

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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DECEMBER 2014

FBI Investigates LAUSD

FBI Conducts Criminal Investigation On LAUSD's iPad Disaster

By Joshua Penado
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles School District's (LAUSD) most recent venture into providing all students with iPads has caught the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The FBI has confiscated 20 boxes of materials related to the iPad program in a surprise visit on Monday.

The subpoena submitted by the FBI stated the case as being a "criminal investigation" leading up to the June approval of the Apple contract.

Former LAUSD Superintendent, John Deasy, is the prime suspect of the investigation due to incriminating evidence that implies his involvement in a pre-meditated plan with Apple.

Deasy met separately with top executives from both Apple and Pearson two years before the bidding.

In addition to Deasy's meetings, Deasy had released a promotional video



Photo Provided by Google

for Apple a year before the bidding in which he stated "We had decided to adopt iPad technology, as we are trying to provide ways to

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Strong Union Means Better Education



Teachers march in protest

Photo provided by Michelle Nellon

LA Teachers Move For The Schools LA Students Deserve

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

On November 20th, over 8,000 supporters of the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) assembled at five different locations across Los Angeles to fight for reduced class sizes, fully staffed schools, and rational pay increases.

The rallies are part of organized job actions to support the Union's contract negotiations.

For many teachers it's more of a cost of living adjustment than a

raise. It's been six or seven years and the cost of living continues to rise but the pay for teachers have stayed the same.

Poly's UTLA representative Larry Carsten said, "The Union is requesting a 10 percent raise, which would be fair, considering how we have worked without a raise and we've made sacrifices for number of years now."

Former Superintendent John Deasy said in the Daily News, "In order to afford the deal, the school system would need to tighten spending, including cutting plans to expand new programs."

The district insists they don't

have enough money to provide the income educators deserve; although they've squandered millions of dollars fixing Deasy's mistake with the infamous MiSiS crisis.

UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in the Daily News, "We will not have educators who have been taking it on the chin, now be held hostage to John Deasy's MiSiS fix."

In order to keep schools running for students during the Great Recession of the last 5 years teachers agreed to "furlough days" to cut back on work days because

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CyberPatriots Defend Cyberspace

Parrots Learn Cyber Defence

By Juan Garcia & Ashley Tulle
Staff Writer

Poly's very own Cyber Patriot program completed the first of three rounds

on October 25, held at Cal Poly Pomona sponsored by the American Air Force Association.

Cyber Patriots is an after school club that meets every Tuesday and Thursday in room 93.

The Cyber Patriots

have eight different teams competing for Poly; The Honey Badgers, The Valley Honey Badger, Badger Legion, Jelly Badgers, Anonymous Badgers, The B-Bomb Badgers, The Badgers Legends, and Engineering Piglets.

Teams are chosen by picking your own team, pairing up with random people or put into the elite team.

The teams are coached by networking teacher Javier Rios and Joe Ramirez, from the KYDS Program.

The Patriots practice through programs given to them by their coaches and/or captains.

These programs include images, anti-virus, anti-

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CyberPatriot members

Photo by Victor Garcia

Not so Happy Holidays

Depression During The Holiday Season.

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

For most, the holidays are a time for cheer and celebration, but unfortunately for others the Christmas season does not bring such joy.

Though the time is cause for good food and family bonding, a spike in depression is seen amongst teens during the holidays. Some may think the good vibes around December should decrease depression, but therapists are actually on red alert with their patients during this season.

Maribel Munguia, PSA counselor, works at Poly to help any

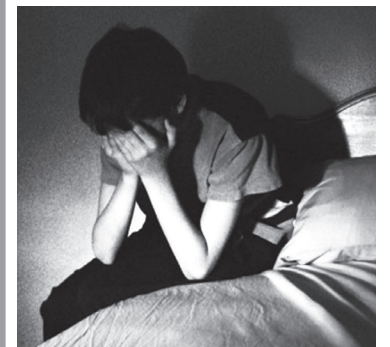


Photo by Victor Garcia
Teen depression affects everyone

troubled students. "I would say there are a bit more students that come in during the holidays. It's when people talk about being with their families and when things aren't going so well with their families, it can bring up difficult feelings" stated Munguia.

Statistics show depression increases drastically due to the holidays, though the actual suicide rate does not. For adolescents from ages 15-24, suicide is the second leading cause of death and for the U.S. in all ages it is the tenth. Metrolink even began an anti-suicide campaign at the start of the holiday season to bring attention to the cause and help in its prevention.

This year the freshman center has had eight serious suicide assessments while the main campus has had seven.

"Depression can be when anger turns inward, so a person begins to blame themselves for what has happened" stated Munguia.

