

# The Poly Optimist

## Special Senior Edition

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

JUNE 2010

### Politics '10 EDITORIAL Hope, Change, and The DREAM

By Regemralph Corpuz  
Correspondant

In the United States, there is a significant amount of undocumented students graduating from high school.

The LA times in 2007 states, "Each year across the nation, 50,000 to 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school after having spent at least five years in this country." At least 20,000 of them live in California.

Many of these students aspire to pursue further education in universities, regardless of the inability to financially afford such education. Moreover, these undocumented students are unable to receive jobs or any other opportunities that are open to legal citizens.

A pending solution for undocumented students is the DREAM (The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) Act. The DREAM Act is an important piece of legislation that would assist undocumented students to undergo the process of naturalization - a process that would help undocumented civilians become legal citizens of the United States.

The DREAM Act is a bipartisan legislation that was composed by Utah Republican Senator Orin Hatch and Illinois Democrat Senator Richard Durbin. In this legislation, qualified undocumented students are able to receive a six-year conditional path to citizenship.

Some of the criterion requirements that the DREAM Act entails are for the undocumented students to have entered in the United States at ages 15 or under, have a sense of good moral character, and requires a completion of a college degree or two years of military service.

It is still uncertain as to when the DREAM Act will be ratified, if at all. But, as the Los Angeles times commented, "Financial aid and a path to citizenship is a sound and humane investment. If we provide up-front loans and grants to talented students seeking to escape generations of poverty, society will be paid back many times over."

## Protests Over French Program Cuts



Photo by Joel Hinojosa

**SIT-IN:** Students sit-in on the Polygon on June 8, as Georado Loera tries to address students.

By Joel Hinojosa  
and Angel Silva  
Staff Writers

Over 100 Poly students gathered at the Polygon after lunch Tuesday 8 to protest the cutting of the Poly French program.

"I got together with my second period and we started planning things," said Poly junior Hugo Arroyo, one of the main organizers of the protest. "We said 'let's do this.'"

Some students are frustrated that the French teacher is being laid off when there are a multitude of Spanish teachers.

"90% of the people here already know Spanish," said junior Breanna Ku a member of the main organizers.

People chanted and screamed while staff stood by and waited for a megaphone.

"I didn't think there would be many people," said Arroyo.

As soon as the megaphone was obtained, Mr. Loera spoke to students on options and also announced to students to leave the Polygon and go to their classes, despite murmurs asking who he was or what his title was.

"People were asking who is that, who is that?" said Nicholas Perez, another protest member.

The organization was conduct-

ed by text messages and verbally. The protest was promoted since the beginning of June.

"I couldn't have done it without everybody else," said Arroyo.

According to Loera, the cut of the French program was because of program downsizing.

"If it is really the budget cuts then why cut French?" said junior Nereida Verdin a member of protest organizers.

Loera also said, "that French, as a world language, is being phased out statewide."

Loera commented on the protesters, saying that protests are allowed, as long as it's not disruptive.

"Students have the right to free speech and the district has a policy stating that it's OK to protest as long as it's civil and not during class time," said Loera.

Loera is also looking at offering a French 2 equivalent through a community college or another qualified staff member.

[ See French, pg 6 ]

## A Touch of Security

### Eight new iPod Touch devices will aid campus security personnel.

By Karinina Cruz  
Staff Writer

Cutting class is getting more difficult. Poly security personnel are now using Apple iPod Touch devices to see where students should be.

"It's a new system of keeping track of behavioral and discipline referrals," said Poly Principal Gerardo Loera. "All supervising personnel will have contact information and classes of each student."

Administrators, deans and security personnel now have eight iPod Touch devices.

"We already have a student tracker system and the iPods will build on that," said Assistant Principal Dallas Blair. "The principal's idea is to use new technology, but it has a strict purpose, which is to identify students."

According to Blair, students who tend to skip classes are a consistent problem.

"Students going in and out of classes claim that they have no ID," said Blair. "With the iPods, we can determine who they are and if they need to be in school

or not."

Student information, including an identification photo, will be readily available to the security

[ See Security, pg 6 ]

## First Parrot At Georgetown

Senior Monica Vizconde is the first Parrot to attend the prestigious school.

By Karinina Cruz  
Staff Writer

Senior Monica Vizconde will attend Georgetown University this fall, the first Poly student to study at the prestigious East Coast school.

"Ever since I learned about Georgetown, I loved every aspect of the school," said Vizconde. "It's a small private school with many opportunities, such as internships, which is great especially for someone like me who is interested in the political arena."

Georgetown University is a four-year private university in Washington, DC. with a renowned faculty and distinguished programs in international relations, law, politics, business and medicine. Notable alumni include former United States President Bill Clinton and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.



Photo by Karinina Cruz

**GEORGETOWN GIRL:** Monica Vizconde will soon be the first Poly senior to attend Georgetown University.

"Many strong women, especially in the field of politics, such as Philippine President Gloria Maca-

[ See Georgetown, pg 4 ]



parrot  
up  
at  
State

See Page 6



address  
to the  
best

See Page 12



tech  
for  
grads

See Page 13







# Fond Farewells

“Be happy, healthy, and graduate from college!”

Mrs. Beilinson

Class of 2010:

“First and foremost, I want to thank the members of Senior Council for your commitment and consistency, weekly meetings, arriving early for events and the willingness you showed to your classmates to plan and organize activities for your wonderful class. Dawna, Alejandra, Consuelo, Armando, Freddy, Lorena, Leslie, Debbie and Yendi. You rose above all others to contribute so much time and effort for all of our events. The Queen Mary, The Castaway, Alice in Wonderland and the Haunted Cafetorium, Shakey’s, The Fashion Show, Senior Picnic and our fundraising to help pay for the year. You will live forever in our memories. Alex G., Steph-O, Jessica, Evelyn, Araceli, Alejandra S., PattyL., Diana S., Karla R., Claudia V., Leslie S., and Christina F. Thank you for all of your help in my classroom over the last three years. Leslee H. I congratulate you for your perseverance in overcoming great odds as a parent. Juan, Mario, Luis, Armando, Gio, Jessica, Araceli, Esther, Grace and Evelyn. I enjoyed seeing you guys everyday at lunch, and my classroom will never be the same at lunchtime ever again. Leslie R. The Grant football game, math tutoring, Staples Center, our discussions of life and your magnetic smile have created a lifelong friendship. Jessica, Evelyn and Araceli. Norm’s, The Odyssey, Staples Center, The Aquarium, Coffee Bean, Jamba Juice after training with Ken, attending Marisol’s wedding or preparing you for the SAT, you three have been a gift to my career as an educator and you three are the daughters I never had. A special shout out to Leslie S., Janet R., Christina F., and Erica R., you have been my students longer than anyone else on the Poly campus going all the way back to our 7th grade guidance room at Byrd in 2004-2005. Lastly, to all my former Byrd Middle School 8th grade students like Anthony M., Antonio R., Erendira M., Violet P., Andy L., Grace P., mentioned and so many others that I simply could not mention due to space limitations, Congratulations on your wonderful accomplishment, best wishes on all of your future endeavors, keep in touch and thank you for all you have given to me over the past five years! I will never have another class like yours and I am forever grateful for all I have experienced with the class of 2010! Now, didn’t I tell you that your time at Poly would go by quickly!”

