



KORTNEY MAEDA

IUSD Confirms Virtual Graduation Ceremony Amidst Coronavirus Pandemic

Pre-recorded video to be released June 4th

By
CAITLYN L.J. KIM
Staff Writer

IUSD has confirmed that a virtual commencement ceremony will be held this year for seniors due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing guidelines.

On Thursday, May 7, Superintendent **Terry Walker** sent out an email stating, "Given our current reality, we are focusing on creating the best alternative we can... which is to design a virtual commencement ceremony that captures the voices of this incredible class..."

The ceremony will be on June 4th and will be in the form of a pre-recorded video.

"It will not be live, but we will release it at a particular time and suggest people watch it (together on Zoom if they want) at the same time," Assistant Principal **Matthew Pate** said.

To ensure quality in the virtual commencement ceremonies, IUSD will work with a professional production company.

UHS will incorporate the traditions of past years' graduations in this year's ceremony, to ensure that seniors get the recognition they deserve given the cir-

cumstances.

"It will include all of the normal segments we offer, including student speeches, senior song, principal's address, senior shout outs, and the announcing of senior names. We will add photomontages and the like," Pate said.

Staff and administration recognize the impact of this experience on the Class of 2020 and the sacrifices they have made.

"Our hearts are heavy because any alternative ceremony- no matter how much time and effort we invest- will understandably fall short of the tradition, gravitas, and energy of a formal, in-person gradua-



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The traditional commencement ceremony that has often been the spectacular end to a senior year will, this year, be a video.

tion ceremony," Principal **Kevin Astor** said.

Walker stated, "The Class of 2020 will always be remembered for navigat-

ing an extraordinarily difficult time with exceptional grace, an indomitable spirit, and a willingness to sacrifice and serve."

UHS Students Compete at National Online Tournament of Champions

Annual nationwide Speech and Debate tournament sees success for UHS

By **CARLY ZHOU**
Staff Writer

University High School sent two teams to compete at the Tournament of Champions, a national Speech and Debate event. Seniors **Eric Lu** and **Anthony Liang** represented UHS for the first time in Policy Debate, and sophomores **Deven Gupta** and **Pranav Moudgalya** competed in Silver Public Forum.

The Tournament of Champions is hosted annually by the University of Kentucky, and was held in an online format this year due to social-distancing guidelines with COVID-19. Moving to an online format this year featured the debates being held virtually through Zoom. "I definitely preferred last year's TOC because it was in person, and so you are able to meet people across the country and spend time talking to them on the tournament campus," said Gupta. "I have made many great friends through tournaments, so I was sad when I heard TOC was going to be moved online because that meant I would not be able to see them during the tournament."

Besides the competition itself being held virtually

compared to past years, the new online format for debating posed a mixed bag of challenges and benefits. "It felt nice being able to stay at home and debate with Deven; a "home field" advantage of sorts," said Moudgalya. "Napping between rounds was definitely a plus and it was a great experience spending quality time with my debate partner."

Certain aspects of the online format could be used to competitors' advantage. "The online format felt better in some ways," said Gupta, "as it allowed greater communication between my partner [Pranav] and myself in-round, as

we could easily mute ourselves so that we could talk to each other about strategy without being heard by the other team. On the other hand, an online format posed challenges in communication and other factors during debate.

"Face to face contact is extremely important in leveraging persuasion during cross examination and speeches," said Liang. "Getting rid of that element makes adjudicating speaker points a lot harder." Lu and Liang were eliminated in the preliminaries, while Gupta and Moudgalya managed

to place in the octa final round. Moudgalya was also awarded a Top 20 Individual Speaker award.

As of 2020, this online tournament culminated the academic Speech & Debate season for many. For seniors Lu and Liang, this is their last year competing.

"It is with earnest nostalgia and woeful emotions that I conclude a huge chapter of my life," said Liang. "I couldn't have felt more grateful and fitting to celebrate my 18th debating at the Zoom TOC. These four years of policy debate were filled with unforgettable laughter, militant research, and an amazing community."

UHS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS 2019-20

NHD Regional Finalists Qualify for Nationals
Amerdeep Passananti, Alyssa Tang, Sol Choi, James Koga, Rebecca Kornu, Elizabeth Li, and Emily Zhang all win awards for their projects

SpaceSet Team Win Regionals, Advance to International Competition
Sedong Hwang and Kasra Lekan (Co-Presidents), Jason Yu (Vice President)

UHS Students Qualify for Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)
Daniel Feng and Arjun Neervannan qualify for international competition

U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Finalist
Nicholas Ouyang one of 20 national finalists to participate in Chemistry Virtual Study Camp

UHS Speech and Debate Students Qualify for National Tournament of Champions
Deven Gupta, Anthony Liang, Eric Lu and Pranav Moudgalya participate in national tournament

UHS Team Reach Global Diamond Challenge Semifinals
Vardaan Bhat, Pranav Kanchi, Arne Noori, Anshay Saboo, Ashish Saboo go far in global entrepreneurship challenge

Uni Theatre Arts Recognized at MACY Awards
Twelve Uni Theatre Arts members nominated for Orange County arts awards, Ariana Casey and Davide Costa receive scholarships

Uni Theatre Arts Recognized at JRAY Awards
Geraldine Ang, Ariana Casey, Davide Costa, Hikari Harrison, Kimia Javaherzhan, Emi Nishida and Renee Tran nominated

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Students Experience Technical Difficulties with Online AP Testing

Issues with the submission of work affect test-takers

By **HEIDI JIN**
Staff Writer

During the last two Advanced Placement (AP) testing weeks, more than 10,000 students experienced technical difficulties during the online AP exams this year.

Some of the problems were due to slow personal internet connections or outdated browsers, as the College Board has stated, but many were due to faulty communication on the file type allowed for submission. Only PNG and JPG files could be submitted, and not HEIC files, which are the default photo format for iPhones.

"I did not have any technical issues regarding the submit button being unresponsive, but I have seen many instances on social media such as TikTok that have revealed student's troubles with submitting," said junior **Michelle Schuler**. "I am not sure if there is a fair way to compensate those students, but College Board definitely should have in-

vested more money into building better servers."

The College Board offered the option of submitting answers through email during the second week of testing if students had issues with submitting work through the testing portal.

However, students such as junior **Momoe Ando** believe that this option came too late for many students.

"I have never liked College Board in the first place, but their response to the overwhelming issue is unacceptable," said Ando. "They should be really stepping up their game on how to deal with testing."

In the case of failing to submit responses through both the testing page and email, the College Board allowed test takers to request makeup exams to be taken in June using the Makeup Request Key.

Some students tried to contact the College Board to report technical problems that impaired their testing experiences.

"I emailed the College Board the day after the



Around 1% of students who took an AP test encountered issues preventing them from submitting an exam according to USA Today. exam and they responded with an automatic email that said they will get to me within seven business days," said junior **Xuelin Huang**. "I tried calling them too but no one was answering." Due to the limited time available for College Board to optimize their new online AP exams, the AP exams this year were less satisfying to some test takers. However, other students who experienced no technical difficulties, such as sophomore **Jasmine Shen**, are grateful that students are still afforded the option to take AP exams. "Overall, the AP exams this year are fine," said Shen. "I am glad that we could still take the AP exams and receive valid scores." The College Board is expected to return to paper and pencil tests next year.

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Opinion Staff Editorial: A Biden Presidency

Seven Reasons Why We Support Joe Biden in America's Most Critical Election Ever



The Moderate Democrat Currently polling at 53% (ABC/Washington Post, May 31st), former Vice President Joe Biden runs on a platform with special emphasis on healthcare, environmental protection, gun safety, and public education.

By **JAX ARMSTRONG,**
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Staff Writers

1. Joe Biden will protect our air, our land, and our planet.

Combating the growing threat, and considerable damage to climate change has become one of the cornerstones of the Progressive movement. These beliefs were fueled by multiple reports of climate change being catalyzed by human industry, in the form of carbon emissions. Most notably, in a UN assembly meeting, which concluded climate change may have irreversible effects on the natural environment in eleven years if the current progression continues.

Despite the Third and Fourth National Climate Assessment's reports that projected the consequences of climate change to be, "ocean acidification, extreme weather, [and] sea-level rise," the Trump administration is exacerbating climate change. Trump's intensification of climate change has been highlighted by his decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement, "leaving global climate diplomats to plot a way forward without the cooperation of the world's largest economy." (New York Times). The Paris Agreement was a UN-based agreement used as a mechanism to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Trump's refusal to participate in this agreement is indicative of his twisted climate change agenda, demonstrating that he either doesn't view addressing climate change as a priority or has alternative motivations that would consequently be hurt from limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Along with this, Trump has rolled back on almost one hundred environmental regulations. According to the New York Times and National Geographic, the preservation of the environment is reliant on regulating human activity that exacerbates climate change, and an energy reforma-

tion toward green-energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. By rolling back these regulations, the Trump administration is specifically damaging public health and wildlife. According to a study done by Harvard Law, public health may take a hit from these rollbacks, as Trump reversed twenty-three regulations that previously worked to protect the environment from air and water pollution.

An increase in pollution in the sky and waters will expand the number of toxic pollutants present in large urban cities and oceans. This is another issue for citizens in industrial areas, as the consumption of some toxic pollutants can be extremely harmful. In the case of wildlife, Trump is rolling back the Endangered Species Act Regulations, which provided protections for endangered species and wildlife. Time and again, Trump has proved to be an antagonist to environmental causes, and in doing so, has hurt public health, wildlife, and the entirety of our environment.

"ensure the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions by 2050"

On the other hand, the climate agenda of Joe Biden encompasses a series of climate regulations that would, "ensure the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050" (Joe Biden's campaign website). Biden aims to achieve this by investing in clean energy, and incentivizing the rapid deployment of clean energy innovations across the economy, especially in communities most impacted by climate change. This message is a precondition to slowing down climate change and keeping the planet safe. A vote for Joe Biden signifies an end to the Trump Administration's intensification of climate change, and its impacts on the well-being of our air, land, water, and people.

2. Joe Biden will improve education

Education is a cornerstone of Biden's past actions and advocacy.

For instance, he strongly supported the Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) of 1994. This act was a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the most far-reaching federal legislation regarding education ever passed by Congress. The IASA provided long-needed protections for disadvantaged, immigrant, and bilingual students by reforming education laws (U.S. Department of Education). Moreover, the Obama administration, with Biden as Vice President, passed the Every Student Succeeds Act. This bipartisan action provides funding and assistance to the education system in order to ensure greater equity and that disadvantaged students are able to meet educational standards (U.S. Department of Education).