Adolescents may feel de-

[Continue on page 3]



Photo courtesy of Michelle Nellon

UTLA Rally for Raise

Poly Teachers Attend Rally.

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Photo Provided By Zein Delgado

Zein Delgado at CSSA

Delgado visits Arts Institute.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Student Voice

Guest Editorial: Angela Campbell, Science Department Chair

Recently I attended an international summit of 90 educators in Washington DC, hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Sutton Trust. The point of the summit was to identify the best methods for supporting teacher development using feedback systems. One thing that made a deep impression upon me was the use of student voice in giving teachers feedback, a practice that is common in many places outside of the USA but has limited acceptance here.

This use of student voice to help teachers improve their practice was something that created a lot of interest at the summit. I was able to listen to Canadian, Australian, and British colleagues talking about how student voice is incorporated into their decision-making practices and policies. We have much to learn from these examples, and the experience made me wonder, how do Poly students express their views? Do we have elected student representatives who participate in decision-making processes? Do we have a system of surveying students to find out what they think about the policies and practices at the school? For example, the school is considering the Breakfast

in the Classroom program. What do the students think about this program and the adjustments that would probably have to be made to the schedule to put it into practice? How do students chime in on these matters that will affect them more than any other group at the school? Do we have a system of representative leadership that can truly express the opinion of the student body?

I am really grateful to be at Poly. The students here have impressed me as caring, dedicated people who support each other and their teachers. And this student publication, the Poly Optimist, is by far one of the best school newspapers I have ever read. I know that Poly students have things to say about their education, about their school, and about the quality of their experiences here. I would love to hear that student voice, loud and clear, and including as many students as possible. I hope we can encourage, value, and accept student voice at our community table at Poly. I am confident that many of my colleagues are also supportive of having more student voice represented in all of our decisions. I think the benefits of this would be unimaginably great, and I am ready to listen!

of focusing during class we sit there and hope our stomachs will not growl. I feel if the school does go with the BIC program students will be more focused during class hours.

-Bianca Carlos

Bringing breakfast into classrooms is a perfect idea to start at Poly. With breakfast in classrooms every student will have something to eat and they will be more energized than usual.

-Richard Beltran

Having breakfast in class would give students an opportunity to get their healthy nutrition and also wake up. Many students are half asleep when getting to school. Many students will complain that the students will leave a mess but students will clean up after ourselves. We aren't 6 years old anymore.

-Leslie Tellez

Having breakfast in the class would let us bond with students, even our teacher; it would be a good ice breaker. All students have to do is pick up after themselves.

-Gonzalo Gonzalez

Special Olympics – Unified Games

I believe that having the UNIFY league is a good thing. Other students who hear about the program want to join and help the program. The UNIFY league helps the connection between students grow. Having the UNIFY leagues helps these students later in life with confidence.

-Gabriel Chaidez

It's really amazing what you guys have done for these kids with disabilities and is great to keep our school spirit alive with these activities.

-Brandon Carrasco

Poly Goes High Tech

The article about computer programming is something I am doing in my 4th period called netacad.

I think we should notice the opportunities we have been given and take advantage of it.

-Anthony Mederos

Letters to the Editor

BIC – Breakfast Club:

This story reminds me of my former school Hawkins, where they would serve breakfast during class.

BIC is a very mindful program and I appreciate it because I do not always have time for breakfast and I am sure other students do not was well.

-Noemi Rivera

It's interesting that LAUSD is even considering Breakfast in the Classroom. To implement a program like BIC would be very unthoughtful considering time taken away from our education. Last time I checked schools were built to assist children's growth in their academic lives.

-Pearla Ruiz

It is such a great idea to have breakfast in the class. It would be nice to come to school and go to class and get breakfast. Not have to come to school early to get my breakfast and eat standing or sitting out in the cold.... We can all start off our day with at least a small meal to fill our stomach so we won't be hungry and our stomachs won't be growling.

-Crystal Pineda

It will be taking time from our class and students will be leaving crumbs everywhere. I would not like to sit in a place where

there may be insects because of all the mess. Most students will take this as a break from class and have full attention on eating and chatting with classmates. Breakfast is an important meal but I say we leave it out of the classrooms.

-Esmeralda Alfaro

I think you guys should write an article on school food because many students would agree that the school food is really bad and that most of the students throw away their food because it's nasty.

-Christian Padilla

I have to walk to school so most mornings I am rushing so it would be nice if I could enter the classroom with a nice small meal in my hands.

-Ronald Menendez

Even though breakfast is the most important meal of the day, most students won't take advantage of the BIC program. Students don't like the school food and wouldn't eat school breakfast even though it's served in class. I believe the BIC program is unnecessary, students won't take advantage of it and classrooms will become filthy.

