

### *Three THS Students Medal at COLT Poetry Competition*

Eighteen students from Trumbull High joined with 1,105 others from 94 Connecticut schools to participate at the “Super Bowl of Foreign Languages,” the COLT poetry recitation competition, at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven on April 27.

This was Trumbull’s first participation in recent memory in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual event, sponsored by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, thanks to support provided by the Trumbull ACE Foundation.

Contest participants competed by reciting poems in 19 different languages and were judged in four dimensions: memorization, diction, interpretation, and body language. The Trumbull students recited, impersonated, and gave life to more than 15 poets in six different languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Hindi, and Mandarin Chinese.

Three earned top awards: Rucha Bhutta, a sophomore, earned a gold medal in Hindi, Senior Brendan Lewis received a silver medal for Spanish Level 5, and Jessica McIntyre, a junior, achieved a bronze in French 4.

Reflecting Trumbull High’s diverse melting pot of different languages, cultures, and traditions, the students, advisor Maria Manso-Garcia, and World Language department chair Candy Perusi departed THS, arriving in New Haven in mid-afternoon confident that their preparations had them ready for the challenge of this extremely competitive event. With nervous fidgeting and loud motions by some, contrasted by the quietness of others, the entire group of students bonded together as one, with a strong feeling of community, belonging, camaraderie, and mutual support.

The group was met by very hospitable Wilbur Cross student guides and directed to the gymnasium for the introductory ceremony. A few students expressed what all of them were really thinking, “Wow! I didn’t know this was going to be this big.”

While students were then ushered to their competition rooms, teachers were stationed in the cafeteria. Provided with snacks provided by the organizers, they greeted the students as they eventually trickled in after they competed and shared lots of observations about their experiences and opinions about their rivals, e.g.,: “Some of them were really, really good,” “I didn’t mess up!” and “I’m just happy I didn’t black out.”

After the competitions concluded, everyone reconvened in the gym for the formal awards ceremony, the final point in the students’ odyssey. All of the THS participants reveled in the success of their peers as they heard “Trumbull High School” announced three times in the crowded gymnasium.

The group returned to Trumbull, relieved and exhilarated at the same time, feeling proud to belong to such a talented, diverse, and culturally-rich community, happy that their extensive preparation had paid off so handsomely. Everyone thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to compete in this unique event – a truly-enriching life experience, while resolving that “Next year will be even better!”



THS Participants in the 2010 COLT Poetry Recitation Competition, from left to right: Nicole Friedman, Jessica McIntyre, Maria Rodrigues, Christina Harriau, Erika Lubrano, Mariana Lubrano, Silvia Sclafani, Victoria Eskew, Gabriela Russo, Brendan Lewis, Jared Smith, Daniel Valderrama, Kate LaBoa, Devon Kimball, Cady Gingrass, Luyi Zhang, and Rucha Bhutta. Not Pictured: Veronica DeCarvalho, Advisor Maria Manso-Garcia, and World Language department chair Candy Perusi.



THS Award Winners in the 2010 COLT Poetry Recitation Competition, from left to right: Brendan Lewis, Rucha Bhutta, and Jessica McIntyre.