



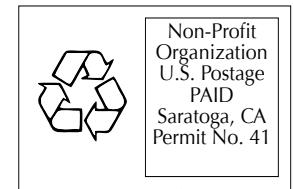
Students to travel abroad over the summer.



Sophomore pursues dance at SF Ballet School.



Class of 2015 travels "Back to the Future."



THE saratogafalcon



Saratoga High School >> Saratoga, CA
An Independent School Publication

saratogafalcon.org

Friday >> May 29, 2015

Vol. 54, No. 12

To the next Mountain

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL LEAVES SARATOGA FOR DISTRICT OFFICE

BY Emily Chen
& Ami Nachiappan

After being the main administrator in charge of enforcing discipline at the school for the past four and a half years, assistant principal Kevin Mount has decided to step down from his position at the end of this year, citing unhappiness with nature of the work.

Mount said he first considered changing jobs two years ago because he felt unhappy with his situation.

"My wife came home from a run and said, 'You've got to quit. When you're not happy, I'm not happy, so now we're not happy,'" he said.

Deciding to step down from the assistant principal role wasn't easy for Mount. He considers himself "not the bravest person in the world," and he said that it took significant courage to "take the leap of faith."

>> MOUNT on pg. 5



FALCON // SHAZIA GUPTA

SPORTS

BOYS' V-BALL AND SWIMMER MAKE HISTORY

BY Stefanie Ting

The maintenance staff will have to make room on the walls in the Large Gym for some new championship banners: They will belong to junior swimmer Jack Xie and the boys' volleyball team.

After winning both of his individual events, the 200-yard Individual Medley and the 100-yard butterfly, at CCS, becoming the only boy at the meet to do so, Xie continued his swim season at the 2015 CIF State Swimming and Diving Championships in Clovis on May 22 with freshman Jeanette Khowong, who finished 11th in the 100-yard backstroke.

Hosted for the first time in swimming history, the States Championships is a meet where the top swimmers from each of the 10 sections of California compete against one another after their last section championship. In order to qualify

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>> what's inside

MEASURE E

Campus renovations improve school

Money from bond goes toward upgrading athletic and music facilities. **pg. 6**

ROUND-UPS

Consistency needed

Grading policies should be made the same for all subjects and classes to avoid confusion. **pg. 8**

ASB CHANGES

Less participation

New policy results in decreased devotion to school leadership. **pg. 9**

FLASHBACK

Blast from the past

Students recount influences of childhood shows on Disney and ABC. **pg. 14**

HOT AND NOT

Power rankings

Reporters evaluate sports teams based on their performance throughout the year. **pg. 20**

NON-PROFIT

Juniors start sports charity for low-income children

BY Michelle Cen
& Larissa Chiu

When junior Connor Buss was in seventh grade and played for San Jose's Pacific Soccer Academy (PSA), one of the team's most talented players revealed that he could not afford to go to tournaments and may have to quit soccer. PSA was able to pay for his friend's fees, but his friend's challenge made Buss realize that not everyone can afford what kids in communities like Saratoga take for granted.

"I remember thinking, 'Why should this kid not be able to play sports due to his economic status?'" Buss said.

As a freshman two years ago, Buss suffered a concussion and was told that he would be unable to play contact sports for several years. Buss's injury reminded him of his childhood teammate's situation and motivated him to make a positive difference in the lives of underprivileged student athletes.

Buss, along with his friends juniors Romteen Masoumi, Jacob Randall and Albe Tremblay launched a nonprofit organiza-



Buss

tion on April 22 called Gear It Up Foundation. Gear It Up works to provide free sports equipment to children who cannot afford it otherwise.

Buss, Masoumi, Randall and Tremblay decided to work on Gear It Up because of their passion for athletics; all four play sports, and Tremblay also coaches basketball.

The four juniors hope to raise \$10,000 this month and use the money to buy gear for a San Jose elementary school. As of May 13, they have raised \$1,100 through their Go Fund Me page.

They are also working on finding charities and companies to sponsor them. So far, Gear It Up has worked with organizations such as the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI) in its effort to find schools, clubs and community centers that need sports equipment.

While only active for under a month, Gear It Up has already garnered a strong following. Friends, teachers and even strangers have donated, supporting the organization in its mission to help children

>> GEAR IT UP on pg. 5

SENIORS

COUNTDOWN TO GRAD

Monday

AWARDS NIGHT
in the McAfee
at 7 p.m.



Tuesday

BEACH DAY
in Santa Cruz
at 7 a.m.



Thursday

GRADUATION
on the field
at 6 p.m.

GRAPHIC BY HELEN CHEN

Class of '15 looks ahead to graduation festivities

BY Larissa Chiu
& Tiffany Zheng

The quad will be transformed on June 4 when the Class of 2015 will say goodbye at a Grad Night that will include casino-style games, henna, air tattoos, massages, a senior video and other surprises. The night's theme will be unveiled on that day.

The celebration will take place after the graduation ceremony and run from 10 p.m. to 5 the next morning.

Grad Night head committee and activities committee chair Kristin Gragnola, mother of senior Robby Gragnola, said planning for this year's event began in September, allowing interested parent volunteers to participate throughout the

challenging process.

One obstacle the committee faced was getting all the seniors and parents to turn in their registration forms for the event, Gragnola said. Without knowing how many students would come, it was difficult to budget for Grad Night, especially because the committee wanted spend as much money as they received.

Still, Grad Night will be a night to remember for both graduates and parents, Gragnola said.

"[I am most excited about] watching everyone go from activity to activity, enjoying this last night on campus," Gragnola said. "[Our biggest success will be] seeing our planning come to fruition; [Grad Night] will be fantastic." ♦

**SMASH'N to take place tonight**

SMASH'N, the annual MAP showcase, will be tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the McAfee Center. The Oscar-esque event will feature photography, animation, film and multimedia journalism by MAP students. All of the MAP teachers take a day off from school to judge the competition entries.

The planning of SMASH'N was lead by the MAP SMASH'N student committee with 10 members. Heads senior Samir Ramakrishnan and junior Saro Archarya created each project's introduction, the Senior Wall and the Senior Video. SMASH'N will also include student speeches.

Before the event, MAP teachers will judge all projects created this year and choose nominees and winners. Because each grade has several categories, English teacher Natasha Ritchie said around 75 to 80 people will receive an award.

Ritchie explained that SMASH'N is one of the most anticipated nights of the year for MAP students.

"We spend all year working hard to make our projects SMASH'N acceptable because winning an award is on all of our minds," Ritchie said. "In the end, it's not just about our grade, but our ability to show the world what MAP is all about." ♦

— Gwynnere Hunger and Tiffany Zheng

Juniors honored at annual ceremony

The annual junior awards ceremony was held on May 20 in the cafeteria for 12 students who received awards from teachers and administrators as their parents looked on.

This ceremony honors select students in categories such as math, science, leadership and writing. For example, junior Giulia Corno won the Harvard Book Award, which recognizes literary greatness, at the recommendation of teacher Amy Keys.

"I was surprised because I didn't know there were junior awards and I've never been recognized like that," Corno said. "It made me feel appreciated and grateful for what I have here at SHS."

Junior Jennifer Chen won the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, which honors excellence in social studies, at the recommendation of teacher Matt Torrens.

"Junior year is really hard, and it's nice to have the awards at the end of the year to acknowledge all the hard work we put in during the school year," Chen said.

Keys and Torrens were part of the faculty that met to decide which students they thought would deserve to receive an award.

"We sit down and talk about all the kids that we think exhibit the characteristics of the awards," science teacher Kirk Davis said.

The teachers who recommended the award winners gave brief speeches commending the students they recommended.

"It was really nice to hear what teachers had to say about the award recipients," junior Spencer Yen said. "Sometimes you don't realize how much teachers really notice and care about you." ♦

Award Winners

Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award: Kristine Zhang (Presented by Kirk Davis)

Brown Book Award: Michelle Cen (Presented by Suzanne Herzman)

California Mathematics Council Certificate: Sean Shi (Presented by PJ Yim)

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony in Humanities and Social Sciences: Jennifer Chen (Presented by Matt Torrens)

George Eastman Leadership Award: Nihar Agrawal (Presented by Rebeca Marshburn)

Harvard Book Award: Giulia Corno (Presented by Amy Keys)

MIT Leadership Award: Alexander Li (Presented by Kirk Davis)

Mount Holyoke College Book Award: Ashvita Ramesh (Presented by Natasha Ritchie)

Rensselaer Medal Winner: Celine Liang (Presented by PJ Yim)

Wellesley Book Award: Sanam Mohan (Presented by Suzanne Herzman)

Williams College Book Award: Yena Jeong (Presented by Steve Troyer and Amy Keys)

Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology: Spencer Yen (Presented by Debra Troxell)

— Sweeyra Raj

>> picturethis

Seniors Meghna Chakraborty and Nathan Fotedar perform with Toga Tamasha at "Toga's Got Talent."

EVENTS**Talent show boasts diverse acts**

BY Vibha Seshadri

Audience members waited in suspense May 21 as performers prepped in the final moments before taking the stage in the annual senior class sponsored show, "Toga's Got Talent."

This year's show was emceed by senior class officers Samir Ramakrishnan and Jane Park. The acts ranged from singing and performances by seniors Sonal Pai and Meghna Chakraborty who sang a mashup of "I Know I'm Not the Only One" and "Thinking Out Loud," Nik Aji (who also performed poetry), senior Akhil Ghirnikar, juniors Max Rossip, Christine Schultz and Nina Nelson, sophomores Jaewoo Lee, Aaron Ngai, Bryant Chang, Jasmine Singh, Aaryan Mecwan, Chang and Peter Vandevort, seniors Noah Lin and Alec Furlong and seniors Nadia Younes and Neesha Malik to dancing and magic by seniors James Freeman and Jonathan Huie (dancing), seniors Samuel Breck and Tejas Siripurapu (dancing), the bollywood dance team Toga Tamasha, the school's own dance team and sophomore Nathan Ching (magic).

The senior class raised \$1,000, which was twice its goal. All the proceeds went toward Senior Prom and a legacy fund for reunions.

Through this evening, the senior class raised \$1,000, which was twice its goal.

All the proceeds will go toward Senior Prom and legacy fund for reunions.

SENIOR PROM**Night Under the Lights delights**

BY Anant Rajeev & Maya Ravachandran

Senior Vivek Murthy hopped off the charter bus at the foot of Levi's Stadium and took one glance at the towering entrance in front of him and felt excited for the "Night Under the Lights" Senior Prom. The rest of the night did not disappoint.

"It was really fun and I think [the senior class officers] did a really good job putting prom together as everything worked out," Murthy said. "The DJ was great, the venue was amazing and the food was tasty."

When the roughly 350 students attending entered the stadium, they took an elevator to the fourth floor and entered the decked out 501 Club. Slinkys hung from the ceilings at the venue, and glow sticks littered the tables.

"It was interesting to see all the types of photos scrolling through the screen," senior Anshul Aggarwal said. "It definitely made the night much funnier and much more enjoyable."

"I'm so glad we got Levi's," senior Sonal Pai said. "It was so nice having the whole stadium to ourselves. Also, the staff

was so courteous and nice."

For dinner, students stopped at food stations with salad, pizza, pasta and dessert. They could take plates of food at their convenience throughout the night.

"I really liked the unscheduled [agenda] because then we could do whatever we wanted and weren't restricted to one thing," senior Smita Sabada said. "There was such a good variety of food, and I enjoyed it a lot more than last year."

Levi's stadium also had monitors set up around the venue that showed Instagram photos tagged with the hashtag "TogaProm2015." Most loved the idea.

"It was interesting to see all the types of photos scrolling through the screen," senior Anshul Aggarwal said. "It definitely made the night much funnier and much more enjoyable."

"There was also a photo booth that took seven-second videos of students and then transferred the videos into

flipbooks. Students had fun acting silly with the various props and costumes.

Students danced to the beats of DJ Delicious D, who played current songs like "Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon as well as some old classics like "Soulja Boy" by Soulja Boy.

During the dance, fireworks erupted on the field next to giant monitors that said "Toga Prom 2015." The fireworks were from Great America, which is next door to the stadium, but students still got to enjoy the view from the bleachers.

As the DJ closed the night with John Legend's "All of Me," students felt nostalgic, but also satisfied with the memories they had created.

"Aside from the amazing venue, I loved how cozy Senior Prom felt," senior Anjali Manghnani said. "After going through school for so long with all of those people, it felt like a lovely last treat to spend such an awesome night surrounded by the people I love." ♦

MUSIC**Band, choir, orchestra finish year with concerts**

BY Claire Chou & Gwynnere Hunger

The first of three year-end music concerts opened with a performance by the Concert and Chamber Choirs in the McAfee Theater on May 8.

Led by director Andrew Ford and accompanist Devyn Noriel, the 36-person choir sang a series of songs from requiems intended to be sung at funerals during the first part of the concert.

Their repertoire included "Introit" by Gabriel Fauré, "Kyrie Eleison" by David Huntsinger, "Dies Irae" by W. A. Mozart, "Sanctus" by Craig Courtney, "Pie Jesu" by Andrew Lloyd Webber and "In Paradisum" by Faure.

The second half of the concert, titled "A Light in the Darkness," focused on appreciating life.

"I chose the year-end concert because it seemed like the most memorable concert for me as a senior," said Hunger.

The concert closed with both orchestras playing "A Tribute to John Williams," an arrangement of Williams' works, a senior skit and the traditional awards ceremony for students and staff.

The final concert, took place on May 15. The Percussion Ensemble began with "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J. S. Bach, and then transitioned to the more cheerful "Galop from The Gadfly" by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Next, the Symphonic and Freshmen Band performed "Moving the Mount-

ain" by Vince Oliver, who is part of the music department, and music from "Jurassic Park" by John Williams.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE) then performed four pieces, including the "Concerto for Trombone and Band" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov with a trombone solo by sophomore Jaewoo Lee.

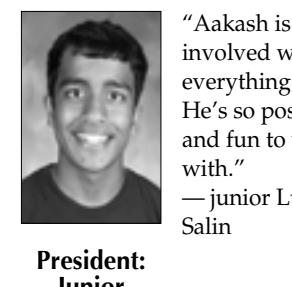
Though Lee said it was hard to find



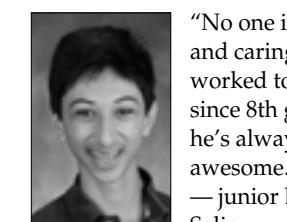
Music department head Michael Boitz displays his award at the band concert on May 15.

time to practice his solo in addition to completing his schoolwork and preparing for auditions, by the day of the concert, he had the 10-minute piece memorized.

