

# LEADING LADIES



Anita E. Baffoni\* Daily Times

Nine of Coventry High's Top Ten students in the Class of 2015. Back row (l-r): Allison Bellows, Sophia Gervasio, Shannon Oliver, Abigail James. Front row (l-r): Courtney Grant, Lisa Thiele, Kathleen Cronin, Madison Cook-Hines, and Angela Paoletta. Absent from the photo is Jessica Bellows. Four of the Top Ten will be attending Ivy League universities in the fall.

## Oaker Top 10 a close-knit bunch after school years

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COVENTRY— An all-female group rounded out the top 10 students, four of which are attending Ivy League schools, of the graduating class at Coventry High School. Having worked alongside and competed with each other for their en-

tire school career, the ladies are excited for the next chapter of their lives and to see each other succeed.

Their class schedules were very similar throughout their four year journey, with one advanced class specifically being the most memorable. A Calculus II class began in middle school with an advanced placement that started with over

two dozen students. Twelve prevailed with the top 10 ladies being among the students in the class.

"We haven't really been broken up since middle school," Kathleen Cronin, who will be attending Harvard University and pursuing a degree in economics in the fall, said.

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# Oaker Top 10 all ladies

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“Our teacher, Mrs. Anne McArdle, was awesome and we were all close to her.”

Not only did their teachers support them through academics, they pushed them to strive for greatness. The ladies said they will miss their teachers as well as the close-knit community the top 10 have had. They said this group is the closest top students in many years.

All of the ladies are in the National Honor Society and participate in several extracurricular and recreational clubs and sports including track, volleyball, girl scouts and softball.

“We all travel in packs,” Shannon Oliver joked.

While deciding what college to apply to, some chose to apply for an early decision in December. This year’s valedictorian, Jessica Bellows, and salutatorian, her twin sister Allison, are both going to Brown University with undeclared majors.

“Both my twin sister and I weren’t looking at a lot of Ivy League schools because we wanted to stay close to home which is why we liked Brown,”



File photo

**Katie Cronin was a member of the Oakers’ New England-qualifier relay team in 2014 as a junior.**

Allison Bellows said. “We are undecided in what we will be studying but wanted to definitely go to the same school.”

Angela Paoletta applied to many schools but once she found out she was accepted to Princeton and visited the campus, she knew that is where she wanted to attend. Paoletta has contributed numerous hours of community service both for Coventry as well as internationally, most recently in a project trip to Jamaica.

The top ten students for the 2015 graduating class are: Allison Bellows and Jessica Bellows, both attending Brown University; Courtney Grant, attending the University of Rhode Island for a pharmacy degree; Sophia Gervasio, attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study biomedical engineering; Kathleen Cronin, attending Harvard University for economics; Madison Cook-Hines, attending American University studying theatre; Angela Paoletta, attending Princeton; Shannon Oliver, attending the University of Rhode Island for a degree in biotechnology; Abigail James, attending Georgia Institute of Technology for engineering and Lisa Thiele, attending Wake Forest University studying pre-med.

Coventry High School Assistant Principal Brooke Macomber said she is very proud of all of the students’ accomplishments and hopes to see the ladies have a successful academic future.

Coventry High’s graduation is at The Ryan Center on the campus of the University of Rhode Island on June 16.