



A R G U S



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MIDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Students Run for Office in Student Government Elections

By Atif Gujar '19 and Xin Zhen '19

The candidates ready their speeches and put their campaign ideas on full blast as June 8, Midwood's election day, fast approaches.

On May 22, Coordinator of Student Affairs Mr. Lawrence Kolotkin sent out an email including the names of all candidates for student government for the 2018-2019 school year. The election will be held in room 155.

Many of the candidates were inspired to run for student government through their experiences at Midwood and their friends.

"As a student at Midwood, I found myself connecting with my peers and constantly listening to their concerns," said Jonathan Li '20, a candidate for junior class president. "I feel that it's a necessity for us, the sophomore class, to pursue a new direction. I believe that I can bring new ideas and improve the morale of our school."

Emma Harutyan '19, a candidate for senior president said, "What inspired me to run was the complaints and ideas from my fellow peers about the school. I was baffled at the potential Midwood could reach if those ideas became reality."

The comptroller's job is to support the school and help with the school financially with responsibilities such as preparing a budget for the student government. For Sonel Rubenstein '19, her inspiration came from her childhood experiences and family members.

"My grandfather often took me to his job where he was the financial manager of a publishing company. It is because of him that I found an interest in finance and organizational budgeting, as well as an understanding of the importance finance plays in many institutions and businesses. I hope to follow in his footsteps one day, and I know that being comptroller would be the perfect initial step," said Rubenstein.

Some applied for student government in order to challenge themselves and see what they can do for the school.

"Honestly, I had never heard of this position before. After I asked what a comptroller had to do, what their job and responsibility is, I started to get interested about this position. I want to challenge myself to see how can we work as a group to make Midwood a better place," said Na Zheng '20, a candidate for comptroller.

The previous student government created many

fun activities that helped inform students of different activities around the school and create a more fun atmosphere.

"During my term, I was able to continue what I started during my junior year, the Club Fair, and this year we had more than 50 clubs attending the fair, which sparked both club attendance and school spirit overall. Another accomplishment that I am most proud of is starting the first ever Asian Festival since 1999 this past March, and working under extreme conditions with under less than two weeks to prepare and last minute changes to the program, and of course it wouldn't have been possible without my team," said Joyce Chen '18, the mayor.

The new candidates have their own hopes for the school, and many wish to spark changes in the school systems as well as help students' voices be heard.

Laura Rosas '19, a candidate for junior vice president, said, "I didn't like how separately the current student government was functioning, but you can't blame them. It's hard to address or even hear the wants of everyone in your graduating class. I also feel like many times they don't understand certain situations and wants. I want to strive to hear the needs and be the voice of my graduating class."

After attending the school, many candidates understand the imperfections of the school and have their own ideas on how to change the school for the better.

"For the past three years in Midwood, I've seen some roaches or rats roaming around Midwood, and I want to advocate for a cleaner environment for all Midwood students by getting more garbage cans in order to help with their studies and create a more comfortable atmosphere to work in," said Xiumei Wu '19, a candidate for senior vice president.

According to Herve Tallyrand '21, a candidate for sophomore president, Midwood offers a lot of programs and

opportunities that students don't get to hear about, which decreases their experiences at Midwood.

The candidates understand the workload accompanying their positions if they are elected and are ready to take on the challenge.

"I'm excited, I'm driven," said Tanisa Rahman '20, a candidate for mayor. "If elected, I'd be happy to take on this responsibility. However, the position of mayor is important and hard. The job isn't done alone. I'd be holding monthly meetings with other student officers as well as anyone outside of the student body government who displays their best interests towards the school."

Many of them are already prepared to take on the job because of their usual school habits that help them stay organized and ready for personal events.

"Next year is going to be the least amount of classes, so I will have more time than ever before in high school.

I'm a very organized

person, I like to make lists, I have reminders on my phone for due dates. It depends on what it is I'm planning," said Harutyan '19.

Although the candidates know their competition, they also never lose sight of what's important which is that they are all a part of Midwood.

"Nothing inspires me more than to see fellow students participating in making their school. In the end, no matter who wins, I think that each candidate has their own perspective on things, it's just up to our peers to decide who will help them take their next step forward," said Li '20.



Photo Credit: Roman Rod '18

Laura Rosas '19, Na Zheng '20, and Xiumei Wu '19 are some candidates running for office.