"When I finished, I was happy to be done with it, and grateful that SWE played so well with me and that so many people got me flowers and pineapples and carrots," Lee said. ♦

>> New leaders chosen for 2015-16 school year**ASB OFFICERS**

**President:
Junior
Aakash Thumay**



**Vice President:
Junior
Nihar Agrawal**



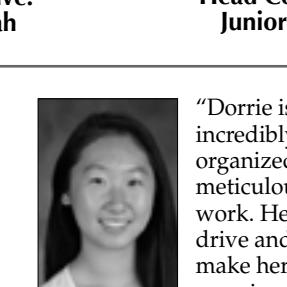
**Secretary:
Sophomore
Spring Ma**



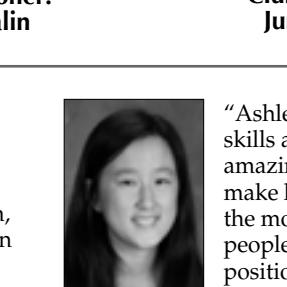
**Treasurer:
Sophomore
Mitali Shanbhag**

NEWSPAPER EDITORS

**Board Representative:
Junior Kanaai Shah**



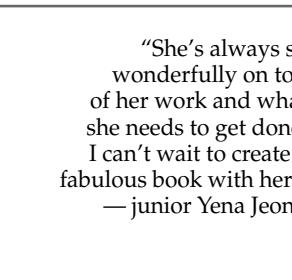
**Head Commissioner:
Junior Luke Salin**



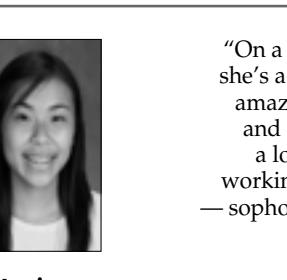
**Clubs Commissioner:
Junior Allison Lin**



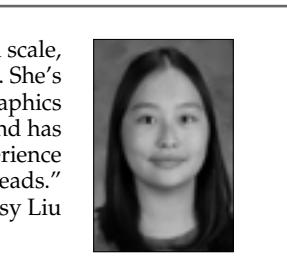
**Clubs Commissioner:
Junior Meera Rachamalulu**

YEARBOOK EDITORS

**Third Period:
Junior
Gitika Nalwa**



**Fourth Period:
Junior
Dorrie Tang**



**Junior
Michelle Huang**



**Junior
Yena Jeong**

Reporting by Jason Zhao

"She's always so wonderfully on top of her work and what she needs to get done. I can't wait to create a fabulous book with her." — junior Yena Jeong

"On a technical scale, she's a goddess. She's amazing at graphics and design and has a lot of experience working on spreads." — sophomore Jessy Liu

"She always thinks her actions through and has very competent design and layout ideas." — sophomore Jessy Liu

Note: Drum majors were not yet announced at the time of this publication.

CLUBS

Tutoring group offers a helping hand

by Emily Chen
& Katherine Sun

Chemistry teacher Janny Cahatal's brow furrows as she glances up at the long line of students beside her. It's a Monday tutorial, and she wonders if she will be able to help each of her students in time.

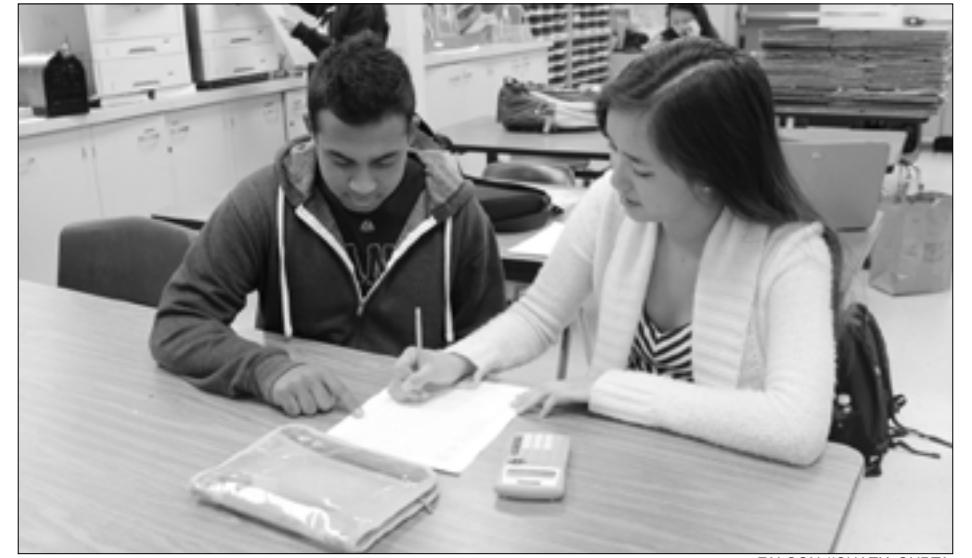
Then the door swings open, and in walks senior Vivek Murthy, a member of the Helping Hands Club. Cahatal smiles with relief and speaks with him briefly before gesturing to two of her students. Soon they are huddled with Murthy around one of the lower tables, eagerly asking questions and nodding as he writes across a sheet of scratch paper.

The Helping Hands Club was founded by senior Rohit Rao and 2014 graduate Eric Taw in 2013 to provide students with assistance in any subject. Tutors meet every other Wednesday in room 410. The club uses an online form that allows students to request help, and from there, Rao assigns tutors.

To become a tutor, club officers must approve of a student's grades in the subjects in which the student wants to tutor. In general, a student must have an A- or higher to join the club.

The club's 20 tutors are unpaid, but they receive volunteer hours for their work. This past year, approximately 30 forms have been filled out by students seeking help.

Rao and Taw officially formed the club after seeing Taw's past experience and success as a tutor. Taw had tutored chemistry teacher Kathy Nakamatsu's Chemistry Honors students through video chats the year before and had even mentored Rao, who was struggling in chemistry at the time. Rao valued the assistance he received and hoped to return



FALCON // SHAZIA GUPTA

Senior club member Vivek Murthy tutors junior Allison Lin during tutorial on May 22.

you left off, and you know where you can go back and help them more," Rao said.

According to Rao, tutors tend to be the busiest in the beginning of the school year because students are anxious to raise their grades as the end of the six-week grading period approaches. During this time, Rao tutored for five to six hours each week, in contrast to the one or two hours he spends tutoring now.

The club takes care to prioritize its students and asks them what they would like to see in the tutoring system because "at the end of the day, it's up to them."

"If they're not improving, then it doesn't matter how much feedback I get, because it's not a helpful club on campus," Rao said.

Rao's devotion to helping others extends beyond Saratoga High. He worked at the nearby tutoring center Brighter

Future for eight months last year, assisting 6- to 12-year-olds with math.

With experience in tutoring kids of all ages, Rao noticed the change in learning between teens and young children. He found that elementary school students genuinely love to learn, whereas high school students seem to have lost passion in learning.

"I'm sure that if students were presented with the opportunity, they would pick up what they need to pick up," Rao said. "But it's not the same in terms of the interest they get from doing it."

Still, whether Rao is teaching an elementary school student or a peer, he enjoys helping others find the "Aha!" moment in learning.

"It's a really rewarding feeling when students understand finally what they've been struggling with for the past weeks or so," Rao said. ♦

JOURNALISM

Falcon, SHSTV staffs to combine next year

by Allison Lin
& Vibha Seshadri

Next year, SHSTV and the Falcon will combine in third period, creating a class where journalists can participate in both broadcast and print journalism.

"I feel that the merge will bring new material every Friday and might be better because of the partnership between Mr. Palma and Mr. Tyler," Chen said.

"I will be part of next year's staff, [and] I hope I can contribute to the Falcon in print as well as through media."

freshman Kyle Wang



ing only sophomore William Chen to carry on the broadcast.

"I feel that the merge will bring new material every Friday and might be better because of the partnership between Mr. Palma and Mr. Tyler," Chen said.

"I will be part of next year's staff, [and] I hope I can contribute to the Falcon in print as well as through media."

Tyler also believes that the merged programs will make better use of the technology and equipment both programs have.

"It'd be a shame to see [SHSTV] go away, especially with the brand new facilities that they have," Tyler said.

In addition, by working together, the two groups would be able to jointly produce stories to the school.

Both felt that the talent from incoming and returning Falcon students would greatly benefit SHSTV.

SHSTV adviser Tony Palma and Falcon adviser Mike Tyler proposed the idea in order to save the SHSTV program, which will be losing almost all of its core members after graduation this year.

For instance, print stories on topics such as major sports victories or student profiles could be further enhanced and broadened with the help of video clips and visuals.

"SHSTV [is] on either weekly deadlines or bi-weekly deadlines, so we will be able to share event-related stories that can easily be converted from written stories to broadcast reports," Tyler said.

Palma also believes that due to the increasingly popular use of multimedia to cover news, events and editorials, combining these two publications at SHS would be more beneficial than rebuilding the SHSTV program.

In order to accommodate the numerous students, the class will use computers from both rooms 303 and 301.

This change will allow for increased efficiency because a greater amount of computers and laptops will be at the staff's disposal.

Palma said that the large number of

staff may lead to variable production quality, but feels problem can be eliminated over time.

He believes the potential and talent from all of the Falcon and SHSTV staff members will bring the content to "a different level."

"Because I don't have a lot of experience in journalism, I'm looking forward to gaining new exposure to a different form of journalism in broadcast," said freshman Kyle Wang, who will join the third-period staff next year. "I hope I learn a lot and enjoy the ride." ♦



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MOUNT >>

continued from pg. 1

"There are going to be times in your life when you're going to be challenged and it's going to be scary," he said. "But then, you have faith that things will be OK."

From teacher to administrator

Mount began his career here as an English teacher in the fall of 2001. Over the next five years, he taught English 9, English 11 Honors and AP Language and Composition, before taking an administrative job at the district office.

At the district office, Mount ran Nova, an alternative transition program for students in the district, as well as independent studies and adult-ed programs. Along with coordinating summer school, he also helped with state and federal programs, including the budgets, and ran programs in career technical education, new courses and instructional material. Some of his other duties included testing for English learners.

One of Mount's main goals is to scale back the stress in his life, as he has felt afflicted from the high expectations that are piled on teachers and administrators in a school like Saratoga.

During his first two years as assistant principal, Mount said he enjoyed the exciting and fast-paced work.

Now that the novelty of the work has worn down, Mount feels that things have gotten hard for him, especially because his own children have left for college. His daughter graduated from college last year and his son has two more years of college.

"You raise your kids and then they leave home, just like a dirty rotten trick," Mount said. "When you have kids, you don't really have to look so far for meaning because it's all right there in front of you, and you see it every day."

Once he realized that his children were starting their own lives, Mount had to decide how he would carry on.

"It got hard to make sense what my purpose was in life," Mount said.

f

ficult conversations with students and their parents.

"While I love the this place, the staff and the kids, I don't want to do this anymore," he said. "I don't want to be the sheriff."

In order to continue growing as an individual, Mount has chosen to pursue a more creative path and hopes to incorporate his music and artwork in his daily life. In addition, Mount hopes to publish a volume of his poetry soon.

"That's part of my plan and vision for downsizing my work life," he said. "I think the creative part not only helps manage stress, but I think everybody needs something in their life that connects them to something larger [than] themselves."

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"It got hard to make sense what my purpose was in life," Mount said.

meeting on June 2.

Since Robinson has known Mount for several years, he will miss having him as a fellow administrator.

"[Mount] is as fine of a teacher as I know. He's also an outstanding educator and administrator," Robinson said. "He's so professional in how he does things, in the interactions he has with students [and] staff."

Even though Mount is ready to move on in his life to pursue more options, Mount emphasized that he is eternally grateful for the caring environment that the staff shows toward each other and to the students.

When he announced his departure, the staff wished him the best and understood his circumstances.

"I'll definitely miss the people. Saratoga has good people," Mount said. ♦

ACADEMICS

Junior looks forward to summer at Yale program

by Vibha Seshadri
& Isabelle Tseng

encompassed all the academic fields I was considering," Pan said. "It's a research-based seminar about legal, political and economic ideas that [apply] history."

Pan was also intrigued by the program's heavy placement on the importance of "global" citizenship, which means that over half of the students in the program are international students.

YYGS's website states that last year's session included students from each of the 50 states and 80 other countries such as Kenya and Singapore.

To get to know each other, the students created a group chat via Facebook to introduce themselves. Pan said that the conversations on the chat range from unique perspectives on the U.K. election to a student saying he will cook brigadeiros (which are a Brazilian delicacy) for everyone at Yale.

At PLE, high school students from around the world attend seminars, workshops and lectures hosted by Yale faculty, in addition to conducting research presentations and participating in simulations. The program itself is run by the Office of International Affairs and is highly selective, accepting only 600 participants from 2,400 applicants across three divisions of the program.

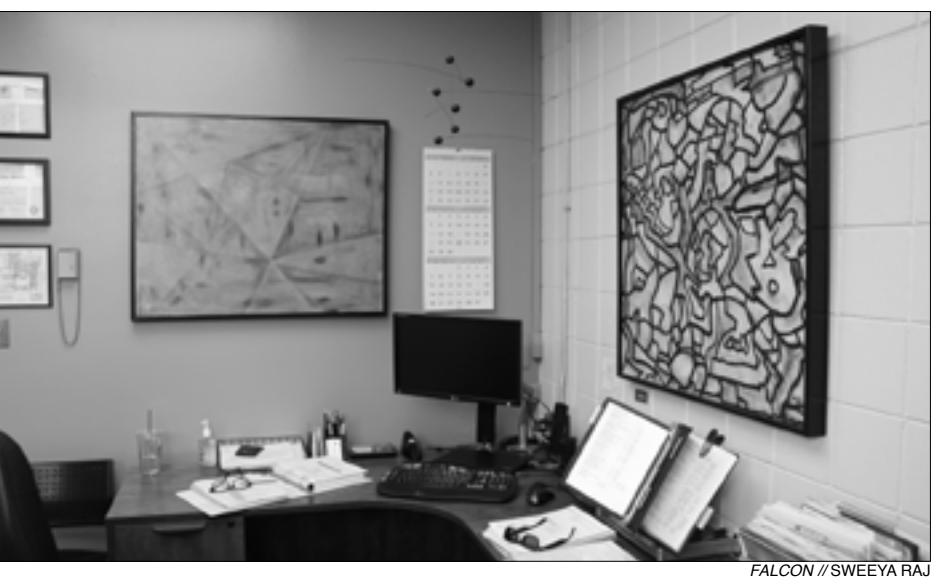
"Even on a Saturday when I'm hanging out with [Buss], we'll be playing basketball outside and we'll talk about Gear It Up," Randall said.

The juniors see building up their foundation's credibility as their major obstacle and plan to overcome it through making their processes as transparent as possible. Aware of their status as minors, they are working to clearly communicate with their donors and partners of how they spend their money to further their mission.

According to Pan, the application was straightforward, as she had completed other, more complicated program applications just before completing the YYGS form. For a previous application for another program, Pan wrote four 1,500 word essays. By comparison, the application for YYGS was simpler, as she only had to write a few short essays and submit a resume. Pan will be attending the program from June 23 to July 6.

Pan had heard of YYGS through a friend who recommended the program.

