gaccolade 1801 Lancer Way, Fullerton CA Sunny Hills High School Volume IXV, Issue 4 May 2024 SUNNY HILLS HIGH ILLUSTRATION BY JOANNA JOO

Making History

Class of 2024 breaks through with highest number of students selected as valedictorians | pg. 6

Year in Review

From global conflicts to college results, the editorial board revists some of the most notable events of the year | pg. 18

Look Out for the Press

As *The Accolade* continues to receive administrative support, it hopes to see student press grow district-wide | pg. 34



DEAR READERS.

he issue I've longingly anticipated, yet did not want to face at the same time is finally here. The Accolade has been a deeply meaningful experience and a tangible manifestation of our relationship with the broader Sunny Hills community. With that said, I'd like to send an immense appreciation to this year's staff and our adviser Tommy Li. Thanks everyone, we've made it through.

This final edition is dedicated to Sunny Hills' graduating Class of 2024. As our front cover theme "Remembering" signifies, we hope that this issue serves as a permanent trace of our time here. In this issue, we spotlight seniors who've achieved notable accomplishments, such as publishing a book (pg. 12) or performing at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival (pg. 16). We also send a bittersweet goodbye to this year's retiring teachers and The Accolade's seniors share their farewell columns in the Op-Ed section (pg. 27). Flipping through the pages, readers should also visit our Year in Review timeline (pg. 18) to reminisce about historical moments that happened during this whirlwind of a year.

Lastly, this issue would not have been possible without the list of gracious donors below. Thank you so much for making our magazine a reality.

The Berumen/Lippincott Family Bulletin Displays Sam & Amber Chang Jungmoon Kang

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ABOUT THE COVER: Contributing illustrator freshman Joanna Joo uses paper airplanes to symbolize the Class of 2024 as seniors will

soon graduate and reflect on their time here.

Jaimie Chun

Editor-in-Chief

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MAY 2024

STORY BY SOOJIN CHO A sixth of the Class of 2024 sign up for traditional off-campus Senior Assassin

Tt was a roughly 30-second video filmed at night by sophomore Elly

Senior Kathleen Sweeney holds a white, plastic water gun in her right hand. She jumps out from behind her friends toward her target — senior Maddie Moreno.

Moreno screams as they sprint around the school parking lot, Kathleen Sweeney gradually getting closer.

Splash.

That scene earned Kathleen Sweeney \$20 for the most creative "kill," as her friend helped her ask Moreno to remove her safe-

"I NEED MORE ROBLOX MONEY, AND THAT IS THE ONLY REASON I AM DOING THIS," — SENIOR GARV JAIN

ty goggles for a photo as part of an off-campus game known as Senior Assassin.

The tournament for the graduating class started in the 2021-2022 school year after students saw it trending on social media at other schools, junior Kastuv Aryal said. Some from the Class of 2022 initiated the

THAT HE'S GOING TO
GET ME BECAUSE I
HAVE SUCH HIGH
PEFENSE,"
- SENIOR **WATERED DOWN** off-campus only activity, besides the school parking lots and outside of school • \$5-\$20 participation fee MiKAYLA - YENIOR only one water gun 400TER •water guns and floaties as safety • started at Sunny Hills in the 2021-2022 school year

PHOTO BY **ASAPH LI**

FINAL SHOWDOWN:

Seniors Garv Jain and Mikayla Sooter are the last ones standing in the final round of Senior Assassin.

event after they noticed their peers at Fullerton Union High School doing the activity, junior Tiffany Kim said.

According to a May 2 National Post online website article, the tradition originated in 1982 after Steve Jackson designed and released a role-playing game called Killer: The Game of Assassination, which Senior Assassin took inspiration from.

Students use different "weapons" for the game based on their game proctor's rules, such as airsoft guns and paintball guns, according to a Feb. 22 NBC 15 News article. However, the students in this Senior Assassin use water guns for safety.

Though the game is not school-affiliated, Kim and Aryal took charge as coordinators after the Associated Student Body [ASB] senior class president Dylan Loh asked for people interested in managing the activity.

Kim and Aryal initiated the four-round game on Feb. 11, with around 100 participants out of more than 600 seniors. According to a Feb. 10 Instagram post, each player must pay a \$5 entry fee through online payment apps such as Venmo and Zelle to them. Each round lasts two weeks with a new round starting on a Sunday.

Those who got eliminated after Round 1 could reenter the game by paying \$20 before Round 2 began, Kim said. But no one can join after that.

Kim said she promoted the activity through Instagram (@shhs24_assassin) and created a Google Form with Aryal, using their personal email, for students to sign up for the game from Feb. 6-10.

The rules to play, outlined in a Feb. 7 Instagram post, are as follows:

- Players have to eliminate their target, randomly assigned by Aryal and Kim with the Wheel of Names website, using one water gun. However, competitors can team up with each other.
- Participants must purchase their own water guns within a \$20 budget.
- Competitors must submit a recording of themselves shooting their victim to the coordinators for approval. The video must show the assassin killing their target and their faces.
- Assassinating is allowed anywhere outside safety zones, which include private property, formal settings and everywhere on campus besides the parking
- Seniors can protect themselves in

- non-safety zones by wearing goggles or floaties above their necks.
- "Purge Days," a period when the accessories don't count, occur once or twice a week, announced through the Instagram page by Kim and Aryal.
- Whoever survives until the end of the fourth round wins the cash prize.

"They were allowed to shoot in the parking lot ever since the game started at our school," Aryal said. "We allow the parking lots because we don't want to disrupt classes with people shooting a water gun."

During the Feb. 11-25 first round, 79 players got eliminated, but 15 paid the \$20 fee to reenter, Kim said.

"We were expecting around that many people to rejoin since so many people were requesting it," Kim said.

IT WAS THE **BEST FIVE BUCKS I** SPENT.

- senior Eli Peru

When the game started, the pot reached \$800. However, the two set the reward as \$700 and distributed multiple \$10 to participants who sent their elimination videos the fastest, along with a \$20 award for the participant with the most creative elimination video to make it more fun, Kim said.

Based on the Instagram highlights with the round eliminations, 30 players were eliminated in the second round, and eight were gone by the third stanza.

In the final set, the last two standing were seniors Mikayla Sooter and Garv Jain, Kim

Kim said Jain was one of the 15 people who paid \$20 to rejoin after Katelyn Marin eliminated him in Round 1.

By the end of Round 4 on May 3, Sooter

and Jain could not eliminate each other, so they split the \$700 to each receive \$350, Kim

The tied winners said they joined the game with separate motivations.

"I needed more Roblox money and that is the only reason I did this," said Jain, referring to an online platform with a variety of games made by players for all users.

Sooter had a different reason for playing Senior Assassin.

"As soon as I heard about it, I just wanted to join because I thought it would be fun," she said. "I wasn't even thinking about the mon-

Like Sooter, most of the participants said they joined for the fun of the game.

"It was the best five bucks I spent," senior

Some parents of the competitors approved of their children's interest in participating in the off-campus activity.

"I'm happy Mikayla is participating because high school is filled with late-night studying, stress and uncertainty," said Sooter's father, Michael. "I'm in favor of a little

Jain's dad, Praveen Dugar, also felt positive about his son's participation.

"It is most definitely a great way of having fun and connecting with other seniors in a very special way," Dugar said. "I don't think it's a distraction at all."

Though some said the game was enjoyable, senior Arum Han said she refused to participate because of its potential dangers after viewing videos about the game on Tik-

"It feels a bit dangerous at times because people would stalk where you worked or where your home was just to get you out,"

A campus police officer shot a California State University, Long Beach, student after he carried a life-sized M-16 replica for the Senior Assassin game, resulting in the game being banned in several universities, according to the National Post.

Seniors such as Han did not participate in the game due to those dangers, however, seniors like Sooter thought differently.