-Stephany Lizarraga

I am sure students do not have time to eat breakfast. Instead

As a future student of Film Production class I was very excited to see the opportunities the class offers. I have also witnessed work by J. Hicks during my afterschool class called "Geometry of Video Games". He was always diagnosing, troubleshooting and fixing our computer malfunctions.

-Bella Hambarzumyan

Solar Eclipse

I was one of those lucky students to go and witness the eclipse in front of Mr. Pemples Classroom. I was very excited when I saw the sun spot because it was just crazy that it was on the sun. Talk about cool!

-Kimberly Sanabria

Pre-School at Poly

I didn't even know there was a pre-school at Poly. Since it's in the back of the school I wasn't aware of it. I think it's a good chance for those who want to have a career dealing with children, it gives students a head start. We should take advantage of the class and see it as a good learning experience.

-Ashley Ramos.

Persevering in Math

This caught my attention because it's inspirational. Ms. Padilla's positivity through achieving her goals has allowed me to stay positive while achieving my goals because life can be hard at times.

-Juan Gonzalez

More Optimist Editions Please

I think there should be a newspaper every week. It gives the reader more of an understanding of what is going on around them and allows students to take notice and to act to the situation/event.

-Ezequiel Burgos

SAT crossword Helps vocabulary

I really enjoyed the SAT crossword puzzle, helps myself and others as well. It helped me to know the meaning of new words. I also enjoyed the picture of Cynthia Portillo because it was her last year playing, and she has not played all season. I was proud of her that she was able to play one last time her senior year.

-Patty Diaz

Still made Playoffs

I think that a big problem the team faced all season was the growth of the injury list. I know that the team has had lots of problems both offensive and defensive sides. It will still be a great season and Poly will be looking forward to next year's football team.

-Javier Sanchez

Bigger Not Better – iPhone 6

I consider the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6Plus trying to be better copies of the Galaxy S5. I think that the Apple products are still functional and resourceful pieces of equipment despite its harsh criticism. Those who are looking should still have an iPhone on their list

-Gian Carlo Amarillo



the
OPTIMIST

Visit the Optimist Blog at:
polyoptimist.edublogs.org or
visit the Optimist link at Polyhigh.org

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

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community, and follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff.

CAMPUS

Unrest: Civil or Not?

By Juan Garcia
Staff Writer

White vs. Black; White vs. Brown; White vs. Yellow... Government vs. the People. Such is the unpleasant yet true history of this United States of America.

Majority white juries in Ferguson Missouri and most recently in New York City failed to indict what many, especially in the African American and majority communities, appears to be a clear abuse of power by police.

Black leaders beckon back to the 1960's and the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King for desegregation.

These were protest marches to gain the rights for blacks to go to schools with whites, blacks to have the right to vote, and minorities to have the right to be treated equally, as in "all men are created equal."

But history does not show those protestors, terrifying passers-by on the freeways, setting cars and businesses

on fire. Rather, the protestors were the ones attacked and humiliated.

The cause for which today's protestors are being engaged is completely justifiable, but the way that these protests are being executed is not the way to go.

For people to be destroying other's property and causing fear in the minds of many, just weakens the cause for which they are fighting.

Ferguson protestors should learn a little something from the March on Washington back in 1963, that violence is not the only way to get the attention of the world.

Peaceful protesting should be the only kind of protests that America should hear on the news: sit-ins, marches, and speeches, not the destruction of commerce and burning of American Flags.

Like Dr. Martin Luther King once said "Darkness cannot drive out darkness...Hate cannot drive out hate."

[From Depression page 1]

sipair for different reasons. The holidays may bring nostalgic feelings to depressed teens. Past memories of happiness and good times that no longer are, can stir up feelings of loneliness and hopelessness.

Teens may also just be experiencing tough times rather than remembering them. Divorce can lead to miserable holiday times. Deciding between spending Christmas with mom or dad can throw a child in to a black hole of depression.

Kharla Magpoc is a student who has seen many people struggle with depression and has been dramatically influenced by it.

Magpoc is not a total fan of the holidays. "This time of the year reminds me of when I was moving, so it does not bring up good memories" said Magpoc.

Magpoc has seen many others depressed during the holidays. "I used to live at a naval base and I would see many teenagers whose parents were not with them during holidays. They were obviously lonely and not having a good time" said Magpoc.

Unfortunately, depression is often taken lightly by many people and society. Some people

feel it is an over dramatization and not important. "The problem with depression is that people are not aware of the dire consequences it can have on people, they just over look and don't think it's a big deal" said Magpoc.

Depression is a serious issue amongst all people, but specifically in teenagers. People do not credit or notice all the pressure students are under. The stress can range from grades to family issues, but all are significant and impact the student dramatically.

