Sellers Faculty Prizes

The Charles Edgar Sellers Prize is given by the faculty in loving memory of Charles Edgar Sellers, beloved teacher and coach, in recognition of personal achievement and service to the Loomis Chaffee community.

Joseph Samuel Hinton

Joe brings an easygoing style coupled with a serious sense of purpose to everything he does, making him a popular and highly respected classmate, teammate, and friend. An AP Scholar with Honor, Joe pursued a challenging curriculum earning departmental honors in history and science and junior awards in those same two departments, and consistently secured a place on the school’s high honor roll. In recognition of his academic achievements and contributions to the community, Joe was also a Founders Prize recipient. This spring, Joe was inducted into the Cum Laude Society and won the Chéruy Senior Foreign Language Prize.

Joe followed his myriad interests to all corners of the Island. As a three-sport varsity athlete he competed with the football, soccer, and lacrosse programs. As an artist he found a home performing on the NEO stage, most recently as Inspector Kemp. And as a community leader he represented his classmates on Student Council for four years and served as a peer counselor. Joe lives his life with purpose and Loomis is a stronger community for it.

Alexandre Selim Keduri Zilkha

A well-respected leader and thoughtful, curious student, Alex’s contributions to the Loomis community have been many and significant. In the dorms, Alex proved to be an effective mentor and compassionate resource first a prefect and then as head resident assistant. As co-captain of the cross country team, Alex or “Flagguy” as he is known, helped motivate his teammates. As Debate Team president Alex proved to be an able leader. Alex also served as president of the Darwin Club, an agriculture proctor, and a member of the back-country program, Jewish Student Union, Medical Research Club, Arab World Affiliation, and community service program.

A National Merit Commended Student, Alex graduates having earned departmental honors in mathematics and science and a certificate in Global and Environmental Studies. Given Alex’s intellectual curiosity, maturity, and deep level of engagement with any task before him, it is no wonder he made such an impact at Loomis. We look forward to witnessing his positive influence on the communities he serves in the future.
The Loomis Family Prize

The Loomis Family Prize for scholarship honors the Founders and their successors in the Loomis Family who have contributed time, energy, and fortune to nurture the growth of the Loomis Institute. It is awarded to the first scholar among the young men in the graduating class.

Nathaniel Hennessy Lyons

Exuding an infectious love of learning, Nate distinguished himself as a model student while at Loomis Chaffee. A recipient of departmental honors in history, science, mathematics, and English, Nate was recognized in his junior year for his scholarship and commitment to the Loomis community with a Founders Prize and won awards in foreign language, mathematics, and science. A member of the Cum Laude Society, a National Merit Finalist, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and winner of the Samuel C. Suisman Senior History Prize and Donald M. Joffray Senior Mathematics Prize, Nate also graduates with a certificate in Global and Environmental Studies.

A leader others look to for guidance, help, and wisdom, Nate served as first a prefect and then as resident assistant, competed as a member of the varsity programs for both soccer and track and field, and pursued a wide variety of other interests including Model U.N. and the science bowl quiz team. Nate has been the type of student who would take advantage of virtually everything Loomis offers if he could fit it into his schedule. Yet despite all his accomplishments and academic prowess, Nate is one of the most down-to-earth and humble young men one could hope to meet. It has been our pleasure to witness his growth at Loomis and we wish him all the best in his future pursuits.

John FitzGerald Willett

A true scholar whose sophistication and academic achievement put him in the top few students of the Class of 2016, John is a master of many disciplines. An LC Scholar and recipient of departmental honors in mathematics, history, science, and English, John is also an AP Scholar and National Merit Finalist, earned a gold medal summa cum laude on the National Latin Exam, and scored in the top five percent on the Mathematical Association of American’s AMC Competition. John won the junior mathematics award and as a senior was inducted into the Cum Laude Society, and was awarded the Chéruy Senior Foreign Language Prize, the Samuel C. Suisman Senior History Prize, and the Donald M. Joffray Senior Mathematics Prize.

