

Anila Thomas, Valedictorian

by Magdalena Grabos



Valedictorian for the Class of 2013.

The title of valedictorian for the Class of 2013 has been conferred to Anila Thomas, who invested much time and effort into achieving this accolade for academic excellence.

In a school like Townsend Harris, where many students desire this scholarly recognition, Anila said she was surprised that she was the one to receive this honor.

"I did not expect to become valedictorian because there are other hardworking students that I believed could be valedictorian. A fourth of me is still in disbelief," she commented.

Next fall, she will continue her studies at the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY Hunter, where she will major in psychology with a focus on neuroscience.

"I have not set my mind on a career

yet, but I know I want to explore research regarding neurodegenerative diseases," she said.

During her years at Townsend Harris, Anila spent a lot of time on outside projects. She had a science research mentor at the Queens College Physics Department, whom she worked with to finish an urban planning project.

Likewise, she also volunteered at Mark Weprin's District Office, which was initially a class requirement that turned into what she considered to be a rewarding experience.

Like many of the seniors in the graduating class, Anila has "mixed feelings" about leaving Townsend.

"Some of [my friends] are going to college in New York City and the others are going out of state. I will miss them since I can't see them as frequently as our high school setting allowed us, but I am excited to meet the extraordinary people at Macaulay."

Although Anila has worked hard during the last four years, she also learned that every now and then she has to make time to relax.

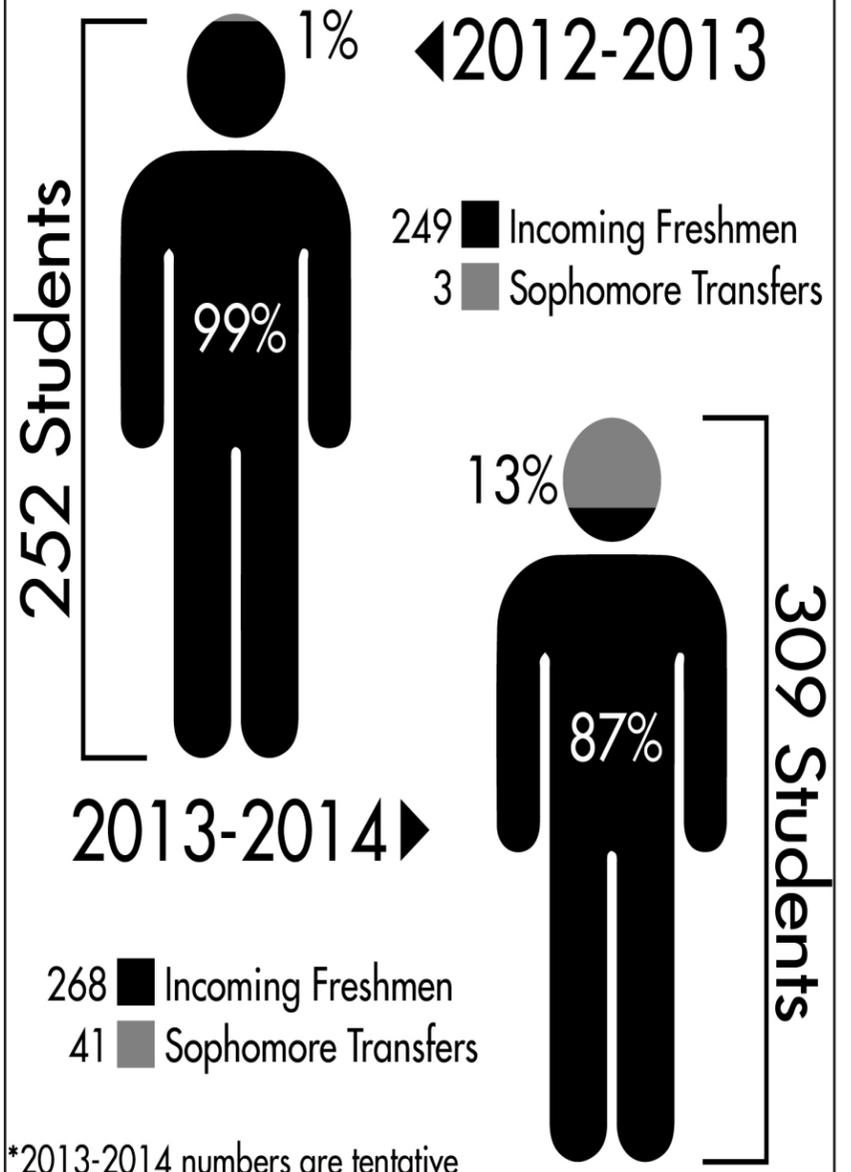
"Over my high school career with my friends asking to hang out and me listening to my need to rest, I made sure to be less strict with myself. I grew to know when to close the textbook, sleep, or just hang out with the people I love," she explained.

She will give her farewell speech to her peers during the graduation ceremony, leading the senior class as they all close one chapter of their lives and start new ones.

photo by Sahi Thapi

Incoming Students*

2012-2013 vs. 2013-2014



*2013-2014 numbers are tentative

Though the total number of incoming freshman is marginally larger than last year's incoming freshman class, these numbers reflect a large increase in sophomore transfers. This increase ensures that the class of 2016 will now fill nine classes rather than eight.

Infographic by Yash Sharma.

Salutatorian Fatima Koli reflects on her time at THHS

by Suswana Chowdhury

Fatima Koli, salutatorian of the Class of 2013, plans to study biology in Barnard College, an all-girls liberal arts and sciences school affiliated with Columbia University. She hopes to enroll in medical school afterwards.

She says, however, that her future is not set in stone.

"When I first came to Townsend, I really had no idea what I wanted to be and even now, I have a feeling that I may change my mind in college. But taking Science Research here at Townsend made me realize that even if I didn't become a doctor, I would always want to stay connected to the medical field, which can be done through research. So even if I choose another career, I know I will still volunteer at a lab to learn more about the scientific world that still confuses us."

Barnard College is a comparatively small college with approximately 2,400 students, but it's this small setting that attracted Fatima.

"At Barnard, I can have all the opportunities that

a large and prestigious university like Columbia offers without losing out on the small school setting I've always wanted," said Fatima.

The small school setting is one Fatima first found at Townsend Harris, which she fell in love with. She said that if it weren't for THHS, she "would probably never have considered going to a small liberal arts college."

In addition to the small setting, THHS also gave Fatima "the opportunity to really enhance [her] leadership skills."



Salutatorian for the Class of 2013.

photo by Sahi Thapi

"Being Co-President of MSA showed me how much potential I had as a leader. The MSA here is not as well-developed or as big as other MSAs in the city (such as Bronx Science's or Brooklyn Tech's), but that's what has made it so worthwhile. Every improvement we make in our MSA in order to become one of the best in the city gives me a satisfaction like no other. I don't think I can ever appreciate Townsend Harris enough for giving me such an amazing club to be passionate about."

Fatima attributes her success to her parents, friends, and two specific faculty members: Assistant Principal Ellen Fee and Science teacher Katherine Cooper. "All of these people were always there for me and if it wasn't for their help and encouragement, I would have succumbed to the easier path of slacking and would have given up."

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Mr. Barbetta reflects on one year at the helm of THHS

by Rachel Chabin and Asmaul Chowdhury

In the span of one year, the sight of Principal Anthony Barbetta walking the halls, greeting students by the main stairwell in the morning, and sporting either THHS or Red Sox apparel has become a fixture of Townsend Harris life.

Mr. Barbetta spoke with *The Classic* about his first two semesters as principal.

When he accepted the role of principal in the summer of 2012, Mr. Barbetta was aware of Townsend Harris's esteemed reputation. It was, however, the school's traditions, such as the yearly celebration of Founders' Day, that stood out to him as the most interesting aspects of his new setting.

"I'd have to say one of my best experiences here so far was the Founders' Day skit," he recalled, "but do I really have a Mediterranean glow?"

The biggest change for him, he contended, relates to the atmosphere of the halls.

"I'm always impressed by how well-behaved the students are here," he said. "Often I'll walk around and hear students say, 'I can't believe I got that math question wrong! I'm so angry at myself!' It's a welcome change to

hear discussions about math tests and correct answers rather than the cursing and foul language I've heard in some of my previous locations."

In terms of bringing changes to THHS, Mr. Barbetta has focused on the issue of technology in the school.

The computers that were installed in each classroom over the past few weeks

are part of a plan he initiated to make technology easier to use in the classroom. These computers, which are newer and faster than the laptops previously issued to classes, are linked to the SmartBoards to provide more efficient use of class time.



Mr. Anthony Barbetta at his desk.

photo by Michelle Schweiger

In addition to revamping the technology in classrooms, Mr. Barbetta has eliminated this year's Acuity predictor tests, which forecast student results on state exams.

"I try to put myself in [the students'] position," Mr. Barbetta said. "I don't believe in testing students to death, and I think much more learning happens when the kids don't have to worry so much about an onslaught of exams."

What's in store for the future?

Mr. Barbetta plans to build a better relationship with Queens College that will benefit students at every stage of high school. He wants to expand QC's involvement in key aspects of the Townsend Harris experience, such as clubs, academic programs, and physical education.

His advice to students is, "Take advantage of your time in high school-- it truly is what you make of it. When I hear students say they don't enjoy their time in school, I always ask them whether they're involved in activities, teams, sports, and clubs. Very often they say they aren't. You have wonderful opportunities here-- take full advantage of them."

Mr. Sangiorgi earns recognition at Big Apple Awards

by Beata Warchol

Known for his hands-on lessons and explosive antics, Chemistry teacher and Science Olympiad Head Coach Thomas Sangiorgi was recognized as a finalist of the first annual Big Apple Awards.

The Big Apple Awards, an event held by the New York City Board of Education, recognizes teaching excellence throughout the city. Candidates are considered for the award through nominations, and up to eleven teachers are chosen as winners. At the awards ceremony in June, chosen teachers received a monetary classroom grant.

Mr. Sangiorgi, who was caught completely unaware, only learned about the organization when a manila folder containing his certificate arrived.

"I had no idea I was nominated," Mr. Sangiorgi said. "On the whole, this happened quite suddenly."

Pleasantly perplexed, Mr. Sangiorgi chose to keep the award confidential.

"While I am honored that someone thought enough of my passion for teaching to have nominated me, telling people about it is not my style," he said.

However, he expressed his appreciation for his job. "I am lucky to work with a group of dedicated teachers whose efforts have a huge positive impact on students' educational experience. I feel fortunate to be part of that group."

While Mr. Sangiorgi doesn't know much about the organization, he considers the importance of recognizing quality teachers in their fields.

"With all the negative rhetoric regarding education that goes on in the media, the fact that most teachers are quality, dedicated professionals often goes unnoticed," he said.

The award-winning teacher also runs the Model Rocketry Club, which started last year in May as a subsidiary of the Science Olympiad Club. A childhood hobby of his, it involves a hands-on experience in building and launching rockets. Mr. Sangiorgi urges all interested students to join.

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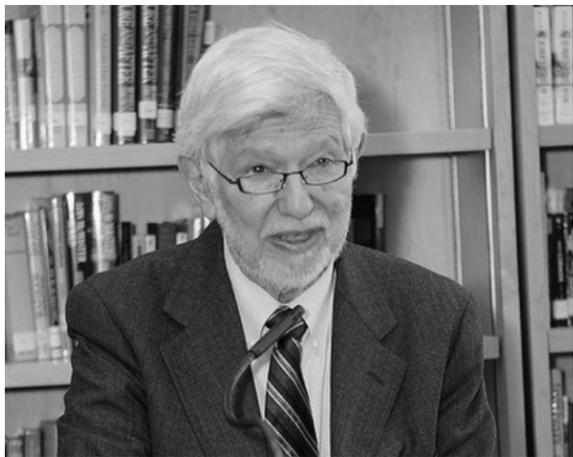
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Marvin Leiner: A lifelong Harrisite

by Stephanie Geier

On May 21, Marvin Leiner, a Townsend Harris alumnus who was heavily responsible for the school's close affiliations with Queens College and the senior Bridge Program, passed away quietly at his home. He was eighty-four. A funeral was held for him on May 23 at the Plaza Jewish Community Chapel.



Dr. Marvin Leiner, former Queens College liaison.

Dr. Leiner attended Townsend Harris for one year until 1944, when it was closed by mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. From then on, his love for the school propelled his career.

"He always credited his Townsend Harris Humanities education with his success in life," said Thomas Cunningham, principal of THHS from 2001-2009.

Dr. Leiner, who attained a PhD from New York University, was involved with Queens College for most of his life. He worked there as a professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education (EECE) and became chair of the EECE from 1980-1983. From the early 1990s until his retirement in 2004, he served as Queens College liaison and Director of the College Preparatory Program for THHS.

"Having been a Harrisite himself, he brought a unique perspective to the job," said Mr. Cunningham. "He was aware of the stresses senior year can bring to students at Townsend Harris, and he and his office staff did much to mitigate those pressures."