When asked between the difference of attendance between freshman and seniors Munguia stated, "It's about the same, they just struggle with different issues. Seniors deal with the struggles of becoming an adult and gaining responsibility, while freshman are just coming in and beginning to adjust to high school".

Though depression is a serious issue it can be coped with and treated. "Depression is definitely manageable" said Munguia "The best treatment for depression is three possible things working together, health, counseling and in some cases medication."

Though medication is not

always suggested, it does help in many cases. "Not all people get depressed because bad things have happened in their life. They might just have biochemical depression and the only way to manage may be through medication" stated Muguia, "Medication plus a healthy lifestyle and counseling altogether is really the best treatment for depression".

Some hot lines available to troubled students are (800)TLC-TEEN, a confidential line where students can report their troubles and 211, LA County's info line that deals with any social service need from homelessness to depression. Munguia's door is always open and she has a team of master level interns that are all there to help students any time of the year.

**In Crisis?
Call:
Depression Hot-line
(800) TLC-TEEN
Or
211**

Freshman Corner

Learning the Why of Where

By Ashley Tulle
Staff Writer

Poly's freshmen are now challenged with the rigor of having an AP Human Geography class taught by History teacher Michael Corley.

Corley taught for 14 years at Sun Valley Middle School, and has been a member of the Poly community for two years.

Corley earned his Bachelors in History and Political Science from UCLA, and then later went on to receive his Juris Doctorate at Southwestern Law School and then passed his California Bar Exam in 1988.

Even though he passed the Bar Exam, Corley said he prefers teaching students, History, than the mundane routine of sitting in a law office all day.

Although this is Corley's first AP class he has had experience teaching many honors classes at Sun Valley Middle School.

Corley believes his 9th graders are ready for the AP class. He states "anyone who takes these courses realizes it takes a ton of motivation and dedication to not just do well in the class, but to do well on the AP exam at the end."

The freshmen use college level textbooks and need a considerable amount of time to understand, hence, Corley tries to incorporate real-life scenarios into his teaching.

"I try to tie the curriculum to current events going on around the world so by the time students leave me they have a fair amount of knowledge about global, national, and local events."

Corley promotes unusual assignments into his teachings, such as connecting items of daily use to where they originate from. For

example, rice comes from Asia and students learn why it originates in that country.

The class also read books like the story of "Lewis and Clark" and "Fast Food Nation."

"I try to align the test to the level of difficulty to what they will be seeing on the AP exam so the amount of time prepping for tests is much higher than for a non AP class."

Human Geography is the only available AP class for the freshmen and like any AP class requires a vast amount of time and dedication in order to succeed.

Most students in the class are able to adjust to the rigor.

Students have to understand that they can not wait to study at the last minute if they expect to ace the test.

Corley says that students learn the "Why of where; they are learning about why people migrate, religions, culture and how it spreads, how and why cities are planned, etc."

Corley wants his students to understand that he once was a student, and he cares for their success.

Corley's goal for his students to achieve is as follows, "I want them to become aware of their own intellectual strengths and needs as well as those of others."



Photo by Victor Garcia
Ninth Grade AP Geology Teacher
Michael Corley

Seniors and Juniors help Freshmen with Mural



Parrots Paint the New Ninth Grade Mural

Photos by Victor Garcia

CAMPUS

[From UTLA front page]

the district was short on money. Now teachers hope to recuperate these monies through pay raises.

Carsten said, "Being a teacher is supposed to be a steady job with reasonable pay. Each year, to keep up with the rising prices, we're supposed to get a little raise but that hasn't happened for a long time now."

Deasy insisted on a 2 percent raise and would not budge.

Caputo-Pearl said to the Daily News, "To act like the neighborhood of 2 percent is acceptable is not taking into account the reality of cost of living increases, it also does not take into account how much money is coming out of educator's pockets every year to try to build quality programs in the condition of much underfunded schools and challenging circumstances."

"2 percent is an insult, although, now that Deasy is gone I feel we have more of a chance that the union and the district will come to an agreement," said Carsten.

The District refuses to budge from their original 2 percent offer during UTLA's negotiations on December 4, 2014, in an email statement from UTLA it stated, "Despite the added bonus payment from their last compensation proposal, the District is still only offering a 2 percent salary increase."

When a new contract with

the district is constructed, there usually is a new pay scale that is agreed on that is honored by the district and the teachers.

Rallies like the ones on November 20th, help by publicizing fair treatment of educators. Parent's involvement increases the chances of attracting the Board of Trustees attention.

Carsten said, "The people who decide on our raise is the school board, and they're elected. They know that if they're going to disrespect teachers there will be a price to pay when there is a large demonstration of teachers, parents and students, it'll make them look bad."