– Sean W. King Senior Leadership Council Sponsor 2009-2010

“To the Class of 2010 ALL YOU RISING STARS. Some thoughts to take with you beyond the gates of Poly.” – Mrs. Matlen

In My Life  
-The Beatles (John Lennon/ Paul McCartney)

There are places I remember  
All my life though some have changed  
Some forever not for better  
Some have gone and some remain  
All these places had their moments  
With lovers and friends I still can recall  
Some are dead and some are living  
In my life I’ve loved them all

But of all these friends and lovers  
There is no one compares with you  
And these memories lose their meaning  
When I think of love as something new  
Though I know I’ll never lose affection  
For people and things that went before  
I know I’ll often stop and think about them  
In my life I love you more

Though I know I’ll never lose affection  
For people and things that went before  
I know I’ll often stop and think about them  
In my life I love you more  
In my life I love you more

“Patricia Lopez, Rudy Valdez, Cassandra Suazo – Thanks for the Star Bucks! AND, the memories. Good Luck. Stephanie Herrera – Good Luck. Kimberly Luna – You are the greatest! Good luck. Hazel Cruz – Good luck. Elizabeth Salazar – I just KNOW someday I’ll read a book you wrote! Good luck. Hazel Kasusky – It was a pleasure and an honor teaching you. Good luck. Jesus ‘Buddha’ Cruz – You enlightened the room. Good luck.”

– Thom Savino

“Love you, mean it Go forth and do good works!” – Ms. H

“Hey Class of 2010

You guys are the best group of kids we ever had. You’re likely now saying to yourself, ‘Mr. Rabins, you probably say that to ALL the classes.’ Well, yes, but this time I mean it. (Until next year, at least.)

Best of luck in all future endeavors, and don’t forget to check in with us once in a while and let us know how you’re doing! We’re going to miss you guys.” – Love, Mr. Rabins

“To the class of 2010,

As you embark on your future, remember this, you will be missed! I wish you all the time of your life and enjoy what the future has to offer you.”

– Mrs. Kehmeyer

“My Dearest Seniors,

I offer my heartfelt wishes that you will pursue your passions and continue to learn for the rest of your lives. Go 2010!”

– With Great Affection, Ms. Mazarlo

“I would like to congratulate and give a ‘Shout Out’ to all seniors who have made it to graduation. Thirteen years of school, the high school exit exam and you’re on your way. Don’t stop your pursuit of education, whether it’s college, a vocational program, or an apprenticeship, keep learning. As assistant principal, I don’t get an opportunity to get to know many students on a personal level but to those I have it’s been a pleasure.

A special ‘Shout Out’ goes to my Academic Decathlon seniors who I got to spend time with at the state competition, Kari Cruz, Tam Luu, Reynaldo Orozco-Diaz, Chris Miranda, Freddy Palominos and Alexander Lee. There are other seniors who I’ve had the pleasure of knowing but if I start naming names I will forget someone and don’t want to hurt any feelings, so for now I will just wish you all the best life has to offer you.”

– Mrs. Kenion

## THE OPTIMIST

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and must include the writer’s signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Ms. Matlen’s box in the Main Office.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community and accepts the responsibilities of a free press. The OPTIMIST follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff.



Be on the lookout for a new style for the OPTIMIST at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.



# Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

By Karinina Cruz  
Staff Writer

English teacher Miranda Carnovsky plans to retire at the end of the school year.

Carnovsky has taught at Poly high school since 1996.

"If I can get the paperwork done, I will retire," said Carnovsky. "It's very alarming because I have worked since I was 16 years old. I have to figure out something to do or otherwise I will have to sit at home all day."

Carnovsky was born in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, England during World War II.

"I grew up with my family, along with my cousins on our grandfather's farm in Buckinghamshire," said Carnovsky.

In 1956, Carnovsky, her parents and her older sister moved to the United States.

"Our sponsors lived in Los Angeles, but we went up to Berkeley and lived northwest of the Golden Gate Bridge."

Before living in the United States, Carnovsky's father worked for the foreign office in England and her mother was an artist.

"When we permanently moved to the United States, my father became a real estate agent and my mother ended up repairing broken China objects from Deyoung Museum in San Francisco," said Carnovsky.

Carnovsky's educational background includes attending eight different colleges during the 1960's.

"I started at San Francisco State University and then the 60's showed up," said Carnovsky. "I ended up dropping out and moving into the city, where I had a wonderful time. UC Berkeley was also one of the many schools that I went to and I loved it."

In 1969, Carnovsky earned her Bachelor's degree at California State University, Los Angeles and majored in theater.

Despite majoring in theater, Carnovsky found it essential to perform in the real world.

"I realized that I needed to get out and do something," said Carnovsky. "I did not want to just major in it."

At the age of 20, Carnovsky joined a number of professional theater companies, includ-



Photo by Vivian Araujo

**RETIREE:** Miranda Carnovsky, Poly teacher since 1996, will retire at the end of the year.

ing the prestigious American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

"It was THE theater to get into," said Carnovsky. "I met my husband there where he was a stage manager."

As a versatile performer, Carnovsky has played a variety of roles. However, most of the roles were comedic characters.

"I had a good voice, so I sang a lot," said Carnovsky.

Carnovsky's passion for performing and the theater began at an early age.

"Ever since I was a child, I loved the theater," said Carnovsky. "My godfather was a well known British film actor, Dirk Bogarde. He and his wife lived up the street from me and I would go with them to London."

Carnovsky received her Master's degree in student counseling from Point Loma University in 1980.

Before working at Poly, Carnovsky taught in a number of different schools, such as Arroyo Seco Alternative Magnet School.

"To be an actor you need a day job and I went to a local junior high school to look for a job. At that time they were looking for full time teacher assistants," said Carnovsky. "It

worked out beautifully and in those days the pay was enough to survive. I discovered that I loved it."

In 1996, Carnovsky began teaching English and theater at Poly.

"I'm only boring if you don't pay attention. I'm an actor and I need an audience," said Carnovsky.

"I've always considered her to be our resident Shakespearean scholar," said Poly English teacher Ethel Matlen. "She knows Shakespeare better than anyone on the campus and I'll miss her greatly."

Many of Carnovsky's students are quite dismayed and shocked about her retirement.

"It's definitely something that we were not expecting," said Poly senior Christina Balian.

Carnovsky's husband, Stephen, also teaches acting and English.

"We've been together for 43 years," said Carnovsky.

Carnovsky has two adopted daughters, Jenna, 40 years old and Karla, 30 years old.

## Poly Parrot At Georgetown University

[ Georgetown, from pg 1 ]

pagal Arroyo attended Georgetown University," said Vizconde. "This is one of the many reasons why I want to go there."