"I looked into it, and the program



Abstract paintings that assistant principal Kevin Mount created in his free time hang on the walls of his office. He hopes to have more time to pursue a more creative path.



Pan

think it is really cool to say that at age 16 or 17, [we're] able to make a difference.

junior Albie Tremblay

four friends have made time for Gear It Up. In addition to working individually, they meet every Wednesday to collaborate. Their organization is "always a topic of conversation" when the four are together, and even when they are apart, they have a group text that they constantly chat in. All four are also in the MAP program; during their classes, they often discuss the foundation.

They are also learning about how to manage money in a non-profit. According to Randall, the juniors planned to

broaden their knowledge of current affairs. In fact, Pan even opted to take two AP history classes this year — AP US History and AP European History — instead of science and describes her academic interests as heavily humanities-focused.

Before applying to YYGS, Pan said she had considered majoring in economics and law. She stated that she is sure YYGS will allow her to develop the research skills she will need in college.

"I think becoming well-educated on government and current affairs is important in becoming an involved citizen, and the research skills will help me in college and beyond," Pan said. ♦

BONDS

Measure E funds sports field renovations

BY Michelle Cen

Sports facilities and fields will begin undergoing renovations starting June 8, adding FieldTurf to the upper field and softball field. A bank of lights will also be installed on the upper field to allow for night practices.

The upgrades are funded by \$3.75 million of the \$44 million portion of the Measure E bond allocated to SHS.

Originally, the construction of permanent lighting in these areas was going to be postponed because of budget issues.

Now, the construction management team has revised plans so that dirt will be moved to other parts of the fields instead of being hauled away; enough money has thus been saved for permanent sports lighting.

The lighting will be installed on the softball field and adjacent multi-use field so that more games, practices and camps can be held.

In past years, activities such as band, lacrosse, soccer, field hockey and football practiced under portable lighting. Once the new lighting is in place, more sports, such as softball, will be able to play at night.

"It was hard to see during practice when we used movable lights," said junior Kaitlyn Chen, varsity soccer player and track athlete. "Games will be nicer with some more night games because with games always being right after

school, we wouldn't really have an audience."

The lighting at night also increases the safety of the field for athletes and pedestrians. In addition, with the softball field and upper field being turf, administrators said the areas would be safer for athletes to play on.

By grading and leveling out the ground, workers will eliminate the clumps and gopher holes that currently plague the fields, thereby reducing the risk of injury and improving the fairness of games.

The upgrades are funded by \$3.75 million of the \$44 million portion of the Measure E bond allocated to SHS.

Athletes will have a consistent surface, which means the balls bounce truer, you can change direction better and when the field gets wet, it drains better so there will be less slipping," principal Paul Robinson said. "In all, it will greatly enhance how players perform."

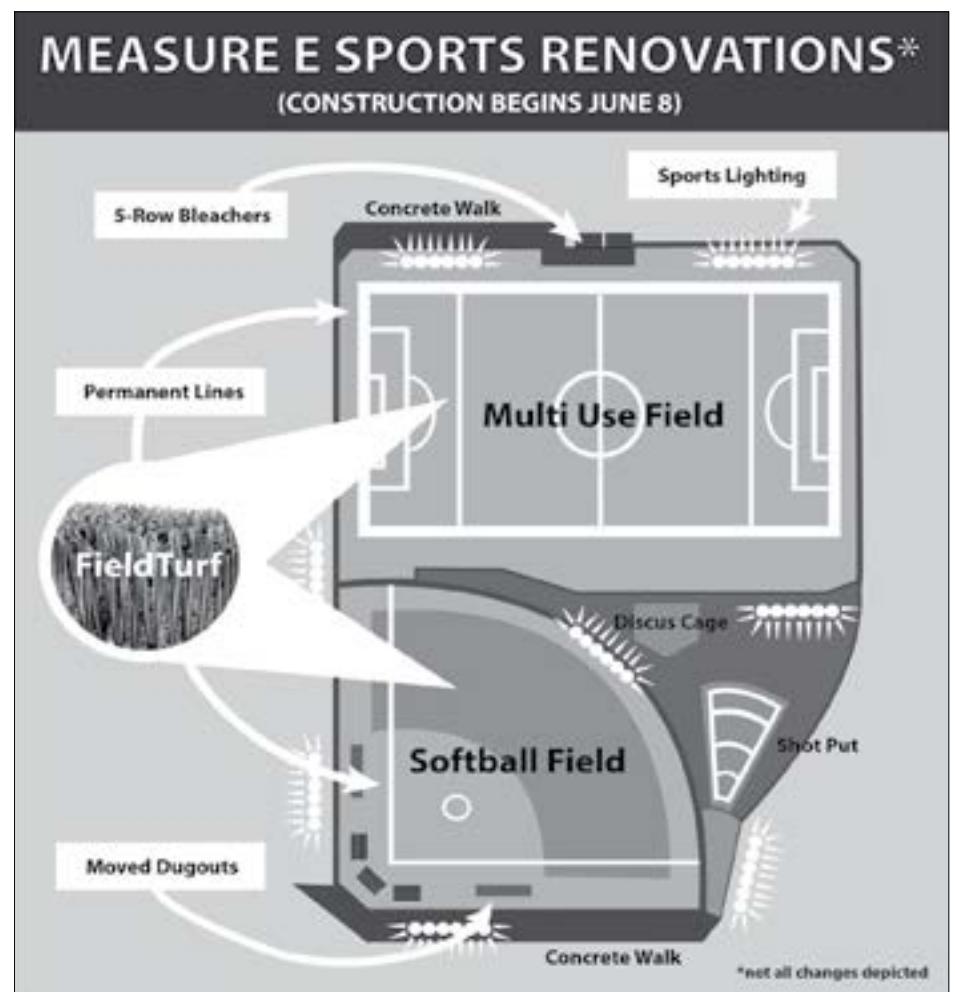
In addition, Measure E will fund renovation of the softball field. The softball team will benefit because the dugouts will now be closer to the bases. New bleachers will be installed on both fields, allowing spectators to sit closer and see more of the games. Permanent lines will be drawn on the turf so that athletes no longer have to deal with faded lines.

In a year or two, the school will also build a new multipurpose room that is approximately 70 feet by 100 feet, a little larger than the Small Gym. The multipurpose room will provide a large space,

for many groups on campus to use. It will be built on the north side of the tennis courts, replacing some parking lot spaces.

The multipurpose room will have features of the Small Gym, such as court space, bleachers and basketball hoops, and to a projection system to facilitate large presentations.

"[The multipurpose room] will meet a lot of the needs for our athletic, music and extracurricular programs," Robinson said. "We [are] very excited about it all happening as soon as possible." ♦



GRAPHIC BY MICHELLE CEN

MEDIA ARTS

Leather leaves school for position at Archbishop Mitty

BY David Fan
& Jason Zhao

Downtown Streets Team in January. "It was really cool to see her in action since she's one of the teachers with the most experience working in the media field," Salin said.

Salin also liked how Leather taught her students the basics, and then reinforced their learning by encouraging them to explore more complex concepts.

Though she will enjoy being with her son, Leather is leaving several aspects of SHS that she really enjoyed.

"I will miss the students for sure," Leather said. "There are even students that have graduated from Saratoga High that I'm still in touch with." teacher Cathy Leather



After six years at the school, Media Arts Program teacher Cathy Leather will leave this fall to teach at Archbishop Mitty High School.

Leather was first hired to work at SHS in 2009, spending her first year as a consultant in the MAP department. She then became one of the Media Arts Electives teachers in her second year.

At Mitty, she will teach Visual Arts, which focuses on digital photography, animation and graphic arts. Though this class is slightly different from the MAP program at SHS, she believes that it will be a good fit for her since she has an art background and is interested in the subject.

Her oldest son also attends Mitty, so she said it will be nice to be in the same school as him.

During her time as a teacher at SHS, Leather has gotten to know her students very well. MAP student junior Luke Salin recalls working with Leather on an extracurricular documentary about a homeless services organization called

3 teachers start prepping for their maternity leaves

BY Katherine Sun
& Shreya Tumu

As AP Government/Economics and Psychology teacher Hana Chen plans out next week's schedule, her thoughts can't help but drift toward baby names. While skimming through potential monikers for her soon-to-be-born baby, Chen keeps in mind the loose naming tradition she and her husband follow.

"We tend to choose names that honor family members [who] have passed on," she said. "We take the first letter of the name of a person who has passed away and use that as the first letter of the name of this baby."

Chen is one of three currently pregnant teachers; the other two are English teachers Susanna Ryan and Kelly Wissolik. All are due in the summer and will go on maternity leave starting in the beginning of next year.

Wissolik's daughter is due near the end of July. In order to prevent her students from feeling anxious, Wissolik chose Monday, May 18, to tell her students that she would be going on maternity leave.

"I told them not to worry because I'd be finishing up the year with them," she said. "They wouldn't have a last-minute substitute or have to worry about getting used to someone new at the end of the year."

Not only is she a veteran teacher, but she has so much skill and love for what she does," Salin said. "There are definitely some big shoes to fill for next year." ♦



Chen

students that have graduated from Saratoga High that I'm still in touch with."

Leather also said she will miss the opportunity to teach the Intro to Programming class next year, even though she helped develop the curriculum.

Leather's presence at SHS has allowed her to connect with many of the program's teachers and students. Her absence will be felt by many.

"Not only is she a veteran teacher, but she has so much skill and love for what she does," Salin said. "There are definitely some big shoes to fill for next year." ♦

Wissolik already has a 2-year-old daughter "who is excited to be a big

EVENTS

Color Run energizes students again

BY Shazia Gupta
& Gwynevere Hunger

The planning process went very smoothly as we were able to use the successes from last year," Sangam said. "There were a few complications but that did not stop our process at all."

One challenge they faced was the problem of recruiting a food truck for the event. Although they initially were planning to have one, the food truck owner canceled one week before the event. Instead, the Leadership class sold ice cream and popsicles themselves.

Another problem was the question of what to call the event. While some people advocated for renaming the event the Holi Run or Color Festival, the Leadership class eventually decided to stick with the original name.

Participation was down slightly this year since last year's event attracted 100 runners. The Leadership class has not yet calculated the amount of money that they will be able to donate.

Next year, Leadership plans to publicize the event more with posters and

music and color.

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Courtesy of LILLIAN ZENG

social media to attract more participants.

The Color Run succeeded in bringing students out for music, color and fun after two weeks of AP testing.

a turnout as we did last year, I think the people who came this year really enjoyed themselves," Sangam said. "Hopefully we can build upon what we did this year for an even better Color Run." ♦

BOWLS

Falcons earn first place in physics competition

BY Helen Chen

Shi and Zhang placed first and second respectively on a regional level. Li and Brendan both scored one point fewer than Zhang.

Zhang was "surprised" with her score because she found this year's test "harder and more time consuming." Nevertheless, Zhang is happy with the overall performance of the team.

The school team consisted of sophomores Karen Chow and juniors Jacky Lee, Alex Li, Celine Liang, Brendan Ney, Nate Ney, Sean Shi and Kristine Zhang. Liang placed seventh in the nation and

Shi and Zhang placed first and second respectively on a regional level. Li and Brendan both scored one point fewer than Zhang.

Zhang was "surprised" with her score because she found this year's test "harder and more time consuming." Nevertheless, Zhang is happy with the overall performance of the team.

We have more Physics Olympiad semifinalists this year, [and] it seems like more people are participating in physics competitions," Zhang said.

Because of their successful performance in Division 1 this year, which is

intended for students who have taken one year of physics, the Physics Bowl team will compete in Division 2 next year.

Despite the increased difficulty of the Division 2 test, Brendan believes the team will be able to perform just as well next year.

For his part, physics teacher Kirk Davis said he is proud of all the participants' performances.

"They'll be fine," Davis said. "There's a bunch of smart kids at this school." ♦

MATH

Junior continues to dominate worldwide Olympiad contests

BY Karissa Dong

to cram-solve a multitude of challenging problems within set time limits. In contrast, high school Olympiad Math is slower paced but more challenging: Four hours are often allotted for three extremely difficult questions.

Liang also capped off her stellar year in competitive math with a Gold Medal rank at the international European Girls' Mathematical Competition (EGMO), held in Minsk, Belarus, from April 14-20. Of 109 participants, Liang was among the 12 matheletes to be honored with the distinction of Gold.

Chen explained that she plans to leave the substitute a detailed curriculum, a pacing guide and materials for the students to use.

She expects that her absence will not affect her students in any way.

"Many of the students I have this year are seniors, so they were not really concerned about me going on leave next year because it does not impact them," Chen said. "Generally, though, they were all very excited about me having a new baby."

Chen already has a three-year old son named Mason. She took the rest of the school year off to spend time with him but returned for the 2012-2013 school year. For her second pregnancy, Chen plans on taking the entire next year off.

Liang's interest in competitive mathematics began in third grade. In middle school, she competed with the California Mathcounts National Team. In high school, Liang has excelled in international Olympiad Math.

"I'm not sure if I'll ever be fortunate enough to visit a country as unique as Belarus, and I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to experience the culture and food there," Liang said. ♦

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More uniform grading policies needed

By Caitlin Ju
& Amulya Vadakonda

On the first day of school, you're flooded with multicolored syllabuses from each of your classes. You immediately check the rounding policies and dedicate yourself to keeping them straight for the rest of the year. Your math teacher doesn't round up, your science teacher does and your English and history teachers both do, but only between a B+ and an A-.

Or is it the other way around?

At the end of the semester, your Spanish grade is teetering on the edge — you have a 93.27 percent. But is that an A or an A-? In the midst of last-minute cramming for finals, your brain just can't handle the muddle of inconsistent policies.

The solution to all the madness is almost too simple. A uniform grade policy for each subject would not only be more fair, but would also make the lives of both teachers and students easier.

It is especially important to have consistency within departments. This way, individual departments can still set grade norms, but every student within

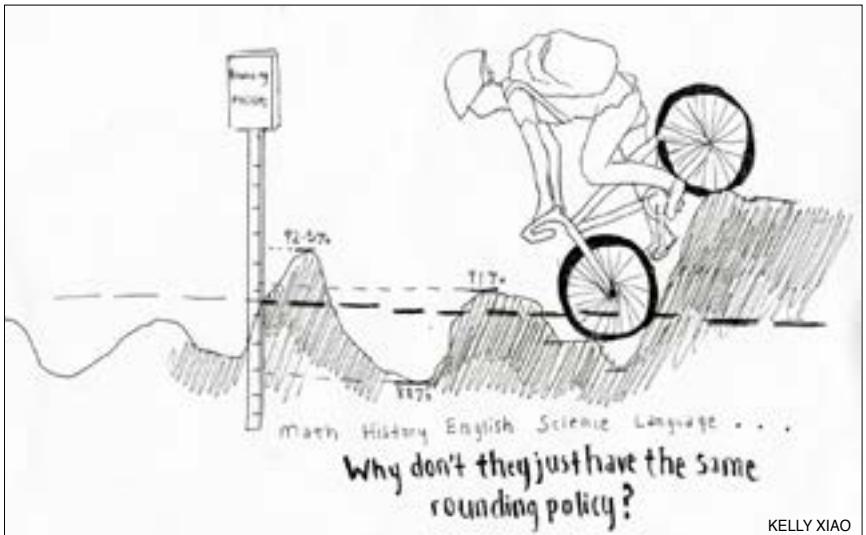
that department is held to the same scale. There is no reason as to why there are different grade policies, especially within the same subject.