Conversely, the incumbent president's education policies are a far cry from such progressive actions. The Trump administration has increasingly come under fire for slashing regulations on for-profit universities and reinstating a "scandal-scarred accreditor," changes that essentially reverse much of the progress made by the Obama administration (The Guardian). Department of Education official Diane Auer Jones has also proposed policy changes to weaken the federal government's hold on accreditors, leaving the school system with little oversight and potentially "[starving] public schools of funds." By weakening the public sector, the administration is effectively bolstering for-profit universities—an agenda that should sound suspiciously familiar to those who remember Trump University, the president's "education grift that swindled students out of millions." According to the Center for Analysis of Post-secondary Education and Employment, for-profit universities accept a disproportionately high number of African-Americans, older students, single parents, and other vulnerable populations. Their students have a 35% completion rate, about half of other four-year colleges. Moreover, these students take on almost double the debt of those attending a public university. For-profit university students are also less likely to be employed and more likely to default on their loans. This clearly shows that

Trump does not stand with the youth of America, prioritizing profits over education.

As public high school students, we should give significant gravitas to each candidate's education policies. Biden's tireless efforts and political experience have sparked paramount improvements in American schools - a statement that cannot be made about Trump. He has proven himself to stand with equitable education, ensuring that more students have the resources they need to reach their full potential and become contributing members of society. A school system that safeguards the education of every student is of vital importance for anyone that wants to give every child an equal opportunity to succeed.

3. Joe Biden stands for gun safety

Some of Biden's most influential advocacies regarding American schools also lean into another key voting issue: gun laws. In an effort to address the alarming number of school shootings plaguing the nation, Biden served as a key author of the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, which prohibits unauthorized people from carrying firearms on any school property (Education Week). Biden was also a major supporter of the 1993 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which enforced background checks and five-day waiting periods for firearm purchases. According to Duke Today, the Brady Act has kept firearms out of the hands of "a large number of adults with felony convictions, histories of mental illness, or other disqualifying characteristics," with 44,000 such cases in 1996 alone.

Meanwhile, Trump has shown condemnable apathy in the face of increasingly frequent mass shootings. According to The Washington Post, he has made countless promises to reinvestigate his gun policies after these shootings, like when he swore to push for more restrictive laws after Dayton and El Paso. However, he always abandons the notion, quickly and quietly, afraid, the Post speculates, that "gun legislation could splinter his political coalition." Since he made confident promises to extend back-

ground checks and promote "red flag" laws, more mass shootings in Santa Clarita, Fresno, Duncan, and more prove that Trump's words are empty. Moreover, Trump quietly revoked a piece of legislation from the Obama-Biden era that would have made it harder for people with severe mental illnesses to obtain firearms (NBC News). The root of the Trump administration's gun policies is not hard to deduce: the National Rifle Association. The NRA spent nearly \$30 million to get Trump elected, according to Fortune, and now he is returning the favor with his gun laws in order to secure their support in the 2020 election. As put by former NRA spokesman John Aquilino, "The reality is that the NRA absolutely helped Trump get elected... Trump realizes that NRA support in those swing states is more important than political party affiliation for winning" (The Guardian). Thus, based on Trump's past policies and close affiliation with the NRA, we can confidently presume that he would do next to nothing to reduce the skyrocketing gun violence in our

"Joe Biden has taken a hardline stance on gun violence for his entire political career"

nation if reelected.

Trump's words, pumped up by lobbyists like the NRA, are falling on the ears of a nation that is increasingly fed up with his false promises and stalled actions. In contrast, Joe Biden has taken a hardline stance on gun violence for his entire political career. By taking concrete action to restrict gun laws, Biden has done more to protect American students and civilians than Trump has ever even considered. Moreover, Biden has proven what type of politician he is - one who backs up his promises with legitimate policies and concerted political effort.

4. Joe Biden will treat immigrant children humanely

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exposed and brought to the spotlight the issue of immigration and specifically, the Immigrations and Customs



The Incumbent Candidate Polling at 43% (ABC/Washington Post, May 31st), Trump continues with his slogan "Make America Great Again" in 2020. Trump stands for state and individual rights, smaller government, prioritizes a strong economy, and maintaining American Jobs.

Enforcement (ICE) detention centers. Due to the high infection rate and contagious nature of COVID-19, there has been a call by Congressman Alan Lowenthal and thirty-five other members of Congress to release at-risk immigrants being detained in these detention centers to prevent the spread of this disease.

In December 2019, the Trump administration weakened its standards for ICE detention, putting the health and safety of these detainees at an even greater risk. According to The Guardian, the daily population of these detention centers has grown by more than forty percent since Trump took office. Furthermore, according to a new report by the American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch, and National Immigrant Justice Center, 39 adults have died in ICE custody or immediately after being released since Trump took office. Subpar care, according to independent medical expert analyses, was a leading factor in these deaths. Even the United Nations has condemned the United States for its inhumane immigration policy.

Now, Biden, unlike Trump, has called to shut down every immigration detention center, saying "we don't need them." Biden has even committed to reinvesting in a case management program, which aims to "enable migrants to live in dignity and safety while awaiting their court hearings—facilitating things like doctor visits, social services, and school enrollment for children," according to his website. This proposed policy that would help ensure the humane and equitable treatment of immigrants serves in stark contrast to the xenophobic rhetoric Trump preaches and the xenophobic actions Trump takes.

5. Trump aids and abets racism; Joe Biden does not

Along the same vein as immigration, this pandemic we are living through has also uprooted the racial tensions that still persist in the United States. For example, according to Chicago's NPR news source, seventy percent of COVID-19 deaths in Chicago are among black people, who only make up 30% of the city's

population. Furthermore, according to Kaiser Health News, doctors are less likely to refer African Americans for testing when they show up

"Biden has taken a progressive stance on eliminating the racial biases that undermine the integrity of our criminal justice system"

for care with signs of infection.

Despite the fact that Trump continually refers to himself as the least racist person in the world, time and time again he seems to contradict that statement. From the time when Trump tweeted that several black and brown Congresspersons are, "from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe," and that they should "go back" to those countries, to the time when Trump referred to Haiti and other African countries as "s***hole countries," he has continually proven his lack of regard for people of color.

Biden, on the other hand, has taken a hard stance on racism in the United States, even going so far as to say that racism is institutionalized across America. To this effect, Biden has taken a progressive stance on eliminating the racial biases that undermine the integrity of our criminal justice system. On his website, Biden has outlined a policy brief detailing what steps he plans to take. These include establishing an independent Task Force on Prosecutorial Discretion, investing in public defenders' offices, eliminating mandatory minimums, and much more. Biden has made the racial struggles faced by Americans a central part of his campaign and is proposing various policies and legal frameworks that would protect the civil liberties that each and every American is entitled to.

6. Trump has set a terrible example for America

At a 2016 rally, Trump notoriously mocked a disabled reporter, while a crowd of supporters laughed behind him. In what is considered

bullying, he showed an utter lack of respect for people with disabilities, and encouraged others to do the same. According to a report by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), 900 instances of harassment and hate crimes were reported in the ten days after the 2016 election. Notably, many of the perpetrators mentioned Trump's name when committing the crimes. There is no doubt that Trump's discriminatory language has enabled harassers and

Trump's history of harmful rhetoric not only reflects poorly on the global state, but poses a bad influence on the younger people in America

fuelled hate crimes in America. Trump's history of harmful rhetoric not only reflects poorly on the global stage, but poses a bad influence on the younger people in America. Younger generations need a leader willing to show respect to people of all backgrounds. When children see one of the most powerful people in the country using discriminatory language, they could perceive it as an acceptable way to treat people.

One of the branches of his harmful rhetoric is his lack of trust in journalism. He constantly labels journalism he does not agree with as "fake news" and has been doing so since his 2016 campaign. Trump has failed to support journalists such as Jamal Khashoggi, who was assassinated at Istanbul's Saudi consulate in 2018. Trump denied Congress of a report detailing an investigation of Khashoggi's murder. A free press is a pillar of democracy and as student journalists, we feel strongly that Trump has not regarded it as such.

7. Trump has failed in his response to COVID-19

In late February, Trump suggested that the coronavirus, "like a miracle, it will disappear." His lack of urgency toward the matter has cost more than 80,000 lives. Particularly in recent weeks, President Trump's press briefings have proven to be a breeding ground for self-promotion and

incorrect information regarding the pandemic. He suggested injecting disinfectant into patients' lungs as a way to combat COVID-19 and later claimed this comment was under the guise of sarcasm.

Rather than focusing on the problems that plague our nation, he has chosen to highlight why he believes his administration should be praised. He has shifted the conversation toward himself, granting himself the title of a "wartime president," when Americans are suffering from unemployment and disease. The world is in dire times, and we need a leader that can unite us. Trump has failed to step up, but we have faith that Biden will.

In Conclusion

We're not going to repeat the figures of those suffering from and lost from COVID-19. This editorial is not intended to focus solely on the coronavirus.

What we are seeking to discuss is the many lessons the coronavirus can teach us about the role of government in turbulent times. Some leaders, like those in South Korea, New Zealand, and Germany, have risen to the occasion, proving themselves to be worthy of this trying moment.

"What we are seeking to discuss is the many lessons the coronavirus can teach us about the role of government in turbulent times"

However, other governments have proven themselves to be frighteningly unfit to effectively respond to the challenges posed to them.

Sadly, one of these failed institutions is the U.S. Federal Government. The response of Donald Trump and his far-right administration (a response that has ranged from peddling concerning disinformation to allowing preventable loss of life) should put the nail in the coffin of the irresponsible notion that the government which governs best, governs least.

Government matters. Good government and strong leadership ver-

sus bad government and poor leadership can be - and is - the difference between life or death for some of the people they govern. In the face of a global health crisis such as this one, the greatest country in the world should not have to settle for the incompetence and ineptitude that the nation has suffered from the White House since January 20, 2017.

The opinion writers responsible for the formation of this article are throwing their support behind Joe Biden for President. These writers vary in their views, although on average they lean towards the left. We have some former Sanders supporters; we have some progressives, and some moderates. But what unites all of us is our worry about the future.

Worry that college will not be as accessible or as affordable as it has been for prior generations. Worry that a rapidly-changing economy will leave us behind. Worry that we might not have reliable access to healthcare. Worry that our Earth will be less safe and healthy. Worry that falsely blaming a few for the problems of the many will cause our culture to be bogged down by immaturity, bigotry, and toxicity. And worry that the negative tone and tenor emanating from the highest echelon of American government is encouraging and perpetrating values and attitudes that should only be described as un-American.

This worry is not being eased by our current administration. Rather, many of these worries are exacerbated by it.

That's the problem. But it also indicates a choice the American people (young people especially) will have to make as they decide which future they want to build. The choice: to uphold an administration that has weakened America's response to COVID, or to support Joe Biden in his effort to strengthen efficient government for the health and safety of all Americans.

**WHY WE
CHOOSE
JOE**

Crypto-Wars: The Fight for Online Privacy

An argument against the making government encryption master-keys mandatory



The Ultimate Breach of Online Security The proposed EARN IT Act would legally require companies to give encryption master keys to allow government organization to monitor private communications.

By **ALBERT RONG**
Staff Writer

COVID-19 has sent society into disarray as people try to adjust their daily lives to a new reality. Underneath the cloak of chaos, Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and California's very own Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), amongst many others, have cosponsored the Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2019 (EARN IT Act) with the stated purpose to "prevent, reduce, and respond to the online sexual exploitation of children". However, in order to do so, the legislation calls for the destruction of end-to-end encryption, a system that ensures only communicating users can read messages, not the government or platform that the messages are sent through. This would be implemented through encryption backdoors, allowing the government to decrypt encrypted messages to investigate and prevent child exploitation.