Dr. Leiner's main achievement during this time was establishing the senior Humanities seminar classes at Queens College with Lynne Greenfield, who was AP of Humanities from 1989-2002. They also established a lecture program in which college experts spoke about certain topics studied in the seminars and allowed Harrisites to participate in Q&A sessions. He recruited assistants to partner with seminar teachers from THHS and found the funds for the program.

The Creative Imagination Program began under his guidance as well. The program held monthly meet-

ings for students and teachers who were interested in learning how to innovate in the school's approaches to studying humanities. In addition, Dr. Leiner linked the school's faculty with the Queens College drama department, which enhanced Townsend Harris's annual dramatic performances.

Dr. Leiner helped develop another one of THHS's most distinguishing aspects.

"Dr. Leiner brought Dr. Krasner from Queens College to my department to develop something really special for the 1992 Presidential Election," said Ms. Greenfield. "What came out of that collaboration was the Election Simulation Program, still in place today."

Throughout his career, Dr. Leiner was also an influential member of the THHS Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"Dr. Leiner had a unique ability to look at any problem, take a step back, dissect it, and help us all come to a solution," said the President of the Alumni Association, Craig Slutzkin.

"I can see him now – sitting in the corner at our Board meeting and saying, 'Craig, we need to keep the traditions and values of Townsend Harris intact. Let's do whatever we need to do to achieve that goal.'"

Dr. Leiner led a diverse career outside of THHS.

He was a published author, specializing in Latin America. He published two works: *Children Are the Revolution: Day Care in Cuba* and *Sexual Politics in Cuba: Machismo, Homosexuality, and AIDS*. Both focused on issues in Cuba in the context of the Cuban Revolution. He was also an avid summer camp director and had a second career in psychology.

"He did it all," said English teacher Judy Biener. "He was a writer and researcher but he had a huge heart and was not stuffy at all. He was also a humanitarian, and many of his books show his love of humankind and his belief in social justice."

Education aside, Dr. Leiner was renowned among the faculty for his sense of humor.

"I can still hear his high pitched laughter reverberating off the walls as he recounted foibles from his latest skirmish with bureaucracy," recalled Mr. Cunningham. "He must have had strong humor genes because his son directed the very funny *Harold and Kumar* film."

Social Studies teacher Franco Scardino, who worked closely with Dr. Leiner as senior class advisor in 2002 and represented THHS at his funeral, encourages future generations of the THHS community to continue to build on Dr. Leiner's accomplishments, calling him "a gentle giant who left footprints that will be challenging to follow in but should serve as an inspiration to us all."

Mona Aarons remembered

by Genna Mastellone

Known for her big heart and feisty personality, School Safety Agent Mona Aarons passed away at the age of fifty after a battle with stomach cancer. She served in New York City schools for 31 years, eight of which were spent in Townsend Harris High School. She is survived by her husband of over 30 years, James Aarons.



Safety Agent Aarons.

School Safety Agent Robin Anderson-Scott knew Agent Aarons for 20 years. "I met her when I first came to school safety. She was a very feisty lady, always full of jokes. She loved the students here, she called them her babies," said Agent Scott.

School Safety Agent Hattie Brailsford agreed, "She was a very outgoing person, full of life and fun."

Assistant Principal of Organization Ellen Fee said, "She didn't only want to see students from a punitive or security standpoint, but also from a guidance standpoint."

Assistant Principal of Humanities Rafal Olechowski said, "She had a very specific voice and whenever she spoke it would cheer me up. I knew her through a very small window (as a school safety agent), but her voice belied a much deeper story."

Foreman Hector Benitez said, "She was a very private person. She hid her illness for a long time. I didn't get to visit her in the hospital because that's how private she was."

Agents Scott and Brailsford remembered Agent Aarons' quirks, and her red rain boots that Agent Scott called "booties." She also could cook "finger licking good" food, and loved to watch squirrels on Queens College campus.

The obituary from her memorial said, "As quiet as Mona was, her heart was full of love for her family, friends, and music. Music was one of the things in life that made Mona happy...she lived her life the way she wanted to."

Agent Scott said, "She had the warmest heart. To know her was to love her."

Harris Economics wins citywide, nationwide awards

by Adrienne Lee

A group of seniors placed first in Queens after making the most money in the Stock Market game, as part of the Economics class. The members of the winning team were Jyothis Johnson, Alvin Lachhman, Isaac Pulatov, and Mark Rangasamy.

The Stock Market Game, part of the SIFMA foundation, is in its 35th year and has helped over 12 million students nationwide gain a working knowledge of the financial sector. Teams start with \$100,000 in virtual money and invest in a system that simulates the actual stock market.

After researching market activity, the team purchased stocks in a number of companies, including Bank of America, Tempur Pedic, and Monster. While investing in Monster, a death having to do with the company's energy drink was reported, and the stock plunged, bringing the team down with it.

Close to the bottom rank and with nothing to lose, the team then invested most of its money on Netflix stock. The team made this decision with a "gut feeling approach," according to Isaac.

This risky move shot its rank to the top as the stock's value went up.

"It was mostly luck. Just like the real stock market, this one was very volatile," said Mark.

Jyothis concluded that one's performance in the game is truly unpredictable: "No matter how well you start, it's no reflection of how you're going to end up."

In addition to this game, Kevin Page, senior, individually placed first on the state level Invest Write Competition and second nationally.

The WISE organization also ranked Townsend Harris 10th in the nation for financial literacy, based on the standardized Financial Literacy Certification Test.

Though the curriculum for the Economics class is not driven by these competitions, Mr. Wood says that it provides great motivation. "I've never thought of it as a competition, but it's a good incentive," he said.

He also stressed the importance of being educated about finances: "It's one thing that can definitely save students real money when they're in college and after college."



The winning team with their awards.

Classic memories

by Genna Mastellone

I have very few memories of my high school career that don't include *The Classic* – mostly because of the sheer amount of time I've spent working on it.

I've been a member since the first months of my freshman year, when I was too scared to approach sophomores to interview them for a SING article. *The Classic* helped me form friendships, gain confidence, and learn the art of avoiding the passive voice (although I'll never stop using it). *The Classic* taught me to take risks – like becoming co-editor-in-chief my junior year or attempting to write stories the day before the paper was going to printer.

This year especially, with the help of Mr. Sweeney and a new and improved staff, we've been able to take more risks than ever. It's been a challenging year, but a year that has left me 100% certain that *The Classic* will be able to thrive.

Nobody would ever accuse me of thinking positively about the future, but I see *The Classic* going major places. If Mr. Sweeney has his way, we'll be the best high school newspaper in the world within the next few months, and surpass *The New York Times* by January.

The editors sign off
Passing the Torch

by Michael Sanchez

It's been a privilege to serve as this newspaper's co-editor-in-chief for the past two years, and nothing I've done could've been accomplished without this fantastic staff. Last year's edition of *The Classic* pales in comparison to the tremendous accomplishments of this year's.

I owe a lot of this to my fellow editors for their dedication to *The Classic*, to our newspaper staff for their ingenuity and creativity, to Mr. Olechowski for helping us through our transition period, and to our advisor Mr. Sweeney. He is the one that helped us take the newspaper into a new direction and made our jobs seem like more of a pastime than an obligation. *The Classic's* rebirth could not have been done without him, and on behalf of all the editors, I'd like to say thank you.

To the future editors of this paper, I pass the torch to you. I'm expecting next year's edition to blow this out of the water, boss's orders.

To the readers, I thank you for continuing to support our paper, even through difficult times.

The Classic is merely a retelling of your experiences, and no matter who holds the title of editor-in-chief, you will always dictate the direction of your award winning publication.



Photo by Ella Leviyeva

The Editors-in-Chief of *The Classic* from 2011-2013.

News

By Ella Leviyeva

I'm so grateful for the friendships I've made in our closet of an office, both with my fellow editors and with the Tozt delivery men.

Although I'm sad to leave, I'm incredibly excited for the future of the paper. I have so much faith in Mr. Sweeney and his minions, I mean editors. Thank you for everything Mr. Sweeney, you've been a phenomenal advisor and mentor, and I speak for all of the graduating editors when I say, we will never forget you.

Sports

By Dimitri Theofanis

As my journey with *The Classic* comes to an end, I can reflect back with nothing but gratitude for everything this paper has taught me.

As a writer and editor, I have been able to hone my skills as a writer by both writing and editing, but more importantly I have been able to polish my people skills and learn how to effectively gather information.

Though I will miss being sports editor, I am confident that the paper is being left in excellent hands.

Features

By Vanesa Martinez

I never expected that joining *The Classic* would be such a memorable experience. However, it turned out to be one of the best decisions I've made. I gained the opportunity to take part in events that I wouldn't have otherwise, and from that I was able to expand my interests while being part in creating something everyone could enjoy. I truly enjoyed being part of *The Classic*.

It'll always be one of the most cherished memories of my time at Townsend Harris.

Copy

By John Indergaard

Leaving *The Classic* is filled with bittersweet emotion for me. On the one hand, I am disappointed to be leaving just as the paper is experiencing a massive overhaul in quality.

On the other hand, however, I am completely confident that the next generation of editors and writers will be more than capable of bringing *The Classic* to places we haven't even dreamed of. The time I've spent bent over other people's articles, cutting and polishing, has been incredibly rewarding.

Letters to the Editor

These letters were written in response to articles from the May 2013 edition of *The Classic*. Please send all letters to thhsclassic@gmail.com

In response to "From the Editors: Teachers, you have let us down."

This article spoke out against the way teachers reacted to the students' protests concerning the recent changes in the bell schedule. At Townsend, teachers encourage students to think for themselves and to challenge authority if they do not agree with some of the decisions being made. The article makes a polemic, cohesive argument, but I believe the editors could consider the teachers' perspectives and the teachers' motives as well. The teachers didn't want students to get involved because they did not have the full story. Without knowing the full story, the students' protests and arguments could have been largely based on inaccurate assumptions and would be very distracting towards the decision the teachers were trying to make. A lot of the reasons why the students were unhappy was because they thought extracurriculars were going to be cut. However, this was false. Students shouldn't argue until they know the full story, and the teachers knew they were misinformed.

-- Zion Kim

In response to "From the Editors: Teachers, you have let us down."

The article, "Teachers, you have let us down" is a relatable and very truthful article. The teachers are hypocrites. If teachers shape the students with such hypocritical minds, Townsend Harris is not the great school it is presumed to be. The Ephebic Oath is recited by everyone, and it is not just our own duty but the teachers' as well. We students don't know what to do if teachers keep on changing their minds. Do they want us to stand up for causes or sit back and allow people to perform injustice to us? A school is nothing without its students, so shouldn't the voice and opinion of the students be valued? The editors are correct when they show their disappointment. I do feel betrayed and I feel that the editors voiced the opinion of the whole student body very accurately. I felt emotion pouring out from the article, and every sentence made me nod my head in agreement. It really is annoying and stupid to receive such belittling attitudes from teachers who act like little children.

-- Rebecca Kwon

In response to "New policy for grading Regents exams to go into effect."

Ideally, the ban on teachers grading their own students' Regents seems to solve the problem of cheating and leniency when grading. Although in actuality this change could go either way--it could bring cheating allegations down to a lower rate or it could influence the growth of cheating. The former might happen for the reason that there would be no outside connections to influence the teacher grading the exams; it would just be a teacher grading a test. The latter may occur because of the influence of the school's name and status itself. The result of the ban is based on the individuals who cheated, and we all know that how an individual acts is not always reflective of what others might do. I would not take a side as of now because, as others have mentioned, all teachers are supposed to be grading based on the same rubric, but not everyone is without influence.

-- Christina Louie

In response to "Opinion: Is prom itself worth the money?"

Upon seeing the title of this article, I immediately thought, "Yes! Of course prom is worth the money!" If someone had asked me "Why? What was worth it?" I would have simply stated that prom was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that was worth spending a little for. Although the author's argument is strong, I have to stick with my initial opinion. The writer states, "The money spent would perhaps make more sense if there was something more to it than posing for pictures." However, I genuinely believe that the majority of people who attend prom do not only go for the sake of a picture with their date. I always thought of prom as one of the last hurdles before a new chapter in one's life is started. Perhaps my view is a little biased, as I consider myself a "shopaholic," but to me, buying a fancy pair of shoes is quite significant. Prom is something extravagant and fancy, but at the same time, it is a closing and a beginning to a new interval in one's life.

-- Cindy Jiang

Code behind the dress code: boys matter more

by Catherine Moskos

An email was recently sent out to the student body reminding us of the dress code policy. The email reminded that the dress code “has been devised to promote a positive learning atmosphere” and that attire must not “interfere with the educational process.” It discussed dresses, leggings, undergarments, shorts, which are “specific items that may cause distraction.” The vast majority of these restrictions focuses on clothing worn by girls.

Most disconcerting was this threat: “Failure to comply will result in 3 demerits for being insubordinate. Students have been warned many times.”

Insubordination? Isn't any violation of the rules an act of insubordination? Why is a dress code violation worthy of such special attention? Students have been told not to cut multiple times. By the new policy's logic, shouldn't a cut after a number of warnings be considered both a cut *and* an act of insubordination. Should a cut therefore deserve six demerits?