"When you see your teachers involved in the rallies, you may not realize it but it makes your education better. When there is a strong union and teachers feel safe, protected, and paid reasonably then they are able to focus more on helping to educate students. A strong union means you're getting a better education."

Current superintendent Ramon C. Cortines clarifies on December 8, 2014 in an email to all LAUSD employees that "a 2 percent on-going pay raise effective July 1, 2010; a 2 percent lump sum for the 2013-14 school year; and another 2 percent lump sum payment based on the 2014-15 school year. These actions equal to a 6 percent pay raise."

New Counselor on the Campus

From Sylmar to Poly

By Ashley Tulle
Staff writer



Reyes Photo by Victor Garcia

Parrots welcome the new Gold House Senior Counselor, Veronica Reyes, to the Poly community.

She was at Sylmar High School as a counselor for nine years, before joining Poly.

Reyes attended CSUN and graduated with her Masters in Counseling followed by a bachelor's degree in Child development.

She enjoys working with students and feels that she has a

responsibility to help the students at Poly. She especially takes pride in seeing students succeed in college and beyond.

"I love when they get into multiple universities or colleges and being a part of that process."

Reyes stated "The thing I love most about counseling is connecting with teens and helping them be successful in all aspects of their lives."

The hardest thing about counseling for counselors, including Reyes, is to motivate the students who do not want to graduate or go to college.

Reyes has been married for 14 years and has four kids, two, seven, ten, and 13.

Reyes enjoys hiking and running, while also being a soccer mom for her kids.

Reyes stated "I am so happy to be here, everyone is so friendly and the students are amazing!"

Reyes' motivation to become a counselor was her aunt, who was also a school counselor, and a role model to her.

"She worked full time and went to school in the evenings. She is an amazing woman; she inspired me to be a school counselor."

Reyes lives by the motto "Everything is possible."

Robotics: Well Assembled

How To Build a Team

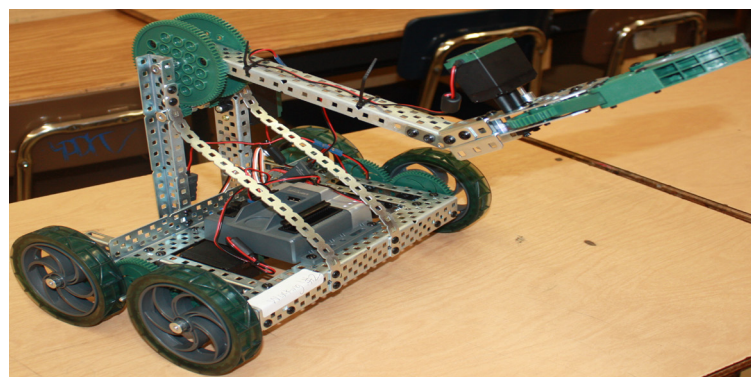
By Filiberto Catalan
Staff writer

Some go unnoticed by everyone all around however, just because a club goes unnoticed doesn't necessarily mean that it dies all together. The Robotics club is a prime example.

The club was created two years ago by Andrew Koh, Reymundo Cano, and Luiz Chavez who had the chance to experience robotics first-hand. "They were interested and some of them had done some work in summer programs that they went to... so they wanted to create the Robotics club," said Faculty adviser Ramon Gomez; the first and current sponsor of the club. "They were looking for a sponsor... and were so willing and so eager to start the club so I offered myself to be the sponsor of their club."

There are three different groups of members: the programmers, the gamers, and the builders.

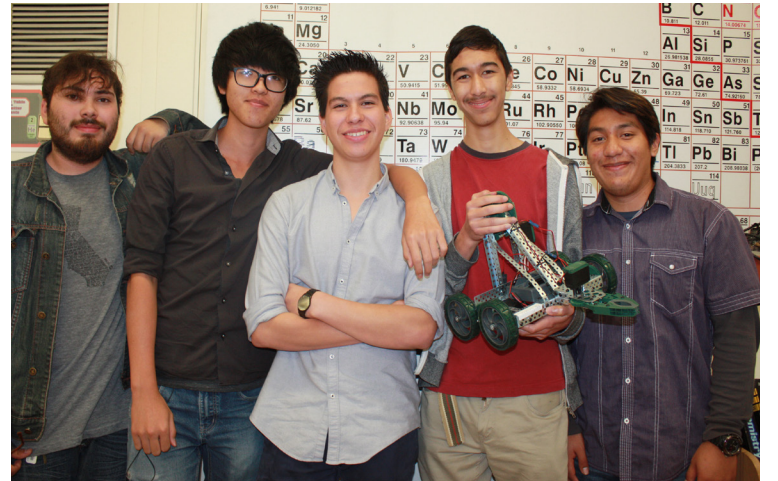
The programmers write codes in a specific language called RO-BOTC; a robotics programming language that is mainly used to code in robotics competitions and for educational purposes. The code is transferred to the robot, which



Robot Created by the robotics

three already built and we are building the fourth... After the robot has been finished, then we are going to start reviewing the other robots and changing some parts of the design for the robots to be able to do more things," said Gomez.

