

The GENIUS! Journal

G-Man, 'pitts are top freshmen Honored for their grades at NHS breakfast

Thursday morning at the NHS honors breakfast, freshman Sara Colpitts took the first step on a path which could lead her to become valedictorian three years from now. "The 'pitts" edged out Kate Harbeson for overall first place and the female scholar award in her class.

Meanwhile, Claudio Gualtieri barely defeated Todd Stigliano for the male scholar award, an honor which the "G-Man" said he was surprised to receive.

In both contests, there were no hard feelings between the top two finishers.

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Above: Claudio Gualtieri and Sara Colpitts, who were honored Thursday morning as the top male and female scholars in the freshman class.



Grade Point Avg.: 12.06
(Sara took two weighted courses, allowing her to average above A+)

Grade Point Avg.: 11.33
(Claudio's average is 1/3 of the way between A and A+)

"I'm very glad. I'm very proud of myself."
—female scholar
Sara Colpitts

"The Italians are back, Brendan."
—male scholar
Claudio Gualtieri

"Congratulations, Claudio. You da man."
—Liz Janelle

PLEASE NOTE: This is *not* the 300th edition of *The Living Room Times*. In fact, this is not the *Times* at all. This is the first—and, perhaps, only—edition of *The Genius Journal*. The 300th *Times* will be released Monday.

GENIUS! G-Man, Colpitts at the top

Take home scholar awards

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"Congratulations. I told you," Harbeson said to Colpitts after the breakfast ended. She later said that she thought Colpitts "deserved it more" because she tries harder to get good grades than Harbeson does.

Harbeson, a freshman from Kellogg who recently received considerable attention because of her perfect score on an international Latin exam, knew in advance that she would lose to Colpitts, who is from Wallace and is now the odds-on favorite to become the valedictorian of the Class of '99. Colpitts has received 13 A+ grades and 5 A's, but she actually has a grade-point average just above A+ because of six extra points from weighted courses (geometry and biology, both Level One). Both Colpitts and Harbeson knew before Thursday that those marks would top the 13 A+, 2 A, 2 A- grades received by Harbeson, who took only five courses in the third term and who has only one weighted class, geometry, this year.

Although the outcome of the Colpitts vs. Harbeson contest was known beforehand because of calculations by *Living Room Times* and *Genius Journal* editor Brendan Loy, the battle for male scholar was not decided until the winner, Claudio Gualtieri, was officially announced by NHS principal Paul Hoey yesterday morning. It had been impossible for Loy to determine for sure who would win the male award, because Todd Stigliano, who finished second, gave Loy his best guess of what all his grades were. He did not have his report card with him, so he could not be exact. And since the grades which Loy was given showed Gualtieri winning by only one-eighteenth of a grade point, the race was labeled "too close to call" by the editor.

As it turned out, though, the G-Man, who is from Kellogg, did indeed win the award. When his name was called, runner-up Stigliano, from Wallace, was one of the first to start applauding. Stig yelled out "Yeah!" as the G-Man, who was seated on the opposite side of the cafeteria from him, walked up.

The show of good will between Gualtieri and Stigliano had to do with the "Olympics" which are going on in Mr. Ruggiero's geometry class. G-Man and Stigman are both on the Italian team, and so either would have been happy with a win for the other Thursday. (For more on that, see the article at right.)

Winners of scholar awards for sophomores, juniors, and seniors were: Naomi Wilson, Bryan Goff, Chi-Ann Lin, Vikash Mishra, co-salutatorian Sonja Pevac, and valedictorian Andrew Bellizzi.

It's a good day for Ruggiero's Italians

Gualtieri, Stigliano among the elite of freshman class

When asked how he felt about being the top male scholar in the freshman class, Claudio Gualtieri's response was not too enthusiastic. He had to be pressed to come out with one-word answers like "wonderful" and "good."

Then he thought of something to say. "The Italians are back, Brendan."