Dress code violations, I suppose, are more worthy of attention than cutting.

There's something about dress codes that brings out the irrational in this country.

Two girls in Ohio were recently turned away from their prom for being “too revealing.” An administrator told the local news that the girls were only allowed to wear dresses that had “no curvature of their breasts showing.”

A kindergarten student in Georgia was forced to change her “short” skirt because the principal regarded the skirt to be a “distraction” to fellow students.

Before you jump to say that these schools are senseless, ask yourself whether Townsend Harris is truly any different. Notice how every school has one thing in common: dress codes that focus on girls. Why have we become so overwrought with policing girls and their bodies?

We, as a society, fail to realize how far down the wrong path we've gone. We've developed cultural attitudes towards women that are simply intolerable. We've somehow taught girls both to fear their sexuality and to consider themselves inherently erotic objects that need to be tamed. We've allowed people to judge “suggestive” clothing and insult lifestyles that might not be understood by all. We've bred men to disrespect women and women to disrespect each other.

Of course, some would disagree with the very premise that dress codes such as ours are sexist. They maintain that codes create a “professional” environment and teach us how we should dress in the “professional” world. If students come into school wearing sneakers, jeans, and a t-shirt they are considered to be following the dress code, but is that professional dress? We do not dress professionally. Schools that require more formal attire can make this argument. THHS cannot. Nonetheless, if you want to teach us to be professionals then teach us

how to make choices. Don't make them for us.

People might also claim that dress codes are not sexist, but are merely meant to preserve students from distraction in an educational atmosphere. It's abundantly clear that these “distractions” are the hypothetical distractions that scantily clad women will create for males. This idea of distraction unfairly places blame on women. I shouldn't need to care about the possibility that a boy cannot handle being distracted by women's bodies anymore than I need to care that a student in a computer lab can't stop himself from playing solitaire and missing the lesson. It's called personal responsibility.

But let's say we did have to make rules for all major sources of distraction. If distractions are so threatening to “the educational process” then why isn't there a deodorant requirement? Rooms reeking of body odor can be quite distracting. It sounds rude to even suggest regulating body odor, doesn't it? Well, it's just as rude to tell women to be obedient because the education of males must be protected from bare shoulders.

If the women of this school feel constrained, they need to take action. We are mature enough and smart enough to make our own decisions. Unfortunately, some would see this as girls fighting for the right to be “sluts,” and therein lies the problem—it's not. It's fighting for our right to dress how we want. Sometimes dressing how we want is about comfort. Sometimes it's about looking good for ourselves, because we don't need someone to tell us we look good to feel good about how we look. And, yes, sometimes it is about looking good for others, and however that manifests itself—whether some consider that being “slutty” or not—we as a community must learn to deal with it because we will have to in the real world. And some in the community will have to learn to deal with it because, frankly, it's just none of their business.

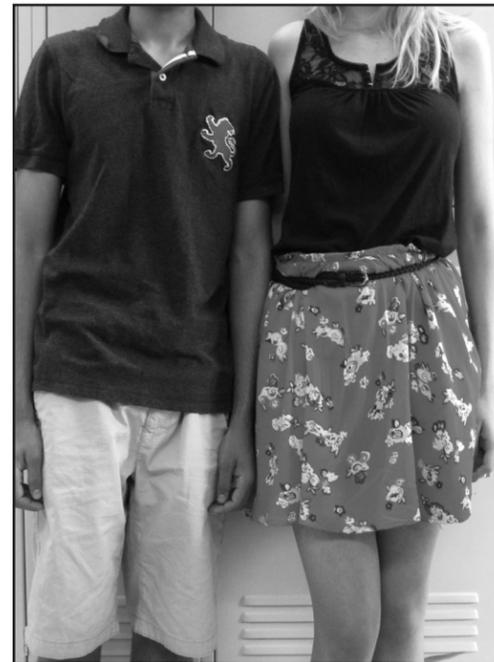
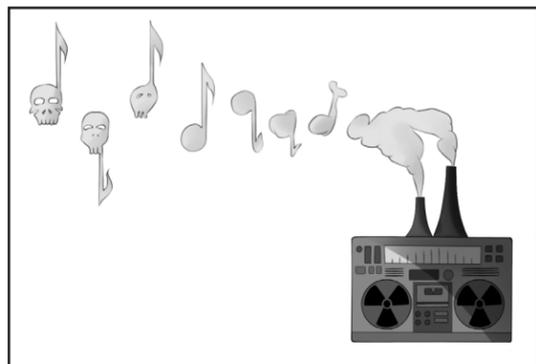


Photo by Sofia Milonas

The adults are right: music today is just bad

by Parbattie Anant



Art by Christina Wang and Amanda Yan

Singers and songwriters have long been considered poets to teens. Sadly, the true poets have left modern society and taken their meaningful lyrics and melodies with them. Nowadays mainstream music encourages our youth to engage in risky behaviors and to not expect the consequences.

Perhaps more influential than any other entertainment medium, music can connect to an individual's mood, identity, and memories. On average, teenagers listen to about 2 1/2 hours of music per day and one in three of the popular songs that they listen to have direct

references to drug and alcohol use. A study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2009 discovered that those who listened to music in which sex was described tended to have sex earlier and more often.

Isn't giving 15 year-olds access to the morning-after pill enough?

According to a study done by the University of South Carolina, teens and young adults are most affected by the negative messages found in much of today's lyrics. Take for example, songs from the rap genre. These songs tend to give off the message that women are equivalent to material possessions and are only needed to fulfill a man's sexual desire. While music can have a double meaning, the most prevalent interpretation seems to be that it's normal for women to be played around with and get abused because that is what their favorite “artists” do.

Recently, radio stations have stopped playing songs with negative messages by artists like Lil Wayne and Rick Ross. U.O.E.N.O by Rick Ross had the following lyrics:

“Put molly all in her champagne, she aint even know it...I took her home and I enjoyed that, she aint even know it.”

It caused controversy because of its bad timing corresponding to the Steubenville rape case. The lyrics condone rape and despite Rick Ross apologizing, radio stations are still pulling it off the air. More radio stations should be doing the same. In addition, songs like this should be more difficult to download. We shouldn't be paying airheads millions of dollars to promote the vices of society.

The inappropriate material is not found in any one specific genre but in lyrics across all genres. Today, labels just want the easiest way to make money and have no regard as to how much influence they hold over their listeners. Female artists like Rihanna and Nicki Minaj add on to the over-sexualization of women and it never fails to “inspire” the minds of children. It's a lot easier to find music nowadays that debases sex, religion, gender, politics, and sexuality.

Teens are desensitized by songs like “The Motto” by Drake and now use the acronym YOLO to justify risky and irresponsible behavior. What are the results? Teen suicides are increasing, high schools now have daycares, and casual drug use is common among teens.

Message from a senior

by Shelley Mitchell

Dear Underclassmen,

The reward you have all waited three years for—through late night collaterals, tons of homework, and those four hour study sessions—comes faster than you think. Yes, I'm talking about senior year. It's the most anticipated year in high school, the point where you know that all the hard work you have done at Townsend Harris has paid off.

What makes senior year so enjoyable is not that you don't have work. It's that you are free to make more of your own educational decisions, no longer stuck to the traditional school day. You're as close as you can get to being a real college student. This is both an honor and a privilege.

Additionally, one of the best things that comes with senior year is the appreciation of friends. Those same awkward kids you met and never thought you would be friends with on the first day of school are now the same people that you laugh with and talk with in the senior lounge. This year has made many of us realize how important it is to spend time with friends.

A phenomenon known to seniors all too well, not only in Townsend Harris but to high school seniors all across the country, is senioritis. It's the point in senior year where you get into that Ivy League college that you had your heart set on, so you do just enough work to walk across the stage in Colden with a diploma in your hand.

One way to lessen the effects of senioritis is to remember that nothing is guaranteed. If you are waitlisted for a college and the next marking period will determine whether or not you get into that college, you will most likely be motivated to continue doing the same hard work you did for the last 3 years.

At the end of Senior Year there are two events that most, if not all Seniors are looking forward to: prom and graduation.

Prom, the last hoorah before graduation, is what most female seniors have been waiting for since freshman year, and what most senior males only thought about a month or so before the actual date. Then comes graduation, the most joyful but also the saddest of days. The day that makes all those late nights you spent doing homework or studying for tests worth it.

Unfortunately, it's also the day you realize you won't be in the same school with the unique people you spent the last four years of your life with.

So study hard, and keep doing those pointless collaterals. It will all pay off in the end and lead to an enjoyable Senior Year.

SUMMER SUN WITH

OPINION:
HIT THE BOOKS,
NOT THE BEACH

BY STEPHANIE GEIER AND ANNA ST. CLAIR

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Leisure is the time for doing something useful. This leisure the diligent person will obtain, the lazy one never."

Although many eagerly await the four-hour TV marathons and beaches associated with summer, these are not the most productive things we could be doing. While working 24/7 is unreasonable, summer should not only be filled with leisure time. Rather, it should be a balance of work and play, because, as Franklin implied, you might regret this idleness later.

The reality is that internships, community service, and test prep are more beneficial to students than simply doing nothing. As any college admissions officer will tell you, there are thousands of straight-A students in the country, but what makes you different?

That's where spending summer wisely comes in. Once September rolls around, students are buried under tests, homework, and collaterals, with no time for sleep, let alone jobs, community service, or SAT review.

One girl, Alison Kaufmann, whose college essay was published in the Princeton Review book *College Essays that Made a Difference*, volunteered at a camp for Bosnian children who survived the civil wars in the Balkans. For a prompt asking her to analyze an event that affected her life, she described the special bonds she formed with the orphans. Reflecting on her experience, she said, "I also brought back a new level of confidence: a place within me that I have slowly been recreating throughout my life and that has finally taken root."

According to the book, Alison had outstanding grades and was part of various honor societies. However, it was this unique summer experience that clearly set her apart and may have been a considerable factor that granted her admission to Yale University.

While you don't have to spend thousands of dollars going overseas to impress colleges, there are other unique things one can do: start a summer club, hold a fundraiser, write a book, heck, even organize a protest. The point is, do something. If you don't, you'll never know what opportunities await you.

College apps aside, being productive over the summer and doing something worthwhile adds to your character and intellect, leading to your growth as a person. Thus, what you choose to do can be both academically impressive and enjoyable — you don't have to volunteer for a cause you could care less about, or take a class that bores you.

English teacher Joseph Canzoneri said, "It's good for the college application, of course, to show that the students are motivated, but it also really should be something that the student generally is interested in, so that it's fun."

We're not stopping you from going on vacation, because everyone deserves a break once in awhile. Get outside, travel, play sports, see some movies, and please, do try reading books that aren't published by College Board.

"I think it's important to relax and work over the summer. I mean it's nice and all, but since we have two whole months we should do some work too," said junior Annika Jeong.

But don't forget, there's still hardcore studying to do. You don't have to stay up at ungodly hours of the night, but at least start early and brace yourself for the upcoming school year, which is always a tough storm to ride.

Unfortunately, we have to realize that we're past the idyllic, carefree summer days associated with our childhood. Even vacations come with certain responsibilities that won't allow free passes to laziness. If we don't adapt to this busy life now, we'll be overwhelmed by it sooner or later.

OPINION:
SUNGLASSES, NOT
SUMMER CLASSES

BY SABRINA YU AND JOHN O'NEILL

When it's clear and sunny outside with temperatures reaching ninety degrees, the last thing anyone wants to be reminded of is school. During the two months of summer, students can forget about homework and tests, and do what makes them happy. Still, all this freetime brings up the age-old question regarding what to do during the summer, and how to add it to a college resume. The dilemma is whether students should take a course to prepare for next year, or just relax and go to the pool. The right choice would be to take a break and enjoy the freedom granted by the carefree times of summer.

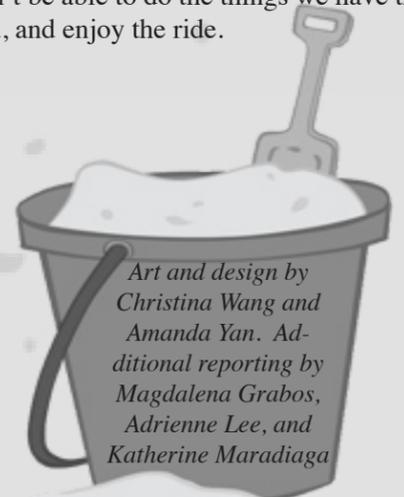
From September to June, Harrisites work their tails off to get homework done, cram for tests, and fit in extracurricular activities, all of which leads to mounting stress. Then comes summer: the two months of freedom when all worries should go up in a cloud of smoke. Yet many students still sign up for SAT classes, undertake internships, or work at summer jobs. Sure, these are all great for increased college prospects, but the time for impressing universities should be reserved for the school year.