This backdoor would most likely be achieved through a key escrow where the government generates and distributes encryption keys to companies while holding onto the decryption/master keys. The proposed legislation does not mention encryption so how would the EARN IT Act break it?

According to Section 230(c)(1) of the Communications Decency Act (CDA), "No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider". This protects companies from liability if users of their services upload illegal content. Without these protections, companies would be forced to overcensor content on their platforms in order to prevent any illegal content from surfacing or risk going bankrupt from a multitude of civil lawsuits. The EARN IT ACT requires companies to follow "voluntary principles" to maintain this immunity from lawsuits, essentially forcing them to comply. In an interview

with CNET, Lindsey Barret, a staff attorney at Georgetown Law's Institute for Public Representation Communications and Technology Clinic, "When you're talking about a bill that is structured for the attorney general to give his opinion and have decisive influence over what the best practices are, it does not take a rocket scientist to concur that this is designed to target encryption".

The attorney general's history with end-to-end encryption has been embattled. At an event last October, Barr made it clear that dealing with problems that strong encryption created for law enforcement was one of the Justice Department's "highest priorities." He upheld this belief after the Naval Air Station Pensacola shooting last December, where he pressured Apple to unlock the gunman's phone. In response, Apple provided iCloud data related to the gunman's account but upheld its policy on encryption stating "law enforcement has access to more data than ever before in history, so

Americans do not have to choose between weakening encryption and solving investigations. We feel strongly encryption is vital to protecting our country and our users' data". With Barr in control of the commission established by the EARN IT Act, he would almost certainly use the position to circumvent encryption measures established by companies like Apple.

The main concern stated by the FBI on end-to-end encryption is the "Going dark" phenomenon where progress on criminal cases is hindered due to a lack of access to real-time communications and data. The crux of the issue according to FBI Director Christopher A. Wray surrounded the claim that "Being unable to access nearly 7,800 devices in a single year is a major public safety issue". However, these numbers are greatly exaggerated. The FBI later revealed that there was an error in testing methodology when coming up with the figure, severely inflating the number of locked out devices, with internal estimates putting the true figure at around 1200. According to Greg Nojeim, Director of a division within the Center for Democracy & Technology, "The report is a clear reminder that policymakers should take the FBI's claims of going dark with a big grain of salt. This is the third time in three months that disclosures have undermined the FBI's claims that it needs a mandated backdoor to encryption in cell phones and other devices."

Now, why is this all a bad idea?

Point 1: Constitutional Rights
The EARN IT Act fails to stand up to strict scrutiny and violates

rights established in the Fourth Amendment.

Strict Scrutiny & the First Amendment:

Strict scrutiny is a form of judicial review that courts use to determine the constitutionality of certain laws. Strict scrutiny is often used by courts when a plaintiff sues the government for discrimination. To pass strict scrutiny, the legislature must have passed the law to further a "compelling governmental interest," and must have narrowly tailored the law to achieve that interest.

The EARN IT Act holds up to the first condition, furthering a "compelling government interest" in reducing the online sexual exploitation of children. Unfortunately, it fails the second condition in "narrowly tailor[ing] the law to achieve that interest" as noted by a coalition of civil society groups stated in a letter to Lindsey Graham:

The recommended best practices must include measures meant to address the problem of "child sexual exploitation." This term will likely be interpreted in an overly broad manner that would lead to best practices that incentivize impermissible censorship of protected speech alongside efforts to restrict CSAM. This would present service providers of all sizes with a "choice" to either follow government-issued best practices, or face liability—thereby violating the First Amendment's protections for free expression.

Read the rest on uhsswordandshield.com

Aberrations and Accomplishments: COVID-19

A review of government policy and enforcement in response to a global pandemic

By **NEHA BHARDWAJ**
Staff Writer

It would hardly be an overstatement to say that coronavirus has hit the world like a hurricane. Since the first case in December of 2019, the novel coronavirus (otherwise known as COVID-19) has spread like wildfire. Over the past few months, coronavirus has grown from the faint whispers of an issue on the other side of the world to an inescapable source of anxiety and fear impacting every aspect of our lives. From panic buying to closures of public places to a skyrocketing death rate, reports of coronavirus have seized all forms of media and left an undeniable mark on our lives. In this time of unprecedented stress, many have been quick to malign the government, blaming the missteps of officials and policymakers for the rapid escalation of the coronavirus situation. However, in their haste to find a scapegoat, many have been reduced to tunnel vision. Although the government has undeniably botched their response to coronavirus, the full truth contains shades of gray. In actuality, government action regarding coronavirus reflects a complex tug-of-war between respecting people's autonomy and livelihoods and taking control to stop the spread.

An aspect of government policy that has recently come under intense fire in the media is the lack

of transparency, especially from China's government. The severity of this issue is by no means an exaggeration. According to Axios, the Chinese government is believed to have covered up the virus for at least three weeks - and though it may not sound like much, this is no insignificant amount of time. As a matter of fact, a study from the University of Southampton finds that if the Chinese government had come forth and taken public action three weeks earlier, "the number of coronavirus cases could have been reduced by 95% and its geographic spread limited."

Other governments have not hesitated to point fingers at China and emphasize their irresponsibility. For instance, the UK government has repeatedly expressed concerns that China is whitewashing the severity of its coronavirus situation (Business Insider). The UK government has even gone so far as to claim that China is, "trying to expand its economic power through offering help to other countries" - a theory quickly picked up by Fox News in the United States. This trend of placing all blame on China should remind many of the highly controversial term coined by President Donald Trump. Such harmful rhetoric and inflammatory statements have done little to actually combat the virus or prevent its spread; rather, they only exacerbate the situation by miring us in useless

debate and semantics.

Moreover, it is worth noting that China is not the only nation that has grossly mishandled the situation. As a matter of fact, the United States and European nations repeated many of the same mistakes, which is why we were unable to nip this in the bud - effectively costing thousands of lives. First of all, most governments did not take the virus seriously in the beginning and were hesitant to implement policy measures to stop the spread, part of a well-known phenomenon called confirmation bias - the tendency to interpret information in a way that favors a preconceived notion or initial position (Harvard Business Review). The actions of government officials exemplify this bias, spewing myopic statements and statistics about the innocuity of coronavirus. Italian politicians even made a show of publicly shaking each other's hands to stress the lack of severity of coronavirus (later catching the virus). This accordingly leads into another crucial common mistake: the use of partial, gradual remedies. Many governments have followed a strategy along the lines of: if coronavirus becomes a problem in an area or industry, restrict that area or industry. There are two key issues with such an approach, the first being its incompatibility with such an exponentially growing virus and the second being its reactive (as opposed to preventa-

tive) nature. Governments have recently started realizing that in order for any measure to be effective, it must be swift, strict, and employed in conjunction with a multitude of other actions.

This is especially an issue in the United States, and we need coordinated action to prevent the spread of coronavirus immediately. The development of such policies obviously cannot happen overnight, but the process can be significantly sped up by looking to other nations as precedent. For instance, a multi-pronged strategy that proved highly effective in Veneto (a region of Italy) included extensive testing of both symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers, proactive tracing of neighborhoods based on confirmed cases, and efforts to protect workers in high-risk industries (Harvard Business Review).

To the government's credit, they have recently been attempting to ramp up intervention efforts to stop the spread. Most people are presumably familiar with California Governor Gavin Newsom's Stay at Home Executive Order. We have also all personally felt the effects of quarantine through school closures. Moreover, most workplaces, restaurants, and stores have been closed to further contain the virus. There has been significant pushback from the public, and understandably so: the economy has tanked, small businesses are suffer-

ing, and putting people's lives on standstill was not all that popular either. However, despite the complaints, the California government has remained firm and unwavering in its resolve - as it should.

Another policy of the federal government has recently also come under fire. About a week ago, the government revealed that they are aggregating location data from millions of citizens in order to collect information about movement and transmission in supposed areas of interest (Wall Street Journal). Naturally, this policy has come under intense scrutiny by technology and data privacy experts, who are quick to point out that it is impossible to entirely anonymize such data. This again ties into the complex struggle of determining the degree of intervention the government should exercise to combat coronavirus.

Obviously, placing all the blame on the government would be impetuous and unfounded, especially since coronavirus is a largely unprecedented issue that has left policymakers scrambling to keep up. However, we cannot settle for government secrecy, singular reactive measures, and half-baked ideas that potentially violate our rights. We must recognize the fact that our current system is flawed, and the government must seriously re-evaluate its strategies if it wants to eliminate the spread of this deadly virus once and for all.

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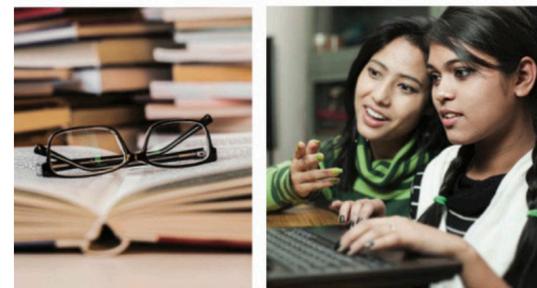
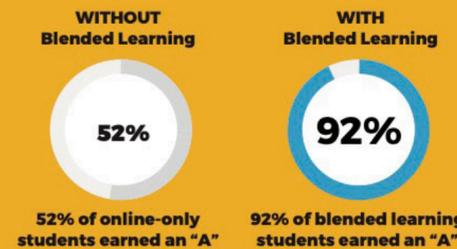
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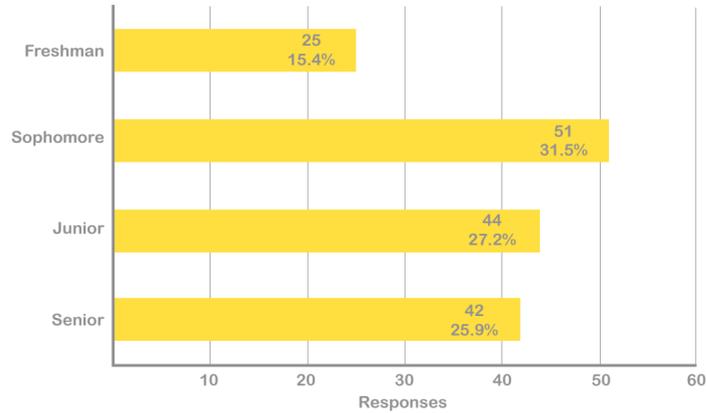
Trojan Outlook 2020

On May 13, the Sword & Shield opened up the Trojan Outlook survey to UHS students in order to create a more comprehensive understanding of the student body. In the survey's first year, 162 students participated in the anonymous survey covering questions about culture, extra-curricular involvement, and academics.