For example, one APUSH teacher has a strict round-up policy, while the other will bump up grades to the next highest letter, depending on in-class participation. A student in the first class can end up with a B on the transcript, and the other with an A. Not only is this illogical, but it is also unfair.

The first step to creating a uniform grade policy is to make the cut-offs for each letter grade the same in all classes within each subject. For example, every math class should round up to the next highest grade. An A- should be between 90 percent to 92.5 percent, no matter if the class is Algebra I, Geometry Enriched or AP Calculus BC. Students would remember this consistent policy, and teachers teaching multiple subject levels would be able to match their fellow department teachers' policies without conflict.

The second step is to have a single roundup policy. If a student's grade is .5 percentage points or fewer away from

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Solar panels are a bright idea for the future

By Becky Hoag

Upon entering Prospect High School to take the SAT last year, the first things I noticed were the huge solar panels installed in the parking lot. A project completed in 2012, they have benefited the school by providing shade, decreasing energy consumption and saving money.

SHS should follow Prospect's lead and install solar panels in its own front parking lot in order to reap the rewards of renewable energy.

This has been an idea the school has considered for a while now, though it is an extremely expensive endeavor. When it came to the district's the Measure E bond for \$99 million in 2014, school officials decided to spend the money on other areas such as the new music building, modernizing classrooms and turfing the softball and soccer fields, among other things.

While the new music building will give our music program the opportunity to expand, solar panels would help lower the costs and decrease the school's current carbon footprint created by its electrical consumption. According to Campbell Union School District Board of Trustees President Rick Costanzo, the

electricity produced by the solar panels at Prospect has reduced the cost of the school's consumption by about \$765,000 per year. With an average lifespan of 25 years, a solar panel investment can save millions in the long run.

A substantial amount of the cost could be alleviated with the help of funding from companies. For instance, according to the Saratoga Patch, Prospect was able to reduce the cost of the solar panels by \$16.6 million by working with Mark Bartos of Bartos Architecture and Enviroplex. Bartos unique plans for installation allowed them to decrease the cost. Now these plans have their own copyrighted

blueprints and are being marketed to other school districts.

If SHS could use this less expensive approach then the project might prove to be more doable. This or starting simpler by installing solar panels to warm the pool, as was suggested by Innovate Energy Services (IES) in 2011, would be a step in the right direction.

Solar panels might be expensive at first, but they are also very beneficial to the school and the environment. When we fund the funds, solar panels should be on the top of the spending list.

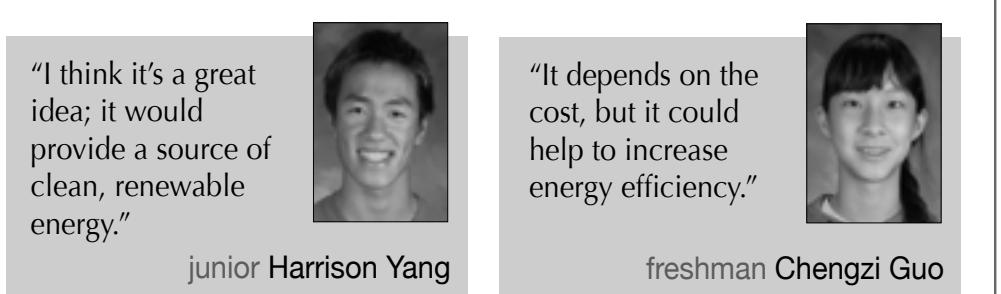
Beyond the financial benefits, solar panels would shade the hot parking lot

and provide shelter from the rain, all while helping to build an image of modern sophistication for the SHS campus.

Furthermore, installing solar panels would help our planet by providing a renewable energy substitute to fossil-fuel burning sources. By installing solar panels, SHS would also be encouraging generations of forward-thinking students who are interested in bettering the environment. The change will foster a environmentally friendly student body that is ready to tackle the environmental challenges threatening our planet in this century; that is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. ♦

>> togatalks

What is your opinion of solar panels in the front parking lot?



School should offer introductory business classes

By Maya Ravichandran

U.S. News and World Report ranked Saratoga High 28th in the nation for STEM high schools. Due to the addition of classes such as Principles of Engineering and Introduction to Engineering and the revamping of the AP science courses, this high ranking is rather unsurprising.

But while the school is undoubtedly making strides in the STEM fields, students who wish to major in management consulting, sales, marketing or other business majors are forced to get their first taste of business in their college classes. SHS should add an introduc-

tory business class to its curriculum to give those who wish to major in business a glimpse into what college classes cover.

How can students pick what they want to study for the next four years when they don't even know what the major entails? By having an Introduction to Business class, juniors and seniors who are considering a career on Wall Street can see if "business" is what they imagined. These classes would also be useful for teaching soft skills.

Skills like leadership, communication, problem-solving and organization are valuable in any career, not just business majors.

Additionally, business class-

would teach students how to handle money. As an affluent community, Saratoga is full of young teenagers who are often inept at the practical handling of money. The problem with growing up wealthy, or at least well-off, is that kids here often don't feel the need to be frugal or even handle their money in a practical manner. It's a bad parent for what will happen during or after college.

Because business involves a lot of communication between two parties, the new business class can fit easily in the social studies department.

Living in Silicon Valley, we hear news of startups all the time, especially tech startups.

Yet, it is vital to have business skills to run startups and companies; without proper management skills, a venture will die in a matter of weeks.

In fact, many colleges like to see students who have taken classes in different fields because a well-rounded student is a great addition to a university.

Monta Vista offers business classes like Principles of Business, Principles of Marketing, Money and Banking and International Business. Lynbrook has classes in Accounting and Economics and Virtual Enterprise. Even Los Gatos has an Introduction to Business class.

SHS is one of the only schools in the Bay Area that does not offer such studies department.

any business-oriented classes.

So far, the only way a high schooler at SHS can get in business is through joining clubs like Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and DECA. However, these are student-run, and all information is self-taught and learned through motivation. As students living in Silicon Valley, we are conditioned into thinking that technological careers are the only way to be successful.

Such views only limit our

success in and beyond the Valley. In order to make our school curriculum stronger and our students more educated, we need to give them the business skills to excel. ♦

NEWEDITORS

STAFFPOLICY

The Saratoga Falcon is published 12 times per year by the Advanced Journalism classes of Saratoga High School, 20300 Herriman Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070. Views expressed in The Saratoga Falcon are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or school district. This issue features the new editors and staff for '15-'16.

MISSIONSTATEMENT

The staff of The Saratoga Falcon is committed to objectively and accurately representing the diverse talents, cultures and viewpoints of the Saratoga High School community.

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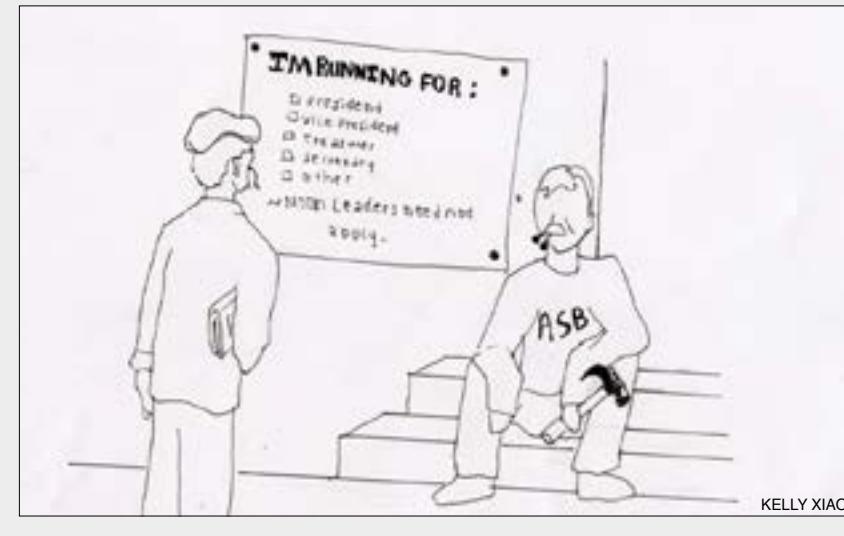
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positions they can run or apply for simply because there are not enough people who have the desire to get involved.

The rule that students can no longer be on two commissions or in class office and a commission has deterred students from running for certain positions. For the upcoming year, no

eligible candidates wanted to run for senior class treasurer, forcing someone to switch from another position.

The better approach to enabling more students to become involved in government is to allow students to hold one elected position and one position that is selected by ASB. Another option is to give priority to those students who are new to student government.

Although the purpose of these rules is to allow more people to get involved and limit stress, the students who are most interested in making a change in student government are not able to leave a mark or pursue their passions as much as many of them would like. This new rule, despite its good intentions, may just do more harm to the school. ♦

New rules will hurt student leadership

This year, three students ran unopposed for three of the five junior class officer positions. The lack of participation in this election is a result of a new school rule stating that students cannot hold more than one position in class office, commissions and ASB.

With the new rules, those who are passionate about student government can no longer participate in every group that they want to.

ASB election rules were brainstormed by ASB and voted on by those present at an ASB Monday meeting a few weeks ago. The rules also changed the prerequisites for running for certain positions, such as ASB vice president and class officers.

ASB also no longer requires candidates to have attended at least three ASB meetings prior to running for office. This rule will most likely be replaced by a system of keeping track of who participates in what events, such as Homecoming and Powderpuff.

Although the new rules allow more students to get involved in ASB, few students actually want to do so.

Students should not be limited in

the number of student government

Opinion of the Falcon Editorial Board

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Ashley Chen
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Opinion Editors

Fiona Sequeira

Reporter

Summer Smith



The Saratoga Falcon staff voted 28-4 in support of the editorial.

More practice tests needed in AP classes

MOCK EXAMS WOULD REDUCE STRESS

By Jenny Qian

I sat anxiously in my seat on a Monday morning in late April while AP European History teacher Jerry Sheehy handed back the practice Document Based Question (DBQ) we had taken the week before. As soon as I received my paper, my eyes bulged and I started hysterically laughing. On the bottom of the page in fat red marker was my score: 0/60.

After reading the comments and feedback on my paper, it was clear that I had not actually addressed the prompt. I began to wonder: Why was the first AP practice test we were taking so late in the year? I clearly had a bit to learn.

It made me think that AP teachers should administer more AP practice tests and integrate more AP style practice problems into their courses prior to the real tests. This will

Summer prep classes are far from evil

BY ApoorvaKwatra
& NeeharThumathy

Criticism of summer school classes is easy to find. They're too short. They can't deliver the same content as a school course. Overachievers take them to boost their college application.

While these criticisms may have merit in some cases, they don't eliminate the enormous educational benefits that students can gain from properly selected courses over the summer.

Summer prep classes are a great tool to get ahead

Summer prep classes provide students the opportunity to get ahead in classes they enjoy.

Projects while also learning new material that may not be taught in school.

Although they should not be considered or used as replacements for year long courses, the varying benefits of summer courses make them invaluable options for students.

For example, one of the most popular summer classes that incoming freshmen take is Geometry.

In the summer between middle school and high school, students who want to get a year ahead in math see this class as the gateway to advanced math.

Many argue that summer Geometry does not provide the same depth of learning that a regular year-long Geometry class does.

However, although the whole curriculum is compressed into a single

summer, the benefits of getting ahead outweigh the downfalls of a fast-paced course.

By taking summer Geometry, students benefit by gain a free year after Calculus, which is often the last math course students take in high school.

During this year, they can further their mathematical knowledge by taking classes such as AP Statistics or more advanced courses like Multivariable Calculus and Differential Equations at community colleges.

This extra math class more than negates whatever the students may have lost from taking Geometry in the summer.

Some may argue that there is a lack of depth in summer courses, since the curriculum is squeezed into two months.

However, the geometric concepts are reviewed in later math classes, like Trigonometry/PreCalculus. Even if one does not learn everything about geometry in a summer course, they will eventually do so in the rest of their math classes.

At the same time, students usually do not only take summer classes to skip ahead in school. Many students take summer classes to gain knowledge and prepare for a subject they will later take as a year-long course.

This is an ingenious method that gives students the ability to better understand the course material during the academic year.

Such classes include AP Physics, a

Attending prom stag: an underrated option



**megan,
it rain**

Megan MacInnes

Now that prom season has arrived, we are being bombarded with adorable prom askings that range from cardboard poster puns to elaborate scavenger hunts.

Of course, the askings come with inevitable drama: Who are you going to ask? What if no one asks you?

I just broke up with my significant other, what now?

Will everyone make fun of me if I don't find a date?

Am I even going to have fun without a date to dance with?

For many of us, there are two options: Either we go to prom single or don't go at all.

The former isn't as terrifying as it sounds.

It's time to realize that going alone doesn't mean you were too lame to find a date. In fact, some people don't even want one.

Others may want to have fun with friends rather than go with someone they barely know.

If you're like me, then maybe you just want a reason to get dressed up and take nice photos.

Or maybe you want to dance the night away at a cool venue to release school stress.

Either way, the possibility of attending prom dateless shouldn't stop some-

one from going. Contrary to popular belief, the biggest prom problem is not finding the perfect dress, but rather the perceived social stigma, especially for girls, of going alone.

But in reality it's not that awkward. In this day and age, young women should not be defined by their relationships with men.

For the queer girls out there, I understand that finding a date can be especially difficult for you, but that doesn't mean prom is a bust, either.

Rather than making awkward small talk with a date, people can focus on having fun with friends.

Personally, I'd rather disco on the dance floor than be constantly worrying about how my date feels about me.

Coordinating with friends to attend prom as a platonic group is one solution to the date issue.

That way, there are friends to chat with during awkward slow dances.

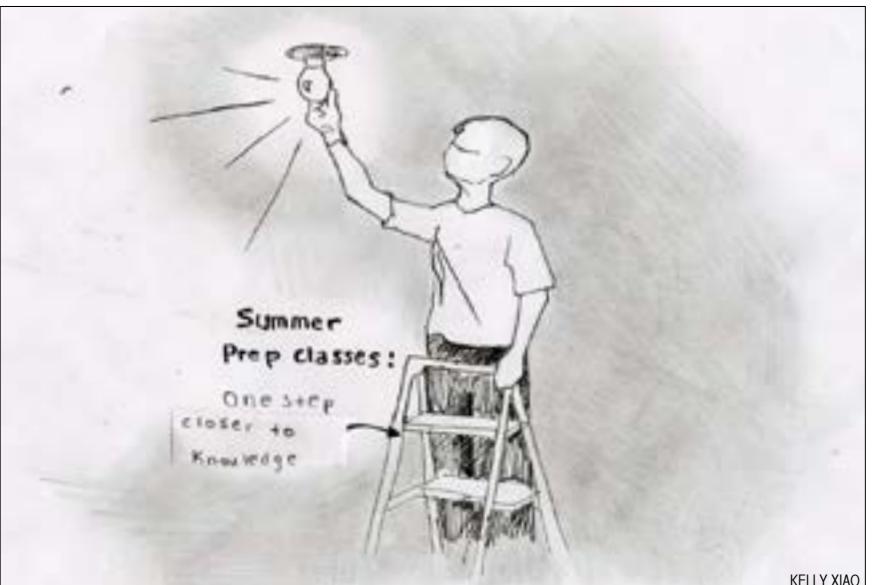
For people who have friends attending prom in couples, there are other options for enjoying the night together. People can get ready together and take photos as a group.