Arista / Archon Initiates New Members

By Jingyi Li '19 and Fanny Zhao '19

Students were crowded in the lobby dressed in black and white on May 22, eagerly waiting for the start of the Arista and Archon installation ceremony.

Arista and Archon are a part of the National Honor Society, which is a nationwide organization for high school students. Selection into Arista and Archon is based upon the four criteria of character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

Maqadus Skhi '19 said, "Arista/Archon means rewarding people who are willing to give back to our school community and help improve our learning environment."

Arista members were lined up outside the auditorium to the left while Archon members were on the right. Students in both honor societies were lined up in the lobby. While Ryan Channer '19 was playing the guitar, the students walked down both of the middle aisles of the auditorium with many eyes on them from parents to Mr. Michael McDonnell to faculty members.

Emily Zhen '19 said, "When it was time to line up I was nervous because I don't like attention, but I was excited to get my pin to symbolize my achievements as a Midwood Hornet."

The pledge of allegiance was recited and then a captivating rendition of the national anthem was performed by Josephine Mammoliti '18. Following was a message from Mr. McDonnell to all the students.

Most of the ceremony was orchestrated by the 2018 leaders who gave speeches to welcome students to both honor societies. Albina Kukic '18 and Brendan Mcerlaine '18 welcomed all Arista acceptees and then Joyce Chen '18 and Shawal Malik '18 welcomed all Archon acceptees.

Ms. Filomena Daniels said, "When the leaders give speeches, it's very heartfelt, inspiring, and it's a beautiful moment."

Everyone's attention was on Channer when he returned to play a musical interlude on the guitar.

For the candlelight ceremony, there were three candles to represent scholarship, service, and character. The scholarship

candle was lit by Selena Tan '18, the service candle by Malik, and lastly, the character candle by Stacy Miller '18. There was a struggle lighting the last two candles, giving many a laugh, and after many attempts, the service candle could not be lit.

"It breaks the tension in the room," said Ms. Daniels.



Photo Credit: Fanny Zhao '19

The 2018 leaders of Arista and Archon passed their duties to the new leaders.

"It's a really funny moment and it seems to be really consistent every year."

All Arista acceptees stood up while Mcerlaine read the Arista pledge and at the end, all students said, "I do so affirm." This process was the same for Archon acceptees while Chen read the Archon pledge. Students lined up to walk across the stage to receive their Arista or Archon pins.

The new 2019 leaders were announced to be Allen Borshch '19, Tiffany Huynh '19, and Nimrah Naseer '19 for the Arista Honor Society and Sami Akhtar '19, Agnes Chen '19, and Tina Chen '19 for the Archon Honor Society. Arista leaders

are selected by the highest GPA and Archon leaders are selected by the highest number of service credits.

To close off the installation ceremony, Ms. Fern Bren, the Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Services, gave a moving speech to all the students and thanked everyone for coming and thanked Ms. Filomena Daniels, the Arista/Archon Coordinator and even gave her a bouquet of flowers. The students then stood up and filed out the auditorium towards the refreshments which included small wraps, brownies, cookies, and water.

"My first Arista ceremony was an amazing experience," said Li Hong Zeng '19. "Being inducted into Arista meant that I've been doing a good job in the three years of my high school. It felt like my efforts are paying off."

There are specific requirements in order to be accepted into either Arista or Archon. Arista is based on a student's academic average. Juniors must have an overall average of 93 or above for five terms, while seniors must have an overall average of 90 or above for seven terms. Archon is based on students' amount of service credit. Students must have a total of 105 service credits: a minimum of 45 credits must be from the office or classroom service for a teacher or an administrator, and a minimum of 30 credits is needed from school activities. All students who fit the requirements will be accepted unless there is an issue with their character.

"Getting 105 service credits can seem like a challenge, but it is certainly doable, and I'm proud of my service to the school," said Nursat Jahan '19.

There were 302 Arista members and 148 Archon members for a total of 450 members. New members who joined Arista /Archon for the first time had to pay a one time membership fee of \$10. The money is used to cover the expense of the ceremony.

There are benefits of being in the Arista/Archon honor society.

"Being in the Arista Honor Society certainly enhances my college application since it shows my academic achievements," Zeng '19.

The ceremony night marked the students' achievements in scholarship, service, and character.