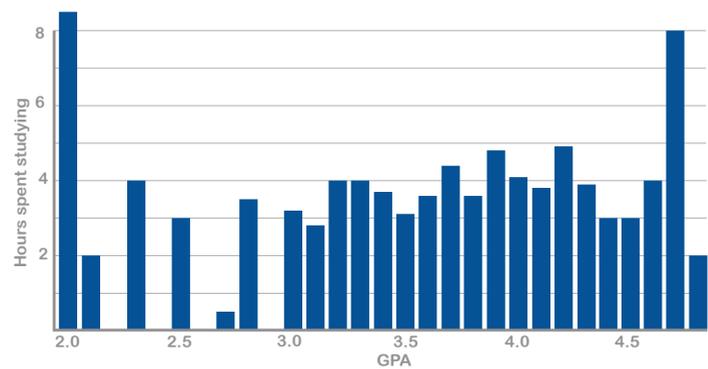
General

162

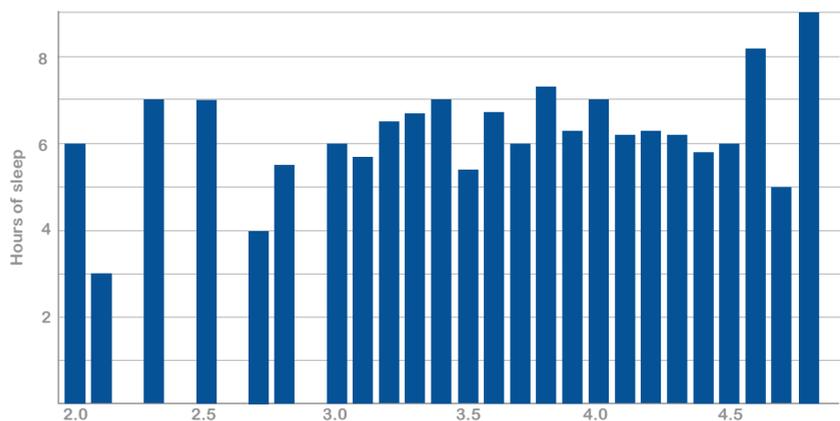
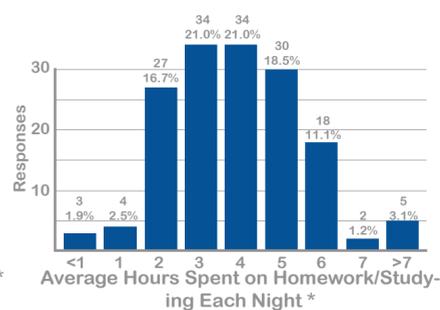
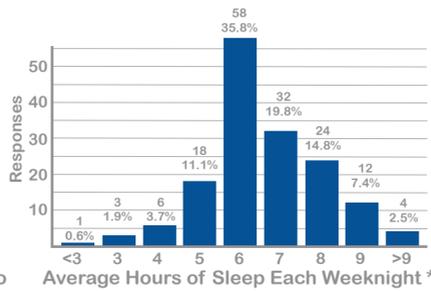
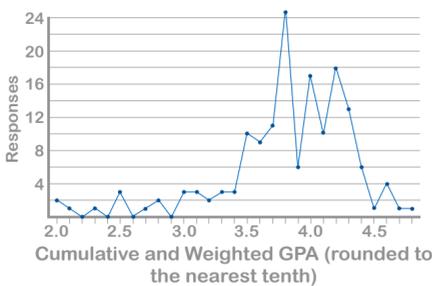
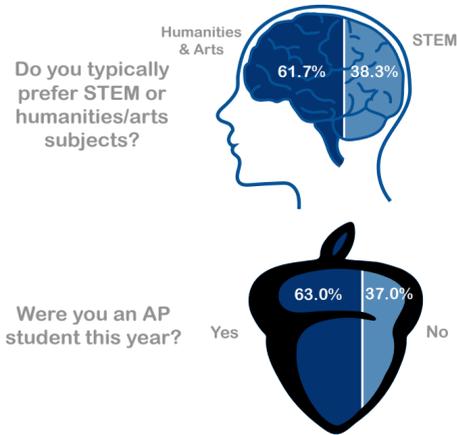
students participated in the survey



Academics



Average Amount of Time Studying by GPA *



Average Amount of Sleep by GPA *
*half hours were rounded up and some invalid/non-numeric responses were omitted

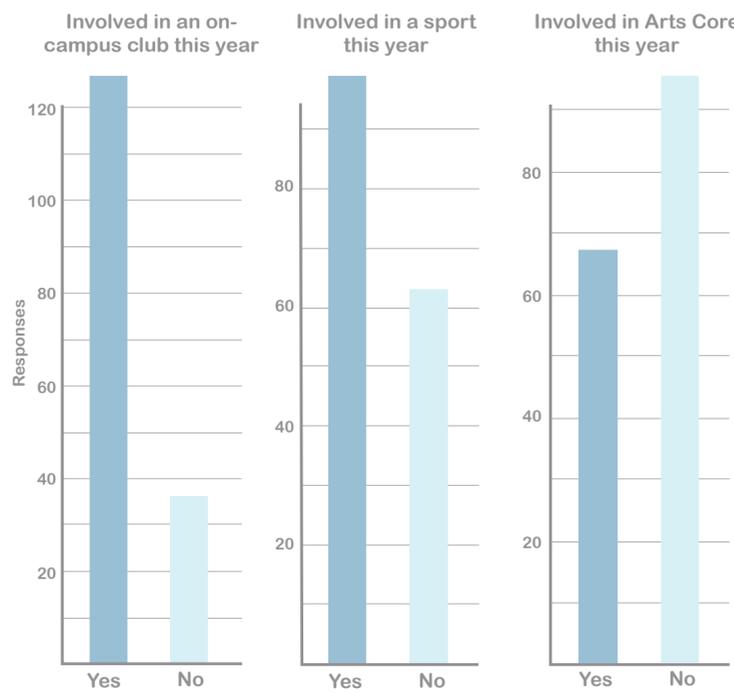
37%

of respondents took outside tutoring/classes/counseling this year

According to the CDC, teens should be getting 8 to 10 hours per night.

Zzz

24.7% of respondents get the recommended amount of sleep



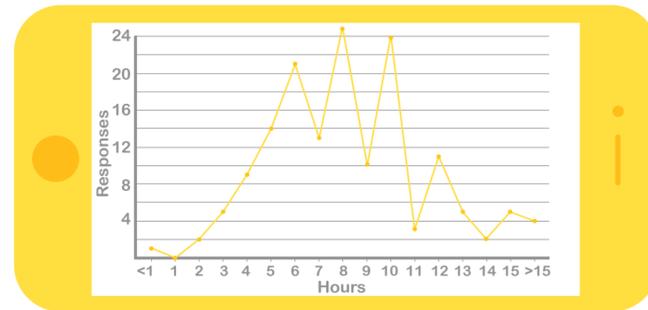
80% are involved in an extra-curricular activity outside of school

94% have gone to an after-school UHS event

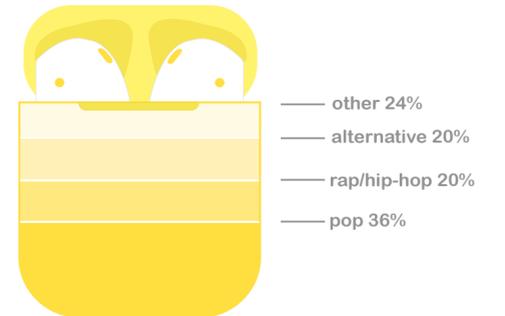
83% involved in a sport or on-campus club are also involved in an activity outside of school

Involvement

Average Daily Screenshot (phone, tablet, and computer combined) *



Most Popular Music Genres



Culture

Most Popular Favorite Songs of the Year

The Box Roddy Ricch
Say So Doja Cat

Most Popular Favorite Movies of the Year

Parasite
LITTLE WOMEN

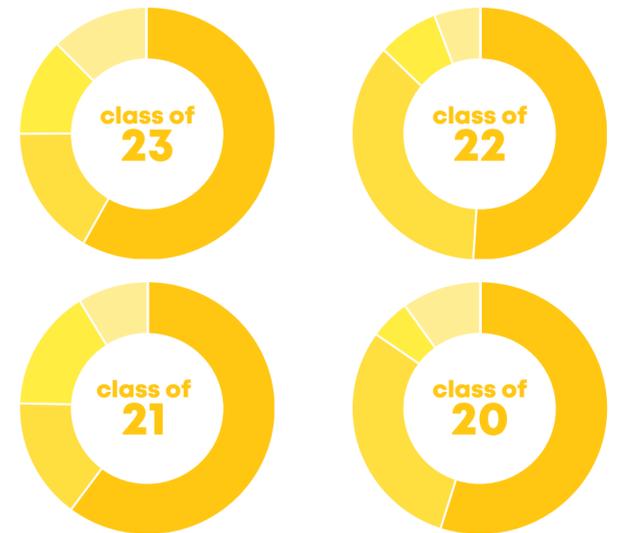
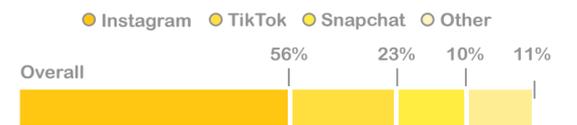
Other Favorites: Onward, The Half of It, Knives Out, Joker

Most Popular Favorite Shows of the Year

The Office *OUTER BANKS*
THE MANDALORIAN

Other Favorites: The Good Place, Bojack Horseman, Gilmore Girls, All American

Most Used Social Media Apps



Trisha Dang, Katelin Williams, and Erin Jeon
2019-2020 Features Editors

*half hours were rounded up and some invalid/non-numeric responses were omitted

Dear Class of 2020...

A final farewell

By
HARRISON HILL
Staff Writer



Seniors were unaware that the abrupt end to in-person schooling due to COVID-19 also meant the last of their days on campus.

This year's seniors, including myself, will be graduating tomorrow, and the entire class will enter the next phase of life. Students will be moving to colleges around the country come fall, others committing to different military branches, and some taking time to explore what this post-high school life has in store. We entered high school during a divisive election year and are now leaving it in another chaotic year. With the coronavirus raging on, many seniors feel as though their senior year was taken from them and cut months short, losing memories such as prom, senior night, and graduation. Although this isn't the final chapter we had all hoped for, our high school career was still filled with memory after memory, including dances that had us sweating from spending the entire night moshing, rivalry football games against Woodbridge that had us crossing our fingers, and pep rallies that had us screaming "four more years."

In 2016, we entered high school as young freshmen, when our football team went 7-3 and the 2016 election was in full swing. We experienced our first Friday night lights, our first dances, and took our first real finals as we learned what high school re-

ally was.

We quickly transitioned from freshman year to sophomore year as we started to get the hang of high school and learn all the survival hacks, whether it be how to survive AP testing or how to find the best lunch spot.

"The chicken from Albertsons was the best thing to have for lunch. If I didn't have it the day wasn't anything near complete," senior Noah Nejad said.

Then we moved from sophomore year to junior year and school work doubled — or, for some, tripled. As juniors, many of us went to our first ever prom while also studying for the

SAT or ACT. We planned for what college we would eventually attend. Junior year taught us the value of hard work and shaped us for our final year of high school.