Vizconde visited Georgetown as part of the school's Admissions Ambassador Program.

"I had the chance to sit in classes and meet the professors," said Vizconde. "The school is small, the city is beautiful."

Vizconde is part of Poly's Math, Science and Technology Magnet.

"I have a 4.2 GPA and I took ten Advanced Placement (AP) classes," said Vizconde. "I'm also part of numerous extra-curricular activities, such as the Interact Club."

Vizconde said Georgetown's admission process was highly competitive.

"It's very difficult to get in," said Vizconde. "This year there were over 20,000 applicants from over 4,000 different places across the world."

Vizconde says her parents and her teachers and counselors in the Magnet program helped her achieve her goals.

"They have definitely guided me in my high school career," said Vizconde.

Vizconde offered her formula for getting accepted to college.

"Work hard and get good grades in all your classes," said Vizconde. "Also, do a lot of volunteer activities and join school clubs."

### JOHN H. FRANCIS POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL 2010-2011 BELL SCHEDULE

	REGULAR DAY	**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	SHORTENED DAY
PERIOD 1	8:05 - 9:35	8:05 - 9:12	8:05 - 9:18
PERIOD 2	9:42 - 11:12	9:19 - 10:26	9:25 - 10:38
LUNCH	11:12 - 11:47	10:26 - 11:01	10:38 - 11:13
PERIOD 3	11:54 - 1:24	11:08 - 12:15	11:20 - 12:33
PERIOD 4	1:31 - 3:01	12:22 - 1:29	12:40 - 1:53

\*\* Designated Tuesdays

\* Students need to be in school at 7:55 a.m. If she/he is going to eat breakfast, then they should arrive at 7:40 a.m. **The first bell rings at 7:55 a.m.**

\* Los estudiantes deben de estar en la escuela a las 7:55 a.m. Si el/ella va a comer desayuno, entonces tienen que estar a las 7:40 a.m. **La primera campana timbra a las 7:55 a.m.**

A new bell schedule was approved by the School Side Council for next school year, which will begin August 9th 2010.

Poly will return to a single track high school.

The vote moves the start of the school day from 7:25 am to 8:05 am.

Despite the time changes, Poly will remain on a 90 minute schedule for each class on a 4X4 block schedule.

## Poly Magnet Receives Prestigious Award

By Armando Figueroa  
Staff Writer

Poly magnet coordinator Jayne Couchois will be receiving the Jaime Escalante award from the EnCorps organization.

A ceremony will be held on June 18th at the University of Southern California in Couchois' honor.

This is the first time that the Jaime Escalante award is being given and Couchois will be sharing and receiving the award alongside MIT's Dr. Jeffery Hunt.

Hunt is a technical specialist at the Boeing Company. He graduated from MIT with a degree in Physics. Hunt holds 41 U.S. patents and was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2008.

"For the last years he has worked with the magnet at Poly High School," said Couchois. "He has interviewed the 13 students who have been accepted to MIT. He begins meeting with students as early as the 9th grade and encourages them to pursue studies in the fields of math and science."

Couchois' discovery of the award was purely spontaneous.

"The first I heard of the award was when Dr. Hunt called me," said Cou-



Photo by Joel Hinojosa

**MAGNET:** Magnet coordinator Jayne Couchois received the Jaime Escalante award alongside an MIT professor.

chois. "I then read an email that was sent to the two of us."

Couchois is receiving the award on behalf of the partnership between Dr. Hunt and Poly's Magnet program.

"It's because of the teachers, counselors, all the magnet staff, and mostly the wonderful students are why we have enjoyed such wonderful success," said Couchois.



# Optimist Awarded



Staff Photo

**OPTIMIST:** Optimist staff and Gerardo Loera stand together with an award credited to The Poly Optimist for 1st place by American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA).

**Fourth consecutive first place national award for journalistic excellence goes to Poly's student paper.**

The OPTIMIST, Poly's student-run campus and community newspaper, received its fourth consecutive first place award from the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) Wednesday. High schools, junior colleges and universities compete annually for the awards, given for outstanding journalistic achievement.

"The award represents acknowledgement from a professional organization of the

excellent work our staff does every day to produce a high-quality newspaper," said faculty advisor Ethel Matlen. "It's team effort and includes journalists, photographers, editors, layout staff, cartoonists, researchers, reviewers and technical staff."

The OPTIMIST first received the first-place award in 2007 and has won a first-place slot every year since.

"We here at Poly are very proud of the great work produced by the OPTIMIST staff," said Poly principal Gerardo Loera. "The paper is a 'good will ambassador' to those outside the Poly community and a great introduction to Poly and its

exceptional student body."

Lead staff writer Karinina Cruz, who also had an outstanding year as an Aca Deca member, was singled out by Matlen, as were sports writer Marvin Martinez, staff photographer Karina Muniz, editors Angel Silva and Joel Hinohosa, editorial writer Hazel Kasusky and cartoonists Marina Turruelles and Letty Juarez.

"Journalism teaches lifetime skills," said OPTIMIST faculty advisor John Blau, who shares the role with Matlen. "Each edition requires hundreds of hours of hard work and attention to detail, but the payoffs are significant."

## Elder Parrot Leaves Roost

By Armando Figueroa  
Staff Writer

Poly's longest lasting faculty member Sylvia Brown plans to head into a well deserved retirement after 37 years as a Poly Parrot.

Brown was born in Los Angeles in City Terrace and attended Roosevelt High School.

"I went to UCLA and UC Berkeley where I received my B.A. and teaching credential," said Brown. "Then I went to CSUN and received my counseling degree and Marriage and Family license"

Brown started her time here at Poly in 1973. She came to the school as an ESL teacher and a part time counselor.

"Counseling is an addition to what I wanted. The transition from teaching to counseling wasn't hard because when I first came here I had counseling for one of my periods," said Brown. "It's exciting to watch students mature, become independent, make good decisions, and feel ready to move on with their lives. I will always feel grateful that students allowed me to share a piece of their lives."

Although Brown loves teaching, she is still nostalgic about her days as a teacher.

"I miss teaching. It's a wonderful experience giving to kids and seeing them pick it up," said Brown. "Especially ESL students because some students come into school not knowing any English, and they leave speaking the language."

Over the years Brown has offered a scholarship in honor of her late husband Murray Brown. Mr. Brown had been an accomplished sculptor and painter and had written many musicals and plays.

"He started the Pat Brown Institute at CSLA which is still thriving and active. He also became the mediator of Century Freeway



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

**POLY'S HISTORIAN:** Counselor Sylvia Brown will retire after seeing 37 years of change at Poly.

which was also a huge deal," said Brown. "I will still be offering the performing arts scholarship after my retirement and it feels really good to be able to help students."

The scholarship is offered to students who are interested in art, acting, writing, theater, and music.

Brown has some leaving sentiments for the campus she is leaving.