Claudio Gualtieri and Todd Stigliano, both members of the Italian team in the "Geometry Olympics" in Lou Ruggiero's fourth-period class, finished first and second among males honored in the freshman class at Tuesday's NHS honors breakfast. For the two of them, who are a combined total of 87.5% Italian, and Ruggiero, a full-blooded Italian, that was cause to celebrate.

"It's okay. It's quite all right," said Stigliano when asked how he felt about being defeated by Gualtieri. "Because it's the G-Man. The G-Man, the Italian-and-a-half right here, deserves the award anyway. I tell you, it was in Italy. That's all I have to say."

In saying "it was in Italy," Stigs is referring to Tuesday's field trip to Little Italy which was taken by members of the Italian class. Both Stigs and the G-Man went on the trip.

The success of these two Italians as compared to the rest of the freshmen has not been reflected in the "Olympics," where the G-Man is 10th, the Stigman is tied for 11th, and the Italians are tied for third out of five teams overall.

But Ruggiero doesn't care about that. "Take your contest, Loy, and jam it," he said, referring to the "Olympics," after learning of the one-two finish by the Italians for top male scholar.

"Are we good? Are we good?! Huh?!"

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Italians pack 1-2 punch in battle for top male scholar

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Ruggiero exclaimed after Stigliano and Loy told him of the 1-2 finish by Stigs and G-Man.

When asked whether the success of the Italians affects his opinion of the team's chances of winning the Olympics, Ruggiero responded, "I don't think it affects my opinion of the Italian team's chances at all. My opinion has been firm and resolute. The Italians are going to win. Period. End of story. I never deviate. I never backed down."

"The Mafia's coming soon," Stigs added.

Ruggiero's opinion of Gaultieri was far less rigid

than his opinion of the team. At times, he showed no support at all for his countryman, such as when he said, "G-Man's been cheating off of 'pitts.'"

"No, Colpitts has been cheating off the Italian," objected Stigliano.

Then Ruggiero went back to his pro-Claudio, pro-Italian persona, saying, "I like it. I like it."

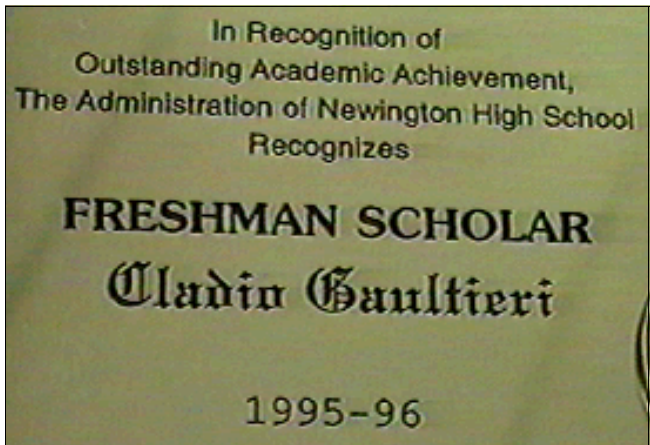
The Italians will try to extend their success into the fourth term geometry contest today, as the class takes a quiz on Chapter 11, Sections 1, 2, and 3. It will be worth at least 40 points.



Above: The Stigman applauds the G-Man's victory Thursday.



Above: Stigs lost to G-Man, but he praised him and called him an "Italian-and-a-half."



Above: Whoever designed these plaques obviously isn't Italian. Claudio's name was spelled wrong!

Top Scholars were:

Top row, from left
 Claudio Gaultieri
 (freshman),
 Bryan Goff
 (sophomore),
 Vikash Mishra
 (junior),
 Andrew Bellizzi
 (senior).

Bottom, from left
 Sara Colpitts
 (freshman),
 Naomi Wilson
 (sophomore),
 Chi-Ann Lin
 (junior),
 and Sonja Pevac
 (senior).

