

# Schools

## Souhegan Ethics Forum's HYPE Conference Success Continues



AMHERST - Since its inception eight years ago, the Ethics Forum has continued to work on a number of projects year to year. Besides its continued elementary mentoring program at Mont Vernon Village School and the "Run for Gus" Project, to name a few, the Forum's greatest project has centered on the statewide conference HYPE (Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts) founded by SHS Ethics Forum students in 2009. This year's conference was held on March 16th at UNH Durham. The conference, once again, demonstrated continual growth in both the number of students who attended and also the quality of the student conversations.

HYPE has inspired high school students all over New England for the past six years, allowing them to participate in socratic seminars that promote leadership and ethics-based conversations within the framework of philosophical inquiry. Two years ago, the Forum was awarded a renewable prestigious RGSCP (Responsible Governance

and Sustainability Citizenship Project) Grant from UNH Durham to fund HYPE. This grant has led to the UNH philosophy department's endorsement of the Ethics Forum and the use of UNH Durham's campus each year. It has also led to the affiliation of HYPE with UNH's emerging summer philosophy program called FLI or The Future Leaders Institute. The success of the HYPE program could be seen in the 720 students from New Hampshire and Maine who attended this year's event. The conference's attendance nearly doubled in only one year.

The Ethics Forum was also awarded the 2014 Granite State Award by the NH University System for the group's "dedication to creating an academically rich environment for New Hampshire students to connect through philosophical discussions". This statewide recognition has not gone unnoticed by universities, colleges and high schools throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Besides its largest sponsor UNH Durham, the Ethics Forum continues to build a strong

coalition of post-secondary institutional support including Granite State College, Merrimack College, Saint Anselm College, and UNH Manchester. The Souhegan Ethics Forum has also constructively created working relationships with many high schools in the region centering on the mission of enhancing leadership, ethics and philosophy education. Manchester West High School and Spaulding High School have become actively involved in leading HYPE's Socratic seminars as a result of these efforts and the Forum continues to add to its coalition of participating schools including Bedford, Bishop Guertin, Coe-Brown, Concord, Dover, Farmington, Goffstown, Kittery (Maine), Manchester Memorial, Mascoma, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua North, Noble (Maine), Oyster River, Raymond, Sanborn and Sanford (Maine). The Ethics Forum Senior Leadership Team has been instrumental in uniting these universities, colleges and high schools towards an important goal—bringing high school students together to have

important philosophical conversations centered on ethics and leadership. This is a testament to the mission of Souhegan High School and the commitment of Souhegan students and will continue with HYPE 2016 already scheduled for March 17th.

The SHS Ethics Forum Senior Leadership on site at the statewide HYPE conference at UNH, Durham, on March 16. Included are the following: Samantha Allen, Samantha Beaudry, Alex Bedard, Meghan Camello, Kiley Charbonneau, Hannah Culver, Stefan DeShazo, Shelby Desmarais, Cailin Dix, Emma Fleurette, Kathleen Foley, Cara Griffith, Alison Haigh, Kate Heaney, Jasper Jones, Sarah LaFleur, Alyssa Lederhoss, Alex Maresco, Jeff Mason, Natalie Nelson, Patrick Noble, Hannah Osborn, Melissa Paladino, Ethan Pike, Mike Robicheau, Bidisha Sen, Anna Smith, Steven Upton, Andrew Winter, Haven Young and Teigue Young. SHS faculty members are Chris Brooks and Kelli Warecki.

### Senior Project

## New Americans Prosper

By MEGHAN CAMELLO

Imagine being forced to leave everything behind and coming to a country where you know no one. Luc Ndahigwa, an 18 year old from the Congo who recently resettled in Concord did just that. Luc and his mother are two of the more than 12 million refugees in the world, and they are now new Americans. Often times, refugees are mistaken as simply immigrants who have made a choice to come to America. While all refugees are immigrants, not all immigrants are refugees. In fact, New Hampshire resettles many refugees each year, primarily in the Concord, Manchester and Nashua areas. Luc was originally from the Congo but stayed in a refugee camp in Uganda until he was resettled in Concord. When asked about his transition to America he states, "They welcomed me well. I'm playing for a good soccer team, going to a better school... and the people around me have welcomed me well." Luc's transition to the States has been made easier because of his involvement with extra-curricular activities.

There are many misconceptions held by New Hampshire residents about the rights refugees have and the process they must go through in order to become new Americans. Often times people will use the words "immigrant" and "refugee" interchangeably even though they are two separate words for two different groups of individuals. A refugee is classified as an individual who is forced to flee their home country because of war, persecution or natural disaster. On the other hand, immigrants, who do not have refugee status come to the United States voluntarily. Luc fled

from the Congo because of the civil war there. Luc explains, "After my family was killed, the neighbors, my mother and I got a ride in the back of a pickup truck to the Uganda border. There we were received by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees." Luc knew that this was a chance for a fresh start.

The term refugee was crafted in 1951 at the United Nation's Refugee Convention. At the convention the UN determined that a refugee is an individual who is being persecuted by race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or because they hold political opinion. The term is internationally accepted.

Each year, the President of the United States works with Congress to determine the number of refugees eligible to resettle in the United States. In 2015, no more than 70,000 individuals are able to come to the States as refugees. In 2014, a total of 373 refugees settled in New Hampshire. Luc and his mother were two of those who resettled here.

Once a refugee gains approval, it's just the beginning of the long resettlement process. When refugees come to the United States, they are granted a travel loan by the International Organization for Migration, which permits them to fly from their country of origin to the United States. After arriving in the United States, and after one year, they must apply for a green card, and eventually they can apply for permanent residency. After the new American finds a job, they start to work to pay back their plane ticket. Once arriving into the United States, refugees are only given \$925 by the federal government. After six months, refugees begin the repayment process. Luc explains, "They [the International Organization for Migration] buys a ticket for you, but then you pay \$34 per month per person to pay the ticket back. So my family owes \$68 per month." This money is allotted for housing payment, groceries, and other necessity that they may need.