When the club started two years ago, students had to undergo



Poly's Robotic's team

he chose... I had to learn all over again the robotics, the mechanics, the programming and everything. At that point, I really got interested and I decided to stay."

As a new member in the club, Contreras says, "I joined in after Oscar last year, but I wasn't there too long. I got interested in the

a selection process in order to earn their place in Robotics. Oscar Contreras, current president of the Robotics club, was one of those students. He says, "I joined Robotics in junior year, because Alexander Ortiz invited me to go after school to some club... they chose Alexander Ortiz and I to join after we passed the selection process. It was more selective two years ago as well as last year, but now it's 'open doors' to everyone. I was part of the

programming aspect of it and I was learning it and it was fun. So this year... I decided it would be fun to join the club and become an officer and I was chosen to be a part of the committee and I became leader of the gaming component of Robotics."

The club has grown steadily over the past two years; it still has much work left to do. Contreras says, "I hope to establish some sort of stability for the coming year, because last year's leaders left and didn't leave much preparation for the new leaders... I was taught some robotics and some club management, but not to the point of complete understanding... we want members to be able to run the club efficiently next year."

Now, the main goal for the club is to compete in their first competition for robotics. Montano says, "What we hope to achieve this year is to at least enter one competition during the spring. With that, the members will have an experience, will have an idea of how it works so next school year, they will be more prepared, they will be able to join more competitions in the spring and the fall next year." The club has already made preparations to go to local competitions to see and feel the atmosphere of competition and how everything works in preparation for a hopefully successful competition in the spring.

then performs the task that has been coded.

The gamers are responsible for controlling the robot's actions and movement using remotes and consoles, and the builders are responsible for building and modifying the robot to perform actions as efficiently as possible to avoid it from falling down or breaking.

"Right now, we are building the fourth robot that we have. We have

club for the year... learned about programming and ROBOTC... it was fun."

Members also include Alejandro Contreras and German Montano who have just recently been promoted to officers in the club. Montano says, "Once Oscar became president our senior year, he chose his own committee to help him run the club and I was one of the people

Poly Advances With More AP

Research class makes the CAPSTONE

By Miguel Gutierrez
Staff writer

The 2014-2015 school year has brought about many changes to Poly's AP curriculum, furthering the push towards college readiness. The Leadership Summit held in August was only the beginning, as Poly now offers five new AP classes and three additional teachers teaching current AP courses.

AP, or Advanced Placement, classes give students the opportunity to earn college credit if the AP test for the specific subject at the end of the year is passed. A score of 3 essential equals a C, 4 a B, and 5 an A in a college class.

Poly's AP coordinator Irene

Maliwan, teacher of an AP Biology class herself, said "AP students are dedicated to learning the material and passing the test... this will help them excel in college because they will have built a background in the subject and developed the skills needed to study college material."

Adding to the college readiness, Poly also recently earned the

title of becoming a CAPSTONE school, after a nomination from the local district (Intensive Support Innovation Center) superintendent.

CAPSTONE is a title given to two courses offered through it, AP Research and AP Seminar, taught by Poly's Lisa L. Blackwell. The AP Seminar test will be joining AP Computer Science, Physics 1,



Poly AP Research Students

Photo by Victor Garcia

CAMPUS

Never Stop Questioning

New Science Teacher
Carlota Garcia
Inspired by EinsteinBy Juan Garcia
Staff Writer

Carlota Garcia joins the Science department, bringing with her a thirst for knowledge and a love for Biology.

Before joining Poly, Garcia worked at John A. Sutter Middle School for years located in Winnetka, California. Garcia taught seventh and eighth grade science.

Garcia attended San Fernando High, later transferring to Sylmar High School where she graduated.

Post High School, Garcia attended California State University, Northridge earning a BS in Biology.

Garcia states that she loves to teach because she loves to see students become interested in Biology.

Garcia's love for Biology began with her seventh grade teacher, Arlene Gonzalez, inspiring her to pursue a career in science.

Garcia explains, "She made science fun. I enjoyed her experiments and explanations on why things happen on Earth."

Furthermore, Garcia states that Sally Roderick, her eleventh grade English teacher from Sylmar High School, inspired her to pursue a career

in education.

"She motivated and helped me become a better reader and writer."

Garcia lives by the quote, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning" stated by German scientist, Albert Einstein.

Garcia explains that the hardest thing she is currently facing is finishing her Master's Degree.