"Over the years I have seen this campus change," said Brown. "I have seen an increase in A.P. classes, the introduction of computers and a change in student's clothing and hair styles. What has not changed, however, is the students' enthusiasm and excitement for learning and accomplishment. Watching that is what I will miss the most."

Brown's retirement provides new opportunities in life.

"The reason I am retiring is because I want to see if I can have another adventure in my life," said Brown. "I will be speaking to groups about personal development and also organizing some projects for Jewish organizations."

## Special Ed Loses a Special Teacher

Longtime Special Ed Counselor Iliana Richter will retire at the end of the school year.

By Jizel Emralino  
Staff Writer

Iliana Richter is retiring after seven years of working as Poly's Special Education Bridge Coordinator.

Richter grew up in Colorado and moved to California when she was in eighth grade.

After graduating at Birmingham High School, Richter worked at Disneyland as a cowgirl cashier in Frontier Land.

Richter discovered her passion in teaching quite unexpectedly.

"My two older sisters were both LA Unified teachers. I used to help them by being their assistant," said Richter. "I just love teaching. I enjoy it very much."

Richter's favorite pastime includes reading and hiking.

"I love reading," said Richter. "I love hiking as well. If I could read and hike at the same time, I would do it."

According to Richter, her favorite book is The Help By Kathryn Stockett.

"My favorite book is usually the last book I read," said Richter.

Richter finished her Bachelor's degrees in History and Special Education and received credentials in Special Education and History from California State University in Northridge (CSUN).

Richter worked at Pacoima Middle School as a librarian's assistant, before working at Poly.

"I also worked at Nightingale High School in Highland Park for two years," said Richter. "Then I resigned, so that I could raise a family."

"Actually, I met my husband-to-be in my American Literature class back in High School," said Richter.

What started out as a high school romance, turned out to be a match for life.

"We thought that it was never gonna work out at first," said Richter. "But we've been married for forty years now."

Richter has two daughters who are both following her footsteps as a teacher. One of them is the Advance Placement Calculus teacher of Poly's Magnet Program, Devon Richter.

For ten years Richter sacrificed her love for teaching for her family.

"I was very sad not being with the students," said Richter. "So I came back to teaching and eventually, I wound up here at Poly."

Richter is grateful of being a Poly Parrot.

"As a Program Specialist, I've been to schools from Sylmar to San Pedro," said Richter. "But when I came to Poly, the students and staff were just wonderful."

"Of all the schools I've been to, Poly has been the most wonderful," said Richter. "That's when I knew that this is where I wanted to spend my last years of teaching."

Richter admitted that she would miss the energy she gets from her students now that she is retiring.

"It's because of them I learned what LOL and OMG mean," said Richter.

In her retirement, Richter hopes to spend more time with her grandchildren who live out of state and to have the freedom to do anything she wants.

"I just want to do everything...travel, have a good time and enjoy life!" said Richter.



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

**DEDICATION:** Special Ed counselor Iliana has worked at Poly for the last 10 years.



# Poly Lobbies Sacramento

Poly junior Jizel Emralino represents UCLA's Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) at Sacramento statewide conference.

By Jizel Emralino  
Staff Writer

The 5th annual Student Leadership Forum was held on the 11th and 12th of May at Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, California and I was fortunate enough to be chosen to represent UCLA's Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) as part of the large student delegation throughout the state of California to advocate for the academic preparation programs.

Students and staff from other UC's such as UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego attended the conference. Other student delegates from various academic preparation programs including the Puente Project and Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) were there to attend the conference as well.

The students representing each program were there to advocate the importance of the early academic programs to the California legislators and assembly members.

Josefina Canchola, the Associate Director of Puente Project from the University of California Office of the President, commenced the conference.

"You are the ambassadors of the programs," said Canchola. "We need you to remind the legislators about the importance of the college preparations programs."

Canchola informed the delegates that the essence of the forum is to develop and improve our leadership abilities.

"Leadership is the ability to lead, guide, and serve the people," said Canchola. "You have to know yourself, build trust, have a vision, and the ability to communicate that vision well."

"Leadership is the ability to lead, guide, and serve the people," said Canchola. "You have to know yourself, build trust, have a vision, and the ability to communicate that vision well."

All participants were divided into teams, so that students would have the chance to meet with other students and staff from the different programs.

The teams were then sent to their designated conference rooms where the leadership workshops were held.

The first session was facilitated by Teresa Arriaga, EAOP Director of UC Berkeley, and Tiffany Reardon, the Assistant Director of the MESA program. Session one focused personal leadership.

Through a group activity called Leadership Compass, all of us were able to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of our individual leadership styles.

Session two was headed by Francesca Vega, the Assistant Director Government and Community Relations from UCLA. The purpose of this session was to train us, the student delegates, of the proper way to present ourselves to the legislators.

"You are here not to lobby for our programs," said Vega. "But rather, educate the assembly members of the importance of the programs."

Vega encouraged us to tell our own personal story --- what makes us unique. She highlighted several Do's and Don'ts during the legislative visits. We had to be flexible,



Photo provided by Jizel Emralino  
**SISTERHOOD:** Junior Jizel Emralino (center) rests with two other delegates in front of the "Sisters of Mercy" statue at the State Capitol Park in Sacramento.

polite and concise.

Vega warned us that not all the assembly members would be receptive of our advocacy. However, no matter what the reaction was, our only goal was to impart our message and respect the legislator's opinion.

The third and last session before checking into our rooms was the team preparations. With the help of an actual capitol staff, we were able to do role playing to prepare for the actual one the following day.

Gustavo Arroyo, the Senior Legislative Aid to Assembly member Norma Tores, came to give us advice on how to approach the legislators.

"The legislators were students once," said Arroyo. "They had been in your shoes. Let them see who you really are."

All student delegates were sent to their rooms for a two-hour break.

The dinner at the Gardenia ballroom was the highlight of day one. Several keynote speakers such as 80th Assembly District Larry Broussard, Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Sandre Swanson, came to deliver words of encouragement to the students and staff of the Student Leadership Forum.

Honorable Assembly member Manuel Perez shared his sentimental success story.

"I was born in family of immigrant farmers," said Perez. "As a child, I farmed in the fields with my mother and father. From that experience, I learned the value of hard work."

From being a farmer, Perez strived hard to succeed through education. He received his Bachelor's degree at UC Riverside and his Master's in Education at Harvard University.

Perez concluded his speech by enthusiastically saying, "Si se puede. Nothing is impossible if you believe in yourself."

Day two commenced with a grand breakfast at the hotel's ballroom.

During the breakfast, the Student Leadership Forum's staff gave last-minute briefings to all the delegates before going to the Capitol for the legislative visits.

Different teams were assigned to three to four visits to assembly members and senators.

The capitol was at its busiest when we arrived. Everyone was in haste going back and forth the building due to the upcoming

May Revisions. This so called May-Revi is a meeting of all the Sacramento politicians to revise the allocation of the state budget.

While everyone was up and about, the student delegates pushed on to their assigned appointments.