"I did see on TikTok that someone's car was dented trying to get away from their assassin, but I think as long as the game is kept off school campus it keeps the game safe," Sooter said. "It's more of a matter of it being a distraction than a threat or danger."

MAY 2024 5 IMPACT



FOCUSED: Valedictorians sit in the library during first

period on April 15 as they listen to principal Craig Weinreich talk about how valedictorian speech candidates will

be chosen.

Class of 2024 sets record with 39 valedictorians; previous high was 2019, 2021, 2023

STORY BY ELLEN HWANG

In math, that's the product of one and 39 as well as two prime numbers: three times 13.

In sports, that's 10 fewer than the name of San Francisco's football team — the 49ers — which lost the Super Bowl earlier this year to the Kansas City Chiefs.

And for the Class of 2024, that's the new, record-setting number of valedictorians, beating last year's high of 18, which tied the total from the Class of 2019 and 2021.

"It's great to be able to celebrate more students and their accomplishments, and I know that this class has worked really hard to get to that status," said principal Craig Weinreich, who confirmed the total on April 15 during first period when he had them summoned into the library to make the announcement. "We're excited to be able to recognize them; the more, the merrier."

Since many of the nearly 40 top students with GPAs ranging from 4.0-5.0 have similar classes together throughout their time at Sunny Hills, some said they expected the total would be in double digits.

"I knew there would be a lot of valedictorians, but 39 is kind of crazy and seems unprecedented," said valedictorian Cameron Loh, who plans to major in business economics at UCLA. "Although the number is quite large, I believe that every single person is deserving of the recognition, and it should not take away from anyone's accom-

According to an Accolade poll from April 12-May 8, 38% of 100 respondents are amazed about the new record; 34% reflected their concerns on grade inflation; 28% responded that it doesn't matter how many valedictorians the school gets.

The list below can also be found in the Lancer Handbook, which is posted as a PDF file on the Sunny Hills website:

- unweighted 4.0 GPA
- 32 minimum honors semester classes
- eight minimum honors semester classes in senior year
- 10 minimum academic classes in senior year
- all A's and B's at third quarter grade report in senior year
- no academic honesty violations

The one issue Thomson said she cannot address is the question some might have whether grade inflation could have led to such a high number of top students this year.

"I can't speak to that because I have never been in the classroom, and that's not where my brain naturally goes," she said. "So, I would straight up answer that question with a no, but I don't have an opinion about

As of May, school officials said they have no intention to revise the guidelines, though if a change is made, it would affect an incoming class instead of current students. Still, with the spike in valedictorians representing 6% of the Class of 2024, some procedures had to change when it year's graduating class to go down. came to informing all of them.

In the past, valedictorians usually got summoned to the principal's office for the head administrator to make the announcement that they are at the top of their class. However, because 39 students could not fit into Weinreich's office, those who qualified for the status were summoned to the library, where they met during first period April 15 with Weinreich, other administrators and their counselors.

The record-setting total also meant school officials had to cut down

were chosen to speak.

HOW DID THE CLASS OF 2024 GET TO 39 TOP STUDENTS?

Senior Thomas Pennella credited his and his peer's success to their perseverance and hard work, especially since they were the class that started as freshmen in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I noticed that we have a really smart class, so I think it's deserved," said Pennella, who has committed to attend the University of California, Irvine, to study chemical engineering.

The Class of 2024 also spent the first few months of their high school experience on Zoom sessions for distance learning and didn't get the choice to come to campus for hybrid learning until November 2, 2020.

"I think having my first year on Zoom might have helped because it was pretty easy to get A's that year because of the shorter schedule, which opened extra free time to study," said Brandon Flores, one of the 10 valedictorians who plan to enroll in UCLA.

THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025

Thomson said she expects the total number of valedictorians for next

"Just projecting through the juniors that we have right now, it's a little lower than the 39 for just the unweighted 4.0 aspect. ... But I really can't speak to the future because things happen that surprise me all the time," the head counselor said.

RELATED CONTENT

Q & A: Check out more info. about the Class of 2024 valedictorians. See Outlook, page 21.

6 IMPACT MAY 2024 **7**

to the volcanoes of El Salvador to the ruins of Honduras, En- STORIES OF THE PAST glish teacher Tom Wiegman has seen it all.

ies, Wiegman grew up moving around to position [AP Lang], Bible as Literature a total of five different countries and five and English 1 Honors, has stayed relastates within the United States.

By the time he graduated high school, taught for the past 32 years. he had attended nine different schools and moved 18 times.

ing degree from Biola University in 1986, school in Pennsylvania, from 1981-1983. Wiegman put a halt on his nomadic lifestyle and settled down in Whittier.

put at Sunny Hills High School — until

"I like the students, the teachers and my content area," said Wiegman, one of two retirees for the 2023-2024 school School District at California High School. year. "But I've just been [teaching] for such a long time."

Wiegman said that the idea of retiring George Giokaris to set up an interview. came to him early in the school year, primarily because his wife retired two years and began taking over the two English AP prior. He then mentioned it to principal courses, English 1 and the Bible as Liter-Craig Weinreich throughout the months ature class. As of this year, Wiegman has until he gradually decided to turn in his letter of resignation Friday, April 26.

glish teacher here," Weinriech said. "He's spent my time here." done a great job with a variety of classes... and is somebody that I know our younger worked here, he has been able to make a

rom the waters of Costa Rica English teachers have looked toward."

The educator, who has taught Advanced Placement Literature and Com-Born in Texas to Protestant missionar-position [AP Lit], AP Language and Comtively constant in which courses he has

Beginning his work without a teaching credential, Wiegman said he first taught However, after receiving his teach- at Parkstone Christian Academy, a private

However, English wasn't Wiegman's only interest. When he moved to Texas And for the last 32 years, he has stayed and attended Baptist University in 1985, he pursued a bachelor's degree in theology and religion.

> He later moved to California and began student teaching in the Whittier

Wiegman joined the SH teaching staff after receiving a call from then-principal

That same year in 1989, he was hired taught both for 64 semesters.

"I always told Giokaris sarcastical-"Wiegman has been an icon within our ly that it was the best decision he ever English department since I was an En- made," he said. "I feel very blessed to have

Throughout the 32 years Wiegman has

ish Literature, Spring 2024 People Grades Stream Classwork Period 4 AP/IB English 2024 Meet ice something to your class Generate link HIS LAST ACT: English teacher Tom Wiegman



1984: English teacher Tom Wiegman has over the years put up many of his students' projects to decorate the walls surrounding his classroom in Room 14, These posters portraying themes from George Orwell's dystopian novel adorn the right side of the class.

Wiegmans students said that they find lessons, he said. his stories inspiring as the teacher has had

done so much stuff with his life," said said. "So that's what I'm going to spend senior Brandon Flores, who is in the part of my [retirement] time doing." teacher's second period AP Literature class. "So it makes me think that maybe I his wife plan to continue their travels, exshould just try stuff."

The English teacher also features nu- novels. merous pieces of student art on his walls of his teaching days.

are pretty remarkable," Wiegman said. vana, Cuba. "Some of them have real artistic talent, them up."

During retirement, Wiegman says he with The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor stage," Wiegman said. Dostoevsky. Wiegman also teaches one of Dostoevesky's more popular novels,

teacher on campus to include it in their

"Unfortunately, I spend a lot of my the opportunity gain many life experienc- time reading [and grading student] essays, so I am looking forward to being able to "It's kind of inspiring because he has read other stuff [for entertainment]," he

> Besides that, Wiegman said he and ploring the world and locations found in

Continuing his legacy of teaching and and cabinets, dating back to the beginning the work of his parents, Wiegman will also be embarking on a mission teaching "Some of the things students do trip in the summer, which is based in Ha-

"I think travel is a big part of my life," much better than I could ever do, so I put Wiegman said. "I've had the chance to go all over the world."

In the end, as a teacher of seniors, he PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SOR- will also be leaving the campus along with his students this year.