Over the summer, students have the freedom to unwind and enjoy the long, sunny days. During the school year, the weather is too cloudy and chilly to do much else but stay cooped up indoors. If the sun is shining brightly, why not go outside? It should be considered a reward for finishing another hard year of academia. You could exercise by simply riding a bike, or just enjoy the fresh air in a hammock, reading a book.

A balance of work and relaxation is hard to come by during the year, so summer is great for catching up on everything missed - that is, movies and television shows. As Harrisites, we're sure to have heavy workloads when September comes, so these two months are ideal for watching whatever we please, whether it be marathons of *Lost* or *The Walking Dead*. We also have the time to meet with friends from other schools or relatives that live far away. Vacations should be spent showing these people that they still matter to us.

Sara Skoda, guidance counselor, stated, "It's important for students to do something. It doesn't have to be internships or summer jobs, going on vacation is also very important. Colleges are just looking for you to learn something and to get something out of the experience."

Every year, we are only granted a short slot of time for ourselves, and everyday, our youth flees. Before you know it, we'll be headed for college and looking for jobs, and at that point, we won't be able to do the things we have the time to do now. So this summer, play hard, and enjoy the ride.



Art and design by
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ditional reporting by
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Katherine Maradiaga

THOUT THE FUN?

STUDENTS SPLIT ON SUMMER'S PURPOSE

BY JENNIFER WALSH, YELENA DZHANOVA, PARBATTIE ANANT

High schoolers have always been expected to take advantage of summertime folly and its idle days, but the summer spell has been broken, and Townsend Harris students continue to wade knee-deep in work.

According to a recent poll, 58% of respondents will focus on completing community service hours this summer, while 51% may also be employed. Additionally, 18% of polled students will participate in an internship program, and 31% plan to take summer classes.

Students have split opinions on the true value of expensive summer programs, often taken by highly ambitious teens to inflate college applications. Annika Joeng, junior, felt that it could be a worthwhile opportunity for students to explore different schools. "If you really want to go to that [special] college, you should probably go to their summer program to check it out," she suggested.

Fellow junior Wanly Chen disagreed. On the topic of taking a test prep class, she said, "I didn't think it was worth it. I think [the point of the] SAT is to focus on your ability to take a test rather than the ability to be able to study for a test."

Although many students are uncertain of taking classes or participating in summer internships due to the expenses, more than half of the polled body stated that they would likely have a job over the summer. Sophomore Nicole Barros believes that summer is a time to work on anything college-related that one wasn't able to during the busy school year.

Annika said, "Last summer, I volunteered from the last week of June to the first week of August [at a place] called Joy

Camp, a summer program for kids where they learn about the Bible and other things related [to it]." She also emphasized that a balance between work and relaxation should exist, especially on break.

Summer vacation allows for exposure to opportunities that one might not have time for during the year. "It is important to expose yourself to different things so you can know whether or not you like them," commented Rafal Olechowski, Assistant Principal of Humanities.

Despite many students' busy summer plans, 54% of respondents said relaxation is a top priority over the break.

"Summer should be spent relaxing because [it's] kind of like the big break we have from all the work we get at the school," said sophomore Emylia Rochoyadi. "We should spend it with our family and friends [to compensate for] all the times we weren't able to do it during the school year."

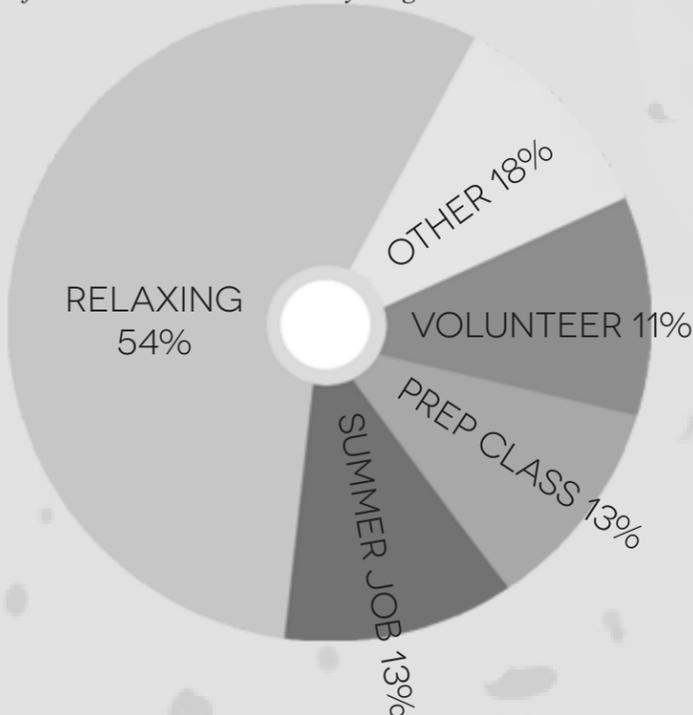
Mr. Olechowski had his own suggestions for students this summer. "[They should] learn how to swim, spend time around nature with good books ... good friends, [and get] mandatory grass stains on their knees," he said, certain that most Harrisites should use summer to learn how to unwind and spend some time with their toes in the sand.

Freshman Andzelika Sroka concluded that whatever anyone decides to do, "It's important not to overwork yourself."

POLL: WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF SUMMER?

Poll conducted by Vincent Chu and Zach Ooi

We polled the students on their summer opinions. Though a majority planned to work hard at jobs or volunteer opportunities, the following results show that 54% students value summer's relaxation benefits, while the remaining 46% value one of summer's opportunities for enrichment more than anything.



TRY OUT THESE
INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
NEXT SUMMER!
BY CHELSEA
MCGEE

CUNY's COLLEGE
NOW PROGRAM
For Juniors and Seniors:
Take FREE summer
college courses at
Queens College. (Ap-
plications are first come
first serve!)

SUMMER YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT PRO-
GRAM (SYEP)

Get paid and gain work
experience at a job fund-
ed by the government.

NYU MEDICAL
VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM

Work in different spe-
cialties at the New York
University hospital and
care for patients.

DOSOMETHING.
ORG's
INTERNSHIPS

For two weeks, learn
the in and outs of work-
ing for a non-profit
organization, while
interacting with peers in
a business setting.

THE MET'S HIGH
SCHOOL INTER-
SHIPS

During this 6-week internship,
rising juniors and seniors can
have a better knowledge of
modern art while getting tour
guide opportunities and inter-
acting with peers. Summer ap-
plication deadline in April. Other
internship opportunities avail-
able in the Fall and Spring.



Pursuing a life of poetry Buena suerte, señor Martinez

by Rachel Chabin

This September, English teacher Safia Jama Cross will once again enter a classroom setting that involves writing and poetry, but this time, she will be a student as well as a teacher.

Ms. Jama Cross, who taught freshman and junior English along with the Writing Process and Linguistics classes for the six years she was at Harris, will be leaving Harris in the fall to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry and become, as she described, “a full-time poet.”

Ms. Jama Cross will be studying at Rutgers University for the next two years, and though she will teach one class of freshman undergraduates as part of the program, she will primarily be a student, leaving most of the lectures to her professors.

Classroom experience is certainly not foreign to her: she began her teaching career at a parochial school in Brooklyn, where she remained for four years before being encouraged to apply for a teaching job at Harris.

Ms. Jama Cross has taught a number of classes within the Humanities Department, and was quick to establish the Creative Writer’s Workshop club only a year into her time at the school.

“I’ve really matured a lot here,” she said, concluding that Harris has played a part in fostering her writing.

“I began to write poetry here; it’s always been an interest of mine,



photo by Fran Horowitz

Ms. Jama Cross’s departure took many by surprise.

and the club has helped me get into the habit of writing more frequently.”

She also found inspiration in the school’s English curriculum, which gave her a greater appreciation for American literature. This explains why one of her favorite experiences at Harris was the *Gatsby* party, held by her junior English classes in early April.

Although her main interest at the moment is poetry, she still works on memoirs, fiction, and drama.

Ms. Jama Cross didn’t describe any plans for returning to Townsend Harris after earning her degree, but is quick to affirm her love for the school.

“Townsend Harris will always have a place in my heart,” she said.

by Suswana Chowdhury

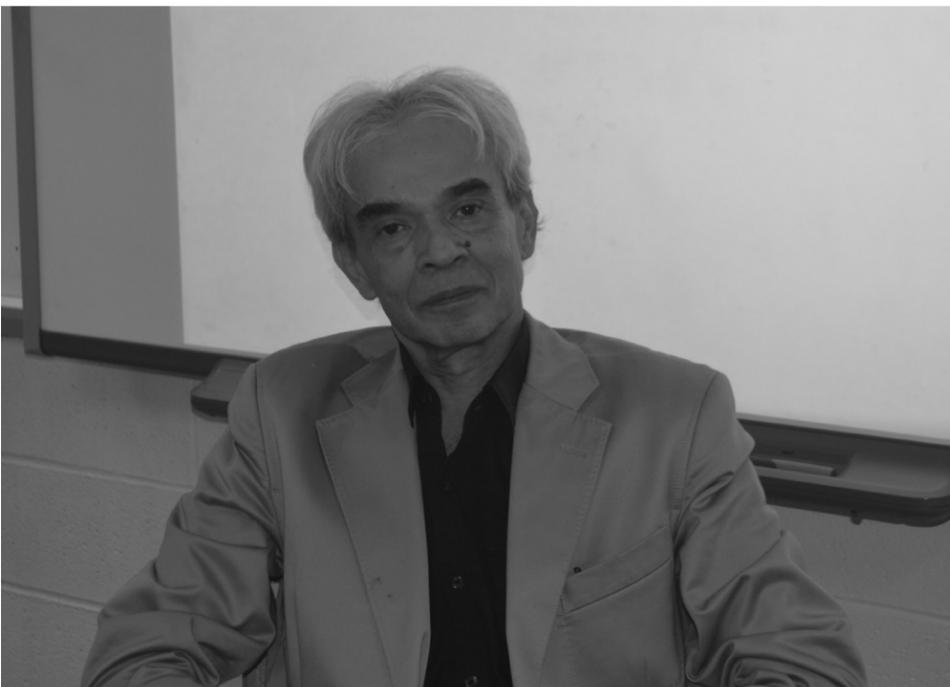


photo by Yash Sharma

Mr. Martinez made his decision final in June.

After eight years of teaching at Townsend Harris, Spanish teacher Silvio Martinez is leaving with plans to continue teaching future Spanish teachers right next door at Queens College.

Explaining his decision to pursue other opportunities, Mr. Martinez said, “Working at THHS doesn’t allow me to dedicate my time to anything but work at THHS. The load here made it too difficult for me to teach here and there.”

Before coming to teach at THHS, Mr. Martinez taught at ten schools, starting at Bryant High School and then transferring to Rikers Island, New York’s main jail complex, where he taught math.

“They didn’t have a Spanish curriculum; you only get a GED in jail, so they hired me to teach math, but once I got my regular license, I couldn’t teach anything but Spanish.”

Mr. Martinez’s love for the Spanish language is what drove him to become a teacher. “I wanted to be with the Spanish language all my life - to swim in it, look at it, touch it, and the only way to do that is to become a Spanish teacher.”

He described his tenure at Townsend Harris as being full of “fine years” and “different from all the other schools.”

“The students here are quite pleasant. It was the first time I was capable of having a lesson without interruptions. That’s how well behaved all the students are. I have too many good memories, teaching, listening, wondering how much life [the students] have, and how I could make the thought they had more concrete than at the moment.”

In addition to teaching at Queens College, Mr. Martinez is thinking about teaching as a visiting professor at Columbia University and University of Vermont, where they teach his works (two books of short stories and two plays). *Eating Your (Spanish) Words: “The English Only Restaurant,”* a play Mr. Martinez wrote twenty years ago about several Latino characters who try to hide their cultural origins and fail, is still staged in colleges everywhere.

“[The play] turned out to be really funny and I’ve had people, who identified with the characters, come up to me and say ‘That’s me!’”

Cleaning out a trunk a few days ago, Mr. Martinez found little pieces of paper with ideas on them and is now thinking about going back to writing.

After twenty-seven years at THHS, Mr. Jones to retire

by Katherine Maradiaga

Phillip Jones, Physics teacher and coach of Science Olympiad and US FIRST Robotics, will be concluding his 27-year streak of full-time teaching at Townsend Harris and entering retirement.

One of the last teachers of the original 1984 staff, Mr. Jones started his career at Harris teaching chemistry with a master’s degree in the subject from Fordham University, earned in 1979. He later joined the three-person staff of Physics teachers.

After his long career at the school, he felt that his departure was appropriate.

“My wife retired and I figured I’d retire also to spend some time with her and spend time with my hobbies,” Mr. Jones said.

These hobbies include his

involvement with the Robotics and Science Olympiad teams.

As the head coach of Robotics, Mr. Jones was responsible for leading the team members through the building of a robot that competes in the US FIRST competition. He also taught Robotics as a science elective.

In addition to the Robotics team and elective, he served as one of the assistant coaches of Science Olympiad. During his tenure there, he led the building, technology, and robotics-oriented topics within the team.