My team was assigned to talk to Senator



Photo by Jizel Emralino

Gilberto Cedillo, Assembly member Hector De La torre, and Assembly member Warren Furutani.

All three of them were very supportive of the programs and the importance of education. Although they are aware that the state budget is currently very limited, they agreed to keep the academic preparation programs intact as much as they can.

The day ended with a gathering at the assembly floor, where Assembly member Manuel Perez joined us for a group picture.

My job at the state capitol may have ended the moment we went back to the hotel and pick up our baggage. However, the experience of meeting with the people all around California and to advocate for something that will impact the future students is quite unforgettable.

The two-day Student Leadership forum helped me become more mature and more knowledgeable of the political system.

My trip may have caused me to miss two AP tests, but it was well worth it. For I learned to "never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit," as quoted by Canchola. "We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

## Security Upgraded

[ Security, from pg 1 ]

personnel through the use of the iPods.

"It will provide student data and teacher reports if incidents have occurred," said Blair. "This will help us determine the time and date patterns in student misbehavior."

Blair said the iPods are part of a broader positive schoolwide plan that is aimed at improving every aspect of Poly.

"It's not a negative plan, but rather a proactive one," said Blair. "We will take the data we gather from the system to our discipline, department, instructional cabinet and small learning communities meetings where teachers will discuss and analyze them."

In addition to the iPods, there are a number of different security devices currently underway.

"We want to have an opportunity to lessen incidents. That's the big picture."

"When I came to Poly last July, the installation of security cameras was already an ongoing project," said Blair. "We hope to have the cameras installed by fall. The cameras will confirm and validate questionable student behavior."

Poly's transition to the Balanced Traditional Calendar next year will mean more students on campus at the same time and the probability of more security issues.

"We want to have an opportunity to lessen incidents," said Blair. "That's the big picture, which is the campus wide security next year. It's a comprehensive umbrella of safety for the whole school."

Poly's security staff meets as often as once a week regarding campus security.

"It's a collaborative process, not top-driven," said Blair. "We are proud of our deans, teachers and staff because we all care about the students and we want them to excel," said Blair.

## Protests Over French Cuts

[ Protests, from pg 1 ]

However, Loera is aware that the option isn't ideal.

"The student protest has made it clear that they prefer a face-to-face teacher instead of an online course," said Loera.

Loera hopes to resolve any future issues concerning class cuts.

"I think that there was never a disagreement. We both agreed that reducing our multicultural languages is a bad thing," said Loera.



# Jessica Caballero

## 2010's Valedictorian

By Jizel Emralino  
and Vanessa Gomez  
Staff Writers

Poly's valedictorian Jessica Caballero has accomplished and exceeded her high school expectations by being accepted to eight of the most prestigious universities in the country.

Caballero was accepted to University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), University of California Berkeley (UC Berkeley), University of California (UC Davis), University of California San Diego (UC San Diego), Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University and Stanford University.

Caballero's academic journey started at Fenton Avenue Elementary School in Lakeview Terrace and Maclay Middle School in Pacoima.

"I was a little nerd in middle school. I loved reading," said Caballero. "But it was really easy. For my History class, I remember having open notes tests."

Obviously, transition to high school had been a challenge for Caballero.

"The transition was rough," said Caballero. "Everybody here was from Byrd, and I was from Maclay, so I felt like the odd one out here."

Socializing was not the only thing that frightened Caballero, but the intensity of the classes as well.

"The school work was a lot tougher," said Caballero. "I was really intimidated by other students and the coursework."

Caballero handled the challenge with much enthusiasm by taking as many Advanced Placement classes as she could. Caballero took AP Calculus AB and BC, Biology, US History, Chemistry, European History, Comparative Government, Spanish Language, Physics, and Statistics.

"The most challenging class was calculus. Everyday I would get home and start my homework right away because it would take me a minimum of two hours."

Difficult as it may seem, Caballero was able to pass all her AP tests with a grade not lower than a four.

Despite the apparent hardships of taking AP classes, Caballero managed to graduate with a GPA of 4.375.

With the constant encouragement of Caballero's teachers and counselors, her post-secondary goals expanded to the extent that she could not have imagined.

"I wanted to go to UCLA in the beginning because that was the only school I knew," said Caballero. "But my teachers told me that I should apply for privates and Ivy Leagues. I did what I was told."

Caballero was chosen as one of the Questbridge Scholars. Questbridge is a non-profit program that associates bright and motivated students with scholarship opportunities at some of the nation's best colleges.

Caballero has been fortunate



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

enough to have received two scholarships that will help accomplish her goal in pursuing a degree in Biochemistry.

Questbridge has offered to pay Caballero a full ride at MIT. Caballero had to write a series of essays and short responses in order to apply for the Questbridge scholarship.

"There were three long essays and they had about 10 short responses," said Caballero.

Caballero has received her second scholarship from Gates Millennium. Gates Millennium Scholarship awards 1,000 students. This scholarship can be used by the scholars to pursue degrees in any undergraduate at the college or university of their choice.

Gates Millennium has offered to cover all of Caballero's student and parent contribution at Stanford University.

"The good thing about the Gates Scholarship is that it continues to a master's degree as well as a PhD," said Caballero.

Caballero's academic success was not without the help of her teachers and counselors.

"I can't say that one specific teacher influenced me because all of them helped me in some way," said Caballero. "My teachers and staff are a

big part of my success so I owe it to them."

Caballero has received plenty of moral support from her family, teachers, staff and friends.

She admires and appreciates her teacher's dedication in helping her exceed her educational goals.

"Their dedication, you don't get that everywhere," said Caballero. "They all gave me great support."

Caballero's motivations to keep moving forward are her parents.

"I know that a lot of my parent's choices in life have been for me and my siblings," said Caballero. "If it wasn't for them moving here, I wouldn't have this opportunity, so I'm definitely trying to take advantage of this precious gift they gave me."

In the end, Caballero learned the value of hard work.

"Just do your best in anything you do. Even in those tough days think about it, because at the end it's worth it. It's possible," said Caballero. "Don't think that it's not possible, because you need to put in the hard work ---that's what's going to get you to places."

"For me, it felt good because I know that I gave it my best," said Caballero.

This is an excerpt of Caballero's award-winning personal statement:

When I finally reached the quad area I sat in the usual bench next to a small garden filled with small purple and yellow flowers. As I waited I continued reading the latest book, *Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez, about a young boy living in the streets of LA and his experiences living the "vida loca." This book captivated me because it portrays a glimpse of life in impoverished communities, like mine, and why so much of the youth resorted to life on the streets. I read anxiously in a deep trance until the rustling of the orange leaves broke my concentration. Out of the corner of my eye I could see Cesar approaching the bench. He, like many other students, were struggling with many of the core subjects, but unlike other students he had the courage to admit he needed help and was willing to put in the time and effort to improve. I observed him, the baggy clothes and the manner in which he walked, as if he owned the world, and I could identify the façade that boys like him put on. He appeared to be reckless, aggressive and fearless but in reality he was a vulnerable and lost child who sought refuge in gangs that provided him with the sense of love and belonging that he did not have at home. His father's absence left an emotional vacancy, which he was attempting to fill with the sense of community that gangs provided. Although to the eyes of an outsider, such as my teacher, my community was flawed; to me it was a great inspiration.