"I tell them that I will be graduating hopes to catch up on his reading, starting with them — I just won't walk across the

For full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

STORY BY ALEXXA BERUMEN

English teacher of 35 years plans to restart world travels after retirement

a (wieg) MAI of his time

discusses Arthur Miller's play, Death of a Sales-

man, with his fourth-period Advanced Placement

English Literature and Composition class April 3 in

Room 14. Wiegman will retire after 32 years here.

GOES ON

STORY BY FAITH JUNG

Science teacher, former sports coach to retire after 35-year career in district

cience as a subject and sports as school year. Despite her love for her ca-

These are the epitome of Kathy Bevill's tenure at Sunny Hills.

Since she was a young girl, Bevill said she has been involved in sports, particularly with softball and basketball.

While trying to improve her athletic skills, she said she developed an interest in how the body works.

"I was always fascinated with the human body, and that's kind of what pushed me into the field of science," the science teacher said.

And after 35 years of teaching in the health issues," she said. Fullerton Joint Union High School District — the first three years at Troy and the rest of her time at Sunny Hills — she has decided to retire after the 2023-2024

reer, she said she wanted to focus on spending more time with her family.

"I have a lot of mixed emotions, and it's a little bit scary, but I'm excited about a new chapter," the science teacher said. "I love this school, I love all of my peers that I work with, and the kids are great, but I'm ready for a change."

That change entails spending time outdoors, such as visiting her sister in Montana, Bevill said.

"I [also] want to spend more time with my husband because he has some

She said she's looking forward to getting ready for her 31-year-old son's wedding at Oak Glen on July 5.

"I'm very excited," Bevill said. "We



love his fiancee, so I feel like I'm gaining a daughter that I've never had."

FROM A TROY WARRIOR TO A SH LANCER

Growing up in Fullerton, Bevill said she she graduated from Troy High School in 1980 and then attended California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where she earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology in 1986.

"My love for teaching came from my high school softball coach," said the instructor, who also received her teaching credential from Cal Poly Pomona in 1987. "He was a really good positive role model in my life, and I kind of wanted to follow in those footsteps."

The teacher said she played softball and basketball at Troy and continued to play softball at Cal Poly Pomona. Her teams won the Freeway League championships every year for both sports; in her senior year, her softball team made it to CIF finals.

Bevill's professional career began when her high school softball coach called to offer her his job at Troy after he had retired.

In addition to coaching softball and basketball at Troy for eight years, she taught two periods of Physical Science and one period of Oceanography part-time at Troy for three years before moving to Sunny Hills in 1992.

"I enjoyed my time there," the science teacher said. "My coach was a role model for me, so I kind of always wanted to go back and work with him."

Bevill said she learned about the job opportunity at Sunny Hills from the principal at Troy.

And that's how she ended up becoming a Lancer.

"My time at [Sunny Hills] has been amazing," Bevill said. "The school administration has been wonderful, always supporting us; the teachers here are amazing, and the sports programs are great."

For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com

32 YEARS AT SH

Bevill taught and coached the following throughout her career here:

- Physical Science
- Life Science
- PE
- Biology
- Junior varsity volleyball
- Varsity softball

Compiled by Justin Pak

STORY BY ASHLEY KANG ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB KIM

"Van Gogh"

flowers swirled around my head eyes locked on white petals and the projected brush strokes. lyrics flooded my senses teleported into Van Gogh.

what creates an artist? what leaves their legacy? what flows through their brush? what emotion do they pour onto paper? what is it that makes a painting into art?

I grapple with the difference between writing only writing and writing a piece of art. is my existence only the act of living or is my life an art as well?

PAGE 89 OF BINNY PARK'S PRESERVED IN PAVEMENT

Poet collects insights for debut book,

Preserved Pavement

aving journaled since first grade, writing has always been an important part of senior Binny

"Because my parents both work, writing was that outlet for me to talk," Park said.

In fifth grade, she started writing poetry; her poems covered a range of topics from familial love to the pain of grief, the senior said.

By her junior year, Park said she switched to jotting down phrases in an app called Notion, a digital note-taking platform. After spending years documenting her poems on Evernote, another journaling application, the poet said she decided to switch mediums to pay a lower subscription fee.

When Park was in her sophomore year at Sunny Hills, she decided to embark on a whole new adventure — one that would lead her to become a self-published author of Preserved in Pavement.

PARK'S PUBLISHING JOURNEY

The young poet said it all started when one of her tutors had mentioned a student who had published a book 10 years ago.

"That's when the idea started," the author said. "That's back in 10th grade, but I didn't really want to do it until 11th grade when I was wondering what to do over the summer."

Since Park had an idea of the different chapters of poetry her book would comprise, she said she immediately began looking back through previous poems and collected works that she believed fit according to the sections.

Despite her lack of artistic experience, Park said she decided to come up with her own illustrations in her book. The cover, for example, features an all-black design with a drawing of a lock in white with the title words, "Preserved in Pavement" inside.

Binny said she came up with the front cover image based on the medium she kept most of her writing in while in elementary school — a lock journal.

"I wrote a lot in those, and they were my favorite notebooks because [my writing] felt more protected, so the [the cover] is symbolic of [my] vulnerability," she said.

EDITING THE FINAL PRODUCT

The senior said she began the editing process last summer, spending two hours a day for three days a week rereading the same poems in hopes of finding and correcting any typos and grammatical errors.

Time constraints also hindered her from finishing the final draft sooner because she wanted to finish her book project before she started working on submitting her college ap-



MAKING IT PERMANENT: Senior Binny Park's self-published book contains 46 poems collected from 2020 - 2023. Poems cover topics ranging from her daily life to art and has sold 21 copies.

final draft and start the publishing process of her book the last week of July. For the following two weeks, Park said she had to submit tax forms, finalize decisions regarding the physical design of her book and wait for the publisher to review her work.

Although Amazon also offered authors
THE EARLY REVIEWS ARE IN a publishing service, out of personal preference, she said she went with Barnes and No-

Publishing the book at Barnes and Noble was a simple procedure, and she only had to submit her final draft on its website.

Two weeks later, Park said she received a notification on her phone confirming the book was ready to be ordered online.

BOOK READY TO ORDER ONLINE

When Park held the finished product in her hands on Aug. 31, she said she felt relieved but satisfied that she was able to accomplish such a task.

"The biggest moment was when the first print came in the mail; it was the first-ever

The senior said she purchased a total of 21 copies, one being the first print of her book she kept for herself, and the others to distribute among her relatives, best friends and some teachers. As the author, Park said she received a discount as royalties were excluded from the total cost, meaning she would pay \$12.41 per copy.

book, they will need to go to the Barnes and The senior said she was able to finish her Noble website and do a search for the title, and it can be purchased after taxes for \$13.06, excluding shipping fees.

> Published on Aug. 7 in hardback and in 114 pages, Park covers topics including her daily life, school and art.

Many of the recipients Park gifted her book to expressed pride and admiration, some recognizing the rarity of her accomplishment.

"I have had a couple [students] who have published poetry books and other things before, but it's a very select and small number," said English teacher Thomas Butler, one of the recipients of her book and also a self-publisher via Amazon. "I think [Park] has a great visual eye with her language, so she captures mood very well [in her poems]."

Park's friends were also impressed.

"I'm so amazed that Binny was able to juggle work, school, college applications, her other responsibilities and be able to publish her own book during high school." said Arum Han, another person whom Park gave the

Park, who's also among the record 39 valedictorians for the Class of 2024, said she plans to attend Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences this fall with an undecided

And what about a second book project? A sequel to Preserved in Pavement?

"For now, I think I kind of 'out-poetryed' For those interested in purchasing her myself for a year or two," she said.



Blogger flips the script and brings new voices online

STORY BY LAUREN KANG

hen-junior Mei-Ling Leal recalled she couldn't believe it was real.