John had a tremendously positive impact on the Loomis Chaffee community both in and out of the classroom as well as in the greater Windsor community. His interests and talents led him to serve in many different capacities including as co-captain of the varsity soccer team, a tour guide, an orientation leader, a peer counselor, and a committed community service participant tutoring students at local schools. There are no limits to John’s energies and talents and we know he will be an agent for positive change wherever he goes.
The Charles Henry and Mary Chaffee Willcox Prize

The Charles Henry and Mary Chaffee Willcox Prize commemorates Mary Chaffee Willcox’s generous contribution of energy, time and talents to the Chaffee School as well as her nurturing of scholarship among the Chaffee women. It is given to the first scholar among the young women in the graduating class.

Laurie Antoinette Zielinski

A brilliant scholar and compassionate, engaged citizen, Laurie is a once-in-a-decade student. Driven by an unparalleled academic prowess and profound love of learning, Laurie earned departmental honors in science, mathematics, history, and English; junior awards from those same departments as well as from the foreign language and philosophy, psychology, and religion departments; and a Founders Prize. A National Merit Finalist, Laurie was inducted into the Cum Laude Society and won the Norris E. Orchard Senior English Prize, the Chéruy Senior Foreign Language Prize, the Donald M. Joffray Senior Mathematics Prize, the J. Newfield Senior Science Prize, and the Frederick G. Torrey Senior Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion Prize.

Outside the classroom, Laurie sought tirelessly to take action on her diverse interests and passions. She served the community as a head agriculture-proctor and head environmental-proctor—championing conservation and sustainability on the Island and beyond. A back-country program enthusiast, Laurie also trained horses, dedicated time to community service, wrote for The Loomis Chaffee World Bulletin, and competed with the Debate Team. In her citation for last year’s Founders Prize, Laurie was praised for her “rare blend of brilliance, humility, and compassion for others.” Laurie will not soon be forgotten by the Loomis faculty and her classmates, all of whom she has undoubtedly inspired to be their best selves and serve the common good.
The Nathaniel Horton Batchelder Prize

The Nathaniel Horton Batchelder prize for industry, loyalty, and integrity was instituted by the first headmaster in memory of Gwendolen Sedgwick Batchelder and is signified by a medallion designed by Evelyn Longman Batchelder.

**Derek Christian Martinez**

Derek embodies the definition of exceptional. His advisor once noted that Derek “loves a mystery, a puzzle, a dilemma, a conundrum, a challenge—anything that can be tackled, wrestled with, grappled and solved.” Perhaps it is not surprising then that he found a home in the systematic realm of the sciences as well as in the pursuit of truth and beauty in the humanities. An academic powerhouse, Derek earned departmental honors in science, mathematics, history, and English. As a junior he earned awards in English, science, and theater and dance, and was recognized for his academic excellence, citizenship, and leadership with a Founders Prize. This year he was inducted into the Cum Laude Society, and won the Norris E. Orchard English Prize, the J. Newfield Senior Science Prize, and the Morris H. Brown Senior Theater & Dance Prize.

Those who did not share classes with Derek probably knew him best for his work in the NEO. A master of theatrical and personal experimentation and transformation, Derek maximized every theatrical opportunity available to him, serving as a technician, producer, playwright, director, dancer, and actor—most recently with a brilliant performance as Cyrano de Bergerac. Somehow, Derek also found time to be a peer counselor, a tour guide, a mentor with the Pelican Peer Support Network, and a member of StuActs. Known across campus for his generous spirit and genuine enthusiasm, Derek’s contributions to the Loomis community will be long-lasting and well-remembered.
The Jennie Loomis Prize

The Jennie Loomis Prize, a medallion designed by Evelyn Longman Batchelder, honors the memories of Miss Jennie Loomis and her mother, Mrs. Thomas Warham Loomis. It is given to the senior girl who is recognized by the faculty for outstanding contributions to the school.