"What was once supposed to be for three weeks turned into a month."

Finally, after three years of blood, sweat, and tears, we then became seniors. We got to be the alphas on campus and indulge in traditions, such as waking up early for Senior Sunrise, going to Knott's Berry Farm for Senior Ditch Day, and parking in

the senior lot. We danced at our final homecoming at AV Irvine and winter formal by the beach, making memories with our friends as we took more time to appreciate the activities we took for granted over the past four years. We anxiously applied to college, reloading our emails every ten minutes in anticipation for our decisions, and most of us have now committed to the next four years of our lives. Prom and the celebratory end of four years of high school was only months away when it suddenly stopped. What was once supposed to be for three weeks turned into a month, and then until the end of the year, leaving us to manage a digital

education and say goodbye to the end of our high school career.

Although our senior year didn't end anything like we would have wanted or anticipated in a million years, ultimately we can still look forward to the great things that life has waiting for each of us. We had a great and memorable four years of high school that helped develop us in some way for the rest of our life. If I could give any advice to the underclassmen navigating the crazy world that is high school, it would be to not take any opportunity you are given during these four years for granted, because it goes by in the blink of an eye.

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Date	6/15 - 8/7	Summer 8 weeks + 2 weeks Extension [8/15, 22]	Summer 8 weeks + 6 weeks Extension [8/15, 22, 29, 9/5, 12, 19]	SAT US History 7/27-8/19 M,W 6 - 7:30pm
Morning Class	Mon-Fri 8:30am-12:30pm			SAT Biology 7/28-8/20 T,Th 4 - 5:30pm
Afternoon Class	Mon-Fri 1:30pm-5:30pm			SAT Math 2c 7/27-8/19 M,W 6 - 7:30pm

* Extension: Sat 8:30-12:30pm

ACT Summer Camp	ACT 8 weeks Camp	ACT 8 weeks + Extension Test track 1: Sep 12	ACT 8 weeks + Extension Test track 2: Oct 24	College Essay Application Guidance
Date	6/15 - 8/7	Summer 8 weeks + 4 weeks Extension [8/15, 22, 29, 9/5]	Summer 8 weeks + 10 weeks Extension [8/15, 22, 29, 9/5, 12, 19, 26, 10/3, 10, 17]	6/15 - 8/21 Mon, Fri: 6-7:30pm Registering for 10 sessions initially is recommended
Time	Mon-Fri 1:30pm-5:30pm			

* Extension: Sat 1:30-5:30pm

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AP US History	Mr. Kessler, Uni High	M,W 6 - 8pm	6/15 - 7/22
AP Biology	Mr. Knight, Uni High	T,Th 4 - 6pm	6/16 - 7/23
AP World History	Mr. Gonzales, Sage Hill	M,W 4 - 6pm	6/15 - 7/22
AP Physics	Mr. Self, UCI	M,W 1 - 3pm	6/15 - 7/22
AP Calculus AB	Mr. Self, UCI	Fri 1 - 3pm	6/19 - 8/7
AP Calculus BC	Mr. Self, UCI	Sat 9 - 11pm	6/20 - 8/8
AP Chemistry		T,Th 2 - 4pm	6/16 - 7/23

English & Math Preview Classes (6-11th)

Course	Time	Start/End
Jr. High Reading & Grammar	T,Th 2 - 3:30pm	6/16 - 8/6
High School Reading & Grammar	M,W 2 - 3:30pm	6/15 - 8/5
MS Enhanced Math 7/8	M,W 2 - 3:30pm	6/15 - 8/5
MS Enhanced Math 1 & Math 1	M,W 3:30 - 5pm	6/15 - 8/5
MS Enhanced Math 2	Mon, Fri 9 - 10:30am	6/19 - 8/8
Pre-Calculus	Sat 11 - 1pm	6/20 - 8/8
H Chemistry	T,Th 4 - 5:30pm	6/16 - 8/6

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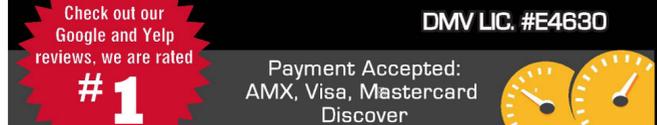
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Yui Hashiyada

OTHER
US Marine Corps
Isaias Garcilazo

*All survey responses were voluntary.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Senior Artists of University High



Anna Fruman
Art History and Visual Art @ Swarthmore College

I chose to study art in college because I feel happiest when I am creating. Art has always been there for me when I need to express or release my emotions. In the future, I hope to go into art restoration/conservation or curation and work in a museum, protecting the art that inspires me and sharing it with the public.



Kaira Low
Creative Writing @ Chapman University

I'm choosing to pursue a BFA in creative writing because I love telling stories and sharing my voice through the medium of writing. The communication and writing foundation of Creative Writing can be applied to so many career fields, and I plan on pursuing marketing/advertising or public relations in the future.



Gino Torquato
Acting @ New York Film Academy

I chose to major in acting because it's been my dream ever since I was little and since my freshman year I've known that performing is something I want to do the rest of my life.



Keza Kananura
Theatre @ Cal State Fullerton

I love the theater, I love telling stories that make audiences feel something real and I can't see myself doing anything else. Ultimately I would love to be on Broadway but anyway I can tell moving stories and make art is what I will do.



Ati Gali
Film and Media @ UCSB

Being on Univision...made me fall in love with the art of filmmaking. I'm really interested in film theory and I love the analysis that we do after we watch something, figuring out why certain choices were made, how it created such a strong effect on the audience, and seeing how passionate the artist is about what they do. My dream career is to be an actress or an anchor, but I hope to be involved in the film industry any way I can!



Berin Çubukçuoğlu
Film @ Pratt Institute

After I spent the majority of my time in high school as a part of the Univision crew, I realized film-making is what I want to continue exploring in college. I aspire to be a film-maker and I would love to make movies based on real life stories, as well as to write screenplays and direct them.



Nicholas Vukolavich
Trumpet Performance (Classical) and Musical Education @ CSULB

I chose to major in music because it is what I love to do. Growing up I was always told to pursue something that you love so that you never have to work a day in your life, so I've chosen music. Also the fact that music is so complex, it is never boring. I'm not quite sure on what I will do as a future, most likely some sort of teaching, however I am seriously loving composing and conducting.



Sam Dishon
Saxophone Performance @ UMich

I aspire to be a saxophone professor as a career, so that is my current goal. If that does not pan out, there are still many careers in the music industry that are not entirely focused on performing but would still allow music to be a large part of my life. I hope that through my commitment to music, I will achieve success in a music related career.



Colin Wang
Film & Media Arts @ Tufts University

I chose to major in film because it's what I have the most interest and aptitude for at the moment, and my best chance to accomplish as much as possible in a field. This will most likely change as studying art in an academic setting doesn't seem like the most worthwhile subject to pursue. I am currently aiming to master the technical aspects of film and new means of presenting moving images (VR, BCI).



Davide Costa
Theatre @ UCLA

[Theatre is] what I love to do and what I want to do in the future. I've already been looking into A Capella groups and improv clubs at UCLA and I have my eye on a few that I would love to join. I do see myself making a career. Obviously the uncertainty of making a steady income is very scary, but I do believe I have a powerful drive that can get me very far, and hopefully on Broadway!



Rose Koo
Music Therapy @ Berklee College of Music

There are many reasons why I chose to pursue the arts in the future. My focus throughout most of my life has had to do with music and performance, and it's always been a huge part of my life. I've also met the majority of my friends through our connection through the arts. I don't find as much joy in anything as much as I do in music, and I feel very blessed that I have a chance to turn my passion into a career in my future.



Hikari Harrison
Design & Production @ Carnegie Mellon

I chose to major in design and production because it's what I enjoy doing. It allows me to have a lot of creative freedom while also being challenging. With the program I picked, I know I will receive the more technical oriented education I want in design. I plan on emphasizing in technical direction with incorporates drafting and rendering, putting me in control of my art coming to life.

These are only some of the future art majors at UHS who were able to respond to our college majors survey. Unfortunately, due mainly to space limitations, we could not include everyone who responded to the survey.

Artists of the Year - Lucas Vaucher and Sedong Hwang

By DANIEL HONG
Staff Writer

real life," Vaucher said, "In my opinion, video games are a very powerful form of art, and they give me many ideas and enhance my creativity."

Vaucher is accomplished both inside and out of the classroom. "I am immensely proud of the work he has put into his AP portfolio this year," said Kramer. "He is such a dedicated and hard worker and it really shows. I am looking forward to seeing the final product."

Vaucher has had his art presented at exhibits such as the Imagination Celebration "1000 Pieces of Art" and the Festival of Art in Laguna Beach in 2019. Beyond exhibitions, Vaucher also works as a graphic designer and social media manager for a French school in Newport Beach and creates album covers for other artists in the USA and France.

Vaucher draws artistic motivation and creativity from his desire to leave a lasting impact on the people around him.

"I am the most creative when I am going through difficult times and this sort of 'anger' encourages me to make an impact," said Vaucher, "I believe that art has no definition and no boundaries, and I encourage people to explore art using their creativity, regardless of experience or background, as I have done many times over the last 4 years at University High."

Senior Sedong Hwang, a cellist since age five, has been nominated by a committee of Performing Arts teachers as the Performing Artist of the Year. Hwang has been a part of UHS's orchestra program since freshman year and has served as the principal cellist of both the top UHS orchestra and the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra. Outside of the classroom, Hwang has been active in performing arts, participating in the board of the Orchestra Student Organization and performing in recitals for Koncerts for Kause.

"Coming into Uni, I wanted to join a close knit community," said Hwang. "Orchestra was that solution."

From the moment Hwang picked up the cello, he has been able to find a source of motivation to continue making music.



Left: Senior Lucas Vaucher has been nominated twice for OC's Artist of the Year in 2D Visual Art. Right: Senior Sedong Hwang serves as cello section leader of UHS Symphony Orchestra.

"What inspires me now is how I can help make a person's day better by simply playing my instrument."

"My greatest achievement in the cello was when I discovered that I could use my instrument as a means for story telling," Hwang said.

Hwang's leadership skills have also led him to be held in a high regard by both his orchestra teacher and fellow musicians.

"He is humble and knows how to take constructive feedback," said orchestra director Mrs. Grace Lee, "He is well prepared with his own part and can therefore contribute and successfully lead his section."

As section leader, Hwang collaborates closely with others in his section in order to ensure the success and improvement of his section.

"He's meticulous in what he notices in our playing, and always has a practice trick or two to help us reach that

next level," senior Anna Fruman said.

Despite his commitments to orchestra and other clubs, Hwang has always been able to manage his time.

"If you set your mind to something, you can do it as long as there is organized structure," said Hwang, "During my middle school days, I allocated practice over academics. During high school, I did my best to reserve at most an hour a day to practice my cello. Of course I was not perfect. But planning helped me in the long run."