It seemed like a dream a year ago, but here she was about to enter the photo pit — every photographer's dream spot in front of the barricades — to review singer-songwriter Nessa Barrett's concert for her blog, The M Collective.

The Barrett review is one of many opportunities her blogs have brought her.

Hoping to create a space where younger generations can share their voice, senior Leal created her blogs, The M Collective and Feed the Dreams.

Before starting this venture, Leal said she realized the entertainment field lacked Gen-Z voices as reporters on TV and online platforms were generally older.

"There are not really much people our age [writing reviews]," she said. "It's like, "Why are old people reviewing shows that are meant for the younger generation?""

Though The M Collective was an idea she created as a sophomore, she turned it into reality after talking to then-senior Charlize Seh, an aspiring content creator she met in her Dance 3 class.

"I think it was the fact that blogs aren't really used as much with teens, so I started researching other bloggers and gaining inspiration from that," Leal said.

Inspired by the impact music had on her and her love for entertainment, specifically in Los Angeles, the then-16-year-old Leal started The M Collective in May 2022 to bring a fresh perspective to the field.

As for her blog's name, Leal said she initially chose "Mei's Corner." Around October 2022, she opted to rename it, as she wanted it to serve as a platform for teamwork and collaboration.

GROWING HER PLATFORM

One of her bigger opportunities came when she met Joshua Bassett, an actor who starred in the hit Disney+ show, "High

BLOGGING 101

THE M COLLECTIVE

- 2021: Idea for blog created
- May 2022: Blog published as "Mei's Corner"
- October 2022: Website renamed to "The M Collective"
- June 2023: Leal covers actor Joshua Bassett's sister Ashley Bassett's bakery

FEED THE DREAMS

August 2023: Feed the Dreams created School Musical: The Musical: The Series."

Leal said she saw a TikTok video on June 15, 2023, of Bassett promoting a meet and greet at Sweet Squares, a dessert shop in Costa Mesa owned by his sister.

Leal said she then messaged Ashley Bassett, expressing interest in attending the event on June 16, 2023, and received a response providing her with a press contact to coordinate with.

Though Joshua Bassett didn't know about her blog before, Leal said he showed excitement for what she was doing.

"We discussed how I started my blog and my experience covering the event and took a picture together," she said.

After writing about Ashley Bassett's shop, the senior said she started covering more concerts and different celebrities. While writing about different events, Leal said she networked while meeting other photographers and reviewers.

"I asked them for advice because this is something I want to pursue during college," said the senior, who takes pictures with a Canon EOS Rebel T7. "Especially the girl photographers, they took me under their wing and treated me as a little sister."

Though she doesn't make money from her blog yet, Leal said she's in the process of getting her site monetized; by summer, she said she hopes to start earning money and expand.

Leal's Advanced Placement English Language and Composition teacher, Greg Brown, has shown support for her website. The senior said she first shared her blog with him as a junior and continued to discuss her articles with him as a senior.

"I think it's great that a student can get involved in something like that outside of themselves and not just doing something for maybe college credit, but doing something that I think is actually worthwhile for society," Brown said.

FEED THE DREAMS

Alongside senior Radiyah Ahmed, Leal also founded in August 2023 Feed the Dreams, an organization in which guests share personal accounts of conflicts in their home countries, like Palestine or Israel, journey through politics, or any informative or inspiring narratives. These experiences are then written in blog posts on the website.

"Human rights is something that I have always been very interested in and passionate about, but I didn't really know where to start," she said.

It wasn't until she started talking to Ahmed in August 2023 about a three-week summer program in San Diego where Americans, Israelis and Palestinians could unite and discuss solutions for peace between Israel and Palestine that she began getting involved in her passion. Since then, Leal said she asked Ahmed if she would like to start a humanitarian organization.

"You always hear an adult's point of view, but never really about what someone our age is going through," she said.

Leal and Ahmed came up with the blog's name while discussing the importance of nourishing the younger generations' minds by sharing stories and dreams from others with them.

The M Collective blogger said she wishes to continue Feed the Dreams and expand by building up the platform to raise money for certain causes.

Though she plans to major in biotechnology or chemistry, she said she still hopes to continue her online posts in college.

"Once I have my personal schedules figured out due to college and extracurriculars, I hope to blog more and bring more people to work on The M Collective with me," Leal said.

oachella. Growing up, senior Bhajneek Anand said he dancers in the group, the senior said. knew little of this annual music concert venue held since 1999 in Indio, Riverside County.

But all of that changed for Anand last year in April.

A junior at the time, he performed on one of Coachella Valley Anand said. Music and Arts Festival's stages on April 15 and 22.

wasn't the highlight I was looking forward to," the senior said.

Anand said he and his younger brother, then-freshman Manveer, were part of a group of 20 hand-picked dancers from the dance academy, Got Bhangra. The team had the opportunity as **THE DAY OF THE HISTORIC MOMENT** background dancers to join Indian singer and songwriter Diljit Dosanjh on the Sahara stage on those two April Saturdays.

Known as a popular singer and actor from India, Dosanjh became the first Indian musician to perform at Coachella, making the Anand brothers a part of a historic event for their culture.

"My mom and my dad are both into Diljit, and when I was younger I'd listen to his songs," Bhajneek Anand said. "He's like the Drake of our community."

HOW DID IT ALL START?

Based in Southern California, the Anand brothers' dance academy performs bhangra, a folk dance from Punjab, a region in northern India. Tradi-

consists of various kicks, leaps and body movemnts, according to Britannica.com.

The academy performed with Dosanjh at his Los Angeles concert the year before on July 27, Bhajneek Anand said. In the beginning of March 2023, the connection compelled the artist to reach out to Got Bhangra's manager, who then picked out the best

To his disbelief, the older Anand brother said he and Manveer Anand ended up being among the selected dancers.

"I kind of thought it was a joke, and then I was really hyped," Bhajneek

After the artist finalized his team, the chosen dancers had 20-30 days to "There were a lot of celebrities that we got to see, but that choreograph and practice, he said. The performers met twice weekly, practicing without Dosanjh for two-three hours to prepare for Coachella. The day before their first show, the dancers met for one final practice.

As the music started, Dosanjh stepped onto the front of the stage and the senior and his fellow dancers started moving to the beat. In all, they performed 10 out of 20 of Dosanjh's songs, including "G.O.A.T," "Clash," "Lemonade," "Peaches," "Vibe" and "Patiala Peg."

"The environment was very exhilarating and very exciting," Bhajneek

Anand said. "It was crazy — a completely different atmosphere because you would see people of all different races and cultures and backgrounds together listening to a very unique type of music."

The audience at Coachella also participated in the historic event, as it experienced what the Anand brothers' culture was like.

"[The crowd's response] made me feel proud of what I was showcasing onstage and

tionally performed by farmers during harvest season, the dance proud to put our culture onstage for everyone to see," the sophomore said.

MORE DANCING POST-COACHELLA

The older Anand brother said he has continued to pursue dance, competing with different dance teams and even appearing as a backup dancer for Dosanjh's music video, "Case," which premiered on YouTube Oct. 4.

Despite such recent success, the older Anand brother said he doesn't plan to make a living out of it. Instead, it will remain as a hobby, as he wants to pursue a career related to business.

As of May 11, the senior said he hasn't committed to any colleges yet, though he's considering studying economics at the University of California, Davis.

The dancer said he's interested in making his culture more wellknown and that the two Coachella performances were ways to let people know who he is and where he's from. His inspiration to keep dancing comes from a desire for others to learn about his culture.

"A lot of people don't know what Punjabi culture is, or who Punjabis are," Bhajneek Anand said. "Dancing keeps me tight with my culture, my language and my heritage."

> Senior dancer shares experience on stage with his brother for California's annual music festival

Dancing keeps me tight with my cul-

ture. my language and my heritage.

- Jenior Bhajneek Anand

ING DUO: Senior Bhajneek Anand (right) poses next to his brother sophomore Manveer Anand on April 22, 2023, in Indio, California, for the second week of Coachella 2023.