Mr. Jones still enjoys tinkering with robots and machinery, and hopes to continue helping these teams in his spare time.

“All the projects that I’ve done with my students have

made me very happy.”

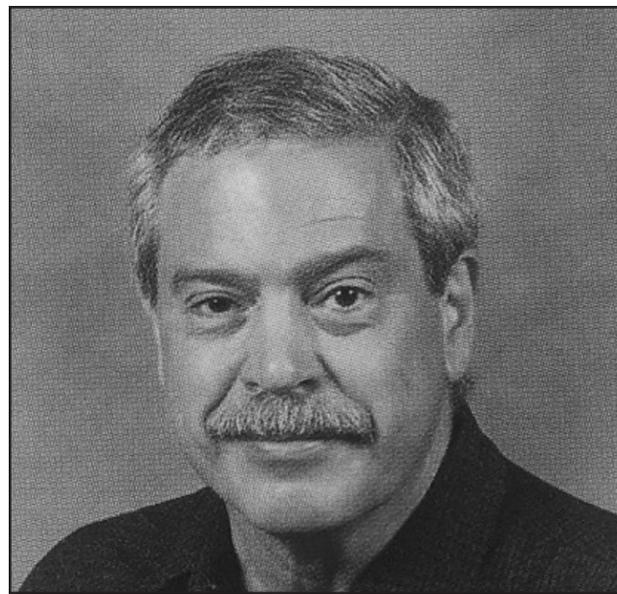
He expressed mixed feelings about his leaving.

“I hate marking papers, [but] I’m going to miss the students.”

With no interest in travel, Mr. Jones is content to “rest and garden” while at home.

Chemistry teacher Adel Kadamani said Mr. Jones was “hardworking and never hesitated to put in extra time after school and on the weekends for all kinds of things, especially for Robotics.”

“He loved the school for everything it stands for. It’s heart breaking for him to walk away. There will always be a piece of THHS in everything he does.”



Mr. Jones plans to garden and spend time with his wife during his retirement.

Life in retirement: checking in with former teachers

by Ella Leviyeva

Almost every year, Townsend Harris bids farewell to some of its finest teachers as they enter retirement.

This transition is usually associated with golfing, knitting, or other leisurely activities, but many of our school's retirees haven't relaxed just yet, giving retirement a new meaning.

Debra Michlewitz, who taught English at Harris from 1989 to 2010, recalls her numerous travels upon retirement, which involved visiting Rome, Venice, Florence, Budapest, Prague, Sicily, and Ireland.

Former English and Journalism teacher Ilsa Cowen found time to visit the Galapagos Islands, a dream that she and her husband shared.

"It was thrilling to experience the tranquil rhythm of this beautiful place and actually see some of the species, including endemic mockingbirds, that had contributed to Darwin's thoughts on evolution," she said. She added, "We wandered among throngs of sleepy marine iguanas, walked right up to seals sunning themselves near our lodge, and encountered a giant tortoise munching at the side of a road."

With the way these teachers are doing it, retirement proves to be more than a time for 401Ks and bingo tournaments.

Susan Getting, former Assistant Principal of the Humanities, took on the creative challenge of taking a printmaking class at St. John's University. She described doing silkscreen mono-

prints and drypoint etching, among other things.

"I have found tapping my artistic creativity uplifting and rewarding," she said. "There are seven other women artists in my class and I have found this community of women to be stimulating and educational."

While exploring different art forms, Ms. Getting has also become involved in the Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS), taking and teaching workshops in internet safety and cyber bullying prevention.

Ms. Cowen, former advisor of *The Classic*, initiated the First Amendment charter for the newspaper during her teaching years, and continues to stay "involved with scholastic journalism."

She currently serves on the Executive Board of the New York City Scholastic Press Association and the planning committee of the New York City High School Journalism Collaborative at Baruch College.

"I usually led a First Amendment workshop at their annual high school journalism conference," she said.

Ms. Michlewitz is using her retirement time to accomplish plans she otherwise had no time for, which includes researching and writing a book about family history.

Also, she frequently works with the school's fencing team.

Adding to this, she has recently started working with the Organization of American Historians (OAH), partic-

ipating in the organization's planning committee for its 2015 annual conference in St. Louis.

"One goal [of the event] is to include materials that target K-12 educators, and that's the reason for my involvement."

Ms. Michlewitz is still involved with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. She said that she "will be going back to Boulder this summer to work with teachers studying issues related to the American environment. I work with a wonderful professor with a wonderful name, Patty Limerick."

Alongside the hopes of traveling and fulfilling lifelong dreams, the cause for retirement varies among teachers.

Former Social Studies teacher Maureen Lonergan retired to take care of her 97 year old mother.

"She has very limited eyesight [due to macular degeneration] and is very hard of hearing, so she needs constant care. Having said that, her memory is sharper than mine and she still has her sense of humor, so I feel really blessed to have this time. My sister is also retired; we arrange things to make sure that when one of us is out of the house, the other one is always there."

In addition to spending time with her mother, Ms. Lonergan enjoys cooking and attending lectures at the Historical society with her "history teacher friends."

"Retirement is wonderful. I have a

chance to do the things I wanted to do but never had time."

In agreement, Ms. Michelwitz added, "Although I miss seeing students on a daily basis, I love retirement. I'm an avid exercise enthusiast, working out every day, practicing yoga several times a week, and enjoying *The New York Times* afterwards."

Ms. Cowen said, "While I certainly don't miss all the paper grading, I do miss teaching and working with the wonderful kids who produced *The Classic*."

Despite their absences from Townsend Harris's halls, these teachers continue to think of their former students, and offer their advice.

Ms. Michelwitz said, "I encourage everyone—students, teachers, and myself—to try to learn as much as he or she can. Work hard to develop your special talents; work hard to improve your understanding and all your skills. Appreciate every bit of greater mastery that you achieve. We're all reaching for the stars in our own ways."

"Don't take yourself too seriously," added Ms. Lonergan. "Life is meant to be enjoyed, not endured. Remember that a loving family and good friends are more valuable than any material thing you could imagine."

These women who once graced the Humanities Department are just a handful of the many teachers that continue to do great things beyond their work at Townsend Harris.

Seekers share music, coffee

by Yelena Dzhanova

The Seekers Club held their Open Mic/Coffee House event on May 31.

The event commenced with Singspiration, the club's lead singing group, who sang three songs for the growing crowd. The audience swayed, applauded, and, in some cases, hugged each other during the songs.

Sophomore Jasmine Wang, Singspiration member, said, "I felt like I could connect to all the other people singing, and it really exposed the audience to what we were trying to convey."

Following Singspiration, junior Kirsten Baker sang the acapella of "All I Have Is Christ" by the Christian group, Sovereign Grace Music.

Another highlight of the event was an interpretive dance by the Body Worship team. A group of eight girls wearing the signature green Seekers t-shirts for the event, danced in sync to Casting Crowns's "Who Am I."

Senior and club president Amanda Rosso revealed that her favorite part of the event was the skit, "God's Chisel." It portrayed four friends meeting and discussing what they believed were their most inept qualities. As a result, God came and taught them to appreciate themselves, explaining that the kids weren't mistakes.

"I really liked the way that God was portrayed, and I feel like it was conveyed in a different way; everyone was really captivated by it," said Amanda.

Though not a Seeker, freshman Ivy Lam enjoyed the event.

"Even though I'm not religious, I really thought it was a nice experience. I really liked the singing, and the food was good too," she said with a smile on her face.

"Religion is such a foreign thing to me, and I thought it was pretty interesting, and I'm pretty sure I'll come back again," she added.

Freshman Noah Silversmith stated that the event achieved its goal of spreading spirituality and unity among the crowd.

"Because this is the culminating meeting, now would be the perfect time to just bring everything together and bear our fruit through acting, singing, dancing, and sharing testimonies," concluded Amanda.



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Loo.

Latin club travels to Yale

by Simrankaur Wahan

As the school year comes to an end, the Townsend Harris Latin Club has a lot to celebrate: they finished in the top ten at the Yale Certamen, a quiz bowl-type competition among some of the best schools in the Northeast, and they received first place at both the beginner and intermediate levels at the regional certamen held at our school.

Adding to this list, the club was invited to attend a regional certamen at the Bronx High School of Science. However, there were issues associated with its organization.

Reflecting on the certamen at Bronx Science, sophomore Hema Venkata said, "All I can say is that I feel it was incredibly unfair. Teams we beat multiple times made the finals while we didn't."

Angel Song, junior, said, "Bronx Science organized their rules and competition in a way that we were not familiar with, so we had the disadvantage."

Junior Jonathan Chung reasoned that "In entering competitions at Yale and even in our own school, our club is cognizant of the usual level of difficulty relative to each level. Intermediate and novice teams were intermixed at Bronx Science, so the questions were fair game to all teams. It became a matter of who raised his hand first, and I think that's when it became a matter of fate."

Latin teacher and Latin club advisor Jonathan Owens praises the team's accomplishments. "The students run the club, really. They have a real sense of ownership of the club that I find commendable. I know the students were frustrated with the results of the Bronx certamen, but I don't think it should tarnish an otherwise exemplary year."



Photo courtesy of Jasmine Teu.

Name	College	State	Name	College	State
ABBARAO, JAIME LOUIS	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	FEINSTEIN, SARA	SUNY-New Paltz	NY
ABDIN, KHALID	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	FIESCO, KENNETH	Boston University	MA
ABDULLAH, ZUNAYED	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	NY	FLORES, NATALIE	Rice University	TX
AFROZ,,JALWA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	FUKUI, TAKUYA E	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	NY
AGUDA, PATRICK S	SUNY Maritime College	NY	GALLAGHER, MARCO	City College of New York CUNY	NY
AHAMAD, REBECCA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	GARCHA, JASMINDER S	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	MA
AHMED, DEWAN	Cornell University	NY	GARCIA, KIMBERLY	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
AHMED. YUSRA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	GARNCARZ, KLAUDIA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
AHN, HYEONG EUN	New York University	NY	GEORGE, GINNELLE	Temple University	PA
AKTER, NADIRA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	GEORGE, MAREENA	Georgetown University	DC
ALAM, SAERA	City College of New York CUNY	NY	GOLASZEWSKI, ANETA	SUNY - Albany	NY
ALTAI, MUHAMMAD	New York University	NY	GUPTA, SIMRAN	Stony Brook University	NY
ALVARADO, MELISSA	Florida International University	FL	HAIDER, SYEDAH	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
AN, ISABELLA	Queens College of the CUNY	NY	HARRINGTON, ERIN	SUNY College at Purchase	NY
ANG, DEBORAH	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	NY	HEMRAJ, NANDINE	Adelphi University	NY
ATILEH, MARIE	Marist College	NY	HERNANDEZ, DENNISE	Dartmouth College	NH
ATTUR, MALAVIKA	Macaulay Honors College at Hunter	NY	HIGGINS, CANDACE	Syracuse University	NY
BANAS, PAMELA	SUNY Maritime College	NY	HO, KAYLA	New York Institute of Technology - Manhattan	NY
BARCELONA, PAMELA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	HODGE, JENNIFER	Temple University	PA
BARGUIL, ELISA	City College of New York CUNY	NY	HUANG, YUN	University of Southern California	CA
BAUTISTA, ANNA	City College of New York CUNY	NY	HUI, HENDRICK	New York University	NY
BAUTRENAITE, MORTA	Pratt Institute	NY	HUR, FLORENCE J	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	MA
BENNANI, SAFAE	Villanova University	PA	HUSSAIN, FARIHA	City College of New York CUNY	NY
BERMEJO, CARON	City College of New York CUNY	NY	IM, GRACE SUNGEUN	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY
BERRONES, CORTEZ GISELA	City College of New York CUNY	NY	INDERGAARD, JOHN	Cornell University	NY
BHOLANAUTH, KYLE	City College of New York CUNY	NY	ISAAC, SHELDON	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
BIRTAN, ANDREEA	SUNY - Binghamton	NY	ISLAM, ZUHARA	Stony Brook University	NY
BITIS,, ELIZABETH	City College of New York CUNY	NY	JAIRAJ, SHALINI A	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
BLANCA, JAILINNE	Keuka College	NY	JAYSON, SHAKANA	City College of New York CUNY	NY
BOURNIAS, CONSTAN-TINE	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	JEAN, JOSHUA	York College of the CUNY	NY
BOYCHUK, OLEKSANDR	City College of New York CUNY	NY	JEE, YERIM	Boston College	MA
BROWN, DARNNELL	Hofstra University	NY	JEONG, OANN Hae Mee	Northeastern University	MA
BURKE, JILLIAN	Boston College	MA	JIA, MARGARET	University of Pittsburgh	PA
CHAN, KIMBERLY	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	JOHNSON, JYOTHISRAJ	Macaulay Honors College at Hunter	NY
CHAN, MEI JUN	SUNY - Binghamton	NY	JONES, TIFFANY	Temple University	PA
CHAN, TIFFANY	Macaulay Honors College at Baruch	NY	JORDAN, CHRISTOPHER	Binghamton University	NY
CHAUDHURY, HAYA	New York Institute of Technology - Old Westbury	NY	KABIR, SABRINA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
CHEN, JENNY	Cornell University	NY	KAIYUM, RADHIYAH	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
CHEN, STEPHANIE YING	Cornell University	NY	KANG, JI WON	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
CHENG, KEVIN	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	KANHAI, KAPIL	Hofstra University	NY
CHIN, IRENE	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	KAUR, GURPRIT	Macaulay Honors College at Lehman	NY
CHIU, JOSEPH	Macaulay Honors College at City	NY	KAUR, PARAMVEER	University at Buffalo The State University of New York	NY
CHONG, JENNA	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY	KAWALL, TRACY	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
CHONG, QUEENA	Fordham University	NY	KAZMI, AMEER	School of Visual Arts	NY
CHOUDHURY, NISHAT	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	KHATRI, NABIL	Macaulay Honors College at Baruch	NY
CHOWDHURY, FABBIIHA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	KILOM, JONATHAN	Adelphi University	NY
CHU, ASHLEY	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	Kim, Ha Eun Grace	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
CHUN, YOO NA	Colby College	ME	KIM, ALICE	School of Visual Arts	NY
CHUNG, IRENE	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	KIM, CECILIA	Boston University	MA
CLEMENTE, SARA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	KIM, DOYUN	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
CLYNE, JUELLE	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	NY	KIM, JI SU	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
DAMASO, WILLIAM	Queens College of the CUNY	NY	KIM, SARAH F	Macaulay Honors College at Hunter	NY
DATTA, RITU	York College of the CUNY	NY	KISSOON, ANTHONY	Adelphi University	NY
DE LA TORRE, MELISSA	Vanderbilt University	TN	KITSON, MELISSA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
DELEON, CARL	University of Connecticut	CT	KOLI, FATIMAZOHRA	Barnard College	NY
DEVIEIRA, CANDACE	Adelphi University	NY	KOLONIARIS, SAMAN-THA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
DHANANI, LAMEESA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	KUKSENKO, OLENA	Brown University	RI
DIAZ GONZALEZ, MA-RIA	Stanford University	CA	KURTEZI, ANDRONIQI	SUNY - New Paltz	NY
DITOMMASO, ANNA	Dalhousie University	NS	KWON, BOGUM	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
DOMINGUEZ, ELIJAH	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick	NJ	KWON, HAARIN	State University of New York at New Paltz	NY
DONOFRIO, CLAUDIA	Macaulay Honors College at City	NY	LACHHMAN, ALVIN	New York Institute of Technology - Old Westbury	NY
DONYINA, RUBY	City College of New York CUNY	NY	LAM, CARLY	Stony Brook University	NY
DOSAKAYALA, NEELIMA	Brooklyn College of the CUNY	NY	LAU, VICTORIA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
DRAYTON, TEREEL	Syracuse University	NY	LEDESMA, MARIA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
DUONG, BARBARA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	LEE, PETER	Brooklyn College of the CUNY	NY
EICHENHOLZ, ANDREW	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	LEE, YAEIN	Boston College	MA
ENANY, SHARIEF	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	LEONTIADIS, DESPINA	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
ENDLER, KATARZYNA	Fordham University	NY	LEUNG, ALANNA	Macaulay Honors College at City	NY
ESKANDROUS, JOSEPH	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	LEVIYEVA, ELLA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
FEDUS, JEREMY	University of Pennsylvania	PA			