Samantha Roy

Admired for her strength of character, extraordinary work ethic, and selfless, mature leadership style, Sam’s contributions to the school are many and her positive influence extensive. Her regular presence on the honor roll and departmental honors earned in science and history reflected Sam’s pursuit of excellence in the classroom and engagement with a challenging curriculum, which included several advanced and advanced placement courses. In her junior year, the faculty awarded her a Founders Prize in recognition of her academic excellence and leadership on campus, and the Student Council elected her as its president, a role she has filled admirably this past year.

Sam really is a triple threat: scholar, leader, and athlete. In the latter arena, Sam found great success in varsity field hockey and basketball. She served as captains for both teams and in basketball her skills were recognized off the Island when she was named Class A NEPSAC Girls Basketball All-Star in her sophomore, junior, and senior years. The Loomis athletic department awarded her the Junior Female Physical Education Award and the Barbara W. Erickson Senior Athletic Achievement Prize. Sam’s extracurricular pursuits also led to her participation with the Model UN, and her service as a peer counselor and tour guide. In the words of her advisor, Sam Roy is “just a terrific human being.” No doubt the Loomis Chaffee community would agree.
The Ammidon Prize

Established by Hoyt Ammidon of the class of 1928, former chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Ammidon Prize is given annually to a young man of the graduating class who, in the judgment of the faculty, has been outstanding in his concern for other people.

Robert Anthony Cecere

Bobby stands out among his peers as a scholar, athlete, and a leader in all regards. Academically, Bobby challenged himself with an advanced curriculum, displaying a keen intellect, strong work ethic, and determination to master new concepts and build new skills. A regular presence on the high honor roll, Bobby earned departmental honors in science, mathematics, and history, and was inducted into the Cum Laude Society. In his junior year, Bobby was awarded a Founders Prize in recognition of his academic and civic leadership on campus, and this year he was an inaugural recipient of the Matthew Whitehead Prize, which is awarded to students instrumental in creating and maintaining an inclusive community at Loomis Chaffee.

A peer counselor, tour guide, and new student orientation leader, Bobby also was a leader on the varsity baseball team. Perhaps Bobby’s most notable contribution to the school community was in bringing the Special Olympics Northern Spring Time Trials to Loomis Chaffee for three years in a row. Remarking on Bobby’s character, intelligence, and civic-mindedness, a former advisor of his once wrote: “If I were constructing a school community and could choose just one young man to put in it, I would choose Bobby without hesitation.” We thank Bobby for all the positive change he has brought to the Loomis community.
The Florence E. Sellers Prize

The Florence E. Sellers Prize is given in loving memory of Florence Sellers, the director of the Chaffee school from 1936 to 1954. The prize recognizes a young woman with the characteristics of Mrs. Sellers: a quest for excellence, self-discipline, and a concern for others.

Anita Louise Richmond Schulman

An influential leader, devoted community member, prolific videographer — these are just a few of the roles Anita has filled at Loomis. As a scholar with a strong work ethic, Anita excelled in the classroom while pursuing advanced course work in multiple disciplines, including English, mathematics, science, Spanish, and French. Consistently named to the high honor roll, Anita earned departmental honors in English and a silver medal in the National French Exam, achieved status as a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar, and was inducted into the Cum Laude Society. Anita also graduates with a certificate in Global and Environmental Studies.

A natural and enthusiastic leader, Anita served as president of her class in her junior and senior years, a head tour guide, and a head alumni ambassador. She also capably managed the boys varsity squash and boys varsity soccer programs. For the latter team, Anita lent her considerable skills as a videographer. In fact, it was from behind the camera that Anita made many meaningful contributions to the Loomis community. Her videos were instrumental in the promotion of several student-led initiatives as well as the celebration of people who make our school so special. Anita’s legacy on the Island will be of one who in pursuit of her passions strengthened our greater community.