ISSION FRO



Video production director of weekly, pre-recorded news video reflects on her four-year experience at the helm

STORY BY ANGELINA JEONG

ntering the Art of Video class, then-junior Melusine Tenkoff didn't know these next two years of her life would play the biggest role in determining her future career.

Though she said she joined the class after her counselor, Tracey Falleta, recommended it to fulfill her art credit, it led to shaping not only her memorable experiences, but also her future college major.

"From live streaming sports games and board meetings to filming meaningful narratives and directing the 'Sunny Side Up' show, the excitement and novelty of being in a course with so much diversity to its content kept me wanting to achieve more," Tenkoff said.

During her first year in Art of Video as a junior, Tenkoff said she made her way to production assistant by displaying her passion through actively learning and working alongside director then-senior Grace Spero and video production teacher Daniel Flores.

"My first impression of Mel was that she wanted to learn as much as she could, but she also made sure to balance all her Advanced Placement classes in addition to our video production course," Flores said.

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, she said she applied to be director because she wanted to be the leader of the team.

"[The application process] included a lot of advocating for myself, being an effective help and taking initiative throughout the year to gain the trust from the former team and director," the senior said.

By the end of Tenkoff's junior year, Spero notified her in person that she was the new director.

Aside from weekly "Sunny Side Up" videos, the director said the biggest project she worked on was the Student Film Showcase, which took four months to plan, on April 6.

The team contacted Bob Buchi, the president of Paramount Pictures, in January to invite him as the keynote speaker.

"We invited Mr. Buchi because we knew the scope of production

and managerial arts has more to it than the creative process," Tenkoff said. "We thought his advice would be able to resonate with our stu-

In light of all the accomplishments she achieved during her two years in the video production program, Tenkoff was nominated by the Regional Occupational Program [ROP] Board of Trustee members as an Orange County Artist of the Year on March 17, and awarded the Fullerton Joint Union High School District ROP Student of the Year.

"It is such a surreal experience going from barely knowing anything about film and television to getting awarded all these amazing things for doing something that I love," she said. "Whether it be my teacher, Mr. Flores, my best friend Ishnaa or the production team who make everything happen, they have all been with me every step of the way."

Her final project was the Lip Dub, on April 26, which was her senior project aimed for Youtube posting during graduation week.

Sports anchor and sports video editor senior Nathan Rauen said Tenkoff's approach to projects keeps everyone on track in a coordinated manner.

"She takes charge and gets things done," Rauen said.

The senior plans to attend the University of Miami, where she was granted the Ronald A. Hammon scholarship and Canes Achievement Award. She said she aims to be a producer and director by double majoring in motion picture production and businesses and actuarial mathematics.

"I would like to leave a legacy of optimism and belief, while not forgetting where our class came from and the hard work that we put in to make it as amazing and renowned as it is," Tenkoff said. "And people who will join this program, I want to remind them that a filmmaker's job is to ignite the spark of imagination in others and leave a lasting impact that transcends the screen."

IMAGE USE

BHAJNEE

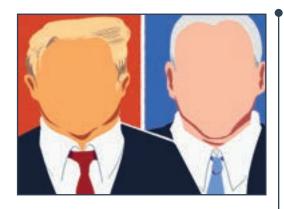
YEAR IN REVIEW

The Accolade Editorial Board selected the following eight events as important moments representative of the 2023-2024 school year



AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned affirmative action, ending the practice of race-conscious admissions across the country. The Class of 2024 is the first to be affected by the ruling during the 2023-2024 college admissions cycle.



CALIFORNIA PRIMARIES

The California presidential primary election took place on March 5. For numerous seniors, this marked the first election they were eligible to cast a vote in. **GRADUATION**

On May 30, the Class of 2024 will bid farewell at its commencement ceremony at the Fullerton Union High School Stadium at 2 p.m.



OCT 2023 NOV DEC JAN 2024 FEB MARCI

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

On Oct. 7, Hamas killed 1,200 Israeli civilians and held hostage nearly 250 Jewish and U.S. citizens in Gaza.



NETWORK OUTAGE

On Nov. 14, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District suffered a two-day internet outage. Two months later in January, district officials confirmed it to be the result of a ransomware attack.

FAFSA DELAYED

Changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and continued technical difficulties led to delays in seniors finding out how much government support they'll receive for their college tuition.



COLLEGE DECISIONS

Most higher education institutions across the country started rolling out their regular decision admissions results via email or the school's respective application portal.



On April 3, the Associated Student Body hosted prom at the Aquarium of the Pacific.



PROM KING

"I think it made my high school experience very unique because there's only one person that can get prom king."

- senior Nathan Leopoldo



PROM QUEEN

"It was definitely like the movies; I got to fully experience the real teenage life"

- senior Seannea Arceo

*Read full stories on the king and queen on shhsaccolade.com
COMPILED BY KYUWON HAN & CAROLINE SHIN

ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB KIM PHOTOS BY NOAH LEE

18 COVER STORY MAY 2024 19





The Accolade celebrates, gets to know Sunny Hills' 39 valedictorians - more than double the number recognized last year



Jaimie Chun Northwestern journalism What's your career path? Foreign correspondent. I want to contribute to post-conflict development in disputed territories.



• Tiffany Elnitiarta New York University media, culture & communications What are you most excited about for college? Becoming more independent.



UCLA chemistry Mr. Colomac because of how be in the class.



• Radiyah Ahmed UC San Diego international business What advice do you have for underclassmen? Have good time management and prioritize harder classes.



 Noah Bak **UCLA** psychobiology What was the hardest class you took in high school and why? AP Biology; understanding the concepts was quite challenging.



 Brandon Flores Who is your favorite teacher? much of an expert he seemed to



• Sarah Aurelio USC communications What was your favorite class in high school and why? Dance 3 or IB Art because it's a relief from all the academic work.



 Nakul Bhatt UCLA political science What will you miss the most about Sunny Hills? I will miss the memories I've created with my friends in ASB.



 Rachel Haan New Mexico State University chemical engineering Who was your biggest supporter throughout high school? My parents; they're always willing to help me when I'm stuck.

Congratulations 2024 TOP量GLA

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Arum Han Amherst College biology Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I see myself studying to become a doctor.



Lex Hou UC San Diego data science What is your proudest achievement in school? My baseball career because I got offers to play in college.



UCLA business economics What do you look forward to this summer? A family trip to Hawaii and senior trip with my friends.



 Karen Huang **UC Irvine** computer science What are some of your notable setbacks in high school? I would struggle through the workload of some AP courses.



Lindsey Hur USC global health What is your most memorable experience in high school? Senior prom; I spent time with my friends outside of school.



 Bella Jacobs USC business administration computer science Which teacher helped you the How did distance learning affect your high school journey? most during high school? Mr. Fenstermaker; he was my Learning online allowed me to ASB and IB History teacher. get good at programming.



Georgia Tech

 Sarah Kang University of Pennsylvania nursing What is your biggest regret in high school? Not exploring my future career enough.



 Ashley Kim UCLA chemistry What would you tell your freshman self? Don't stress and overthink too much.



 Susie Kim Yeavit Kim **UCLA** University of Pennsylvania computer science nursing What are you most excited for What are some leadership roles in college? you had? I'd like to fill my schedule with I founded Care Club and an courses that really excite me. organization about cancer.



Zoe Kim UCLA art history What class threatened your valedictorian status? Ms. [Mariam] Tan's AP Calc AB class; it dropped down to 89 %.



Brandon Koh **UC Irvine** business What is the most rewarding aspect of being a valedictorian? Being able to reflect on my hard work during high school.



 Swapnil Krishnan Katie Larson UC Santa Barbara Georgia Tech actuarial science aerospace engineering What are some of your career What was your favorite class in high school? aspirations? I want to make connections and IB Math; Mrs. Bueno was a really open windows through business. fun teacher.