Of course, photos with your imaginary friend can work too.

During the inevitable couple photos, single people can opt to take pictures with their best friends in funny couple's poses.

In short, going single to prom is a viable option for anyone, and doesn't detract from the fun of the event in any way.

>> candid caricatures



KELLY XIAO

class that many juniors take over the summer to prepare for the school year. Unlike AP Biology or AP Chemistry, AP Physics is not preceded by an introductory course such as Biology or Chemistry Honors; thus, students have little experience with the subject.

Additionally, some students take summer classes because the classes they are taking are not offered at school.

This includes many liberal arts classes, which, when taken over the summer, also provide the credit necessary to graduate from high school without using a period in the school year to do so.

In actuality, summer prep classes can provide students the opportunity to not only get ahead in classes they enjoy, but also study subjects that may not be taught in school. ♦

For instance, many students take History of Rock and Roll, an online course

offered through West Valley, over the summer to fulfill their required visual and performing art credit.

Students can also take college level courses to get ahead in a field they know they want to study in college, such as business courses, which the school does not provide despite the popularity of the field.

Some believe summer school is simply a way to retake failed courses, but this is not the case.

The restaurant's green philosophy on food translates to its decor, which is modern and clean. Toward the back of the restaurant, images of people enjoying vegetables and nature decorate the walls. The entire restaurant, from the soap (Ms. Meyer's Clean Day Lemon Verbena) to the lime-colored decor, rings of eco-friendliness. Veggie Grill's environment was attractive except for the black floor, which was littered with plastic forks and napkins.

I was also able to taste the rest of my family's picks: a Sonoran Winter Bowl that cost \$8.95 and a Chargrilled Veggie Penne that cost \$9.95. The Winter Bowl was similar to the Thai Chikin' Salad; the only difference was that the Winter Bowl



FALCON / MICHELLE CEN

Reporter Michelle Cen ordered the Grillin' Chickin' sandwich and pea soup at Veggie Grill.

had less lettuce and more avocado.

The Chargrilled Veggie Penne, which sat on a cold white plate, was a disappointment. Plain penne tossed in kale, tomato and chipotle ranch mingled together in zingy bliss that was barely contained between two whole wheat loaves. The pea soup, albeit tiny as well, was refreshing with a hint of mint.

Would I return to Veggie Grill? Most likely not, considering that the portion sizes were stingy for the price.

In addition, the flavors, while diverse, were average and did not rival those of the vegetarian offerings at other restaurants.

the salads at Rio Adobe. If you're looking for a quick and clean fix, though, or if you are a person with a specific diet who wants a selection of healthy options to choose from, Veggie Grill is the place to try. ♦

Veggie Grill



(OUT OF FIVE)

Where: 1692 Saratoga Avenue #94

Reporter's favorite: Grillin' Chickin'

sandwich and pea soup

Price range: Around \$3-\$10



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Westgate Mall

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Veggie Grill disappoints with stingy portions

BY MichelleCen

Sunshine poured in through the windows. The light illuminated slick green walls, latticed wooden spheres hanging from the ceiling and young diners spearing asparagus and kale. The cozy restaurant, quiet except for the alternative music and crunching of vegetables, struck me as hip and LA-esque.

Veggie Grill, which opened up a few months ago in Westgate Center, is a vegan restaurant chain with 28 outlets located in California, Washington and Oregon.

The diversity of the menu, which is laden with gluten-free and soy-free choices, impressed me.

Veggie Grill offers salads, snacks, sandwiches and desserts with intriguing names such as "Buffalo Bomber" and "Bali Bliss."

Priding itself upon health, Veggie Grill also only uses oil with monounsaturated fat.

The restaurant's green philosophy on food translates to its decor, which is modern and clean. Toward the back of the restaurant, images of people enjoying vegetables and nature decorate the walls. The entire restaurant, from the soap (Ms. Meyer's Clean Day Lemon Verbena) to the lime-colored decor, rings of eco-friendliness. Veggie Grill's environment was attractive except for the black floor, which was littered with plastic forks and napkins.

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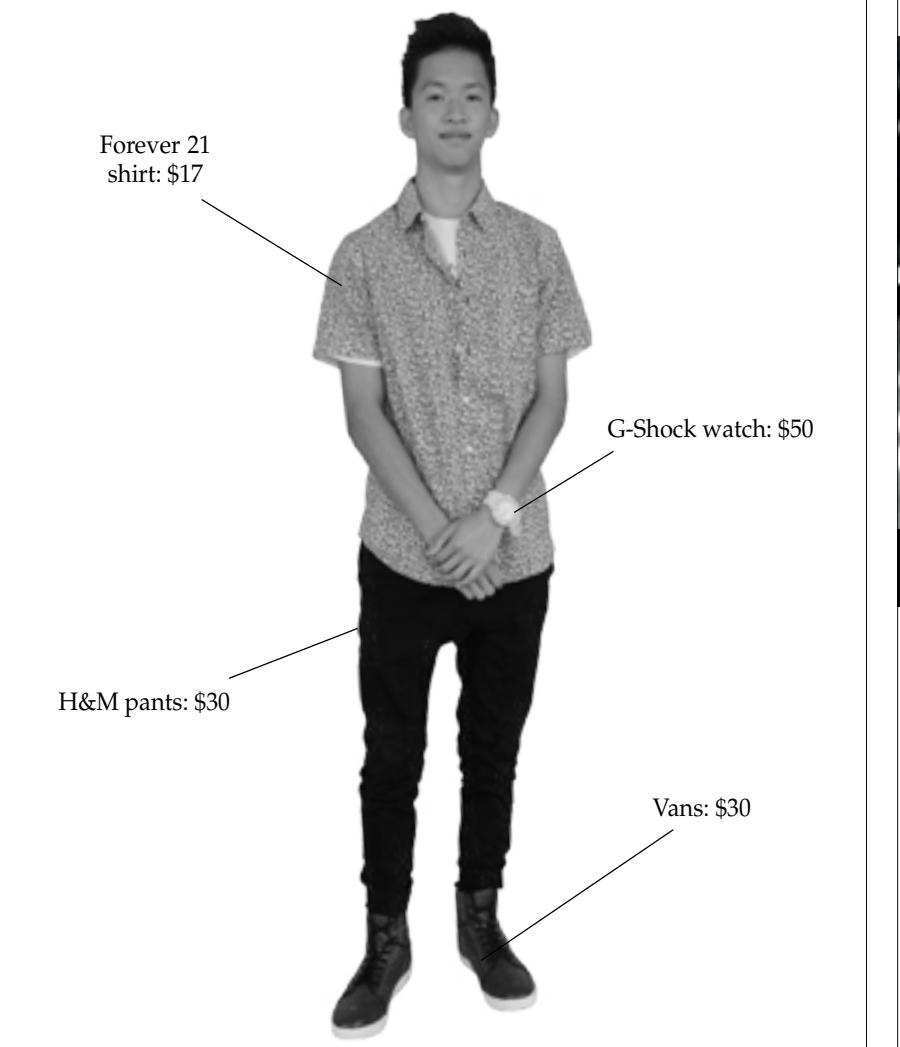
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STYLE FILES



Christopher Lee, 9
Total cost: \$127

Forever 21 shirt: \$17

H&M pants: \$30

G-Shock watch: \$50

Vans: \$30

Total cost: \$127

Christopher Lee, 9

May 29, 2015



Students travel abroad to immerse themselves in different cultures

Harris to live in Guatemalan town

BY Shazia Gupta & Sweetya Raj

Junior Nina Harris looked around, intrigued by the rainy agricultural town of San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, where she was staying last summer. The town was still recovering from a civil war nearly 20 years ago, and poverty existed around almost every corner: about 80 percent of the children were malnourished.

Nina and her sister Sonia Harris accompanied their father, the chair of pediatrics at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, to Guatemala to observe a program that Stanford professor of child health and health research Dr. Paul Wise created. The program, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford, builds hospitals and provides better medical care to Guatemalans.

Harris observed the everyday life of the locals, learning how they cope without access to clean water, food or money to fund the city's needs, such as running electricity, flushing toilets and proper education.

After staying for one week with her father, she traveled back home to Saratoga, only to realize that seven days was not enough.

Every year, Wise brings a group of Stanford students and volunteer doctors to Guatemala to provide medical care to the poor.

The group includes one full-time doctor and several promotores, Guatemalans with a fourth or fifth grade education chosen based on their communication skills and their level of education.

After basic medical training, these promotores eventually become surrogate medical professionals, doctors that help with childbirth, for local communities.

ABOVE: Junior Nina Harris and her twin Sonia play with a village child. **LEFT:** Nina teaches a young girl how to operate her Nikon camera.

Harris

Graphic by Michelle Cen



Courtesy of NINA HARRIS

medical file by the promotores for future reference.

Although she is not yet sure how, Harris wants to use these photos to raise money to help the town.

Her father will once again accompany her on the trip, and the Stanford team will be there for the last two weeks of her stay.

In total, Nina will be in Guatemala for two months. She plans to help the promotores in their medical work to combat the disease and malnutrition that is affecting San Lucas Tolimán.

"The promotores weigh children ages zero to three on a regular basis to see how they fall on the nutrition scale," Nina said. "It's devastating how many children in these areas are malnourished, but by bringing the promotores into the communities, they get access to all the possible medical conditions."

Inspired by her experiences from her trip last year, she also plans to create a photojournalism project, in which she will photograph children and their families and give these photographs to the families at the end of her trip. The photos will also be placed in a

malan culture for centuries, and is used to create clothing and textiles for the home.

In Guatemala, she will be living in a house with 15 other people that are all members of the same family. According to Nina, members of the extended family live together because they cannot afford houses for each individual family.

"I'm not scared. Many people have asked me why I don't feel nervous about the trip, but it doesn't seem that dangerous to me," Nina said.

Nina said that she plans to continue doing this type of volunteer work in the future, and that this summer will be a way for her to experience firsthand how she can make a difference in the world.

To prepare for the upcoming summer, Harris will be taking an intensive Spanish language class equivalent to the Spanish 4 and 5 classes at Saratoga that she hopes will help her become more immersed in the culture of the Guatemalan people.

She will also be taking a back-strap weaving class, similar to the one she took last year, for the same purpose. Backstrap weaving has been an important part of Guate-

Old friends plan European tour

BY Larissa Chiu & Katherine Sun

Seniors Sophia Ajane, Caitriona Costello, Puck de Roos, Amanda Moriarty and Anna Sabel share a tradition that has lasted five years: each Christmas, they gather at Moriarty's house for a dinner party that features an extensive menu, long chats, a white elephant gift exchange and bizarre movies.

As they now transition to the next segment of their lives, the five seniors will also travel together for the first time, spending part of their summer in Europe before heading off to college.

In the span of two weeks they will tour Madrid, Barcelona, Paris and Amsterdam.

The seniors share fond memories from Saratoga Elementary School and Redwood Middle School. Moriarty laughs as she recalls meeting Sabel in fourth grade when they were sharing their favorite animals with the class, and Sabel revealed her favorite to be the saber tooth tiger.

"That can't count! It doesn't exist anymore," Moriarty joked.

Meanwhile, Sabel remembers getting to know de Roos through the middle school's leadership elective in eighth grade.

"I distinctly remember us arguing over who got to hold the ball cart key when we took it out for that class," Sabel said.

Since then, the five friends have bonded through trips to the movies, the mall and the beach. As graduation approaches, however, they are reminded that soon it will take more than a quick drive to see each other.

Sabel will attend Brown University, Ajane will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Costello will attend Cornell, Moriarty will attend the University of Notre Dame and de Roos will attend the University of California Santa Barbara.

This led them to plan their senior trip, which was first brought up by de Roos. She stays at her family's house in Amsterdam each summer and thought it would be fun to invite her friends.

From there, the idea expanded to a tour around Europe with Amsterdam as just one of the destinations.

The five friends are set to visit famous landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower, and to savor plenty of local food. Though they had originally planned to stop by some smaller cities, they changed their minds in favor of more unscheduled time to be able to decide what they want to do along the way.

"We wanted to spend more than one or two days in these places, to see everything instead of not having time to enjoy ourselves," de Roos said.

Sabel feels that the appeal of their trip lies in the cultural immersion. She enthusiastically lists the activities she looks forward to, including getting "real, fresh French bread" and seeing the beautiful canals and tulips of Amsterdam.

"I [would love to see] the sights that other people live with everyday and learn [the locals'] quirks and traditions," Sabel said. "It's also fun to try to pick up new languages, though [de Roos] once tried to teach me two sentences in Dutch, and I promptly failed at it."

Out of all the destinations, Sabel especially looks forward to visiting art museums such as the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay and the Van Gogh Museum. She "fell in love" with San Francisco's Legion of Honor, the first art museum she has ever visited, that her AP European History class visited in April.

"There is just no way to compare the art that you see in person with the photographs you see in a textbook," Sabel said. "I have always been a little bit of an art nerd, but seeing art of such magnitude was surreal."

Despite her excitement, Sabel, along with the rest of the group, has not forgotten that this is the last time they will see each other regularly.

According to de Roos, the trip is a chance for them to have one last time together before they separate for college.

"I'm really looking forward to all of the fun nights we're going to have, [as well as] being with them all the time and for so long," de Roos said.

Still, Sabel is optimistic about their relationships. She said that the friends will always remain close and compares their bond to that of siblings.

"Change is scary, but I know that we will continue to be there for each other as we make the transition to college," Sabel said. ♦

Sophomore bids 'au revoir' to home

BY Ami Nachiappan

Imagine peering out of your hotel window in awe, amazed by the famous "City of Lights" in France filled with crowds of people visiting the Eiffel Tower. As you gaze at the Seine River, it lights up the night sky with reflections of city lamps. You jump back into bed, eager to start the next day of sightseeing and learning about French culture.

Rarely do high school students have the opportunity to study abroad, but sophomore Anya Herne is one of the lucky few. This summer, Herne will study in the Summer Study Camp at Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

The five-week camp, which costs around \$8,000, will focus on French language and enrichment classes such as fashion and architecture. The program caught Herne's eye when she was searching the web for potential summer activities.