Regardless of his mastery in cello performance, Hwang hopes to continue treating his music with equal importance to his other responsibilities.

"I did not over prioritize music in my lifetime and instead equally prioritized all my responsibilities," Hwang said, "This enabled me to take in different ideas from all subjects and apply it to my music-making."

at competitions to be his greatest achievement in cello performance.

"I learned that through discipline and patience, I can apply the same concept to everything else I did in my life—yes even video games," Hwang said. "Practice is key."

As an individual, Hwang is a very accomplished cello performer. However, Hwang does not consider his leadership positions in multiple ensembles or outstanding placements

to be his greatest achievement in cello performance.

"I pushed myself by taking an acting class at Saddleback, doubling my voice lessons, taking dance and musical theatre workshops, and doing a summer musical...it paid off with not only a nomination for Best Actor, but Best Vocalist as well," Costa said.

MACY sometimes awards up to two scholarships per school, which range from \$500 to \$15,000. In addition, two scholarships for a week-long workshop in New York City are awarded to the top two performers. The scholarships to NYC provide an opportunity for the selected theatre students to perform at the Jimmy Awards. UHS has had one finalist at the Jimmy Awards in the past decade.

"The weeklong scholarship in NYC is a once in a lifetime opportunity that students will work for four years to be a finalist in," Bettger said.

Seniors Ariana Casey and Costa both received Scholarships. "As stage manager for *A New Brain*, I attended every rehearsal with the actors to assist the directors, acted as both the liaison between the staff and students, and led the tech during dress rehearsals, calling the lights, sound, and scenery cues. It feels really nice to be recognized for the amount of effort I put in, as it isn't as common for a technician to receive recognition for our work as it is for actors," Casey said.

The JRAY Awards also honored the achievements of various UHS Theatre students. The JRAY Awards were named after John Raitt, AP Art History and French teacher Mrs. Michelle

Raitt's great uncle. J. Raitt was a famous Broadway and film actor during the Golden Age of musical theatre. However, this year was UHS's first time competing in JRAYs in a decade.

"We wanted more opportunities to aim to get to New York. We hoped that by entering both *A New Brain* and *Pippin* it would increase the exposure and chances for both of our casts," Bettger said.

Seniors E. Nishida, Costa, and Casey were also JRAY nominees for Set & Scenery Design, Male Soloist, and Stage Manager, respectively. Costa also received the Jan and Griff Duncan Scholarship.

"I was so surprised to receive a JRAY nomination. I feel so much pride over my work in that show and every other Uni Theatre Arts production, and I'm very grateful to have been recognized among many talented artists," E. Nishida said.

Even with a pandemic that has halted much of the world, many are still taking the time to honor and cherish the arts that improve our daily lives.

"The arts are about casting, awarding, critique, judgement, comparison, and growth. It's important that our sense of self worth and artistic worth is never coming from a source outside of ourselves," Bettger said.

THE KEY TO BLISS

By JERRY ZOU
Medium: Digital Illustration



21ST CENTURY MUGGING

By AUSTIN KAUFMAN
Staff Writer

Robber: You see this knife kid?

College Kid: Huh? What kni—oh that knife? Yeah, I see it.

Robber: I'll kill you with it if you don't give me your watch.

College Kid: I'm not wearing a watch, my man.

Robber: C'mon—I mean who doesn't wear a watch anymore.

College Kid: Hold up broski—you still wear a watch?

Robber: I guess you're right. Well—give me your money or take your last breath.

College Kid: Woah brotato chip—I don't have any dough.

Robber: You're telling me you have no cash on you?

College Kid: Nope.

Robber: No cash?! None at all?

College Kid: Zero. Zilch. Nada.

Robber: Well crap... You leave me no choice.

College Kid: Woah, woah, woah. Once sec (reaches for his phone)—do you take Venmo?

Robber: What's a Venmo?

Nights Like These

By CLARA SEELY-KATZ
Staff Writer

Feeling the soft sand make an almost perfect, sock-like, impression of my worn feet as I walk down the crusty shore, calms me. Every foot print is slow and methodical, a new, little, perfect, impression of my foot in this sandy beach I know so well. My mother told me to take a walk, to clear my mind after I had spent an hour or so pouring out all of my anxieties to her, while curled up in defeat on my quilted bed. She told me a walk would clear my head, and maybe I'd find some sort of answer to my mental turmoil.

So, after donning an oversized sweatshirt and pajama shorts, I walked down to the Bayfront to try and gain some clarity on essentially, the meaning of my life. The usual light stuff that always clouds my thoughts. Feeling the crisp air on my face, my eyes puckering in the intense orange sunset, I was determined to walk as far as possible along the serene Bayfront. The darkness was beginning to seep through the cracks of the clouds, and the house lights all started to flicker off.

Looking from house to house, I saw TV's turning on, people retiring for the night were all wasting a perfectly good sunset. I guess I too have wasted countless ones, fruitlessly, vainly assuming I'd always have more. Jumping over docking lines, and ducking under docks, I remembered how, when I was younger, I would spend hours on these damp beaches just playing.

Endless games for an endless summer.

I could vividly picture my serene past self, seriously instructing my friends on how to build the perfect sandcastle, or crying because I lost a game, frustrated tears staining my hot little cheeks as my mom wiped away the worry, pushing a cold glass of water into my sticky hands to staunch the stream of hiccupping sobs. As I keep walking, the darker corners of the beaches reach out to me, the street lights flicker menacingly, the silent laps of the ocean against the shore is my only company.

You see, this place, where I grew up, where my sister grew up where my mom grew up, where my grandfather grew up, will always be here for me, in a theoretical sense. I see this place, a place I call home, in the mountains, in the choppy seas, around a dining table with friends. Any place full of this light and life, I will be able to call home. A boat full of loud passengers laughing passes by me through the harbor as I continue to walk. Loud Mexican song is blaring out of the speaker, and glasses loudly tinkle with cheers. I stop to watch the boat pass, letting the music bath me in a glow.

I wanted so badly to reach out to this boat full of beautiful people, and beautiful music, and join them. I dipped one toe longingly in the water as I remembered a story my grandmother told me one day when I was particularly frustrated about life. All of us, every single person, we are on rafts. Some poorly made, some made of diamonds and dripping with gems, all rafts nonetheless. We are making our way down this long and tumultuous river, and we will pass many delightful sights on shore.

We will see things happening on either side of us, and so desperately want to stop, to join all of the festivities, but we simply do not have enough time. We must learn to let our raft float on, and take us where it may. There are infinite right places to be, but we have to learn how to always enjoy where we are.

I never understood this logic that my sweet grandmother whispered into my ear as she plaited my hair with educated fingers, but in this one moment, I did. This one night, I slept peacefully on my raft, not worried about glancing at the turbulent shore. And I got my temporary answer.

UHS Theatre Arts Takes Home Cappies, MACY, JRAY Awards

By CADEN CHOW
A&E Section Editor



The Old Man and The Old Moon won Best Show at the Cappies.

are hosted by a group of retired theatre educators, performing arts organization heads, and parents of artists.

"It would've been easier for the organizers of the MACYs to simply cancel the ceremony given the pandemic. However, they chose to honor the shows they adjudicated with a virtual ceremony, which I feel is such a kind way to celebrate high school theatre from the safety of our own homes," junior Hiromi Nishida said.

Sophomore Kaylie Kubota received a Bright Spot nomination.

Juniors Lauren Aquino and Ariel Hurwitz along with seniors Steven Dekeyser and Lauren Lee received Special Recognition.

"This was the first time I've been acknowledged at the MACY Awards, so I was super proud of myself and all of the hard work I put in. I was also so proud of our entire cast and crew, who put in so much effort to make our show amazing," Aquino said.

Costa also received Best Ac-

tor and Best Male Vocalist.

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The UHS Theatre Department won numerous awards at the Cappies, Spirit of the Music and Art Commendation for Youth (MACY) and John Raitt Youth (JRAY) awards.

While Cappies night for the spring musical *Pippin* was canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak, UHS Theatre Arts still received multiple accolades and nominations for their work on the fall play *The Old Man and The Old Moon*.

UHS received nominations in eight Cappies categories. The UHS Cappies critic team was also nominated for top five critics teams throughout Orange County. The UHS FX and Puppetry Crew won the award for Best Special Effects and Technology, seniors Hikari Harrison, Emi Nishida, and junior Kimia Javehermashan won the award for Best Sets, and *The Old Man and The Old Moon* won Best Show.

"[Winning the best] show is a big deal because it means we were the best overall production in Orange County," Harrison said. "Kimia, Emi, and I are over the moon about [winning Best Sets]. We were given a lot of freedom and responsibility as it was 100% student designed. This is by far my proudest accomplishment and I'm so grateful for having even the opportunity of designing it."

The MACY awards are also another annual tradition for the UHS Theatre Arts department. The MACY awards

are hosted by a group of retired theatre educators, performing arts organization heads, and parents of artists.

"It would've been easier for the organizers of the MACYs to simply cancel the ceremony given the pandemic. However, they chose to honor the shows they adjudicated with a virtual ceremony, which I feel is such a kind way to celebrate high school theatre from the safety of our own homes," junior Hiromi Nishida said.

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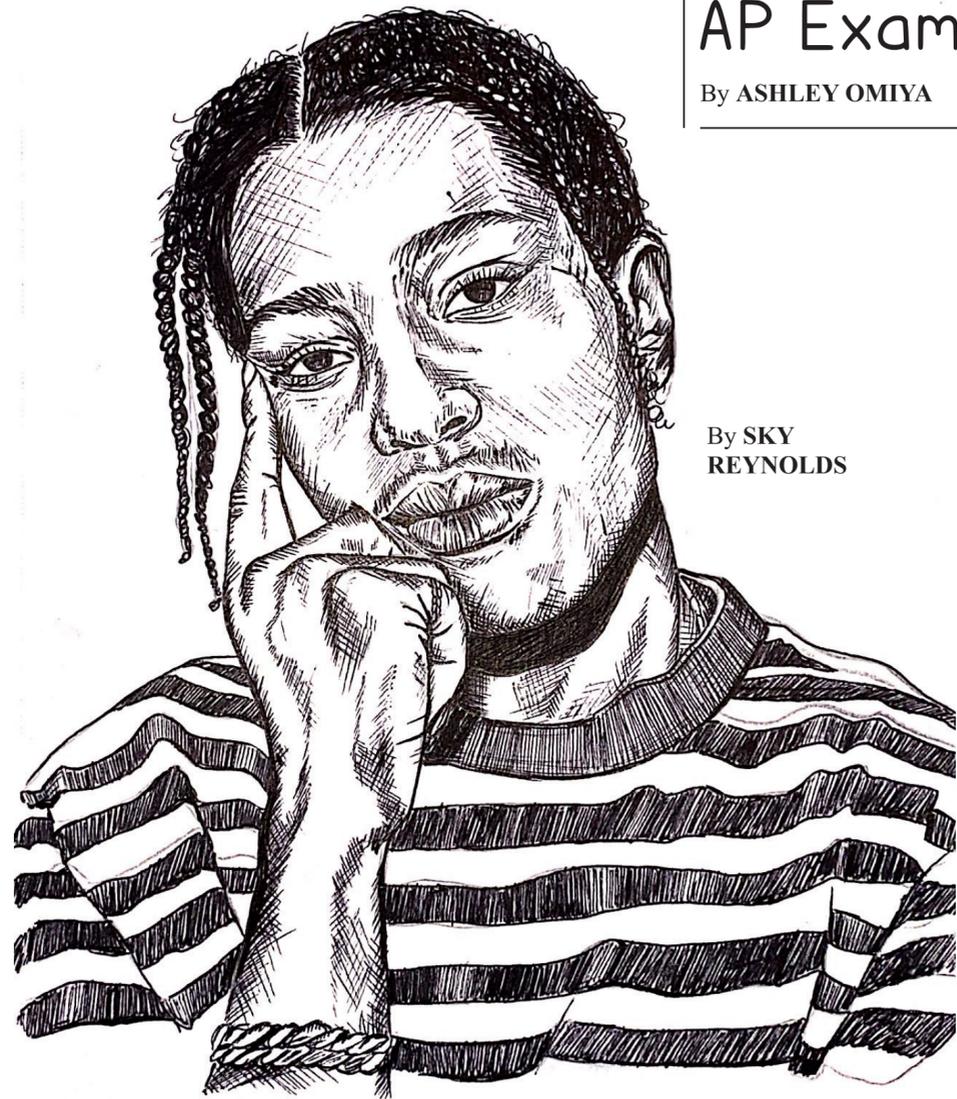