Shortly after arriving, adult refugees apply for various jobs. As an 18 year old, Luc has balanced his life well. Since arriving he has had various jobs and volunteer work. Luc explains, "I have done volunteer work at Ascendria Care Alliance. I worked at Rue 21 for a week,

but I had to stop because I had to continue to play soccer. I shoveled during the winter, and also worked with Maggie Hassan during her campaign." Through their new jobs, new Americans are able to begin the process of learning English. In Uganda, all the schools teach in the English language. While in the refugee camp, Luc was able to learn the English language, so when arriving in the United States, he already had the ability to communicate. He states, "I've seen families where they don't speak any English, and it's hard for them to communicate. Imagine being in a country where you can't speak with anyone." Luc's knowledge of the English language has helped him and his mother transition to life in America.

Luc explained that although he has been received well, he believes that it takes time for people to warm up to the idea of refugees. He notes that it's important to take the time and talk to others, to help them better understand the ideology around refugees. Luc is just one of the many individuals who can now call the United States their home. Moreover, he can call New Hampshire his home, a community that has largely pushed aside their misconceptions to welcome him and his mother.

## Trumpeter Chris Klaxton Comes To Souhegan High School For Jazz Night #3



10-15-14Chris\_Klaxton\_Trumpet1t.tif

The Souhegan High School Music Department will host the third Jazz Night of the year on Friday May 8th at 7:00pm. This year marks the 13th anniversary of the Jazz Night series of concerts hosted at SHS. For our final show of the season, we are proud to welcome jazz trumpeter Chris Klaxton and his Trio to SHS.

Growing up in a supportive family, Chris Klaxton was encouraged to study music from a young age and inevitably found himself embarking on a life and career in music. While at the University of New Hampshire, Klaxton soon realized his commitment to the horn. He was fortunate to form a relationship with jazz legend, Clark Terry. Learning the music and history from Clark, as well as traveling with Clark as an assistant and travel manager, were profoundly deep and eye opening experiences for Klaxton.

A several year stint in Miami afforded Klaxton the opportunity to study with trumpet luminaries Brian Lynch and Jason Carder, perform alongside and learn from trumpeter Dave Douglas, as well as study composition and trumpet with renowned trumpeter and film composer, Terence Blanchard.

As a freelance trumpet player, pianist, and educator, Chris Klaxton has found himself part of a world class musical community spanning from jazz to bluegrass / country, hip hop, reggae, indie rock, and classical music. As pianist and trumpeter for New England hip hop group, The Press Project, Klaxton has opened for Soulive, Boyz II Men, George Clinton, and was invited to perform at the 2008 Bonnaroo Music Festival.

Chris Klaxton has recorded with the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra (for Pharrell Williams), Randy Bernsen (featured alongside John Medeski), Moe Pope and Rain, Tan Vampires, Jazzputin and the Jug Skunks, Mary Dellea, Elsa Cross, The Politix, Chris Klaxton Group, and The Arcitype.

The Chris Klaxton Quartet will be joined by jazz ensembles from Souhegan HS, Nashua South HS and Manchester West HS. General Admission at the door is \$10.00. Doors will open at 6:30pm. For more information on Chris Klaxton go to [www.chrisklaxton.com](http://www.chrisklaxton.com). For event information, please contact Carl Benevides at [cbenevides@spride.com](mailto:cbenevides@spride.com).

## Amherst Lions Club Grants Two \$1,500 College Scholarships to Souhegan Class of 2015

At the Souhegan High School Senior Scholarship and Awards' ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 18th, the Amherst Lions Club will once again award two individual \$1,500 college scholarship to two graduating seniors who have excelled both academically and in the area of Community Service. Ap-

plications for the Amherst Lions Club scholarship as well as all other available scholarships can be obtained through the Souhegan High School Guidance Department or by contacting Maren Petropoulos at the Souhegan High School, (603) 673-9940 ext 5309.



**"Granite Bank provided the financing we needed to expand our restaurant. Not only did they help with the business, they were able to provide solutions for our personal banking as well."**

—Terry Connor,  
Pasta Loft Restaurants

Member FDIC GraniteBank.com

AMHERST ■ COLEBROOK ■ CONCORD ■ PORTSMOUTH

**You want the best for your child... so do we!**

**THE DERRYFIELD SCHOOL**

- Still accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year
- Limited merit scholarships available



The Derryfield School is a coed, independent, college-preparatory day school in Manchester, NH, for students in grades 6 through 12.

**MAY OPEN HOUSE**  
Thursday, May 7, 6:00 p.m.  
RSVP or for more information:  
603.669.4524  
[admission@derryfield.org](mailto:admission@derryfield.org)  
[www.derryfield.org/passion](http://www.derryfield.org/passion)

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**  
Academic, Theatre, Sports, and much more!  
[www.derryfield.org/summer](http://www.derryfield.org/summer)



## Teen Job Bank

**BANK ON OUR TEENS FOR YOUR JOBS!**

**IF YOU NEED HELP WITH...**  
Spring Cleanup, Babysitting, Errands, Painting, Tech Help, and more...

**WE DO WHAT YOU NEED DONE!**

**Contact: Rick Katzenberg: 673-0553**  
**Email: [teenjobbank@gmail.com](mailto:teenjobbank@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.teenjobbank.com](http://www.teenjobbank.com)**

**Facebook: Teen Job Bank of Amherst & Mont Vernon, NH**    **Twitter: @teenjobbank**