"I love being at Poly," says Garcia, "From the first day I came to the campus everyone has been helpful to me."

Garcia also says "I also enjoy working at Poly because I have my sister and brother in law (the Madrigals) working by my side."

"I want to encourage all students to attend college and pursue the field of Science," states Garcia, "we are in need of scientist, engineers and doctors."

Photo by Victor Garcia
Science Teacher Carlota Garcia

Learning the Arts at Cal Arts

Poly Student
Zein Delgado Invited
to Summer InstituteBy Juan Garcia
Staff Writer

This past summer Poly Parrot, Zein Delgado attended the California Institute of the Arts and their program, California State Summer School for the Arts or CSSSA.

This is a prestigious four-week program offered to high school students aspiring to make a professional career in the fine arts.

Only one in three applicants are admitted into the summer program.

CSSSA offers artistic disciplines in animation, creative writing, dance, film, video, music, theatre arts and visual arts.

Delgado attended the program for Theatre Arts.

Delgado was offered classes in different area of theatre, which included: Dance for actors, Shakespeare and contact Improv.

Delgado stated, "Contact Improv is where one uses their body to communicate what one feels instead of oral communication"

Delgado also learned Stage Combat.

"We learned how to fight on stage without actually hurting the other person. We basically learned how to roundhouse kick someone without actually kicking them."

A typical day for Delgado consisted of two, two-hour



California Institute Of The Arts

Photo provided by CSSSA

morning classes like the ones previously talked about and Acting studio for the rest of the day.

"Acting studio is where we learned techniques on how to act; what is acting; what makes a great actor and how to be a good communicator.

"You go in CSSSA and you meet people that have the same interest as you, that was an anomaly and the community and environment was great to be around."

Delgado stated this experience changed him dramatically.

"Before CSSSA I was shy; wouldn't talk a lot. I was also not a very good communicator, but CSSSA changed all that."

"After CSSSA, I started taking risks; being more open; being more vulnerable."

Delgado stated, "I got to experience something that I thought I would never imagine. I got to learned so many different things that I did not know before."

He stated that if he could do it all over again, he abso-

lutely would.

"It was a powerful experience and I would highly encourage other students to apply."

Students can apply any time in their high school years, even after graduating.

However, students cannot apply after their first year of college.

"It's an extraordinary program and even if you are not interested in seeking a career in the arts, if you have the talent, apply. Your life will change."



Zein Delgado Photo by Victor Garcia

[From AP CAP. Page 4]

Physics 2, and Human Geography test in the spring as new AP classes.

Maliwan says, "The goal is for us to increase the number of students taking AP classes and to continue to expand our course offerings. In 2008, 400 students took AP test, last year we had 900, and we expect 1,100 for this upcoming 2015 testing year. We have improved our test scores and school ranking over recent years, probably why we were selected as capable of doing CAPSTONE justice. And through this, we can offer more ways to serve Poly students."



[From CyberPatriot front page]

malware, anti-spy ware, and operating systems.

To practice for the competition, teams review and fix errors on the programs provided.

Cyber Patriots are not given any help, when trying to find the problem in the computers. Students are self-taught and given resources while learning to secure program networks.

The Air Force Association hosts three Competitions which then determine whether a team moves onto the next rounds. "Judges are composed of members of the Air Force Association which are electronically adjudicated and recorded to a public score board" informed Mr. Rios.

Before competing, erroneous images are emailed to coaches, which are then distributed to the teams on the bus, en route to each competition.

"We are given six hours to correct the weakness, and errors in images such

as correcting basic security issues like a down firewall" stated Kate Martinez.

A Pointing system, connected to all the images, knows each error and problem in the images.

"Each error fixed is scored out of 100, depending on the difficulty of locating and repairing the error" stated Kate Martinez.

Once, the Cyber Patriot team has founded and corrected all errors, they are given a 15 minute checklist which, they can go over to make certain that they have found and fixed each problem.

The Cyber Patriots won't receive their score for a minimum of 2 weeks.

If teams meet a set minimum of points, they advance to the next round.

The final round is hosted in Washington D.C.

If a team manages to reach the final round, the Air Force Association pays for all expenses to compete in Washington D.C.

[From FBI Front Page]

increase student engagement."

Pearson was involved in planning LA Unified's five-year technology plan which was later approved by the Board of Education in May, 2012.

Within the files recovered by the investigation Deputy Superintendent at the time, Jaime Aquino, sent a message to Pearson a year before the bidding stating "I believe we have to make sure your bid is the lowest one" Aquino had worked for Publisher Pearson prior to joining the district but maintains he honored the one-year abstention from his former employer before submitting Pearson's proposal to the board.

Before voting, school board member Steve Zim-

mer asked Aquino to affirm that staff followed all legal guidelines which Aquino responded with "I am actually in awe of how we have done this process.... This has gone beyond my expectation in terms of a level of integrity and ethics."