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AP Exams

By ASHLEY OMIYA

By SKY REYNOLDS

MARCH

APs are only 2 months away & online school is new, but I should be fine. I have the time.



APRIL

1 month is plenty of time to study & prepare for 45 minute exams



2 Weeks Away

2 weeks is still a lot of time. Should be able to pull this off



1.5 weeks away

starts studying



There's not much to learn...



4 days away

OH NO



1 DAY AWAY

HELP



DAY OF EXAM

Hoh.



I have another one tomorrow...



ON THE PRISON WALL

By ANON E. MUSS
Staff Writer

When the gavel's coerced kiss with the round block echoed throughout the room in mocking waves, I knew that was when I needed to start counting the sun, the moon, and the stars. I was ordered to the electric chair to die the most shameful death. If you can decipher these hideous, childish scrawls, then you know how terrible these cells can be, and you must know of the rectangular, barred window facing the provincial town beneath it. The window sits a hand below the grey, husk-covered ceiling as if it wants to flee far from the dirty offender's smutty eyes. I, a quite lanky fellow, am able to grace that peek of heaven by standing on the tip of my toes, and I peer through it with deprived eyes every day and every night. In my remaining mornings, my obligatory view out the window with a peer down at the town. I think about my wife and her daughter and their appalled thoughts, their shame, their incessant guilt, and the disdain way the other mothers and daughters of the town look at them when they are passed on the street. I look up at the bulging, lone orb of hideous heat and silently long for its presence tomorrow. Then, as you can already see, I record its existence in my life as another vertical dash on the wall. The moon, however, is a different type of creature; it doesn't sting the eyes or burn mad men blind. I bathe in her wallowing, white light and sleep among her children, the stars.

COMMITTED ATHLETES

Adam Axtell

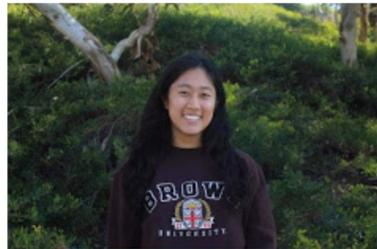


ADAM AXTELL

Boys Baseball - Point Loma Nazarene University

"I'm excited to be able to continue playing baseball at such a beautiful and prestigious school. It has been my dream to play at the college level for as long as I can remember and now that it's coming true I'm thankful for those that helped me along the way".

Alexis Kim



ALEXIS KIM

Girls Golf - Brown University

"I am so excited to continue playing golf in college! I especially love having the opportunity to continuing to play with a team, which is a special experience in an individual sport like golf. More than anything, I am looking forward to being on campus and playing golf for the team in the fall, although we must help for the best that the circumstances regarding COVID-19 will allow it".

Jackson LoBianco



JULIA SO

Boys Baseball - Shippensburg University

"My best memory is starting in the back of the line for our stretches as a freshman, and slowly working my way up to the front where I'd eventually lead them. Some of those conversations with the team were the most real I've ever had. I'm looking forward to college ball as an opportunity to try and go pro and make money off playing the game in the future."

Brian Lou



BRIAN LOU

Boys Swim - Princeton University

"This fall I will be swimming and studying at Princeton University. I am very excited for this opportunity to train hard and learn a lot from world-class professors. My favorite memory from Uni Swimming is definitely winning PCL as a team last year, and I hope to be able to have similar experiences in the future!"

Lauren Cho



LAUREN CHO

Girls Volleyball - Columbia University

"Committing to Columbia is one of my favorite, if not my most favorite memory [of] my high school career. All the years of hard work and commitment had finally paid off. Although college is uncertain right now I'm still hoping that we may be able to go on campus in the fall and if not then by spring semester"

Omar Sabbagh



M. CHINN

Boys Soccer - University of California, San Diego

"My favorite memory the year I played for UNI was winning CIF and making history with that team. I look forward to the high level competition in college while studying and playing against talented players."

Hunter Kroll



HUNTER KROLL

Boys Swim - Columbia University

"I really enjoyed my time at Uni, and I'm excited to be a part of a class of excellent swimmers heading into Columbia next year. I'll have the opportunity to swim with guys from all across the country, along with some international swimmers. We've brought in an extremely diverse and talented class which makes this team the fastest I've ever been a part of."

Paya Vatanshenas



CHRISTINE AN

Boys Volleyball - University of California, San Diego

"I am excited and humbled to have the opportunity to continue my volleyball career in college. I have been working at this goal for 7 years and it feels great to achieve something I set out to do. I couldn't have done it without the support, guidance, and mentorship from my teammates, parents, and coaches"

COMMITTED ATHLETES

Jackie Diaz



SKY REYNOLDS

Softball - Cal Lutheran University

"Playing softball is a platform to inspire people and I realize that. Working hard and persevering during tough times with other like-minded athletes has pushed me to be the best player I can be for my team. It truly is a blessing to play college softball while pursuing my major in biology."

Kenny Nielsen



KENNY NIELSEN

Boys Soccer - Georgetown University

"I always look forward to training everyday after school, being in an intense environment, and being surrounded by people who share the passion for the sport. I always made sure I worked as hard as I could every time I got the opportunity to play, and will continue to do so at the college level. I'm excited for the next step, playing for Georgetown, and hopefully continuing my career after graduating"

Ben Chi



KORINEY MADDA

Boys Track - Biola University

"These past 4 years of track have been a blessing. I'm gonna miss my hurdle squad and my coaches that have pushed me to become the person I am today. In college I'm looking forward to the new competition."

Raja Batra



RAJA BATRA

Cross Country and Track - Harvey Mudd College

"I am excited to keep running and get faster hopefully. I loved running in high school and hopefully college also."

Sidney Miller



SIDNEY MILLER

Boys Swimming - University of Rochester

"I'm thankful for the unmatched guidance my coaches and teachers have given me. They helped me find my drive to succeed in the pool and in the classroom. It's been a grueling four years of late night studying and early morning practices, but I wouldn't have missed them for anything. I'm already missing my friends and the memories we share. I look forward to studying and swimming at the University of Rochester, and I feel there are many more adventures to be made as well as people to meet. Trojans (and Yellowjackets) forever!"

Soomin Lee



JULIA SO

Boys Tennis - Wesleyan University

"Although my senior season wasn't what I expected it to be I'm glad to have participated in a legendary program and adding to the accolades. I'm grateful I can continue to play tennis and my education at a high level and I look forward to helping my team win."

Cami Brown



SEBASTIAN JAVIERGUT

Girls Tennis - UC Berkeley

"I am looking forward to working my way up on such a high level team and getting a chance to play against older and more experienced players."

- These athletes are mainly from a list the *Sword and Shield* was given by the athletics department. Due to the unusual constraints and communication blockages caused by present circumstances, there may be committed athletes we were not able to reach out to and include in this spread.

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Cami Brown: Tennis Talent

BY KIEL MESSING-ER AND ELEANOR HANSSLER
Sports Editors

Senior **Cami Brown** made UHS history when she earned the award of Orange County Register's Female Athlete of the Year as a junior, a first for any female University tennis player. This year, Brown has again been honored with the UHS Female Athlete of the Year award, as she prepares to graduate and continue her tennis playing career at the University of California, Berkeley. "Cami has been our top player for the last three years," UHS Tennis Coach and social science teacher Mr. **John Kessler** said. "Cami is arguably the best female tennis player... ever...to represent University high school... her accomplishments and her ability to lead her team in difficult times is why Cami Brown should be UNI's female athlete of the year."



LODERIVT NUISVERER

Senior Cami Brown is off to Cal for Women's Tennis and has won OC Register's Female Athlete of the Year in 2018.

This year, Brown was ranked thirteenth in California, eighteenth in the Southwest, and sixty-eighth nationally for girl's high school tennis. Thanks to her talent and dedication to her team, she helped the UHS girls tennis team make their way to the top of California's team rankings, also leading the team to win the renowned Point Loma tournament in San Diego this past September, as well as the

team's first Southern California Regional Championship in November of 2019.

"The biggest accomplishment I felt we had was making the finals of CIF my sophomore year, we were a lower seed and upset many teams we had lost to earlier in the season," Brown said.

For Brown, tennis has always been more than just a sport; it has been a passion and an important part of her life.

"My favorite part about tennis is that it's a great way to escape from stress and school. It is also a good way to see friends and meet new people," Brown said.

She first began playing tennis at the age of ten, when her parents inspired her to start playing with her brother.

"Something that has always motivated me to improve has been my family. Everyone in my family plays tennis and my brothers definitely motivate me to go to practice everyday and try to be the best player I can be. We would do summer camps at the club and play all sorts of really fun games which really was the beginning of when I knew I wanted to continue to play tennis when I was older," Brown said.

Brown's friends and coaches say that besides being a talented tennis player, she is also a leader and positive influence on the team.

"On the court, Cami was always so composed and calm. We'd always be so confused

whether she lost or won (almost always it was the latter), because she'd always have the same nonchalant expression after games. I am extremely excited to see what the future holds for her, and where her college tennis career will take her," junior **Mya Wang** said.

Her attitude and determination continues to inspire and lift up her teammates, no matter how difficult the opposition may be.

"My favorite memory with Cami was the trip the team took to San Diego to play the Point Loma Tournament and we played Mira Costa in the semis and she was the last match playing. She fought until the end and was resilient" junior and co-captain **Emily Markus** said. "She's an amazing player because she never gives up and her passion to win is inspiring".

Her humility, character, and continued determination helped distinguish her.