 Jayden Lee **UCLA** pre-mathematics Who was a mentor who helped Me, myself and I; I like planning my own path.



• Junhee Lee **UC Irvine** chemistry What is a study tip you would give to underclassmen? Be flexible based on how much material you have to study.



 Madison Lee Kasey Lee University of Pennsylvania **UC Irvine** political science biological sciences What does it mean to be named What is one quote that you live valedictorian? by? It's recognition of the immense "Work hard and play hard." hard work I put into my grades.



Patrick Lee **UC Irvine** economics What is you favorite movie and why? "Interstellar" because I really enjoyed the visuals.



 Cameron Loh UCLA buisness economics What extracurricular complemented your success? I'm in the baseball program; that's my main thing.



Dylan Loh **UCLA** business and finance What subject was easy for you but hard for others? Macroeconomics; it was a pretty easy course for me.



 Justin Luc **UCLA** computer engineering How did you discover what to major in? I really enjoyed my computer science classes in middle school.



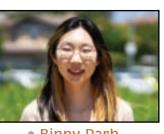
 Mary Nguyen **UC Irvine** biology What extracurricular did you struggle to balance? Cross country; we had practice every day after school.



Sue Oh Barnard College political science What did you sacrifice to maintain your grades? I sacrificed my sleep by taking zero period.



 Aiden Park UC Berkeley business What will you miss about Sunny Hills? It was having small talks with Mrs. Kim in Room 83.



Binny Park Cornell University chemistry and english How did surrounding family and friends support you? They've encouraged me to write my book and create clubs.



UC Irvine chemical engineering Who is one teacher you look up to? Mr. Colomac; I liked how he was open to explain complex ideas.



• Ryder Robbins UC Irvine public health What is one advice you would give to underclassmen? When you have to review for a subject, divide it out over the days.



Keiley Shea Rice University environmental engineering What is one advice you would give to your freshman self? I would tell myself to stop procrastinating.



Lauren Sung Smith College economics What's one moment you'd like I want to experience the thrill of being a freshman again.



Gerald Han • Kyuwon Han Emily KimJared Kim Evina Lee Emily Lee Isaac Lee

Darin Lee Yena Oh Sua Lee Elise Pak Caroline Shin Jiseong YooFaith Jung

Nathan Lee
 Claire Lee

22 OUTLOOK

JK LAW USA

Attorney Jong K. Lee

Practice Area:

- ✓ Estate Planning
- Civil Litigation
- ✓ Living Trust
- ✓ Inheritance of Korean Asset



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ALL-COUNTY ATHLETES

OC Register recognizes 3 SH athletes

Isaac Morales (boys soccer) Striker and central midfielder

Notable stats (junior and senior years combined): Scored 37 goals, team captain

Q: What will you miss most about your sport or commu-

A: Probably being able to make it to the division finals [this season] with my team was definitely a highlight in my career. Even though we lost, the experience I had was fun.

COMPILED BY NATHAN LEE



IMAGE USED WITH PERSMISSION FROM ISAAC MORALES

BLOCKING OUT: Bertsch saves a shot at an away game at Troy High School against the Buena Park Coyotes on Jan. 17.

IMAGE USED WITH PERSMISSION FROM SIENNA BERTSCH

Sienna Bertsch (girls waterpolo) Goalie and field player

Notable stats (junior and senior years combined): 449 blocks **Q**: How do you think being on the water polo team helped you grow as a person?

A: I think being in water polo was a great experience for me. It definitely helped me become more of a leader and more outspoken. It also gave me more opportunities like college coaches emailing me official visits and made my personality grow a lot.

COMPILED BY KEVIN LEE

Hannah Reekstin (girls waterpolo) **Co-Captain & Utility Attacker**

Notable stats (junior and senior years combined): Scored 139 goals, Freeway League co-MVP [2023], Junior Olympics third and seventh for 18 & under in the Classic Division. **Q.** Who and what helped you the most through water

A. "My coach. Just through his encouraging words he's always there showing up. Also my dad, who ran our weight room stuff. It's nice to know he's there to help me through living my dream."

COMPILED BY NATASHA NIAZI



IMAGE USED WITH PERSMISSION FROM HANNAH REEKSTIN

74 OUTLOOK MAY 2024 **25**

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To read the full version of these senior columns, visit shhsaccolade.com

Looking forward, looking back

For someone who's lived a few blocks away from Sunny Hills her entire life, The Accolade was a breath of fresh air because it took me to countless places, literally and metaphorically. I often find myself marking periods of my high school experience with which story I wrote at that time and which people I met because of it.

For that, I'll always compare journalism to my passport — an extension of myself. From Zooming with students in Ukraine to capture their stories in a war-torn country to depicting unique cultural trends to representing marginalized voices on campus, my assignments never failed to affect me in a deep and personal way.

And Accolade has been the home of these experiences. I'm so grateful to have bonded with a genuine group of individuals over late night and to have played a big role in starting the publication of this year's specialty magazines — The Accolade was a place I loved enough to try to change.

With every print paper, stacked up in the red stand at the back of Room 138, I became increasingly attached to Accolade's missions and the value of journalism. Now, I find myself heading to Northwestern majoring in journalism and

international studies. In yet another way, I thank

Accolade for giving me the thing that keeps me going — a career I'm excited to pursue.

I still can't wrap my head around the fact that I'll be graduating, let alone that this will be my last byline for *The Accolade*. But I do know my time in this newsroom has been incredibly transformative, and I will forever treasure the memories this program has given me.





STORY BY IRENE SHEEN

I spent my entire childhood convinced that I would chart the fabled New York Times Best Seller list.

Raised in a home where the thick binding of books prodded from every corner, I found solace in words and texts.

Naturally, my early exposure to literature piqued my keen interest in writing. Exploring the art of storytelling as a creative pastime and an academic endeavor for

ournalism empowered me

many years, I nurtured a dream of becoming contributing to our school's publication. an author.

In a high school setting, my interest in writing translated to my participation in The Accolade. Though the contents were plagued by jargon unfamiliar in my world of sci-fi novels and romance literature, journalism gave me the means to view the world from a nuanced standpoint, hence, immersing me in the political, social and economic landscapes that now shape my passions.

Whether it be overseeing a thought-provoking Spotlight theme on the 2023 TikTok congressional hearings or pursuing an article on college legacy admissions amid the ban on affirmative action, journalism granted me avenue. the keys to becoming an advocate.

Although as a political science major I don't intend to pursue a career directly related to jourmalism, I by no means regret

From this four-year-long experience I gained valuable critical thinking skills and enhanced writing abilities, but above all, a passion for activism. There exists a valuable and irreplaceable intersection between storytelling and advocacy and as a high schooler, I have proudly and successfully explored that

MAY 2024 **77 26** OP-ED

SHAPING MY GOALS

STORY BY SUSIE KIM

Goals for Sunny Hills High School: I hope to become valedictorian by the end of my high school year.

I plan to be on the Science Olympiad team for all four years of high school and possibly even team captain



These three goals were set in my English 1 Honors project with Mr. Li.

back, I was

about these goals as a naive freshman entering high school.

I did, in fact, become a valedictorian and Science Olympiad team captain by my senior year, though they weren't as easy to accomplish as they seemed.

I applaud myself for taking the time to fully understand concepts over the course of the year rather than cramming the material a few nights before.

Moreover, the work I put in as vice captain of the Science Olympiad team during my sophomore and junior years helped to work my way up as captain this year.

Just like that, I had accomplished the first two goals I wrote for myself. The last came in a different form, but is more fulfilling than what I originally expected.

Though I didn't end up becoming the editor-in-chief of The Accolade, I have found my place as the web edi-

tor-in-chief instead.

ILLUSTRATION BY IRIS KIM



California All-Stars

Website at the Southern California Journalism Education Association's Student Media Contest and a Silver Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association surpassed my original expectations.

