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CONTACT: Wendy V. Long, Public Relations
(413) 685-1003

Five Gateway students take part in ACDA “Honor Choir”

Huntington – “It was cool to work with so many college singers, and to bring singing to a new level, focusing on dynamics, tone, and sound production,” noted senior Dawson Atkin, one of five Gateway students to participate in the ACDA Honor Choir, held at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst on October 28.

Atkin was joined by his brother Parker along with Caden Boeri, Livia Shepard and Maria Pless at the event.

“It was really fun being part of a big choir and getting to work with college singers,” Pless said. “It was a long day but everything was great – including UMASS food and listening to college groups. I especially liked the chamber choir.”

Boeri echoed Pless’s impressions of the day. “I made a bunch of friends,” he said. “We had times where we could just talk with others. Everyone was super talented and nice.”

“Our conductor was super funny and very energetic,” Boeri added.

The event is organized annually by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choir Directors Association. It is a choral festival that features a high school ‘honor choir’ and collegiate choral groups from UMASS in a day-long event. The day ends with a concert given by the high school and college groups, which concluded with a combined choirs performance of Amazing Grace.

Conductors included Dr. Susan Wharton Conkling (Professor of Music at Boston University) and Dr. Anthony Tracek-King (Artistic Director of the Boston Children’s Chorus).

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Photo (left to right): Caden Boeri, Parker Atkin, Dawson Atkin, Livia Shepard and Maria Pless took part in the ACDA Honor Choir at UMASS on October 28.