"Moreover, what makes Cami so special; many other top ranked junior players opted to either not play high school tennis or home school instead of attending traditional school, Cami attended and played for the Trojans. She repeatedly put what she was going through personally aside and somehow managed to lead her teammates and team," Kessler said. "...she managed to balance school, junior tennis tournaments, the high school season and her arduous and long re-

cruiting process during her senior year. I think this process showed a lot of character and personal fortitude."

Her unique ability paired with her character has also earned the respect of her teammates.

"Cami was the type of player that would be in and out of the court so quickly and effortlessly. She was always tough on herself to constantly improve her playing and keep growing as a player. I've known her since elementary school and she has always been very quiet about tennis, even when she was the best player in the school- she is just a humble person who worked extremely hard behind the scenes," senior and co-captain **Yui Hashiyada** said.

As she prepares to graduate, Brown looks back on a few of her favorite memories from playing tennis for UHS



LODERIVT NUISVERER

over the past four years.

"Senior day this year and in past years has been really memorable for me because of how great the juniors were at making us feel like they looked up to us and to see how much you meant to people. I really enjoyed my junior year when I got to make a poster for one of my really good friends who had put so much work into our team it was a great way to show appreciation for that," Brown said.

As Brown prepares to attend the University of California, Berkeley in the upcoming school year, she is excited to be able to continue her tennis career at a higher level of competition.

"I am looking forward to working my way up on such a high level team and getting a chance to play against older and more experienced players," Brown said.

Casey Stanford
Managing Editor



David "Lavid" Lee
Editor-in-chief



Katie Liu
Managing Editor



Catherine Rha
News Section Editor



Vincent Woo
News Copy Editor



Dylan Du
News Section Editor



Eric Lu
Opinion Section Editor



Aidan Garde
Opinion Copy Editor



Evan Wolf
Opinion Section Editor



Brian Lou: Swimming Star

BY LUKE CURTIS
Staff Writer

For many, the success that one attains through sheer hard work and talent in sports can get to one's head. Furthermore, it can allow for an individual to isolate themselves at the top of the hill, and declare themselves to be better than the rest.

However for Boys Athlete of the Year **Brian Lou**, success manifests itself in a different manner. As one who pushes himself to the limits with the early morning training sessions and late game stay-outs, Lou uses his success to help others, teaching and inspiring his teammates to perform at their best.

"I try to encourage my re-



BRIAN LOU

lay-mates, hyping them up so we can win during our meet days. During our pool practices or meets, I'm a captain. I take the opportunity to help my teammates wherever I can. I attempt to hype them up a lot during intense meets, and whenever they're having a hard time with stroke techniques, or if Coach **Ryan [Vande Wydeven]** can't be present, I try to lead by example," Lou said.

This leadership is appreciated by his teammates, who hold Lou's ability, dedication, and leadership in high esteem. "Brian's an overall great person. He is extremely humble despite his killer speed, and always encourages his teammates. I see him watching his teammates' times and

swims and he will critique what they can improve on," senior **Kai Yoshizaki** said.

The pool is Lou's natural habitat, where he can truly be himself and excel in an area that he is so passionate about.

"Whenever I'm in the pool, I truly enjoy being there. I practice every day, and it makes me happy. It's a second home to me," Lou said.

Throughout his career at UHS, Lou has broken several school records, most notably in the 50 free. However, his demeanor and work ethic motivate him to continue to strive for more.

"I'm aiming to get to finals at the Olympic Trials in two years. This year I'm going to head for qualifiers because I don't have the necessary time yet," Lou said.

Even though many could say he is at the top of his game, Lou's dedication to continue to improve has earned the utmost respect from his teammates.

"Brian is extremely driven in the pool and he always wants to do better. No matter how well he swims, he's always trying to improve," senior **Hunter Kroll** said.

As the old adage by John Wooden goes, "It's the little details that are vital, which make the big things happen." For Lou, each morning practice and afternoon swim empowers him to rally his enthusiasm and

drive towards greater goals. "My motivation is to get better every day. The small things help the more important things become possible. You drop time and get faster that way. I enjoy putting in my time and ending up with the results I want," Lou said.

However the individual and team accomplishments he has achieved shows that this hard work does pay off.

"The feeling of winning a race at the meets, along with the appreciation after a 50 meter sprint. Then seeing your name at the top of the scoreboard when you're treading water at the wall. Getting that significant feeling makes it feel like it's all worth it. When UHS won the Pacific Coast League last year, it took hard work and dedication for us to get there. For us to be able to accomplish that was something in of itself. I remember swimming one of the last events, and looking at the wall and realizing we won it all," Lou said.

Some of the most influential motivators in his drive to compete are his own teammates.

"During training, I see my teammates as my fellow competitors that I have to beat. We're trying to push each other. During meets, we become brothers in the struggle, wanting each of us to do well and beat the other teams," Lou said.



BRIAN LOU

Senior Brian Lou is off to Princeton University and hopes to make it to the Olympic Trials finals in two years.

Through it all, Lou credits his coaches and instructors for being the advisors who guide him and the team, but have a strong confidence and ability in them to excel in the pool.

"They help guide us down the road, helping us practice during regular meeting times during the sixth period of school. However, they're fully confident in our abilities during meets and hype us up before the important events," Lou said.

Even among his greatest achievements, Lou is down to Earth with his teammates.

"My favorite quote of his was 'I'm tired' 2 minutes before setting a school record in the 50 free," senior **Sidney Miller** said.

Along with this humility, he has remained quiet yet charismatic throughout this journey.

"I told him I loved him after practice once, and he responded by just saying 'thanks'. It was pretty crushing if I do say

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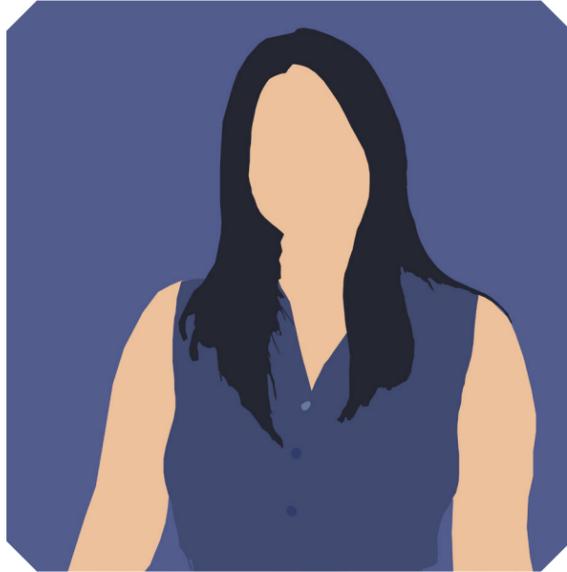
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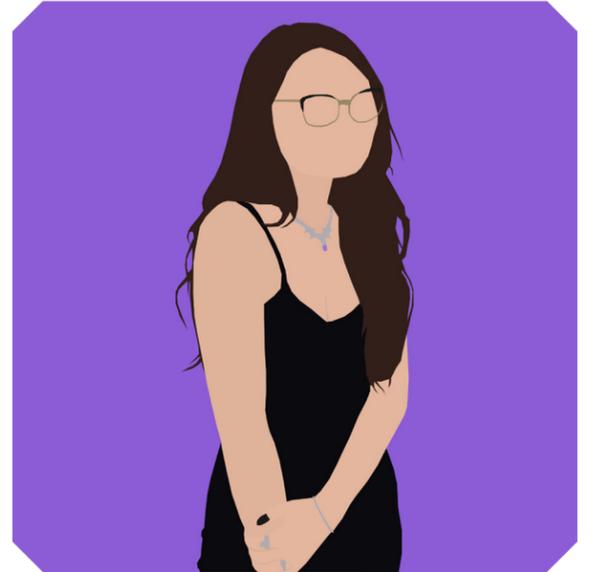
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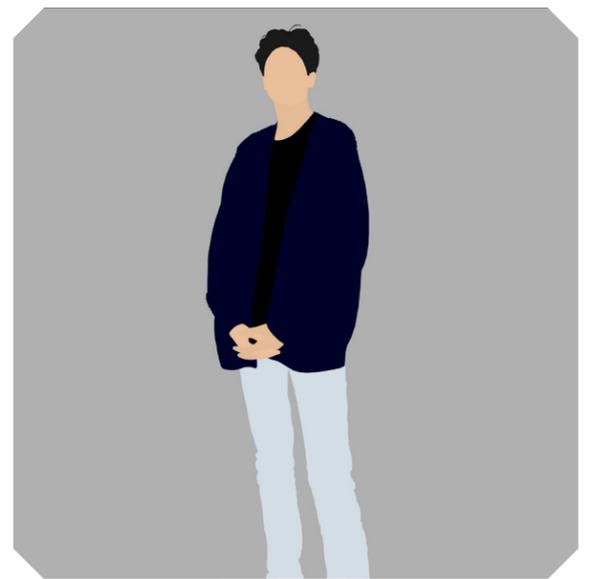
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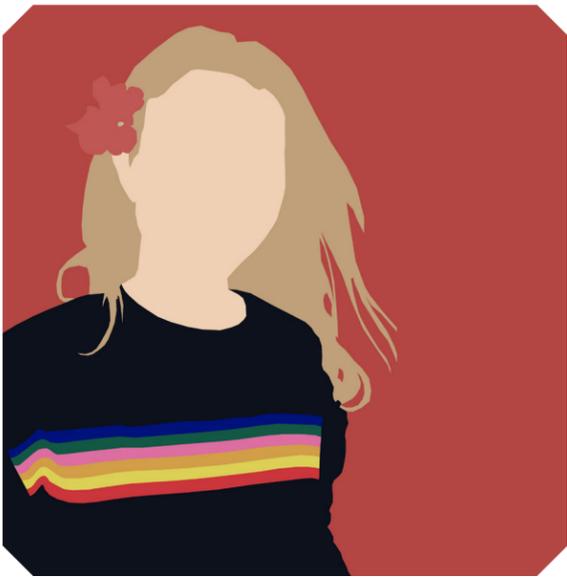
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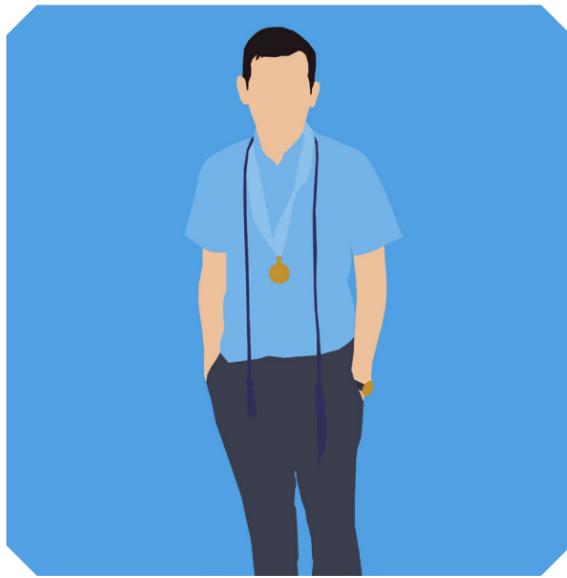
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