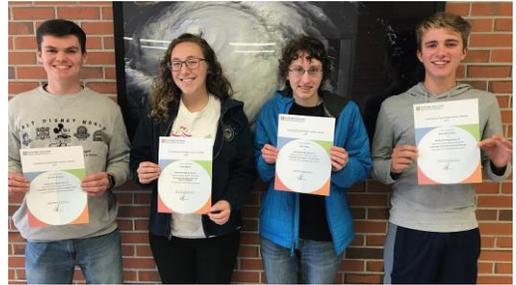


## **GHS students earn top scores in nation, world on prestigious Cambridge exams**

A record number of students from Gainesville High School have earned top scores on rigorous college-level exams, including one who earned the highest score in the world.

Cambridge International Examinations, the organization that administers the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) exams recently announced that Ellery Burgess, who graduated from GHS earlier this year, earned the 'Top in the World' score on the Cambridge Global Perspectives and Research exam. Fellow 2018 graduate Corey Ryan earned a Top in the Country ranking on the Thinking Skills exam and 2018 grad Matthew Ryan had Top in the Country in Economics. Current students Claire Levin, Noelle Mercer, Nicholas Swanger and Alexander Duffaut also earned Top of the Country scores—Levin for Physics, Mercer for English Language, Swanger for Mathematics and Duffaut for Physics.



This is the third straight year Corey Ryan has earned Top of the Country honors and the second year for Levin. Burgess, Corey Ryan and Matt Ryan are currently attending the University of Florida.

All seven current and former students took the exams through GHS' Cambridge Program, a demanding, internationally-recognized program of study for academically talented students. It was established more than 150 years ago under the auspices of the University Cambridge in the United Kingdom. Cambridge exams are currently administered in about 125 nations throughout the world.

The exams are incredibly challenging and involve lengthy essays. The Global Perspectives and Research exam that Burgess took requires students to take a sit-down essay exam, prepare a research paper and develop and deliver a presentation on a global problem.

This is the seventh straight year that a GHS student has earned a Top of the World score on a Cambridge exam and the eighth straight year that GHS students earned Top of the Country scores. The highest number of GHS students to earn World or Country distinction in the past was five students in 2017.

Another 81 GHS students earned 'Scholar Awards' based on their high scores on multiple 2018 Cambridge exams. That's up from 31 last year.

"Our increase in Top Scholars and students with Scholar designation is definitely a reflection of our amazing teachers," said Ken Mercer, the guidance counselor for the Cambridge program. "Without question, our teachers are the heart and soul of our program, and I know that our students celebrate these successes with their teachers."

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