I'm proud to graduate after having written stories that have personally impacted my experience at Sunny Hills.

With my senior year coming to an end, I'm pleased to acknowledge that I've fulfilled my vision of the perfect high school journey.

THRIVING IN AWKWARDNESS

STORY BY STACY KIM

Being awkward has always been an inherent part of me.

Though awkwardness might seem like a social drawback, it's been my greatest

strength. All clumsiness aside, this trait of mine has given me the ability to read the room and allowed me to observe subtle cues —

tifying when others felt positive or discomfort. Whether it's a raised eyebrow or a slight flinch of the mouth, I became an unintentional social detective.

Whether volunteering at refugee camps, visiting children's hospitals to teach psychology, facilitating my own Psychology Mentoring Club, or conducting interviews for The Accolade, I connected with peers by relating to them through my own awkwardness.

Some might see this as a social obstacle, but it helped me forge meaningful connections. While volunteering at refugee camps, I learned that it wasn't just about assisting; it was a profound lesson in empathy

through our diverse backgrounds. I used my talent to help bring out their

personalities despite their life adversities witnessing kids find joy with my help. Or when leading staff writers in The Accolade, I created a relatable enviornment where

judgment. At the center, I discovered that we all shared the common feeling of uncertainty and awkwardness. Each interaction transformed my mindset from constantly worrying about judgment to seeking solutions.

everyone can embrace their mistakes without

So, it turns out that my greatest weakness turned out to become my most valuable asset.

THE ACCOLADE MADE A LASTING IMPACT

STORY BY HANNAH LEE

Despite being a senior, I never valued the term "last" very much. I never gave a second thought to my last high school football game or last prom. I was just ready to graduate.

But writing my last article for *The Accolade* proves to be a different story. Even

condense the chaotic, yet enriching past four years of my life into a simple 250-word

My time within our student-led high school publication gave me the privilege to uphold objectivity, confront societal taboos and advocate for social change. The newsroom connected me to some of the most diligent and intelligent people I know.

When reminiscing about high school, I won't think about any bad test scores, failed friendships or missed opportunities. Instead, I'll relive the experience of discovering new interests, representing my school in regional competitions and spending the weekend with my best friends. I'm proud to say that the past four years of my life were full of growth, passion and love.

High school has been a blend of bitter and sweet, and its fading traces remind me that my life isn't measured by my obstacles ILLUSTRATION BY ELISA ARIAS but rather the

relationships I nurture, the stories I share, and the causes I champion. Though this is my last piece for The Accolade, I doubt it will be the last of my writing career. Moving forward as a collegiate scholar, I envision myself continuing to challenge the status quo.



BECOMING THE GIRL I ONCE WAS

STORY BY DAREEN HAGEKHALIL

Arizona? Eleven electoral votes. Delaware? Three. Georgia? Sixteen.

I've memorized the Electoral College map of the United States since elementary school. I've always felt that politics chose me, as a Palestinian-American whose existence is

> As a kid. fident and well-spoken;

political.

perfect for politics.

I then became someone who trembles through presentations.

Two years in, I realized that I had spent the "best years" of my life focused on getting through tomorrow.

That's why I joined Journalism 1 [J1], to contribute to something bigger than me.

My first interview as a J1 student was overshadowed by my shaky voice.

However, I pushed through; every interview and email to a teacher to set up a time for that interview got easier.

> My confidence in interviews also grew in my daily interactions.

As a Palestinian-American, I shared my opinions on recent events through social media and protested, something pre-Accolade Dareen wouldn't be comfortable doing.

Every small thing got me one step closer to ILLUSTRATION BY **ELISA ARIAS** becoming more

confident in all aspects of my life.

I wrote several articles while on staff, my favorites being opinion stories. I expanded my knowledge and developed a strong writing voice with every story.

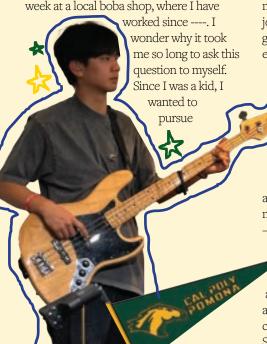
I was grateful to win a Best of SNO award for an article, showing how far I had I thank *The Accolade* for helping me redis-I was always destined to be.



28 OP-ED MAY 2024 75 TASTING MY FUTURE

STORY BY JIWOO HAN

"Welcome! What would you like?" This phrase escapes from my mouth every week at a local boba shop, where I have



many different careers and goals: a singer, an actor, a chef and even a sports journalist.

Most recently, the latter had been my most desirable outcome, which led me to join journalism my freshman year. Since, my goal was to oversee the sports section as an editor and strengthen its quality.

Finally, in my junior year, I went home on a Friday night with the staff list with my name next to the title "Sports editor," in my hand. All this to say, I fought hard to achieve this long-term goal I had. But this dream came to a close shortly after.

Although sports journalism was exhilarating, it was my father who revealed to me what I found the greatest joy in doing — cooking. Through the opportunities of watching him cook professionally, managing multiple restaurants,

my passion has continued to grow and develop. That is why I spent this year attending a Regional Occupational Program class two nights a week at Yorba Linda High School, cooking away with other students. For the next four years, I will pursue a degree



in hospitality management, specifically in the restaurant and food service industry at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Through my reporting, cooking, playing the bass guitar and spending time with my friends, I learned, and am still learning, about the enjoyable parts of life I've prevented myself from exploring. Now if I ask myself, "What would I like?" I could answer confidently: "Anything that brings genuine joy and satisfaction to me and those around me."

Turning crisis into opportunity

STORY BY AIDEN PARK

Despite my two brothers having been Accoladians, I refused to continue the leg-

acy in an attempt to take a different path. I believed to have been a confident writer before entering high school, but it only took me so long to drop to a C-student in English. After barely surviving and earning A's on every other subject, I knew fate was inevitable unless I made a change.

Accepting reality and the need for improvement., I enrolled in the Journalism 1 class to strengthen my basics of writing and build my confidence. In my sophomore year when my journalism teacher offered me the opportunity to compete in the Orange County write-offs, I took upon myself to confront my biggest fear. I doubted myself every step of my writing during the competition, but I told myself to trust my writing voice, even if I am a C-student in writing classes.

Weeks later, I heard back that I placed fourth and advanced to the state level competition. I became the Arts & Entertainment editor my junior year. With this momentum, I recieved the position of Opinion editor of The Accolade as a senior and happily helped younger reporters confidently write their stories.

Revisiting my love for art



STORY BY IRIS KIM

Ever since I was a little girl, I always found myself gravitating towards the pictures in the Korean books my mom would read to me.

Some stories were illustrated with clay animals, while others were portrayed by rippedup pieces of paper, beautifully arranged to bring any child's imagination to life. From there, my appreciation for art fully bloomed during the peak of my adolescence.

As I grew up with the internet, I used that to my advantage, frequently surfing YouTube or Safari for DIY pipe cleaner bouquet videos, paper tiara guides or Rainbow Loom tutorials to follow. But a single click on a Reddit link dubbed, "Why art is the most useless caree,r" changed the way I treated my passion from

As I transitioned into middle school, I tried redirecting my interests to more "practical" subjects, such as automobile designing or pathology — anything to get that nagging post on Reddit out of my head. But as much as I tried to distance myself from art, I always found myself reaching for the paintbrush, time and time again.

Joining *The Accolade* was definitely not

something I expected would solidify my love for art. But after seeing my ad design plastered on the windows of a restaurant and my art on the back of staff hoodie, I never felt more appreciated for my talents than ever. Thank you Mr. Li, and everyone on stafffor reawakening that dormant passion in



Leaving IB regrets behind



Over these past four years, people And honestly, I wasn't cut out for the IB life. The amount of writing involved was unprecedented, and thanks to IB, I've discovered that I hate writing.