"Each and every one of the members of my community are warriors who fight daily battles

against adversity and their unwillingness to bend propels my desire to achieve higher realities. With the help of my teachers I discovered my passion for the life sciences and through the rigorous courses and extracurricular activities I quenched my thirst and desire for knowledge. Nevertheless it is with the help of my community that I discovered my fervor for extending my hand to others. The sense of ecstasy that helping the members of my community provided could not be achieved through anything else. No award, test score, or grade would ever give me that sense of inner fulfillment like the enthusiasm of a child's face as he or she suddenly understands a difficult concept. However one occupation could not be complete without another. The pursuit of an academic challenge and the pleasure of helping others would define my entire high school career. I complemented my demanding academic schedule with my involvement and leadership in Interact Club, a service organization involved in a variety of community projects.

Suddenly, my concentration was broken once more, but this time by the soft touch of Cesar's hand on my shoulder. He greeted me with a soft smile and then told me he needed help with his algebra homework.

That afternoon as I walked home I established one thing, the strength of my community was growing and I experienced the growing strength daily as I helped more and more students succeed. While my teacher sees images of failures I only see hundreds of smiles aiming for a better life."



# THE END OF THE BEGINNING

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### (CSUN)

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Mariana Abrego  
Stephanie Acevedo  
Lorena Acosta  
Lupita Acuna  
Kevin Aguilar  
Oscar Aguilar  
Stephanie Alas  
Bianca Albarran  
Cindy Alegria  
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Rodrigo Amarillas  
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Josias Benitez  
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Ivan Salazar  
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Yanira Sandoval  
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Jasmine Pichon  
Martin Torr

# Santa Monica Community College

Katherin Salazar  
Lorraine Figueroa

# THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FUTURE



# Looking Back





# One Last Time







Photos provided by Leadership

**CROWNING GLORY:** Prom King Bruno Huizar and Queen Yvette Mendoza.

## A Memorable Night

By Vanessa Gomez  
Staff Writers

Many Poly seniors enjoyed their Prom on May 22 at the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

This year's theme was Midsummer Night's Dream. The tables were decorated with white table clothes. There were red and white flowers with candles as centerpieces.

Around 6 p.m. seniors started showing up with their dates and friends. Women were dressed in elegant dresses accompanied by their prom dates, who

wore matching color flowers in their formal attire.

By 8 p.m. Poly seniors were enjoying their dinner which incorporated chicken, potatoes, vegetables and a walnut salad. For dessert they had cheese cake.

As they finished up their dessert Dj Ray proceeded to change the music from a classic feel to a more festive rhythm.

At 11:30 Bruno Huizar and Yvette Mendoza were pronounced king and queen.

For the rest of the night people made their way to the dance floor in celebration of their graduating class of 2010.



Staff Photo

**FINAL ADDRESS:** Principal Gerardo Loera bids seniors farewell.

## Never Doubt You Can Change the World

Just a few years ago you were all freshmen starting high school wondering what was ahead of you. Many of you looked to fit in and get acquainted with a large, perhaps intimidating high school. Your experience in our Freshman Center is where you first made new friends and started on your academic journey. You quickly became used to taking 90 minute classes on a 4x4 block schedule.

By the time you entered the 10th grade you were starting to create your own identity. You persevered working hard and refining your study skills. You continued building and gaining new friends. Many of you were enjoying your high school experience yet were excited about getting older. You continued raising the bar for subsequent classes by improving test scores at each grade level. Many of you took advantage of the multiple opportunities for success such as participating in the year round intercessions, taking college classes, excelling in athletics or participating or leading a club.

In the 11th grade year, you realized that you were really growing up; you found where you fit in, and who your real friends were. You transitioned out of the Tenth grade center and selected a theme based Small Learning Community such as Hospitality Agriculture Business and Industrial Technology (HABIT), Fine Arts Media Entertainment (FAME) or Sports Programs and Education and Human Services (Sport/EHS). Many of you were well on your way to becoming College Prepared and Career Ready.

Finally, the time came where you became a senior. For some of you, senioritis set in early and we helped you survive it and get through it. You finalized your post-high school plans and participated in many senior activities. The end of the year was getting closer and the realization that you will soon be graduating and embarking on new adventures was becoming a reality. You were all happy that this senior class stayed intact and is graduating at Poly.

As this year comes to an end and you are about to graduate, I must say I am proud of all of you. You will go down in Poly history as being the last senior class that graduates from a year round school in the San Fernando Valley. You were instrumental with the raise of our graduation rate. As always our staff has been very committed in seeing you succeed at Poly and beyond.

Your final high school chapter is coming to an end. Some words of advice as you move into your post-secondary experience. You are leaving high school in uncertain times and you will face great challenges ahead as you move forward. Some will say that we are facing a leadership crisis nationwide and there is a shortage of leadership that can truly make a difference. I believe that each one of you has a leader within. I ask that you tap into that leadership and develop it and learn how to use it. Don't underestimate yourself and your potential. Remember a famous quote by anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Good luck in your future endeavors.



Photo by Karina Muñiz

**OFFICERS:** 2010 Senior Class Cabinet members receive gavels at the awards ceremony on May 6.

## Senior Awards Night

By Vanessa Gomez  
Staff Writer

Poly's seniors gathered to commemorate their annual Senior Award Night on Thursday May 6, where 640 awards were presented.

One hundred eighty-nine students accomplished a grade point average of a 3.0-3.59 and re-

ceived the Silver Seal with Honors award.

One hundred and two people received a Gold Seal with Highest Honors award for earning a G.P.A. of 3.6 or above.

Seventeen students accomplished a G.P.A. of a 4.0 or higher and received the Summa Cum Laude award.

Twenty-three people received

\$250 each from Polytechnic Scholarships.

Five students received \$3,000 scholarship awards from either the Cardenas Family Foundation or Benjamin Kim and Young Family.

There was \$1.5 million awarded in scholarships throughout this school year.





# Tech Picks for Seniors

The top 5 devices your graduating senior - who is going off to college - must have.

JOEL HINOJOSA

**iPad:** The iPad is Apple's newest product which resembles both an iPhone and a laptop. The tablet seems like its own kind of category but unfortunately uses the same features as an iPhone. The name can disinvite but the overall concept is intriguing. The iPad, for one, does not make calls but does allow wi-fi and 3G networks which at&t provides. The iPad contains its own applications and can access iPhone applications as well. Apps can vary from Facebook, Myspace, and Fandango to video games like Asphalt 5, Monopoly and Rock Band. The iPad features movies, music, photos, safari, maps, youtube, App Store, iTunes and more. The iPad is useful product much like a computer. There are iWork applications, which can be purchased on the App Store, for example, Pages. Pages can be useful to students since users are able to create word documents. The iPad most importantly can provide students with books. The iPad contains an application which works like an ereader and displays books in a realistic page turning way. Students who would like to study intellectual videos, lectures and readings would love Apple's iTunes U program. Users can easily access iTunes U from the iTunes store and purchase either free or paid items. Apple, luckily, provides discounts to college students and teachers as well.