"One of my goals is to definitely be close to fluent in French by the time I'm back," she said. "I know my French will improve drastically."

Because Herne was so eager to learn about France, she began the application process in early October and finished within a week,

French language developed after hearing stories from her parents.

As a young girl, Herne's mom, who took French in high school and visited France a few times, related many "casual remarks" about the amazing food, great shopping outlets and quaint cafes in Paris. Not only is Herne excited about new clothes and food, but she also is currently taking French 3 and "is really intrigued by the French culture."

Most of the program will be run in French in hopes of completely immersing students in the culture, though some English will be used as the students are not expected to be fluent yet.

The program requires participants to take a language placement test prior to the camp. Herne tested well and was consequently placed in the intermediate/advanced French class.

"I didn't want to be bored out of my mind [this summer] so I found this camp that perfectly aligns my interests," Herne said.

The camp offers classes in language and fashion, two subjects that Herne "is crazy about." Her love for these two arts and for

every weekend, including a stay in Amsterdam. The camp provides a lengthy two-hour lunch break, which Herne plans to use to explore the city.

At the camp, Herne will take classes in three fields that she is passionate about: language, fashion and architecture.

A fashionista at heart, Herne plans to visit many fashion boutiques throughout Paris, such as the original Chanel and Cartier. She will also check out smaller boutiques with developing designers, hoping to learn from the "laid back but elegant" street styles in Paris.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing how Parisians dress, as I've long regarded them to be a very fashionable people," Herne said. "Paris has been the capital of fashion for so long and that alone draws me in."

Although the focus of the camp is French culture, Herne thinks she will end up learning many things, outside and inside of the classroom, during her stay.

"Paris is such a vibrant city that I'm not sure I know what I want to learn yet," she said. "I think I'll develop a lot of interests once I'm there and get a full grasp of what Paris has to offer." ♦

May 29, 2015

Media begins to promote natural beauty

By Emily Chen
& Ami Nachiappan

The taut face of a pale, young woman stands out from the screen, a tightly wrapped brown bun tied on her head. This image is part of a YouTube video titled "Beauty Standards Around the World," which includes a series of pictures of the same woman Photoshopped to look "beautiful" in 25 different countries.

As a reader of Seventeen, senior Jessica Uong sometimes wishes for the same features, like eyebrows or abs, that models have, but is still also content with her own appearance.

As the movement toward natural beauty has gained steam, young people today better understand the media's often exaggerated images.

because you only get one shot, you'll be OK."

According to sophomore Kelsey Kinoshita, there are also many published celebrity interviews where celebrities promote body positivity and self-confidence, such as Barbara Walter's interview with Jennifer Lawrence about the media's effect on the younger generation.

"[The interviews] make [the celebrities] seem more real," Kinoshita said. "It makes people think, 'If they don't look like [their Photoshopped selves], how should I look like that?'"

Nowadays, we can alter not only the appearance of individuals in photos, but also their portrayal in films.

In fact, in 2012, Seventeen Magazine

responded to a petition that was signed by more than 84,000 people asking that it include an unaltered spread each month. Instead, the company promised to never digitally alter girls' bodies again.

As a reader of Seventeen, senior Jessica Uong sometimes wishes for the same features, like eyebrows or abs, that models have, but is still also content with her own appearance.

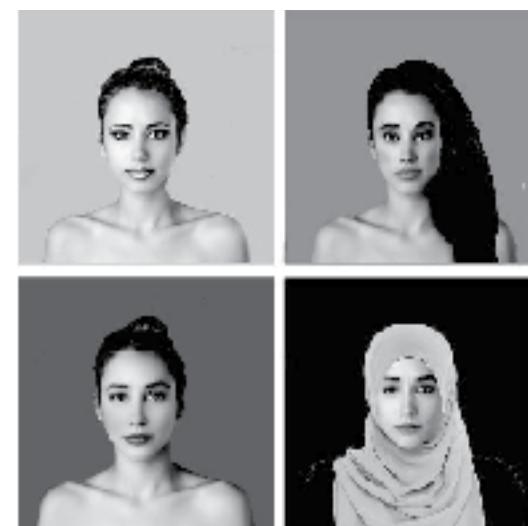
"Our generation has been changing for the better and is accepting of how we express ourselves," Uong said. "As long as you remember to love yourself

because you only get one shot, you'll be OK."

Besides the celebrity advocates and actors who are aiming for more realistic standards, the "movement of natural beauty" has been backed by organizations that publish videos and articles that have sparked interest about the use of Photoshop in dramatizing beauty.

Sophomore Niimisha Devanagondi, a photographer who has her own Facebook page entitled "A Thousand Pixels," feels that Photoshop generally lowers beliefs about beauty, others, such as actress Jennifer Lawrence, embrace their appearance.

"I like the way I look. I'm really sick of these actresses looking like birds," Lawrence said, in an interview published in Flare magazine. "I'd rather look a little chubby on camera and look like a person in real life than look great on screen and look like a scarecrow in real life." ♦



people's self-esteem when they look at images of models.

"[People] try to copy [models] in a way, but sometimes [achieving the same appearance as models is] not possible because it can only be achieved with Photoshop," Devanagondi said.

Devanagondi explained that she only

uses Photoshop to tweak minor details, like background lighting and color contrast.

"The people in my photoshoots are naturally beautiful, so I don't need to change anything about them to make them look better," she said.

Though some actors perpetuate harmful beliefs about beauty, others, such as actress Jennifer Lawrence, embrace their appearance.

"I like the way I look. I'm really sick of these actresses looking like birds," Lawrence said, in an interview published in Flare magazine. "I'd rather look a little chubby on camera and look like a person in real life than look great on screen and look like a scarecrow in real life." ♦

As a student in the Media Arts Pro-

grams (MAP), Kinoshita has gleaned valuable lessons from filmmaking.

"[MAP] has made me realize that the people behind the camera have a very big role in how actors are presented, which is usually in the best way possible," she said.

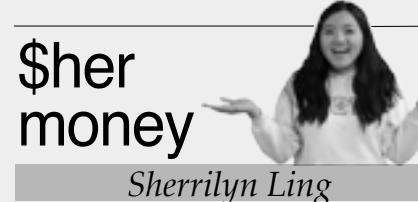
When Kinoshita films her peers, she said she gets a sense of who they really are. Because she sees the "real side" of her actors, Kinoshita thinks the celebrities portrayed in the media don't always seem "real" because they are placed at such a high standard of perfection which, in reality, is unattainable.

As the movement toward natural beauty has gained steam, young people today better understand the media's often exaggerated images.

"I think that most kids aren't really influenced by [these images]," senior Mihir Samdarshi said. "I know a few students who maybe live their entire lives engrossed with Teen Vogue or Seventeen, but I don't see it propagated throughout the entire school."

In fact, in 2012, Seventeen Magazine

Reporter perseveres to meet idol: Carey Mulligan



Carey Mulligan — a name synonymous with perfection, beauty and talent. I have religiously followed her career for years, watching every interview on YouTube and counting down the days until each of her movies was released.

Unsurprisingly, when my older sister called and told me she bought me tickets to see Carey perform live in the Broadway play "Skylight," I nearly fainted from excitement.

Everything was already so exhilarating; I was visiting over spring break to tour New York University. It was my very first time in New York, and the atmosphere was thrilling. To top it all off, watching Carey come to life onstage was unlike anything I've ever experienced. After being blown away by her performance, I promised myself that I would do whatever it took to meet her after the show. In an attempt to stall my mother to stay at the theater as long as possible, I told her I had to go to the bathroom.

Standing outside in the freezing New York weather, I waited what felt like an eternity until Carey finally came out. She was even more beautiful than I ever imagined she could be with her sweatpants, navy blue winter coat and hair up in a messy bun. When she said hello to me, her British accent and low voice were just as lovely as in all the interviews I had watched.

While waiting in the line, I began to imagine what Carey would be like in person. Would she be as nice to her fans as she seems in interviews? Would she be as gorgeous as she is in the movies? My hands started shaking at the very thought of getting to meet her.

Once we left the restrooms, my mom and I walked outside the Golden Theatre to find everyone holding signed playbills. I started to panic and sweat as my mom tapped a stranger on the shoulder:

"Did Carey come out already?"

Ultimate Summer Bucket List

REPORTERS COMPILE ENTERTAINMENT WORTH YOUR TIME

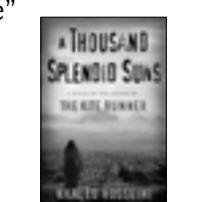
MOVIES

- "Fight Club"
- "Shawshank Redemption"
- "Forrest Gump"
- "The Intouchables"
- "The Dark Knight Trilogy"
- "Good Will Hunting"
- "Gone Girl"
- "Million Dollar Baby"
- "The Matrix"
- "Star Wars"



BOOKS

- "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho
- "The Catcher in the Rye" by J. D. Salinger
- "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell
- "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Brontë
- "Sophie's World" by Jostein Gaarder
- "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini



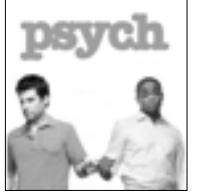
CONCERTS

- Nickelback at Shoreline June 24
- One Direction at Levi's July 11
- Taylor Swift at Levi's August 14-15



NETFLIX

- "Friends"
- "House Of Cards"
- "Sherlock"
- "Gossip Girl"
- "Orange Is The New Black"
- "Psych"



MUSIC

- Genre: Remixes
- House
- Bollywood
- New albums: Florence and the Machine's "How Big How Blue How Beautiful"
- Jason Derülo's "Everything is 4"
- Of Monsters and Men's "Beneath the Skin"
- Nate Ruess's "Grand Romantic"



MUSEUMS

- De Young Museum
- Cartoon Art Museum
- Contemporary Jewish Museum
- Museum of the African Diaspora
- Legion of Honor Museum



NEW MOVIES

- "Paper Towns" July 24
- "Inside Out" June 19
- "Minions" July 10



DRIVE-IN

- West Wind San Jose Drive-In 3630 Hillcap Ave., San Jose, Ca.



BY: HELEN CHEN AND SWEEYEA RAJ

let's (SFB) summer courses. SFB is one of the world's leading dance companies and America's oldest professional dance company, described as part of a "triumvirate of great classical companies defining the American style on the world stage today" by "The Guardian."

When Cichanowicz received her first pair of ballet shoes at age 3, she had no idea how far her dance career would take her, let alone how many hours she would willingly sacrifice for it. Cichanowicz said that over the years, dance has grown to become not only a sport she does "just for fun," but one that has taken over her "entire life."

After dabbling in tap and jazz in addition to ballet at a young age, 11-year-old Cichanowicz followed her older sister, Class of '13 alumna Kendall Cichanowicz, to Los Gatos Ballet, an all-ballet studio. There, she began to "take [her] training more seriously, but hadn't thought about having a career in it yet."

Nevertheless, Cichanowicz realized

she could achieve her dream if she devoted her entire life to it," Cichanowicz said. In addition to attending other summer programs at Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, Cichanowicz has spent her past three summers at San Francisco Ballet's

let's (SFB) summer courses. SFB is one of the world's leading dance companies and America's oldest professional dance company, described as part of a "triumvirate of great classical companies defining the American style on the world stage today" by "The Guardian."

At the three-week programs, Cichanowicz danced six days a week, practicing four hours each day. While refining her technique at SFB and watching their professionals, such as Sofianne Sylvie and Mathilde Froustey, practice, Cichanowicz fell in love with the company.

Her dream eventually came true. During the program, students were given the opportunity to apply for SFB's year-round program. Cichanowicz was

invited to join the company three times, declining the first two invitations at her mother's request and eagerly accepting the third in 2014.

Fulfilling Cichanowicz's dream has been a full family effort; almost every week day her mother, Sandy Cichanowicz, picks her up straight from school. From there, they begin the one-hour commute to San Francisco, which has become designated homework time for Sophie.

Despite their tight schedule and long hours spent in the car, both Sophie and her mother willingly make the sacrifices.

"As long as Sophie is happy and this is what she wants to do, I will support her and will help her navigate her way to wherever this journey takes her," her mother said.

Their dedication and persistence have begun to pay off. This year, Sophie has performed in SFB's "The Nutcracker," "Don Quixote" and their opening season gala, performing roles such as Dragonfly and Little Cupid.

In January, Sophie was featured on

May 29, 2015

Sophomore dancer leaps to perfection at SFB

BY Spring Ma

Sophomore Sophie Cichanowicz floated across the stage in her pink embroidered Aurora costume, in time with the steady beat of the orchestral soundtrack of "The Sleeping Beauty." Cichanowicz seamlessly transitioned from piqués turns to bournées in her ménage, or perhaps

her passion for ballet when she was cast for her first main role as Clara in Los Gatos Ballet's rendition of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" in 2011. Shortly after, she was cast as Aurora in "The Sleeping Beauty."

Ever since, Cichanowicz said she has not once doubted her choice to pursue dance, as both performances were challenging yet eye-opening for her. After the exhausting show practices that would keep her in the studio every Saturday, Cichanowicz learned to dance her first pas de deux, or partner dance, and performed her first solo on stage for "The Nutcracker."

As the pit orchestra slowed and the lighting dimmed, Cichanowicz stepped up to the spindle in front of her, pretending to prick her finger. Then, she fell still.

Lungs burning, feet cramping and tutu itching, Cichanowicz ignored her discomfort and focused on remaining as still as possible, convincingly falling asleep for three minutes, as her character would. Finally, the curtains closed after "what felt like forever" and the audience applauded, in anticipation of the next scene of Los Gatos Ballet's 2014

rendition of Tchaikovsky's "The Sleeping Beauty."

"Performing as Aurora was the largest role I've ever had, so I was nervous at first, but then it all went away," Cichanowicz said. "I think I've learned to deal with nerves and work through them."

"I knew that I could achieve my dream if I devoted my life to it."

sophomore Sophie Cichanowicz

"

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In January, Sophie was featured on

flown out into the middle of the street, and the suspension was damaged. In general, most of the car was totaled.

Guo recalls feeling dazed in the minutes following the incident.

"It was so unfathomable to me, even though I [had] drifted a couple [of] times before," Guo said. "One minute, I was driving in my own lane; the next minute, my car is uncontrollably swerving into an intersection."

Guo said the accident taught him to make sure never closes his eyes while he is driving. He works to finish his homework earlier in order to fit in more hours of sleep before school nights.

Many students, especially upperclassmen with heavy class loads, work late into the night and arrive at school the next day having slept only two to three hours.

Fortunately, Guo walked away from this accident with no injuries.

After several months, Guo has a new car and is taking extra precautions behind the wheel. He often tells his friends to avoid driving when fatigued.

"Life is short, and it's such a blessing that we can live every day," Guo said. "Life is frail and is easily broken or taken away, so don't let procrastination and lack of sleep be the reason you get it all taken away."