College Decisions

Name	College	State	Name	College	State
LI, DEREK	Cornell University	NY	RODRIGUEZ, CELESTE	Fordham University	NY
Li, HUI MIN	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	ROGERS, STEPHANIE	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
LI, ZHI HAO	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	ROSSO, AMANDA	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
LIEW, BERTILLA	Northeastern University	MA	SAHA, SUVO	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
LIU, BOHANG	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	SAKIB, MOHD	Macaulay Honors College at Baruch	NY
LIU, GLENN	Macaulay Honors College at Hunter	NY	SANCHEZ, MICHAEL VINCENT	Macaulay Honors College at City	NY
LJESKOVAC, NICHOLAS	SUNY - New Paltz	NY	SANTIAGO, EILEEN	New York Institute of Technology - Old Westbury	NY
LUI, BRIAN ZHANG	Boston University	MA	SCATURRO, ANTONINO	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
LUK, TAMMY	Carnegie Mellon University	PA	SEDANO, GODFRED	School of Visual Arts	NY
MAFTEI, TEODORA	University of Pennsylvania	PA	SEEMANGAL, RONALD	Hofstra University	NY
MALDONADO, JUSTIN	John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY	NY	SEK, IZABELLA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY
MANN, ALISON	Wesleyan University	CT	SHI, DAVID	SUNY - Binghamton	NY
MANRAKHAN,SARAH	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	SHI, YUYAN	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
MARTINEZ,ALEXIS	Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College of the CUNY	NY	SHU, EILEEN	Cornell University	NY
MARTINEZ, VANESA	Adelphi University	NY	SIERRA, DAMARIS	University of Delaware	DE
MASTELLONE, GENNA	Wesleyan University	CT	SINGH, ARSHDEEP	Adelphi University	NY
MCCANN, SHANNON	Syracuse University	NY	SINGH, ARVINDER	University of Connecticut	CT
MCNULTY, DANIEL	The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art	NY	SINGH, SUKHDEEP	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
MESSINGER, LIRAN	Brandeis University	MA	SINGHA, SHALEEN	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY
MILLER, BASHE	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	SKOK, MICHAEL	Macaulay Honors College at Baruch	NY
MILLS, JASON	Harvard College	MA	SMITH, KHALIL R.	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
MITCHELL, SHELLEY	Medgar Evers College of the CUNY	NY	SO, ANGELA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
MONCLOVA, JULIET	Cornell University	NY	SOLIMAN, DIANA	Boston College	MA
MONTESDEOCA, WILMER	Williams College	MA	SORDILLO, ANGELICA	Syracuse University	NY
MORSE, HANNAH	New York University	NY	STASIAK, SUZANNE	The Ohio State University	OH
MOSKOS, CATHERINE	Northeastern University	MA	STROESCU, JENNIFER	SUNY - Binghamton	NY
MOSORJAK, RICHARD	SUNY - New Paltz	NY	STRUMPF, ADAM	SUNY College at Geneseo	NY
MULLIGAN, THOMAS	University at Buffalo The State University of New York	NY	SUJATMA,, WIDYA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY
NAJERA, ANAMARIA	Babson College	MA	SUZUKI, JUDITH	Cornell University	NY
NASIM, NAZIFA	Fordham University	NY	SZETO, MICHELLE YUN	Cornell University	NY
NELSEN, DEREK	SUNY - Albany	NY	TANG, RICHARD	New York University	NY
NG, SHIRLEY	Johns Hopkins University	MD	THAPI, SAHITYASRI	Columbia University	NY
NIEH, JOY	Adelphi University	NY	THEOFANIS, DIMITRI	New York University	NY
NIYAZOV, GABRIELLA	Northeastern University	MA	THOMAS, ANILA	Macaulay Honors College at Hunter	NY
NIZAM, SHANIZA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	THOMAS, BRIANNA	Howard University	DC
ONG, JASMINE	New York University	NY	TING, TIFFANY	Boston University	MA
O'SHEA, LAURA	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	TORRES, JASMINE E	SUNY - New Paltz	NY
PAGE, KEVIN	Howard University	DC	UDDIN, MOHAMMED	CUNY - New York City Technical College	NY
PAN, LILY	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY	URRUTIA, KESLY	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
PARASHCHAK, ANNA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	URUCI, FATIME	John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY	NY
PARECKI, JONATHAN	Macaulay Honors College at Queens	NY	VARGHESE, MERIN	SUNY College at Geneseo	NY
PARK, SCHEON	SUNY - Stony Brook	NY	VISHNUDAT, ALANNA	University of Connecticut	CT
PARMAR, KANAK	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	VLAD, CYNTHIA	SUNY - Binghamton	NY
PISANI, ESSICA	Adelphi University	NY	WAHID, SHERIDA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
PJETERGJOKA,, ADONA	Macaulay Honors College at Baruch	NY	WANEES, MARIAM	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	PA
PORETSKY, DENIS	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	WANG, JUDY	Boston University	MA
PRABHU, RHEA	Temple University	PA	WILLIS, ALEXIS	Carnegie Mellon University	PA
PULATOV, ISAAC	Macaulay Honors College at Queens	NY	WONG, AUSTIN	The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art	NY
QUEZADA, AMANDA	CUNY - New York City Technical College	NY	WOO, JOANNA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
RADER, SARAH	Adelphi University	NY	XUE, JIA YI	Baruch College of the CUNY	NY
RAFAEL, OMAR	City College of New York CUNY	NY	YAO, TINA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY
RAHMAN, TAWHIDA	Hunter College of the CUNY	NY	YOO, JOYCE	Boston College	MA
RAHMAN, WALID	Columbia University	NY	YUAN, YIPIN	University of Virginia	VA
RAHMANI, LUBNA	Macaulay Honors College at Baruch	NY	YUE, VINCENT	University of Michigan	MI
RAMCHARRAN, SEEMA	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY	ZAMAN, JARIAT	Stony Brook University	NY
RANGASAMY, MARK	York College of the CUNY	NY	ZHANG, TIFFANY	St. John's University - Queens Campus	NY
RANGDOL, TENZIN	SUNY - New Paltz	NY			
REIFF, JESSE	Georgetown University	DC			
RESETAR, DEVLIN	The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art	NY			
RICH, REBECCA	SUNY College at Geneseo	NY			
RITTER, THOMAS	St. Thomas Aquinas College	NY			
RIVERA, ERIKA	Johns Hopkins University	MD			
RIVERA, KAYLA	University of Connecticut	CT			
RIZKALLA, MONICA	Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education of the CUNY	NY			
ROBLES, DENISE	Macaulay Honors College at City	NY			
RODOPLU, DERYA	SUNY - New Paltz	NY			
RODRIGUEZ ORTIZ, CARLAMARIE	Columbia University	NY			

The Classic wishes the best of luck to the members of the class of 2013 in all their endeavors!

Can anything in NYC compare to a summer's play?

by Jennifer Walsh

In *As You Like It*, William Shakespeare wrote, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." This summer, the Public Theater is turning Central Park's Delacorte Theater into its stage, giving the entire city of New York the opportunity to see Shakespeare's work come to life in free, professional performances.

Shakespeare in the Park has been providing high-quality theatrical productions to New Yorkers at no cost since it started in 1962. The program is run by The Public Theater, an organization dedicated to bringing theater to the masses through low-cost or free performances throughout the year. Each summer, A-list celebrities headline the cast in adaptations of Shakespeare's plays. Past participants include Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, and Anne Hathaway. This year's productions are *The Comedy of Errors*, featuring Hamish Linklater and *Modern Family* star Jesse Tyler Ferguson, and a modern, musical version of *Love's Labour's Lost*. Performances of *The Comedy of Errors* began May 28 and will run through June 30. *Love's Labour's Lost* starts July 23 and ends August 18. All shows start at 8:30 p.m., lasting about 90 minutes without any intermission.

The Comedy of Errors cast member Skipp Sudduth, who plays Duke and Luce in the play, discussed his enthusiasm for the first of this summer's two productions. The play is about two sets of identical twins separated as children who now live as master-servant pairs in rival cities and cross the border to find each other, leading to a case of mistaken identity.

"Our version of *The Comedy of Errors* is fast-paced, funny, and tailored for American audiences. The entire cast plus a complement of six dancers [work] together to bring this classic comedy to life. You'll leave humming a tune and tapping your toes and dancing," said Sudduth.

Though the program is open to everyone, Sudduth felt that students could be particularly affected by the shows.

"I think The Public's Shakespeare in the Park puts 'The Bard' in a setting that makes [his work] more fun and accessible for everyone. I think kids especially should experience Shakespeare in a fantastic setting as theater, not literature," he said.

"The themes and messages and stories that are Shakespeare's plays and sonnets are universal to the human condition regardless of your age or social standing. It is always fun to realize how many words and phrases we use now that were created by Shakespeare for his characters and his plays."

The program has become a summer staple in NYC, so it can be tough to get tickets to the performances. Tickets are handed out at 12 p.m. in Central Park for that night's shows, but many line up hours earlier to score seats. AP English and Drama teacher Joseph Canzoneri has attended The Public's Shakespeare in the Park in the past and plans to go this year. "Go, go, go if you haven't attended



Shakespeare in the Park. Art by Nadia Ali.

before: it's a New York tradition for cultured people like us," he urged.

A virtual ticketing system is also in place - users create an account and can try to get up to 2 tickets at noon. They will be told whether or not they got tickets via email soon after. There are special borough distribution days for each production, and the Queens distribution day for *Love's Labour's Lost* is July 31 at the Queens Public Library - Central Branch. If tickets are unused or unclaimed, they go to people in the standby line, which starts doling out tickets at 6:30 p.m. with a one-ticket-per-person limit in Central Park.