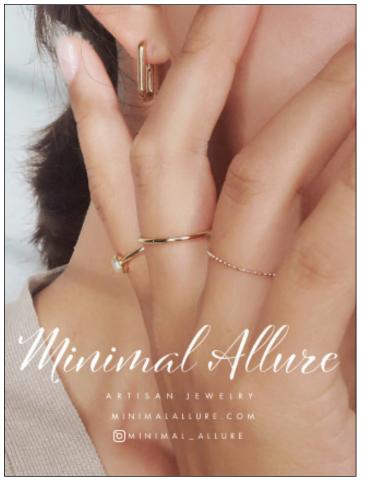
> However, my answer as I approach graduation is, and will remain, no. If given the chance to do it all over again, I would.

I've pondered the concept of equality, thought about bananas, and contemplated how aesthetics give life meaning- subjects that genuinely interest me and continue to occupy my thoughts daily. As challenging as IB was, the friends I've made, the classes I've taken, and the teachers I've had the pleasure of learning under have all made the experience worth it.

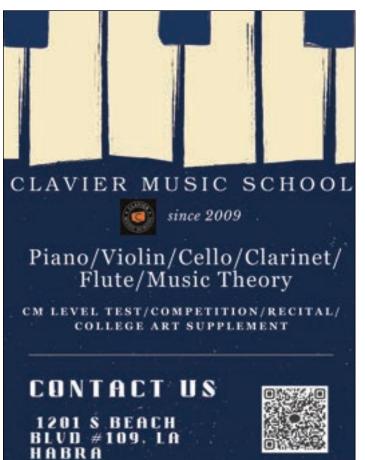
Al fin y al cabo, while starting out may have felt akin to traversing through hell, the memories I've made with IB are ones I cannot and do not wish to forget or regret.

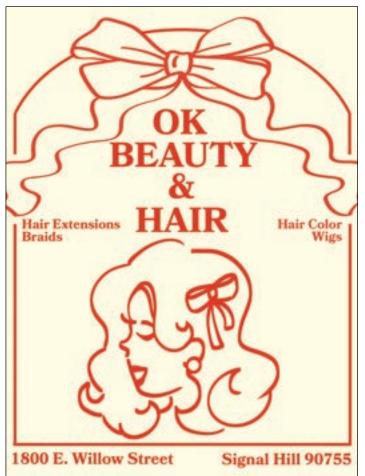














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STAFF EDITORIAL

LOOKING OUT

The Accolade Editorial Board unanimously thanks the administration for keeping journalism alive at Sunny Hills despite the threats posed to scholastic journalism across various campuses.

arlier this year, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District's [FJUHSD] board of trustees approved Sunny Hills' request to create an Advanced Journalism honors class starting in the 2024-2025 school year. We are grateful to our journalism adviser, Tommy Li, and principal Craig Weinreich for going through the bureaucratic process to get this option approved though we have some concerns about the landscape of scholastic journalism throughout the district.

Giving us honors credit shows school and district officials' recognition of the countless hours that many of The Accolade staff — especially those serving in an editor role — spend interviewing sources, editing and revising stories and designing pages for the print and online products. Many of our staff have to sacrifice our off-campus time — break, lunch and after school — to accomplish Los Angeles *Times*-quality work — a standard that our adviser expects in all we do.

Besides setting aside much of our time, many in the past have sacrificed our weighted GPA upon enrolling in the Advanced Journalism class. That's the main reason why some of our peers have over the years avoided taking the Journalism 1 class, a prerequisite for many before being eligible to apply for *The Accolade* staff.

While this new option definitely benefits the journalism program, we feel it is long overdue. The move comes a year after the trustees had approved honors credit for the yearbook and video production classes here. So, to then deny honors credit for Advanced Journalism would obviously show favor toward these other programs.

However, once every elective becomes an honors-level class, everyone will be back on equal footing. We can only hope that this will never come to pass.

The introductory elective remains a separate period from the Advanced Journalism class. That's not the case at Troy, Buena Park or Fullerton Union high schools — as of this school year, La Habra and Sonora reportedly do not have an active journalism program.

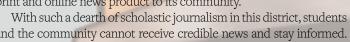
PRESS

ILLUSTRATION BY JOANNA JOO

For the past several years, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunny Hills remains the only campus in the FJUHSD that provides a print and online news product to its community.

and the community cannot receive credible news and stay informed. Students especially have already resorted to social media for their news, and many believe that everything posted on those platforms must be true, not being able to discern truth from rumors.

The Accolade Editorial Board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2023-2024 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to dis-



cuss and write about, please send an email to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.



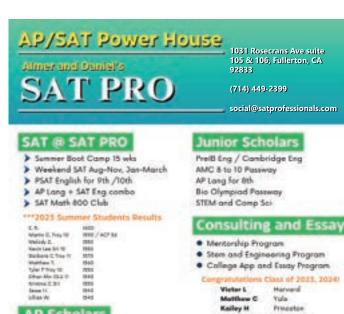
Acrylic Nails . Gel Dipping Powder Gel Mani & Pedi • Waxing • Facial Eyelash Extension . Permanent Make up Microblading Eyebrows

Rit≈ Nails Spa & Permanent Make up

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AP Scholars AP Full Year

AP Test Prep Summer AP's 8 wks 5 wks Spring Boot Camp

9th AP World HUG AP CSP

F/S 30-86 wks Spring 15 wks

10th AP Euro, Psych, Chem, Precalc AP Lit, AP Stort AP Coll 8C

John Hopkins STEM + CS Program

Ardyino Hands-on **ACSL Junior Division** Game Development Using Python Programming Drave with Python

Maker Program (with a sylvametry)



CLACADEMY



Director: Sally Kim **CL Academy Fullerton** 2242 Rosecrans Ave. Fullerton, CA 92833

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Town" Impact article:

The article was interesting and trustworthy with specific data of how fast cyber-attacking is increasing.

visual graph of how students feel about their own internet security.

Also, I think it would be happen. interesting to many other stulate our experience of current district network instability is-

I think this article is useful for understanding the concept of cyber gangs.

It also gave me some sense of need for online security and

— Seungwoo Woo, junior ticle very engaging.

Reader response to the March 23 "Can a Pikachu sticker violate safety codes?" Impact article:

this story.

When I was reading it, I could imagine the Pikachu sticker shining on the fire alarm, but I also understand of a deal. how this could be a safety hazard.

is coming from with the alarm; more. it is deafening.

The story conveys Mr. Alarcon's job nicely, as well as the The Accolade welcomes Pikachu sticker, the tape over the alarm and the fire extinguishers.

— Kalani Lodrigueza, sophomore hs@gmail.com

Reader response to the Reader response to the March 23 "New Gang In March 23 "What Lies Beneath" cover story:

I really enjoyed reading this article because I think it's really interesting and important to know how many earth-It also provides a sort-of quakes happen in SoCal that we don't notice.

> I really like learning about how earthquakes form and

To know Sunny Hills lies dents too, in that we can re- on the Coyote Hills segment, which is part of the 25 o mile long fault system, is very interesting to know.

— Isabella Egan, sophomore

Reader response to the March 23 "Tagged" Outlook

I found the Q&A Tagged ar-

It is interesting because it holds many things about graffiti that I did not know about.

This article shows that the consequences of graffiti can I really enjoyed reading vary from a \$400 fine to a fel-

Usually, graffiti is a very slept on issue and many people think that it is not that big

However, this article shows that graffiti is very important I apprehend where Ms. Tan and should be talked about

- Madden Leasau, sophomore

signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theaccoladesh-

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MAY 2024 **35 34** OP-ED



ACCOLADE SENIORS 2024

running time 2-4 YEARS

genre THRILLER COMEDY ADVENTURE

directed by TOMMY LI

produced by ACCOLADE STAFF

starring 1st row: Hannah Lee Susie kim jaimie Chun Irene Sheen 2nd row: Jina han Iris kim Stacy kim aiden park 3rd row: Jacob kim jiwoo han dareen hagekhalil asaph li