LUNCH LADY

BARBARA HERRERA DISCUSSES WORKING IN THE CAFETERIA



FALCON // KEVIN CHOW

Lunch lady Barbara Herrera has worked as an SHS cafeteria staff member for over nine years. Each day, she helps out in the kitchen and greets students at her lunch cart outside of the staff lounge.

Q: How do you prepare for lunch and close shop afterward?

A: When it gets closer to lunch I'll bring my stuff out for the cart and make sure everything's done in the kitchen. Maybe afterward I have five to ten minutes to take a break, and then I come outside. And I just go from there. When lunch is over, I count the money, count all the supplies, regroup, restock and figure out what's left. Then I start over again.

Q: What do you do on a daily basis that students do not typically see?

A: Every day is different because we have different schedules. When I first come in, I'll set up the soup bar, and then I get everything prepared to do Chicken Caesar and all of my big salads. Usually by the time I get done setting up the soup and doing all the other little things I do, it's time for break. Afterward I'll finish up whatever I have to do for the salad bar and get my stuff ready for my cart. Then there's always dishes to do, things to put away or deliveries.

Q: How do you connect with the rest of the staff?

A: We bond pretty well here. Our boss is always great about having a thank you dinner at the end of the year. We went over to her house for a barbecue one time, and we have birthday gatherings. But we stay in touch; we call or email just to catch up and see how we're doing. It's a team effort. It's nice to have good people to work with and people to work for.

Q: What made you want to stay here for so long?

A: Because I'm usually outside, I always have a few kids that become my favorites. There will be a new freshman class that comes in, and I learn some of their names. But when they become juniors and they go off campus, I'll hardly ever get to see them. It breaks my heart and they'll come by to say 'Hi,' but I don't get that daily interaction with them, and before you know it, they're gone. I'm a believer and my faith is strong, so I pray for the staff and school every day. My main thing is that the students know that they're taken care of and my co-workers know how much I appreciate them. I'm thankful for my job and I'm just really happy to be here.

Reporting by Helen Chen and Spring Ma

OFFICER serves country, ensures safety of students

BY Nidhi Jain
& Stefanie Ting

The alarm blares at 4 a.m. as School Resources Officer Chad Garton rolls out of bed. After grabbing a quick breakfast and reading the newspaper, Garton begins the 45-mile drive from his home to Saratoga.

Garton's day officially starts at approximately 7 a.m. Throughout the day, he touches base with the administration and is updated with information at each of the nine schools he helps, most of which are in Saratoga or in the west side of Santa Clara County.

For example, when Monta Vista junior Connor Sullivan went missing on April 20, Garton, along with several other deputies, conducted searches after hours until Sullivan returned home two days later on his own.

While on duty as a school resource officer, which he has served as since 2013, Garton deals with student misconduct serious enough to require intervention by law enforcement. He acts as a mediator between the sheriff's office and the schools he oversees.

"Whatever [students] need, I'm here to provide service for," Garton said. "I can answer questions and, only if need be, take enforcing action if somebody commits a crime."

Before working in this area, Garton graduated in the Homestead High School Class of 2002. Four years later, he graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, double majoring in political science and military science.

Later that year, Garton enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served from 2006 to 2012 in the Active and Reserves field.

"I joined the army in 2006 because I felt like it was my duty to sign up and defend my country," Garton said.

Six years after first enlisting, Garton was deployed to one of the most dangerous war zones — Iraq, where the U.S. was mired in the Iraq War.

Once his term ended in 2008, Garton returned to the Bay Area without a job or a place to live. For two months, Garton stayed at his parents' house while he searched for a job. During this transition, Garton struggled to let go of his war experiences.

"Obviously, working in the U.S. is not like working in a war zone; you can't treat it like a war zone," Garton said. "Not everyone is out here to get you, and it's a hard transition to make."

When he was looking for a job after returning to the Bay Area, Garton seized the opportunity to be a sheriff's deputy in 2007. He held various positions at the sheriff's office, including deputy sheriff for seven years and, currently, tactical flight observer, in which he co-pilots a search helicopter a few times a month.

His time as a sheriff's deputy has exposed him to a different people's perspectives, forcing him to talk to a variety of individuals he would never have met otherwise.

In 2011, Garton arrested a homeless man who was living on Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino.



FALCON // ERIC SIZE

Officer Chad Garton stands in front of the high school.

Tino twice for possession of heroin. The man was severely unhealthy and his body was "destroying itself."

After the man was released from jail for the second time, Garton began to check up on him, glad that he was attempting to stay sober. Garton knew that the man loved Dr. Pepper and brought him a six pack of the soda each time he visited him.

Two years later, Garton tracked the man down and discovered that he was still off drugs and had gotten a job. The man thanked Garton, saying that if it were not for Garton checking up on him, he likely would have died.

"This man had the will to change his situation, and just needed a little help and a kind smile," Garton said.

Along with helping out the general area, he spends his time helping to prevent crime and enforce the law in specific schools, where he tries to resolve issues with minimal punishment.

Often times, the students he deals with are also bat-

tling depression. To motivate both these students and students dealing with substance abuse or suicidal thoughts, Garton relates to them one of his life mottoes: "Nothing is ever as bad as it seems." Although Garton sometimes has to deal with students who are struggling with serious issues, he thoroughly enjoys his job.

"I just like being able to go out and interact with people," Garton said. "I can't imagine having a desk job where I'm just sitting there inputting numbers and working on a spreadsheet all day. I'd go crazy."

Garton particularly enjoys interacting with high school students, who are better able to understand his sarcastic humor than middle and elementary school students.

"[High school students] are getting ready to go off to college and start these great, exciting lives of their own, and I'm so excited to come to talk to them," Garton said. "There is so much opportunity, and they're all really excited about it." ♦

LIBRARIAN blends info and technology

BY Vibha Seshadri

structure that would allow the school to connect to the Internet."

Heyman began to incorporate the Internet into his lesson plans — after getting the necessary technology — something he felt allowed him to reconcile his passion for education and interest in technology.

Later, in 1998, Heyman enrolled at San Jose State University (SJSU) to obtain his master's degree in library science. This gave him the opportunity to gain more knowledge on how to better combine his passion for technology with education. Heyman also obtained his special education and library media credentials at SJSU. After completing his degree in 2000, Heyman began working at Independence High School as the librarian.

"I have been inspired by the ways in which information has become available," Heyman said. "[I enjoy] showing teachers and students how to wade through the morass of information to find high quality, scholarly information."

The journey to becoming a librarian

Before going into education, Heyman was a history major at Humboldt State University, where he spent innumerable hours in the library researching and writing papers. During those long hours of work, Heyman realized he had a passion for accumulating and synthesizing information.

After graduating from college in 1990, he spent the next decade teaching history and special education and working as the social science department chair at Mt. Pleasant High School in San Jose.

As a history teacher, Heyman sought new ways to integrating technology in the course material, which helped to engage his students in lessons. In fact, in 1992, Heyman was a part of Mt. Pleasant's Digital High School Committee, which was funded to "install the infra-

ture NoodleTools for their research projects. After he did so, a former student visiting campus told Head that such resources were extremely useful to him in college.

Heyman also works with many of the history and English teachers to create lesson plans that make use of the

I enjoy showing teachers and students how to wade through the morass of information.

librarian Kevin Heyman



FALCON // SWEEYA RAJ

library's digital resources. He has also collaborated with science teachers on smaller projects.

But Heyman does not work only with teachers; he helps students with projects such as those completed for the annual History Day competition.

"I always enjoy working with students [who put in so much] time and effort to not only create a great project, but [also] to learn something in the process," Heyman said.

Other aspects of the job

Additionally, Heyman is an information specialist, which means that he manages the school's online and digital resources as well as a collection of 30,000 print books in the library.

He must keep up to date with all the types of technology students can use in research.

"I have to walk the fine line between deciding what is a passing fad and what is meaningful change," Heyman said. "The speed with which technology

moves often makes this difficult."

Heyman said that although tasks such as collecting the library's eBooks may seem easy, they involve sifting through a massive amount of information.

Additionally he must verify that the library is not infringing on any copyright laws.

For example, many authors and publishers place restrictions on their work and the extent the work can be used. It is up to him to ensure that the library does not accidentally violate an author's restrictions or use pirated information.

"Many people don't fully understand the way that copyright law works, and as a result are illegally using information without realizing it," Heyman said.

Despite the numerous hours Heyman's job requires, he finds that working as a librarian is both fulfilling and exciting. He said his favorite aspect of his job is working with the SHS community.

"Saratoga has a great school climate, which makes it a great place to be," Heyman said. ♦

SUPERVISOR keeps students in line at school

BY Karissa Dong

"I like to help out as much as I can," Hernandez said. "I love working with the faculty and kids here. It's fun getting to know the students and seeing the activities they're involved in, [like] sports, drama and band."

Because he interacts with the students on a daily basis, he has had the unique opportunity to watch them mature over the years.

"You see students coming in as freshmen and next thing you know, they're graduating and you see what college they're going to and how they've grown," Hernandez said.

Since the fall of 2009, Hernandez has been the "gatekeeper" of the school, running errands for the office and performing a variety of campus tasks.

Prior to working here at the school,

Hernandez served as the Campus Safety Officer at Santa Clara University for six and a half years, a job that he described as "pretty wild and crazy." Theft was common at the university, and he noted that college can be dangerous and overwhelming for some.

Long past his own school years, he still chooses to work in an environment brimming with positivity.

to 6 p.m. At SHS, he has a more appealing schedule: a workday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The SHS job seemed like a good opportunity at a good school with nice kids," Hernandez said. "The hours also

allow me to pursue my outside interests."

He has kept up a pastime of coaching JV football at Lincoln High School in San Jose for the past 17 years. Growing up in this area, he graduated from Lincoln and has maintained close ties within the neighborhood.

His two kids — an 18-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son, both students at Lincoln — and a dog keep him busy at home.

Long past his own school years, he still chooses to work in a school environment brimming with the positivity.

"Kids here have a fresh outlook on life that keeps me feeling younger," Hernandez said. "They're just more real and fun to be around than adults. I always tell them, 'Enjoy being a kid, because it's the best time of your life!'" ♦

>>togatalks

How do you show appreciation for the staff?



"Whenever I see librarians or campus supervisors, I always greet them and ask how their day is."

senior Atharv Patwardhan



"I always make sure my gratitude is passed on by saying a simple 'thank you.'"

sophomore Kirthana Ramesh



"[I show appreciation] by thanking them on an everyday basis."

freshman Austin Shi

HOW DOES YOUR TEAM RANK IN THE FALCON THIS YEAR?

Based on the writers' opinions, this power rankings chart is meant to provoke conversation and debate

REPORTING BY ADITYA CHAUDHRY AND JIHUA YU



1. Boys' Volleyball (11)
Campus Presence: **4**
Improvement: **3**
Winning %: **14**
League Titles: **1**
CCS: **10**
Star Factor: **J. Schneidmiller**
Total: **32**

After not making CCS last year, the team won the El Camino League. The team ended up winning the CCS division 2 title against Aptos with the score of 3-0. The team ranks first because of its CCS title.

2. Girls' Tennis (4)
Campus Presence: **1**
Improvement: **2**
Winning %: **20**
League Titles: **2**
CCS: **7**
Star Factor: **S. Sabada**
Total: **32**

With the return of two seniors and the addition of two freshmen, the team went undefeated in the De Anza League for the second year in a row and got to the semifinals of CCS before losing to Bellarmine 4-3.

3. Boys' Tennis (1)
Campus Presence: **1**
Improvement: **1**
Winning %: **18**
League Titles: **2**
CCS: **7**
Star Factor: **N. Bedekar**
Total: **30**

Despite having Bedekar sidelined for most of the season, the team won the De Anza League for the second year in a row and got to the semifinals of CCS before losing to Bellarmine 4-3.

4. Cross Country (24)
Campus Presence: **2**
Improvement: **2**
Winning %: **N/A**
League Titles: **0**
CCS: **10**
Star Factor: **S. Sum**
Total: **29**

Led by Sum, who won the CCS division 3 individuals title, the team placed second overall in CCS. With the placement in the top three in CCS, the team proceeded onto states where they placed third overall.

5. Girls' Volleyball (6)
Campus Presence: **2**
Improvement: **3**
Winning %: **15**
League Titles: **1**
CCS: **5**
Star Factor: **E. Spirakis**
Total: **26**

Losing to Cupertino for league title last year, the team won the El Camino league this year. For the third year in a row, the team made CCS but lost in the second round to Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory (3-0).

Sport (last year's ranking)	Campus Presence (1-5)	Improvement (1-3)	Winning% (1-15 lower league, 1-20 upper)	League Title (1 for lower league, 2 for upper)	CCS (0-10)	Star Factor	Total	Evaluation
6. G. Water Polo (7)	4	3	12	0	6	P. de Roos	25	Despite injuries to key players, the team made CCS and lost to Sacred Heart 16-4 in the quarter-finals.
7. Field Hockey (21)	2	3	13	0	6	E. Norris	24	After a bad season last year, the team finished second in the De Anza League and made it to the quarterfinals of CCS.
8. B. Basketball (17)	3	3	13	1	4	M. Cole	22	The team was moved down from the De Anza League last season. They went on to win the El Camino League and lost their first round in CCS to Valley Christian 56-45.
9. Football (16)	5	3	10	0	4	J. Medeiros	22	Starting six underclassmen, the team finished fourth in the De Anza League and qualified for CCS before losing in the first round to Pioneer.
10. Baseball (10)	4	1	11	0	8	T. Yoshihara	20	After a rough start to the season, the team recovered to make it to the league finals before losing to Palo Alto.
11. B. Golf (5)	1	1	12	0	6	A. Vaziri	16	The team failed to win the league, not making CCS. However, Peng and Vaziri qualified individually to CCS before losing in their first round.
12. G. Golf (19)	1	2	11	0	4	V. Roan	16	Despite being consistent with its scores, the team lacked the top talent to do well, as it finished fifth in leagues.
13. B. Swimming (20)	2	2	2	0	10	J. Xie	16	Although the team did not do well in leagues, junior Jack Xie won individually at CCS and states.
14. G. Lacrosse (14)	2	1	8	0	6	C. Crolla	15	Finishing fourth in league, the girls made CCS playoffs and lost in the first round of CCS 16-10 to Palo Alto.
15. G. Basketball (2)	3	1	8	0	2	M. Davis	14	After getting moved up to the De Anza League and dealing with key losses, the team qualified for CCS before losing in the first round to Brannah.
16. Softball (9)	2	1	7	0	6	E. Spirakis	14	With a rough start to the season, the girls managed to pull it back to qualify for CCS before losing in the first round.
17. G. Track (15)	3	2	5	0	2	P. de Roos	14	Although the team had issues winning meets, freshman Chloe McGhee and senior Puck De Roos were able to qualify for CCS.
18. G. Swimming (18)	2	2	2	0	8	S. Ting	14	The girls were able to send several players to CCS, with sophomore Stefanie Ting placing fourth in 100 breaststroke and freshman Jeanette Khowong getting seventh in backstroke.
19. B. Track (8)	3	2	3	0	2	S. Sum	12	The team lost key sprinters, making it harder for the team to win meets and resulting in a lower league record.
20. Wrestling (23)	1	3	N/A	0	0	C. Murabito	11	Although the team did not do well at meets, Murabito won CCS individually and placed just under the top 8 at states.
21. G. Soccer (12)	2	2	7	0	6	C. Bowen	11	Due to injuries to key players during the season, the girls were just shy of qualifying for CCS.
22. B. Soccer (26)	3	2	6	0	6	C. Costello	11	Injuries early on in the season caused a slow start, but the boys started to pick up the pace near the end of the season.
23. B. Lacrosse (13)	2	3	5	0	0	A. Peck	10	With many seniors graduating, the mainly underclassmen team used this year to rebuild.
24. Badminton (22)	3	2	4	0	0	S. Ding	9	With the loss of 14 varsity players due to graduation, the badminton team used the year to rebuild for the next season.
25. B. Water Polo (3)	4	1	2	0	2	M. Lee	7	After moving up to the De Anza League and losing alumnus Stephen Cho, the team struggled to win games.