Going earlier in the run of the shows or attending when it's cloudy or lightly raining will help combat crowds. Even the actors have enjoyed themselves performing in bad weather.

"The funniest thing so far has been rehearsing in the rain. It's outdoors, obviously, and you have to be ready for anything," Sudduth said. "It's like summer camp! And we're putting on Shakespeare! Sometimes it's literally a 'comedy of errors' but little by little we're creating a play I know everyone is going to love."



For many students at THHS, watching shows and movies online is a favored pastime. We are the Netflix generation, and for those of us who come into school and talk at length about the great shows we've spent our online time watching, we are very much a part of a growing 'Net Clique' of instant video watchers. Sometimes, however, it's not easy to dig through the endless programs available online to find something really worth your time. "Net Cliques" is a column devoted to guiding you to the shows and movies that you might not find on your recommended list.

Get nostalgic for after school specials this summer

by Amy Hao & Joanna Wong

If your summer plans consist of lying on the couch watching Netflix (and don't lie, we know that's a lot of you) then consider re-entering the world of afternoon kiddie cartoons this month.

If your school bus dropped you off by 3 p.m., then you definitely remember the lessons learned from *Arthur* (available on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc.). One of TV's longest-running animated series, second only to *The Simpsons*, it never ceases to entertain youngsters and adults alike.

In case you had a deprived childhood and didn't watch *Arthur*, the show involves an anthropomorphic aardvark, and his many friends and family members. Even though *Arthur* has gone through many changes over the years, including new voices for almost all characters and also the latest addition of a female rabbit named Ladonna, the show still maintains its roots as a way of teaching us important lessons related to school, annoying

younger siblings, bullying, and how having fun isn't hard when you've got a library card.

Another one of our favorites also started airing in the afternoon alongside *Arthur: Dragon Tales* (available on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc.). On air for six years, this series followed the adventures of siblings Emmy and Max, who, with the powers of a magical scale and a rhyme, traveled to Dragon Land to embark on adventures with their friends Ord, Cassie, Zak, and Wheezie. The addition of a new character named Enrique in the third season added new lessons on Hispanic culture.

The 5:00 p.m. PBS favorite was *Cyberchase* (available on the *Cyberchase* website). This show is chock-full of fun and exciting math puzzles that you had to help the gang solve in order to save Cyberspace and Motherboard from the Hacker.

While watching, you actually learn

discrete mathematics through this program. If you're eager to brush up on your arithmetic this summer, make sure you're caught up with all of the eight seasons that have aired before the show went on hiatus in July of 2010, because all new adventures are coming back to PBS Kids starting September 17!

If you want some more recent cartoons to pass your 104 days of summer vacation, try *Phineas and Ferb* (available on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc.). Documenting the exciting and outrageous projects that young Phineas Flynn and his English stepbrother Ferb construct during their own summer vacation, this Disney Channel brainchild delivers every episode stuffed full of musical numbers, engaging subplots, and humorous one-liners.

Also notorious for its smarter jokes that smaller children might not understand as easily as their older babysitters, the series stands as Disney's lon-

gest running original series.

Another recent pop-culture phenomenon is *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* (available on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc.). This new show was created by Lauren Faust (of the *Powerpuff Girls* and *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends* fame) because she was irked by the sexist stereotypes that the original series employed.

Friendship is Magic tells the story of the studious Twilight Sparkle who is sent by her mentor, Princess Celestia to the town of Ponyville to learn about the wonders of friendship. The show has catchy musical numbers, adorable animation, and true-to-heart lessons on being a good person. It's no wonder that the show has attracted so many non-target viewers, such as male viewers ages 15 to 35.

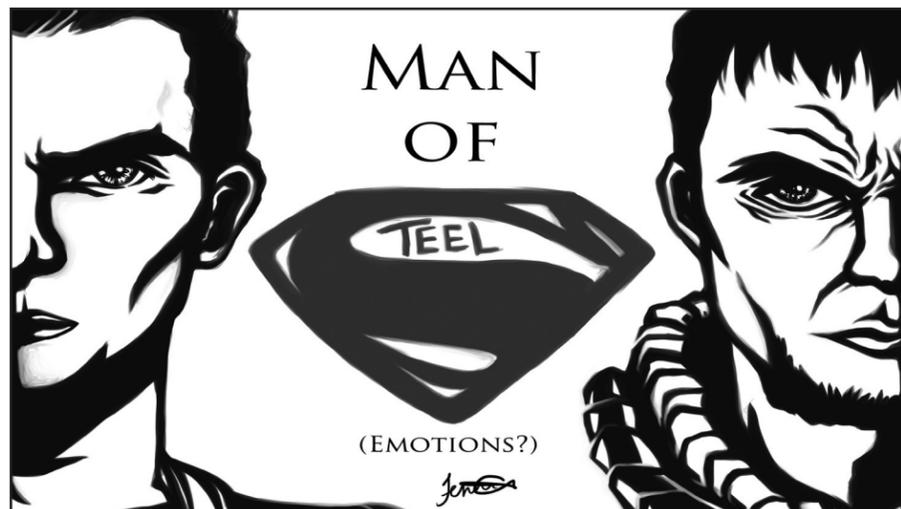
With the support of the "bronies" behind it, *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* heads into its fourth season later this year.

Superman fails to thrill

by Jennifer Walsh

Man of Steel has been heralded as one of the biggest movies of the season, but many wondered if it would be as big a flop as the past few *Superman* movies. It had everything a summer blockbuster needs - a big budget, plenty of celebrities, and lots of hype. However, *Man of Steel* can't break the curse of its predecessors and it is quite possibly the worst superhero flick since *Green Lantern*.

The story focuses on the origin of Superman's alter ego, Clark Kent, played by Henry Cavill. Flashbacks to Clark's childhood show his powers developing while he learns to blend in with society. As an adult, he searches for the truth about his otherworldly abilities and must use them to defend Earth against General Zod and his rogue crew, who want to destroy the Earth and rebuild their



Art by Jenner Chen

home planet of Krypton.

Screenwriter David S. Goyer delivers a screenplay so disappointing that it's hard to believe he is the same person who penned the *Dark Knight* trilogy. The film doesn't show character development and lacks suspense.

Henry Cavill is well-cast in the title role, but his character's lack of emotional conflict makes the film too straightforward - Superman has to save the world from evil, end of story. Goyer also has sacrificed dialogue and plot for explosions and fight sequences. The digital effects in the action scenes are well done, but quickly become dull and repetitive in this overlong trainwreck.

The romance - or lack thereof - between Superman and Lois Lane doesn't add anything to the film either.

Amy Adams is undoubtedly an excellent actress, but she was miscast as the feisty, stubborn Lane. Director Zack Snyder tosses her in plenty of scenes, but gives the character no depth. Lane's presence in some scenes, such as the one where Zod requests her aboard his ship with Superman, feels forced and completely artificial. As always, she ends up being more of an object audiences can watch Superman protect than a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist seeking the truth. Adams and Cavill don't have much chemistry onscreen, so there are almost no magical moments between one of the most famous fictional couples of all time.

Russell Crowe plays Jor-El, Clark's biological father, who offers his son advice throughout the film. His performance in the movie is odd and mechanical. Jor-El does not seem torn about the decision to send his infant son to Earth, nor does his wife, Lara Lor-Van, played by Ayelet Zurer. He has an equally stoic response to meeting his fully grown son years later, when he begins to help Clark understand the planet he came from. If Crowe was looking for redemption from his robotic performance in *Les Misérables*, he won't find it here.

Man of Steel also lacks a great villain that audiences can love to hate. General Zod, played by Michael Shannon, is unfamiliar to most and seems more like a rejected *Star Trek* character than Superman's nemesis. He thinks of his quest to rebuild Krypton as a noble one, part of the clichéd "bad guy" shtick we've all seen before. But Zod isn't evil enough to be exciting or terrifying, so it's hard to see him as a serious threat to the planet.

Besides a great villain, *Man of Steel* is also missing kryptonite, Superman's only weakness. The substance has been replaced by a logical explanation about atmospheric composition that takes some of the magic out of the film. If we're supposed to suspend our disbelief to watch a grown man zoom around in tights, can't we have some cool space rocks too?

The only redeeming things about *Man of Steel* are the performances of Kevin Costner and Diane Lane as John and Martha Kent, respectively. Flashbacks to Smallville show not only Martha and John dealing with the challenges that accompany hiding Clark's powers, but also their support for and faith in him. Clark's bond with his Earth parents feels organic and emphasizes their importance in his life. The Kents are a picturesque, all-American couple, and their love for their adopted son provides emotion the film desperately needs.

Man of Steel tries too hard to modernize Superman; to make his story darker in today's world. Instead of being a fun, exciting adventure, its melodramatic tone makes this movie unforgivably cheesy. While action flicks normally make up for poor plots with big-budget effects, the scenes in *Man of Steel* are dragged out and tired.

Even the man of steel himself can't save this movie from being a bomb.



by Parina Kaewkrajang

The Purge is worth the splurge

by Shelley Mitchell

If you love films that bring together the joy of happy families with the madness of deranged killers, then James DeMonaco's *The Purge* is a must see for you.

The film focuses on James Sandin, played by Ethan Hawke, and his family, living in America in 2022. The Sandins and their neighbors are preparing for the annual purge, a government sponsored "venting period" where all crime is legal. You can kill the president and his family, and then murder another twenty people too, but as long as it's within the 12 hours set aside for the Purge, you're all good.

In this future world, Mr. Sandin is a home security salesman who sold security systems to almost everyone in the neighborhood. Presumably, every year Sandin and his family lock down their home and take no part in the Purge. But this year the Sandins' son, Charlie, feels the need to disarm the security and let in a man who was going to be killed by a group of deranged killers celebrating their right to purge. And as you can imagine, things don't go well for the Sandins' after this.

Truthfully, if you've seen the trailer for *The Purge*, you have seen most of the movie. The film is short, only lasting an hour and a half. If you're the type to run off to go to the bathroom or get some snacks while the movie is playing, then you'll probably miss out on a lot. With such a short time span, the movie comes across as being rushed. Another half an hour would have helped for a more developed plot.

Nonetheless, the film does offer some interesting moments and plotlines worth seeing, especially those involving the neighbors. We all have those neighbors - you know, the ones that secretly hate us but still force themselves to smile and start up a conversation every time they cross paths with us. They're the kind of neighbors you're sure would stab you in the back the moment they had the chance. Unfortunately, the Sandins have these neighbors, and when they hear all the commotion going on at the Sandin house, they decide to go over and "help out."

Interesting plot turns like this make *The Purge* ultimately worth seeing in theaters. It may not be long, and it may be predictable, but it's clever enough to give you an enjoyable time at the movies.

The Purge is rated R for strong disturbing violence and some language. Students who are younger than 17 must be accompanied by someone 21 years or older.

A NOTE ON FILM REVIEWS!

Shelley and Jennifer attended pre-release press screenings of the films they reviewed. Due to the efforts of our staff, *The Classic* will receive over 30 tickets to press screenings in the fall. See www.thsclassic.com for details about a contest that could earn you a spot accompanying one of our critics to a preview screening!

The Classic
June 2013

Austin Street: where to grab a bite to eat

by Andrew Mitchel



A look at Austin Street during peak eating hours. Photo by Sofia Milonas.

This month, I traveled to the neighborhood of Forest Hills to sample the eateries in that portion of Queens. What I found were three outstanding places to get three distinct types of food.

Pahal Zan

106-12 Continental Ave (underneath the LIRR station)

This kosher Mediterranean/Middle Eastern grill is very similar to Grill Point, the restaurant I reviewed last month. They are best known for their falafel, and they have both platters and pita sandwiches, which are filled with the same salads and sides. I decided to get the lamb kabab, “seasoned in Moroccan style,” in a pita sandwich. I was able to get that and a bottle of water for only \$11, and

considering that this restaurant is kosher like Grill Point, the price was a steal. The service and décor were both above average, and did not detract from the quality of the food at all. I highly recommend getting this if you’re in the mood for some quality Mediterranean food.

Food: A
Service: A-
Décor: B+
Overall: A-

Martha’s Country Bakery

70-30 Austin Street

In the mood for a cupcake? How about a cookie? Maybe a cake? A pie? If you love quality baked goods and hot or cold café drinks, Martha’s is definitely the place for you. Though there are also locations on Ditmars Boulevard in Astoria and on Bell Boulevard in Bayside, the most famous and arguably the best one in this chain is the one stationed in Forest Hills. They offer 15 types of cake, 10 types of fruit pies, and an endless amount of café drinks

(coffees, lattes, etc.), along with many other baked goods. The staff worked very fast but somewhat inefficiently to serve the long line. The décor of the bakery was very homey and inviting. The two cookies I got were very good, and I recommend any of the 3 locations of Martha’s to anyone looking for a great bakery, though pastries are not my favorite thing in the world.

Food: A
Service: B-
Décor: A
Overall: B+

Gloria Pizza

108-22 Queens Blvd.