-Price: \$499 and higher

**Macbook:** As expensive as this device is, it can be a useful computer and probably last you longer than a Windows laptop. A Macbook, believe or not, does not easily infect with viruses. The macbook has essential



programs for college students and works fast. Most college students are most familiar with Apple computers since they are more for professional use than Windows. Nevertheless, there are still amazing quality games for those students who are looking for something to play with on their spare time instead of studying. The newest version of the macbook has NVIDIA graphics, high performance drive for graphics. The macbook has 250GB of storage and 2GB of ram, which determines speed. The battery lasts up to 10 hours. The macbook, of course, is installed with Mas OS X as Apple's main system software. The mac is eligible for student discounts and any other programs that students would want to install. Apple sometimes offers back to school offers; for example, buy a mac and receive an iPod touch for free. That promo started early this year on May 25 and will end September 7.

-Price: \$999 and higher

**HP Mini Series:** Sometimes a cheaper laptop is just the best choice. The HP Mini is a miniature laptop or netbook that holds 160GB of hard drive and 1GB ram. The Mini is integrated with a webcam and an embedded GPS module. The HP Mini's price depends on the system software that users might want to install. Windows 7, for example, is useful for speed and easy navigation. Windows XP is old software by Microsoft and may be useful but a bit outdated for new programs. Either way a cheap and portable computer like this one is the best for practical use.

-HP Shop Price: \$279 Windows XP Home Edition or \$299 for Windows 7 Edition

**SONY Reader Pocket Edition:** If students don't want all the features an iPad includes and get a simple and cheaper ereader then the Sony Reader Pocket Edition is the way to go. A Sony Reader can hold up to 350 books and run for 2 weeks on a single charge. The Reader is compatible with PC and MAC so users can manage their books with a program named Reader Library. The Reader comes with a USB to charge and connect to a computer. The reader comes in three colors: silver, navy blue and rose. Like the iPad, the Reader allows users to adjust text size and other settings.

-Amazon Price: \$147



**HP Deskjet D1660:** Everyone who is going to college is going to need a printer. The HP Deskjet is a simple and cheap printer that works for your simple needs. The machine is not wireless but students should keep in mind that a simple printer should do. Professors don't have a printer ready in their rooms for students to print out their midterms. If this printer isn't good enough, then there are hundreds of other choices online and reviews.cnet.com can provide users with a feature to compare prices.

-Walmart Price: \$29.00

**Tips on making purchases:** Look through the web and compare prices. Look at customer reviews for any information that is not mentioned on the product's specs. Go on YouTube to look at the product firsthand from video reviewers.





# Aces Of The Game

By Ruben Carmona  
and Kelsey Cruz  
Staff Writers



## BASEBALL

### - Angel Castañeda

Angel "Vampi" Castañeda Pitcher of the boys Baseball team joined the team as a freshmen.

Castañeda led Poly to third in the league and earned a playoff game against Cleveland. They finished with an overall record of 17-14 and a winning percentage of .500.

Castañeda hopes to continue playing baseball in junior college and hopefully earn a scholarship to a four year university.

"Playing for this team has taught me that you could never take anything for granted," said Castañeda. "That anything could change at any moment in time."



## BASKETBALL/ VOLLEYBALL

### - Oscar Aguilar

Poly Senior Oscar Aguilar led two teams to playoffs this year. As captain of both the Basketball and Volleyball team, Aguilar has been a leader in two courts.

Aguilar and the basketball team reached playoffs this year where they ended their season against Narbonne High.

For volleyball, Aguilar and his team reached the second round of the playoffs against El Camino. They finished with a league record of 7-3-0 and an overall record of 15-7-3.

"I got the chance to learn to become a leader as well as a better athlete," said Aguilar.



## TENNIS - Tam Luu

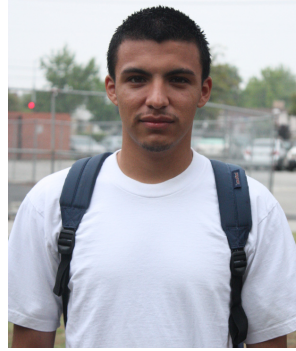
Tam Luu, captain of the boy's tennis team, joined the team in ninth grade.

"I had never played tennis before but after playing I just fell in love with the sport," said Luu.

"What we accomplished was making it to the playoffs for the first time in ten years," said Luu.

Luu will be attending UC Berkeley. He hopes to be able to continue perusing his passion for tennis there either by joining the team or the tennis club there.

"For next year's seniors, just try your best, work hard, and have the same burning desire we did. I know that you guys will do the same or better next year," said Luu.



## SOCCER

### - Samuel Aguilera

Captain and Defense Samuel Aguilera joined the soccer team in tenth grade.

"I joined the soccer team because this sport is my passion - I love soccer," said Aguilera.

Aguilera and the boys finished their season an overall record of 5-10-2.

"I learned many things this year, but most importantly I learned to keep my cool," said Aguilera.

"Remember that nothing's impossible - you can do whatever you set your mind to. Just have passion for the game," said Aguilera.

Aguilera will be attending CSUN where he will be studying business.



## TRACK

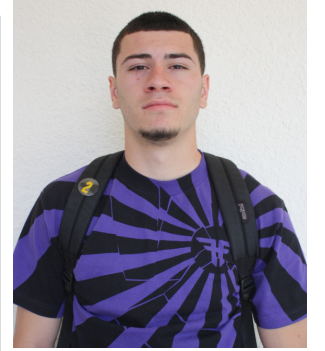
### -Segundo De Leon

Segundo De Leon has been one of the fastest runners in track this year. He joined the track team as a sophomore.

De Leon participated in several competitions throughout the year, going undefeated in all the league mile races until city semi-finals.

De Leon is unsure where he will be attending college and hopes to continue running.

"I learned through this experience that everything is possible as long as you believe in yourself," said De Leon. "For next year's seniors just enjoy every single moment of your life."



## FOOTBALL

### -Anthony Manriquez

Football captain Anthony Manriquez joined the team as a freshman.

Manriquez had a total of 105 carries rushing for 969 yards and 14 touchdowns and 12 conversion points. Manriquez averaged 9.23 yards per carry and ended his season with a total of 96 points.

Manriquez led the football team to the second round of the playoffs where they ended their season.

"One of the biggest accomplishments we've had was making it to the second round of the playoffs, and leaving a mark that says that this has been one of the best football team Poly has had," said Manriquez.



## SOFTBALL

### - Sylvette Rodriguez

Sylvette Rodriguez joined the Poly softball team her freshman year, making it into varsity as one of the leading providers with a batting average of .581 and a total of 105 strikeouts this season.

