul II Regional Elementary school, have created their own videos to compete with each other for SJB's annual Film Festival. The festival was held in Ann Francis Dunn auditorium on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, the students were able to present their videos within the categories of Music Video, Commercial, Comedy, PSA, Movie Trailer, Documentary, and Elementary videos to compete with each other for best video. Each video, throughout each category, was judged by a producer from HBO and Netflix, who has over ten years of experience in the field of film. Many students in SJB's Media News Network Club, and any student with an interest in making videos, were able to submit entries into the Film Festival. Thanks to Mrs. Sanchez and Mr. Costa, the moderators of Media News Network, the students were able to host the night by being category hosts, greeters, presenters, and interviewers on the red carpet.

At the end of the night, St. John's was able to win five awards from a total of eight categories:

- In the **Music Video** category, winner Paige Bagley, a sophomore at SJB, created a contemporary ballet music video called *Reléve* with an aesthetic view of daily art around us.
- In the **Documentary** category, winner Alina Banny, a senior at SJB, created a video demonstrating the history of hip hop. *The Birth of Hip Hop* starred another SJB student, senior Carlos Javier Fonseca, talking about and illustrating how hip hop started and how it has evolved into a platform for people to express themselves.
- In the **Movie Trailer** category, Victoria Banks and Cameron Cave, both juniors at SJB, created a horror movie trailer that presented what looked like a normal life setting for a teenage girl until the horror of a lockdown occurs during school, named, *Lockdown*.

- For the **Comedy** category, Natalie Puello, a junior at SJB, won with her creative and amusing video of the everyday walk through in a high school hallway named *The Daily Struggle*. She was able to create a persona for common people seen throughout the halls with an exaggerated personality. Public service announcement video was awarded to the students at Wilson Tech HS on the topic of Bullying. The best **Commercial** video title *Listerine* was also awarded to the Wilson Tech HS.

- The final winning video, submitted into the Comedy category, won **Viewer's Choice**. The audience, during the night of the Film Festival, voted on their favorite video, which came from seniors, William Brennan, Edward David, and Christian Miller; *Cops* was a comedic murder mystery video where the teenagers were being interviewed by police officers based on a recent murder found in a high school.

This year's success in students of all grades at SJB is an accomplishment, and a motivation for other students to submit in next year's festival.



POETRY DAY AT ADELPHI

By Katie McHugh

On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, St John's students enrolled in writing programs such as the Creative Writing class and the Voices and Visions Literary Magazine, took a day trip to Adelphi University to engage in a celebration of poetry. This annual high school competition allowed students from districts all over Long Island to grow as storytellers through



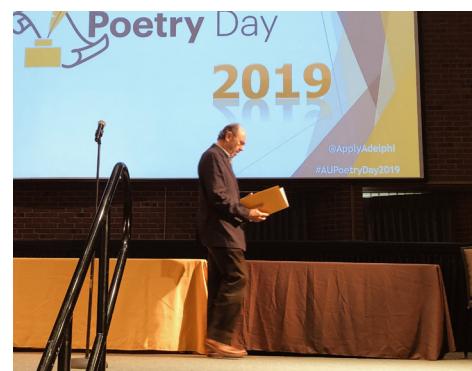
their workshops, a poetry slam, and listening to phenomenal keynote speaker.

At the start of the day, proceeding the welcome remarks by the Adelphi's leading Creative Writing Board

member and a light breakfast, students were split into six groups, each assigned to a different Adelphi professor. One professor, Benny Sisson, taught a lesson on erasure poetry, which involves the cutting and pasting of sections from written works into a new poem to behold. Another, Robin Gow, explored the art of self-portrait poetry in which the poets are encouraged to record themselves from a raw, almost third-person, perspective. These workshops harnessed students' skills, while also giving them the chance to interact with patrons of English similar to themselves.

After the workshops, the young poets rendezvoused with their respective schools for an hour long lunch and poetry slam. Here, students were given the opportunity to perform their own creative works of poetry, ranging from pieces as preposterous as "I Stepped On A Lego" to tragic recollections like "Walking With Depression." At half past noon, Ellen Hagan, an acclaimed poet from Kentucky and author of the book, Crowned, served as the event's keynote speaker. Hagan presented the audience with exciting solutions of to how to face the future while also incorporating a sort of literary performance of sorts into her presentation. To conclude the day, the winners of the poetry submission contest were announced, and four awards for each high school grade were administered. Representing our own St John the Baptist DHS, Liv McGuiness won Citation for Poetry Seniors with her poem, "Training."