As a big fan of homegrown New York pizza, Gloria stands out for me as one of the best options. Their staff is very friendly and helpful, and the décor is a modern take on the old-fashioned booth and counter pizzeria. The food itself has always been outstanding when I’ve been there, well worth the high price. This time I got a chicken roll, complete with extra tomato sauce. This is some of the best pizza I know of, so eating here should definitely be on everyone’s list of things to do.

Food: A+
Service: A
Décor: A
Overall: A

Summer desserts: which froyo is fo’ yo’?

by Sabrina Yu

Frozen yogurt is the latest frozen treat to join the exclusive club of trendy desserts, even being dubbed “hipster food.”

The cold delight is a hit among all types of people due to its customizability. With all these fro-yo shops popping up it can be difficult to choose which is best.

Red Mango

Red Mango can probably be credited for making frozen yogurt such a global phenomenon as it first became popular in South Korea and then spread to other parts of the world.

I tried out “The Original” and their recommended flavor, “Mango.”

The Mango was a little too sweet for my palette. It had an artificial mango flavor, and was somewhat creamier than the Original. It was refreshing, but after awhile it felt like I was eating frozen mango syrup.

The atmosphere itself was modern. At the Red Mango I went to, it was relaxing with friendly service. There were eight self serve froyo choices at Rego Center lined up on one side. Some notable flavors are “Nuttu Potion No. 9” which is made with Nutella, “Mint Cookie,” and “Cinnamon Apple Pie”.

RED MANGO RATING:



Yogo Monster

Yogo Monster was created in 2008 in Brooklyn. Today, there are three store locations: two of which are in Brooklyn, and one is on Austin Street, where I visited.

The flavors I tasted were “Original” and “Mango.”

Yogo Monster’s Original had a creamier flavor to it as opposed to a tart yogurt flavor like that of Red Mango. It was velvety and smooth like soft ice cream. It was also not too sweet, but I would probably say Red Mango’s Original was better.

However, the Mango at Yogo Monster was exceptionally delicious.

It had an authentic mango taste and it had a similar texture to that of the Original. The Mango was also not dominated by sweetness, yet it managed to have a rich flavor.

The location I went to was also self serve with eight different flavors at the back of the store such as “Green Tea,” “Peach,” and “Blueberry.”

There was a decent sized toppings bar to the side which included gummy bears, coconut, and M&Ms. The little store is cozy yet current. There are even seats outside on a balcony.

YOGO MONSTER RATING:



16 Handles

16 Handles is famous for having a large number of choices every time you go. It has 25 locations around New York. I got my yogurt fix from the Queens Center Mall location.

Here, I had “Original Tart” and “Birthday Cake.”

The Original Tart was distastefully sour-so much in fact that my friend couldn’t even finish a small sample. Of course you would expect something called ‘tart’ to be sour, but this was too much. To top it all off, the froyo was watery.

The Birthday Cake was not as pleasing as that of other places. It also tasted like a vanilla cake but was overly flavored. It did have a delightful, buttery feel to it when you put it in your mouth.

16 Handles has a funky setting with vivid decor. It offers a wide array of nuts, candies, syrups, and a few fruits as toppings. Some of my favorites include cheesecake bites, mochi, lychee, and hot fudge.

So when it comes to the sweet stuff Yogo Monster is the way to go. Their froyo is a delicious frozen treat, without freezing your wallet.

16 HANDLES RATING:



Ask Jamie!

by Jamie Harris

Welcome to our advice column. Please send your questions to thhsadvicecolumn@gmail.com. You can anonymously submit your questions to thhsclassic.com; see the advice submission sidebar.

Question: My boyfriend and I have been together for the past two years, but next year, he’ll be moving on to college in a different state while I still remain in high school. How do I make the relationship work and what do I do if it doesn’t?

Answer: The first thing you have to do is share your concerns with your boyfriend in an honest and open way. If he isn’t as sincere about making it work as you are, then you need to know. Make sure that you aren’t too pushy about your desire to stay together. Be straightforward and firm. If you feel strongly that you want it to work, then there’s no need for you to get worked up while speaking with him about it. The most important thing is to see where he stands. Your relationship won’t last next year if you’re the only one trying to make it work. If you both seem committed to trying to make it work, the two of you can spend the summer planning ways to stay in touch, meet up, and get through the difficult times that arise while he’s away.

One doesn’t have to have first-hand experience to recognize that long distance relationships aren’t easy, especially when the members of the couple are both still young, but that doesn’t mean you have to believe people who tell you it will never work. It has for others and could for you.

Question: Lately I’ve realized that the group of friends I hang out with has been talking behind my back. School’s almost over and I don’t want to start trouble, but it’s been really hurtful. What do I do?

Answer: Sometimes it’s hard to tell who’s truly your friend and who isn’t, but do you know when the problem started? Did you do anything to hurt your friends? Perhaps they’re retaliating. Approach them without being accusatory, and ask to have an honest conversation about what’s going on. If you get angry, you’ll fuel their issues with you, but if you sincerely try to make things right, they might listen. If they refuse to speak with you productively about what’s happened, then it seems like they’re not your true friends. It’s better to have a small amount of true friends rather than a large group of friends who don’t really care about you. Try talking to them and see what they have to say if you’re really concerned, but if they really cared about you, then they would have never talked behind your back in the first place. Although it can be hard to ignore, try to ignore it because the more you ignore it, the faster they’ll realize that it’s not bothering you and they’ll stop. However, if you see that the problem increases, then you need to involve a trusted adult at home or in the school community.

Girls handball goes to playoffs

by Catherine Ng

The pool on the roof, the vortex in the sixth floor bathrooms, and the Girls Handball team are some of Townsend Harris's best kept secrets.

"The team definitely needs more publicity," said Samantha Kwok, the junior manager of the girls handball team. "It's one of the minority sports at Townsend. Even Principal Barbetta didn't really know of our existence."

Despite their obscurity, members of the team love handball. Junior Helen Lin said that she joined because handball was fun, and that it made her more outgoing by allowing her to meet new people from other schools.

Sophomore Elizabeth Ha said, "When I play handball, I not only have fun, but I also plan and analyze where the ball should go. It is a fun, yet intellectual game for me. In addition, I also get to exercise, so it's a win-win situation."

Handball requires a good eye, a strong arm, and lots of running to hit a small, rubbery ball. It is similar to tennis, because after the ball is served, it can only bounce once before another person hits the ball. Unlike tennis, which requires a racket, only hands are used, and the ball is hit against a wall rather than over a net. A player gains a point when their opponent fails to make a legal return. In the Public School Athletic League (PSAL), teams compete in five matches per game - two for doubles match, and three for singles match. They must gain 21 points in order to win a match and three matches to win a game.

This year, the Girls Handball team had a record of eight wins and four losses. They were defeated by Bayside, Hillcrest, All City Leadership Secondary School, and Forest Hills High School. However, they still reached the playoffs.

After defeating HS for Environmental Sciences, the team advanced to the second round against the undefeated Bayside and fought until the very end but were defeated 5-0, ending the season with an overall record of 8-6.

Looking ahead to next year, the handball team wishes to expand their roster.

"Even though we aren't a top-tier team, we always welcome new players who want to either improve their skills or start a new sport. Because our senior is leaving this year, we do need some more players," said Elizabeth.



Photo courtesy of Joyee Mok

Boys Tennis wraps up

by John O'Neill

After a few seasons in which the Boys Tennis team finished in the lower half of the division, the Hawks turned it around this season to finish with a 7-5 record, placing third in the A1 Division. In the playoffs, the Hawks had a first round bye and in the second round they played the High School of American Studies at Lehman College and lost 3-2.

Some key wins of this season occurred against Bayside and Forest Hills High School, schools that the Hawks had lost to in the past.

Harris had several key members who contributed to the team's success, such as freshman Stephen Mai who was on 2nd Doubles

Stephen said, "My rookie season went well." As for the future of this team he feels that the team "will continue to improve [their] record."

Nonetheless, the Hawks will be losing senior Patrick Aguda, who was a key figure in 2nd Singles, and captain Andrew Eichenholz.

Patrick finished his season 5-5, while going 1-0 in the playoffs.

Junior Christopher Hu, who took over the position of 1st Singles, said, "The future looks bright as our players have much time to further develop and grow as a team."

Coach Mark Ifill took over the reins as the team's coach in the 2011-2012 season to try and make the Hawks a team that could compete and win. Coach Ifill took over a team that had finished 0-12 in the 2010-2011 season, and led the Hawks all the way to a 7-5 record this season.

The boys season gave the Hawks a feeling of what it is like to win and be a competitive team, and as Christopher Hu said about next year's team, "Together it is very possible for us to be one of the top teams in the borough."

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Fariha Hussain receives major award for fencing skills

by Daniel Restifo

The Wingate Award is presented to top senior athletes in their respective sports. Fariha Hussain, a four year member of the fencing team, was honored as the city's top female fencer. Her achievement makes her the fourth Townsend Harris female fencer to win the award in the past five years.

After being nominated by English teacher and fencing coach Katherine Yan, a panel of PSAL officials selected Fariha for the award. She was honored at a ceremony held at the Brooklyn Marriott Hotel on Monday, June 10. Ms. Yan, Assistant Coach Debra Michelwitz, and Athletic Director Keith Hanson joined her. The Wingate Award was presented to Fariha by PSAL Fencing Commissioner and former U.S. Olympian Ivan Lee.

As the anchor of the épée squad, Fariha helped lead the team to a second place finish this year at the citywide playoffs, an achievement she ranks as her favorite fencing memory at THHS.

Fariha said that "winning the Wingate award is a huge honor." When she came to THHS as a freshman she had never fenced before and since then she has been "so dedicated to the sport from that point. Even when I had collaterals, and loads of homework, I still fenced."

This dedication has translated into her performance on the strip. She

has landed among the top ten in wins for the past three years, including having the most wins of all PSAL épée fencers for the past two years. In addition, she has placed second in touches for the past three years.

She has also medaled in countless individual tournaments, taking a gold and bronze at the Invitational the past two years respectively and a bronze at last year's season opener.

Ms. Yan praised Fariha as "not only a decorated fencer but also an effective leader for the team. As she served as our fearless anchor for three years and our captain for two, Fariha coached her teammates and motivated them to fence at the highest caliber. She truly is an inspiration for our team and will continue to be even after she graduates."

Leaving THHS, Fariha is sure she will be continuing to fence at the collegiate level next fall when she attends CCNY. She says that "college fencing is at a whole different level because you can be fencing people from across the nation."

Faria plans to continue practicing and refining her skills and so she is "confident about doing well in college fencing. I still will be fencing at Fencers' [Club] and I plan on fencing in bigger competitions."



photo courtesy of Fariha Hussain

Fariha with her Wingate Award plaque and trophy.

Boys varsity baseball team packs its bats after playoff loss

by Brianne Futerman

The Boys Baseball team season was cut short with a 9-2 first round playoff loss against High School of Health Professions and Human Services.

The game, which took place on May 23, was an exciting experience for the Townsend squad. For all of the players, it was their first high school playoff game.

Townsend gave up a run in the top of the first inning but answered with two runs when Charlie Bennett scored off an RBI by Senior TJ Ritter. Freshman Evan Noblesala then scored off a hit by junior Harry Quinn. Townsend remained scoreless for the rest of the game.

TJ started the game and pitched one inning, giving up three earned runs and was later relieved by pitcher Harry Quinn who gave up five runs through four innings. Freshman Mason Rivero then stepped on the mound to pitch the final inning. After the game, Mason said that the loss was disappointing, but "fuels our determination for next year."

Junior captain and catcher Daniel Restifo said, "It was an exciting game. Leading up to it we worked hard. The game didn't go the way we wanted; we played a good team and they played better than us in all aspects of the game. When that happens it's going to be a tough game."

Despite an early playoff exit, many players remained optimistic and more than pleased with their team's performance this season.

Freshman Nicholas Laikhram said, "The game helped us as a team because we know what we have to bring next year in order to do well in the playoffs. It will give us motivation."

Senior captain Ameer Kazmi was proud of his team. "Even though we didn't get to go as far as we liked in the playoffs, the Hawks baseball team still had its most successful season in years and we accomplished everything we planned to accomplish for this season."

Senior Elijah Dominguez agreed, saying, "We definitely showed what we can do if we work hard at achieving our goals, and the goal every year so far that our coach had set was playoffs. The 13-3 record shows how much we wanted to achieve our playoff goal."

The Hawks hope to go deeper into the playoffs next year knowing that their team is capable of winning a championship. Daniel said that next year the team will "work that much harder, want it that much more, and play that much more fearlessly" to achieve its goals.



photo courtesy of TJ Ritter

TJ Ritter prepares to strike.

LOOK FOR THESE SPORTS TO BE COVERED IN THE CLASSIC IN THE FALL:

Girls Swimming
Girls Varsity Volleyball
Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball
Boys Cross Country Track
Girls Cross Country Track

Girls Soccer
Boys Soccer
Boys Fencing
Girls Bowling
Boys Bowling