Senior receives CCS Spirit of Sport Award

BY Allison Lin

Versatile. Resilient. Committed.

The California Interscholastic Federation uses these characteristics to define the best and most honorable high school athletes. Senior Evan Lindeman was named recipient of the CIF/SUBWAY® Spirit of Sport Award for the Central Coast Section and given a \$1,000 scholarship.

Lugo told Lindeman that he had chosen the sophomore as the team's starter because Liddle showed great tools. Giving Liddle the job provided a chance to start building experience for Liddle to be the future of the program. Lindeman learned he would be used in a backup role and in certain special personnel packages.

Lindeman was, of course, disappointed and frustrated, but still saw it as a chance to improve his skills on defense and help focus his time teaching his less experienced backups at that position.

"These students have demonstrated and understand that a positive attitude and teamwork is what education based athletics reinforces to all of our students across California," CIF Executive Director Roger L. Blake said in a press release.

Out of all male athletes competing in CCS, Lindeman best personified the ideals of CIF's "Pursuing Victory with Honor" code both on and off the field.

"I was told there are athletes from more than 100 schools in CCS that are considered for the award," Lindeman said. "It's a huge honor, and I feel incredibly blessed for it."

In the fall, athletic director Tim Lugo nominated Lindeman as the school's candidate for the scholarship. Lindeman submitted an application along with a personal essay.

"I was both surprised and humbled when I was nominated for this award," Lindeman said. "I had never considered my actions as outstanding enough to receive these accolades."

This year's essay prompt asked candidates to consider the life lessons learned through participation in athletics.

Lindeman decided to take an unique approach: He considered why Lugo had nominated him. Attempting to put himself in Lugo's shoes, Lindeman realized the key reason Lugo may have chosen him for the nomination is the way he has reacted to adversity.

Lindeman was caught off guard by Lugo's announcement and said he did not fully understand the decision in that moment.

"[Lugo] alluded to the fact after being demoted, I never complained or even showed disdain for his decision or the team," Lindeman said. "He said that because I was visibly unchanged at practice and worked just as hard, if not harder than before, I had shown that the team's success was more important to me than anything, and that leaders are capable of putting personal setbacks behind them in order to help the team."

Lindeman plays quarterback on offense and outside linebacker on defense. Although he had the starting outside linebacker job secured, his summer practice

preparing for quarterback was very different.

It was a tryout for starting quarterback; a competition between him and sophomore Will Liddle. He worked hard and so did his competitor, but at the beginning of the second to last week of the summer training camp, Lugo called him over to his golf cart before practice.

Lugo told Lindeman that he had chosen the sophomore as the team's starter because Liddle showed great tools. Giving Liddle the job provided a chance to start building experience for Liddle to be the future of the program. Lindeman learned he would be used in a backup role and in certain special personnel packages.

Lindeman was, of course, disappointed and frustrated, but still saw it as a chance to improve his skills on defense and help focus his time teaching his less experienced backups at that position.

"I felt I owed it to the team to not get down and turn my back on my teammates just because I was no longer the starting quarterback," Lindeman said. "I have always felt a sense of responsibility to whatever team I am a part of, sports related or not."

Two weeks later, as the team closed the last practice of the summer program, Lugo brought the JV and varsity teams together to recap the summer and discuss the upcoming season. At the end of

"I have always felt a sense of responsibility to whatever team I am a part of, sports or not."

senior Evan Lindeman

he handled himself was how he always handled himself in life.

"My dad always taught me that humility and faith in your superior's decisions were the way team players and honorable people behave," Lindeman said.

In November of 2013, Lindeman's father, Mark Lindeman, suddenly passed away. Lindeman's father was a regular fan in the bleachers and loved by many in the athletic program. Lindeman attributes his sports ethic to his father. Not only does he have his dad's mindset on the field, but he also applies it to every aspect of his life, such as in the classroom.

"[My dad] insisted that I always push myself to be the best I could and love the competition within the team," Lindeman said. "It is never too late to win that spot back and the competition helps make both myself and my teammate better."

Over his years of being on different sports teams, Lindeman has come to the conclusion that true leaders lead by example, and are not always the most vocal or outspoken ones. Lindeman never thought that leading by example could include anything except letting performance or work speak for itself.

"Being rewarded with such a profound accolade as being a captain, for doing what I thought was expected of me, gave me tremendous pride in my upbringing and how I live my life," Lindeman said.

Lugo was overjoyed when the CCS commissioner told him Lindeman was selected for the award.

"[Lindeman] will go down as one of my favorite all-time players. He is the consummate competitor but does so with such class and integrity," Lugo said. "He was one of the reasons a young football team, like the one we had this year, overcame the odds and was able to advance to the CCS playoffs."

Lindeman's teammates agree that

Lindeman deserved the award for his work ethic and attitude.

"[Lindeman] is the kind of teammate every player wants," senior wide receiver Joey Medeiros said. "He is constantly looking to get better, and if a teammate has an issue, whether it's football related or not, he is always the guy to talk to."

Lindeman's family and relatives also expressed their pride in his achievement. In a text to Lindeman on the day he received news of getting the scholarship, his aunt, Marcia Proctor, sent him a congratulatory text message.

"Wahoo!! I am so proud of you. You have honored your dad in the best way possible," Proctor wrote.

Despite being a fairly reserved person, Lindeman strives to advocate for his teammates what it takes to sacrifice for the team and push themselves to not accept less than stellar effort.

"Whether it's not missing weight lifting sessions, being punctual to team activities, or following team rules despite how trivial they think the rules are I try to instill within my teammates the desire to do these things rather than just bossing them around or nagging," Lindeman said.

He admits that being a captain was not easy, and that he learned valuable lessons in the process of becoming a better leader.

"Part of being a captain is to be willing to grow myself and work even harder than I normally would to exceed what is expected of me," Lindeman said. "That has always been important and normal to me, but now it is imperative to those who depend on me that I grow and learn in this way."

He also says that participation in sports has taught him almost everything he knows in life.

"I will strive every day to apply that lesson to my life. It will help me to develop into a person that people are fond of and trust," Lindeman said. "These two qualities will sustain me throughout my life." ♦

Referee jobs deepen juniors' appreciation for soccer

BY Gwynevere Hunger

his knowledge of the game he loves.

"I realized that refereeing AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) soccer games would help me build a solid foundation to referee competitive games while making money at the same time," Shah said.

Shah started refereeing soccer games in 2013 after completing an AYSO referee class. Shah quickly realizes that he has made the call on the wrong team when parents from both teams yell angrily at him as he tried to correct his mistake.

He began by refereeing AYSO games on Saturdays when youth soccer was in season and recalls how his soccer career a number of years ago in AYSO motivated him to apply for the job.

A youth soccer referee is required to attend an eight-hour introductory class

before being allowed to work hour-long games on the weekend. AYSO games occur across the Bay Area, so students referee at Redwood in the spring and Congress Springs Park in the fall.

Referees self sign up the number of games they want to work since there is no game requirement. Youth referees such as Shah and junior Navid Mokhlesi also get additional volunteer hours for every game that they referee.

Referring AYSO is voluntary, but competitive soccer game referees get paid \$15 to \$40 for every game. Due to his busy schedule, Shah does not currently referee for AYSO but said the time commitment was not too heavy. He stopped this job simply because he did not have enough time to keep up

with school and club soccer.

Mokhlesi has also followed his love for soccer by signing up to work as an AYSO referee. Prior to becoming an official, Mokhlesi was also trained by an adult mentor to learn more specific calls. For Shah, his favorite part of being a referee is sharing his passion for soccer with a younger generation. "My favorite part of this job is trying to do a better job than all of the other lousy referees I have been complaining about for years," Shah said.

>> snapshots



FALCON // SHAZIA GUPTA



FALCON // SHAZIA GUPTA



FALCON // SWEEYA RAJ



FALCON // SHAZIA GUPTA

Senior Sonal Pai performs a mashup of "Thinking Out Loud" and "Not the Only One" at "Toga's Got Talent" on May 21.

Juniors Isa Berardo and Sabrina Clark participate in a minigame during the end-of-the-year rally on May 15.

Seniors Julianne Lau, Robin Osekowsky and Alyssa Jones and junior Nihar Agrawal perform on May 15.

Junior Karthik Padmanabhan returns the ball with a forehand hit during the CCS match against Homestead on May 11.

buzzworthy >> JSA hosts downtown open mic night

BY Melissa Magner
& Oksana Trifonova

Junior State of America (JSA) Club hosted an Open Mic at Blue Rock Shoot Cafe on May 15 in an effort to bring more foot traffic to downtown Saratoga and boost business.

During the Open Mic, students and adults alike sang and played the piano and the guitar.

"The goal of the open mic is to bring in a younger demographic of people into downtown Saratoga," said junior Camille Bismonte, who hosted the Open Mic.

The Open Mic is a branch of Saratoga's Got Talent, and beginning in January 2015, Bismonte and junior Oksana Trifonova became its hosts.

Councilman Rishi Kumar handed the job over to them to make the Open Mic a more student-run event and attract a

younger group of people to downtown Saratoga.

"I wanted to make the downtown more lively and bring more foot traffic to Saratoga," Kumar said.

According to Bismonte, because more of the customers in downtown Saratoga tend to be elderly, the Open Mic serves as an event that adolescents will also be interested in.

"This really helps bring a larger demographic downtown," Bismonte said.

The Open Mic also provides students who want to perform the chance to show off their musical talents in front of their peers.

"It's really exciting because often times we get people with talents we had no idea they have," Bismonte said. "For example, we had no idea that [ju-

nior] Alex Guo could play the guitar, and when he performed, we were all shocked."

Guo himself also enjoyed attending and performing at the Open Mic.

"I've performed musically many times, but the Open Mic was the first time I've done so since eighth grade," Guo said. "It was casual and fun hanging out with friends."

Junior Nina Nelson, who also participated in Open Mic, said that the opportunity to showcase talents in the company of peers is what makes the night so fun.

"It's a really supportive and comfortable environment, which makes it fun to sing or act or show a talent," Nelson said. "You're surrounded by friendly company the entire time, which is worth it."



Bismonte

During the last Open Mic, students from other schools also attended, which Bismonte attributed largely to social media.



"Once we had more people, it was easier to invite even more people," Bismonte said. "It became a chain reaction, and more and more people showed up. We even had some people from other schools like Mitty come by, which was really fun."

Bismonte estimates that the turnout was around 25 people, and with that came more customers at Blue Rock Shoot.

"I was really touched regarding the turnout of people," Bismonte said. "As more people came, the acts began to get better and better. Every time [the Open Mic] ends, I look forward to the next one." ♦

Junior reflects on high school times**APPROACHING SENIOR YEAR BRINGS ANXIETY TO STUDENTS****money maker**

Anant Rajeev

As my junior year draws to a close, the very idea of becoming a senior has begun to terrify me.

Up until recently, I've imagined my senior-self as the king of the school, a 6-foot figure armored with broad shoulders, dressed to the nines every day and oozing sophistication and confidence. Unfortunately, this will not be the case.

Nothing, it seems, has changed. The maturity I expected to attain by this point has, to my parents' disappointment, proven to be all too elusive.

I still crack juvenile jokes, laugh with my friends about what some guy was wearing yesterday in school, have sleepovers and play video games until outrageous hours in the morning — things I never imagined high school seniors doing.

Unfulfilled expectations are one thing, but more than anything, there's a sense of fear. But why are my friends

and I afraid to become seniors?

I think the only plausible answer is responsibility — there's the current pressure to get into a top 10 college, achieve the highest GPA possible and participate in all sorts of sports. But next year everything multiplies with the overwhelming pressure to head commissions, organize the best Quad Day and win all the rally

After I choose a college, the biggest struggle in my life will be deciding my next lunch destination.

games will lie heavy in our hands.

It's no secret that senior year comes with its unique difficulties. If we believe for one second that we'll be able to sleep for 10 hours a night and never have to feel the stress of junior year again, we're clearly wrong.

Instead, I'll be spending late nights working out logistics for Bombay in the Bay, planning and organizing Senior Quad Day and driving countless miles in pursuit of the perfect Senior Prom venue.

But I'd be lying if I said my hopes and dreams for senior year lie solely in my activities.

More than anything, I'm looking forward to fast-forwarding to second semester. Ahh ... senioritis, that lovable disease. After I choose a college, the biggest struggle in my life will be deciding my next lunch destination.

My senior friends this year have been the most relaxed group of people I have ever met.

They have made spontaneous lunch trips during class, had group dinners every day, and have not made a dent in their pile of work since the beginning of April.

Still, feeling excited to be a senior and feeling like a senior are completely different, and I definitely still feel too young to be a senior.

I have yet to let go of all my actions that made up my childhood: I continue to look up to my older brother, compulsively watch TV on Saturday mornings and beg my parents to make pancakes for me on weekends.

And even though none of that fits my image of an all-conquering senior, I'm OK with that.

Maybe change is like that — unexpected, unnoticed, but happening quietly nonetheless. ♦

>> topten**WAYS TO END OFF THE YEAR**

- 10 Burn your AP student pack.** If you're not a senior, you'll probably get another one anyways.
- 9 Get extra signing pages for your yearbook.** There's always that one friend who takes up three whole pages.
- 8 Drive one of the carts on campus.** Don't lie. You've always thought about doing it.
- 7 Just leave.** It's not like the last month of school is important.
- 6 Have a party with Barron's.** Celebrate the last day of school by studying for the SATs on the following Saturday!
- 5 Study constructively with breaks.** 15 minutes of studying for every four hours of Netflix!
- 4 Take all of your chemistry notes and put them in a bonfire.** Only to realize you're taking AP Chemistry next year.
- 3 Get Sick.** Go from 98° to 101° just in time for your first final!
- 2 Schmooze.** The only thing better than a cup of coffee for yourself is one for your teacher!
- 1 Have no regrets.** You won't see these people for a good two and a half months, anyway.

>> Anant Rajeev & Arjun Ramanathan