Adelphi's Poetry Day proved to be an excellent experience for young writers to celebrate and utilize their talents into beautiful works. For both students and teachers alike, this event provided laughter, experience, and many wonderful memories.



GIRL SCOUTS

by Sari Avila-Franklin

Rebecca Clock, a junior at Saint John the Baptist, is a member of the Rusy-Bohm Post 411 American Legion Juniors. An organization for former service members of the United States; the junior part of this organization is for descendants of veterans. Clock, being a daughter and granddaughter of men in the military, was able to join the Junior League for the organization, all while being involved in Girl Scouts since kindergarten, starting with the Daisies group. Clock said she joined Girl Scouts at a young age by following her fellow classmates and she continued throughout her elementary to high school years, even though many dropped out because being a Girl Scout went from arts and crafts into a source to do community service. Rebecca Clock, with her continuous contribution as a Girl Scout, was able to achieve the highest achievement that one can receive, the Girl Scout Gold Award. This is an award in which a Girl Scout must create, plan, put into action, and sustain a service project by herself. Prior to achieving this award, Clock had to acquire both the Bronze and Silver award. These awards also involved creating a service project that she had to accomplish on her own, but the higher ranked the achievement, the more independent she had to be in the project to achieve the title. For the Girl Scout Gold Award, Clock chose to base her project on her appreciation and devotion for those who served in the military. Clock's idea was inspired from her own research on other Girl Scouts who have achieved the Gold Award and from seeing that her father and grandfather rarely got appreciated for their services to the United States. She knew how many other elderly veterans had never attended their high school proms. Clock was then encouraged into following the opportunity to appreciate the veterans that were deprived from experiencing a staple event as a teenager. Since sophomore year, she planned her project, spending a whole year to make it as exceptional as she wanted. She spent her time working out plans, holding meetings, visiting local businesses, and attending events to gain support for her project. Her idea to perform her service project for the Girl Scout Gold Award turned out to be a success on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Her Prom for Veterans was held at night at the Rusy-Bohm American Legion Post 411 in Islip. She and other volunteers decorated the location to appear like a real prom, with a DJ and raffles to be distributed, too. At the end of the night, Clock ended her project naming a prom king and queen and leaving with the highest achievement that she worked towards throughout her many years serving the community as a Girl Scout.

SPRING DANCE CONCERT

by Sari Avila-Franklin

On May 2, 2019, St. John the Baptist's Performing Arts Department held its sixteenth annual Spring Dance Concert in the Ann Frances Dunne Auditorium. The dance concert consisted of Dance Company's, Dance Works' and Dance 9-10's hard work throughout the year. Each group is different, either being a class, after school club, or an elite group. Dance Company is known as the SJB's elite dance team; an advanced placement group at St. John's for dancers after school with an audition requirement. Being a part of the team allowed these dancer to perform on many different stages, such as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Tilles Center. Danceworks is an open club after school to



anyone who fancies dance. Danceworks contains all levels of dance, with either introduction or more experienced classes for those who do have knowledge of any style of dance. Dance 9-10 is a class during school hours in place of an art requirement. Students are able to opt out of either playing music, singing, or studio art as a ninth or tenth grader to take dance as the fine art. Each dance was choreographed by students and each group is student-run. Thanks to Mrs. Sussman, Ms. Lionetti, and Ms. Zabbia, the students were successfully able to

confidently create the dances for their class to perform on the school stage.

Emilie Chiofalo, a junior at SJB, has been a part of Dance Company for the past three years. She has been dancing for fourteen years, starting at Harbor Ballet Theater. Chiofalo performed The Nutcracker during the Christmas season for nine years, focusing her skills on ballet. Now, since being at SJB, her dance focus went into contemporary dance. In response to asking

her why she joined Dance Company she said, "I've been a passionate dancer for as long as I can remember, which made dance a large factor in choosing which high school to attend. St. John the Baptist has an amazing performing arts program, including an amazing dance company. I applied to SJB knowing I would also be auditioning for its Dance Company." Emilie Chiofalo continued then to explain the commitment to joining Dance Company. It is a meet twice-a-week team, where they practice as a group for outside and school performances. The team is seen to

grow close with each other as they passionately tell a story through dance. This year, Chiofalo shared one of Dance Company's performances, which was dedicated to Joe Cloonan, SJB's late trainer who unexpectedly passed away the summer 2018.

Whether in Dance 9-10, Dance Works, or Dance Company, St. John the Baptist's dance groups in the Performing Arts Department are a great way for students to get involved and showcase their skills in art and athleticism.