"I'll never forget how hard I pushed myself and devoted myself to be better," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez's most memorable moments were hitting a homerun her first game as a freshman, and "when I got hit in the face my last game of this year," said Rodriguez.

"The most difficult thing is keeping my head up when things go wrong and focusing on my pitching when my defense starts messing up," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez plans on attending a community college and continue playing softball.



## BASKETBALL

### - Lorraine Figueroa

Lorraine Figueroa joined the frosh/soph basketball team her freshman year, disappeared for 2 years, and came back her senior year as the leading rebounder averaging 6.9 rebounds per game and had a total of 194 rebounds the whole season on the varsity team.

"At the beginning, I didn't think we would make it to the playoffs, but as we became more united, my confidence in us grew," said Figueroa. "I pushed myself into doing things I never thought I could."

Figueroa's most memorable moment was their close 6-point win against Grant, which tied them for 1st in the league.

"As for next year's seniors, I wish you guys luck, go farther than this year, have communication between each other...and box out!"



## TENNIS - Ae-ji Lee

Ae-ji Lee joined the girl's tennis team as a sophomore.

"I joined the team on a whim," said Lee.

"A friend wanted to try out and she wanted someone to go with, and after playing my first season I just fell in love with tennis," said Lee.

After four years of not winning any games Ae-ji Lee assisted the girls in tasting victory.

"My most memorable moment was when we won our first game this season," said Lee. "We ended only a few games from playoffs after not winning for four years."

"Coaching Ae-ji was awesome," said coach Ceil Miller. "She did everything I asked even when it came to trying new things."

Lee plans to play Intramural tennis at UC Santa Barbara.



## SOCCER

### - Violet Perez

Forward Violet Perez joined the soccer team as a sophomore.

Perez had a total of nine goals, nine assist and a total of 15 shots. Her biggest win was against Canoga Park where she scored two points to a 9-1 win. She also scored a total of four goals against Annenberg, winning 4-0.

"The most unforgettable moment was the weekend that we had a tournament I scored eight goals and we celebrated," said Perez.

Perez's dedication earned her a scholarship to Pierce college, where she will continue playing soccer.

"What I've gained from this experience is that I will be following my soccer career as I go on to college," said Perez "I accomplished patience, commitment, and understanding my team mates."



## DRILL

### - Luz Cruz

Luz Cruz joined the Drill Team during her sophomore year and was named head captain her senior year.

"I learned a lot of leadership skills and had to handle a lot of pressure," said Cruz.

"My most memorable time was when we sat down and bonded and got to know each other as a person," said Cruz.

Cruz led her team into 5 competitions this year, winning 1st place in 4 of them.

Cruz gave a shout out to the upcoming 2011 drill team saying, "Although it seems hard, keep it together, remain united, and win more trophies!"

Cruz plans on attending UC San Diego and major in Bioengineering.



## CHEER

### - Brian Escobar

Bryan Escobar was part of the cheerleading squad in his sophomore year.

"We started from scratch and worked our way up to become the best," said Escobar.

"My most memorable moment was our first competition and our expressions when we won 1st. We went from being nobodies to actually having a name. We proved to everybody we worked hard," said Escobar.

"Work your hardest, make the best of what you have, and graduate knowing you're the best," said Escobar.

"The toughest things about cheer were stunting, finding people's weaknesses; trying to be perfect basically," said teammate Sully Penate.

"Brian taught me everything I know, and made a great season for all of us."





Collage by Karina Muñiz

# Sports Wrap-Up '09 - '10

By Ruben Carmona  
and Kelsey Cruz  
*Staff Writers*

## Girls' Varsity Softball

Head Coach Manny Peralta led his girls into the playoffs once again. After their loss against Grant, the Lady Parrots won the rest of their league games. They had a league record of 11-1-0 and shared the title of League Champs with Grant. Their first playoff game against San Pedro ended their season with an overall record of 15-7-2.

## Girls' Varsity Basketball

With a fresh new group of girls, head coach Tremeka Batiste led her team into the Semi-finals again with only two losses in their entire league season. With a league record of 10-2, and clutch games against North Hollywood and Grant, the Lady Parrots managed to share the title of League Champs with Grant. A victory over San Fernando advanced them onto Semi-Finals against Birmingham, who ended their season. They finished with a 15-14 overall season.

## Boys' Varsity Volleyball

Led by the only female coach in the league Gaby Gallardo, the boy's volleyball team

reached playoffs. The boys had an overall record of 13-7-2 and a league record of 7-3-0. In their first playoff match the parrots won all 3 games against Kennedy which advanced them to the semi-finals, where they ended their season.

## Boys' Varsity Football

Coach Scott Faer took the boys to playoffs this season. They had a league record of 5-1-0. They proved to have one of the strongest teams in their league when they defeated Van Nuys 74-0. The boys made it to a second round playoff game where they ended their season with an overall record of 9-3-0.

## Boys' Varsity Soccer

The Soccer boys led by Coach Rafael Loza finished their season with a league record of 3-6-2 and an overall record of 5-10-3. Their league victories were against Verdugo and Grant.

## Boys' Varsity Basketball

The boy's basketball team under Coach David Bonino finished their season with the first playoff appearance since February of 2008. The boys had a league record of 2-8-0 and finished with an overall record 4-24-0.

## Girls' Varsity Volleyball

Head Coach Peter Johannsen led the lady parrots volleyball team to a second round playoff appearance. After defeating Marshall 3-1 the ladies ended their season against Carson. The Girls had a league record of 11-1 and an overall record of 20-7-0.

## Girls' Varsity Soccer

Ceil Miller and the girls soccer team ended their season with a win against school rival North Hollywood. They had a total league record of 3-2-3 and finished with an overall record of 6-5-4. The girls had one of their best performances when they defeated Canoga Park by nine goals to one.

## Boys' Varsity Baseball

New head Coach Gabriel Cerna lead the Parrot Baseball team to third place and a playoff appearance against Cleveland where they ended their season. The boys had a total ERA of 4.58 and a total of 161 RBI's. The team had a total of three boys who made the All League First Team and one who made the City All Star team. They finished their season with an overall record 17-14.

## Cheer

The Poly cheer squad took the state cham-

ionship at a tournament held at Knott's Berry Farm. The spirited parrots took the championship with a total score of 91.25.

## Drill

Poly's drill team had a total of five competitions this year. They took first place in four out of five competitions.

## Boys' Varsity Tennis

Coach Bryan Block led the boy's tennis team to playoffs this year. The boys finished with a league record of 6-2 and an overall record of 9-5.

## Girls' Varsity Tennis

After a four year victory drought the girls' tennis team led by coach Ceil Miller got a taste of victory. They finished their season with just a few victories away from reaching playoffs.

## Track and Field

Coach Mario Rivera headed into his 15th year of coaching. He led his team to many victories this season. Segundo de Leon won all his races and went onto city semi-finals.



# Pain Is Temporary, Pride Is Forever

Poly Athletes 2010