Aquino left the district at the end of 2013. This was followed by Deasy's approved request to delete all district emails within one year before his own resignation in October, 2014.

When asked to comment on the subject by the Los Angeles Times Deasy stated "No one has spoken to me... I have no comment as I do not know anything about this"

Principal Ari Bennett was unavailable for comment at the time of publication

Holiday Wish List

Must See Films

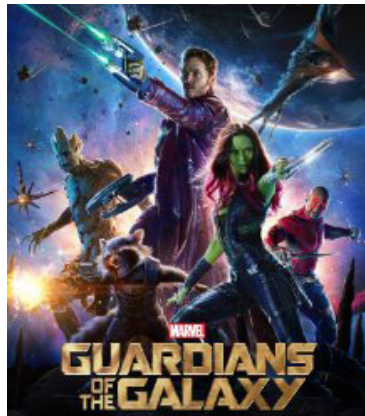
By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer



22 Jump Street: The sequel to “21 Jump Street” brings just as many laughs as the first. Though the plot line is similar to the first, there are many new twist and turns along this way. Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum again, nail the brotherly roles. Directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller pack the film with action and comedy. The humorous sequel will serve as a great gift for many teens.

Guardians of the Galaxy: For the action and comic loving friend there is “Guardians of the Galaxy” starring Chris Pratt as the silly, yet badass Star Lord. Star Lord and many other untypical heroes come together to try to save their galaxy. Director James Gunn and Marvel gets it right once again, “Guardians” is for more than just comic book lovers, it’s great for all movie goers. Packed with action, comedy and a great soundtrack this

movie will make a great gift for almost anyone.



The Grand Budapest Hotel: For the more unconventional film lover there is Wes Anderson’s latest quirky and won-

derful film. Set in a fictional country during a world war Ralph Fiennes plays Monsieur Gustave H, the charming and meticulous hotel concierge. Fiennes plays the role effortlessly and his character brings the enjoyment of the film. Anderson’s intricate directing and writing style are as always evident throughout the film.



Must play Games

By Michael Manzano
Staff Writer

“Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare” is a first person shooter, released on November 4, 2014 and is the newest installment of the “Call Of Duty” series.

The game takes place in 2055 in a war torn United States against North Korea. Warfare, however, has changed in the way that it is being fought with new technology

including drones, cloaks, and mechanical suits. Changes to the franchise are obvious, but Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare still holds the same sense as its predecessors.



“Assassin’s Creed Unity” is a historic action-adventure, released on the 11th of November, 2014. In the newest installment in the Assassin

Creed series, the player takes control of French Revolutionary, Arno Dorian, in his quest with fellow Assassins-a secret origination-to investigate the murder of his adoptive father. In the game, you are able to run and climb on walls, as you find your target for assassination. This installment of the Assassin’s Creed implements a new way to play with your friends online by allowing you to work as a team to kill your targets. So time to grab your knife and go free France.



Coldplay “Ghost Stories”: Considering lead singer Chris Martin’s personal troubles, it makes sense that Coldplay’s most recent album is filled with raw emotion. The album was released just two months after Martin’s separation from wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. “Stories” totals as Coldplay’s sixth studio album. With this album, Coldplay seems to stray away from their sound heard on albums like Mylo Xyloto. “Stories” dabbles more with mid tempos and electronic synths. Martin’s heartbreak is devastating, but “Stories” proves that some light may come from darkness.

Must Read Books

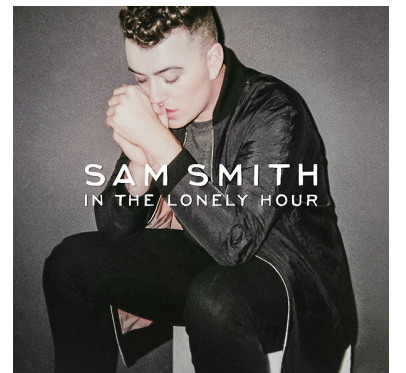
By Joshua Penado
Staff Writer

Although George Walker Bush had a controversial presidency, his skills as a writer are seen in his latest work “41.” Bush dedicated his book to his father, George Herbert Bush, in which he expounds the experience of having a president as a father. “41” comes off as less of a biography and more

Must Hear Music

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

Sam Smith “In the Lonely Hour”: Soulful and heart-breaking are just two of many words that describe Smith’s debut album. The loneliness is felt throughout the album, but in some sort of strange way his lyrics of pain and isolation are comforting. Smith’s tender and



long ranging voice really make the album. The young 22 year old London singer seems to have found his niche with his first album. Though the album was born from Smith’s lost love, he has found new fandom.



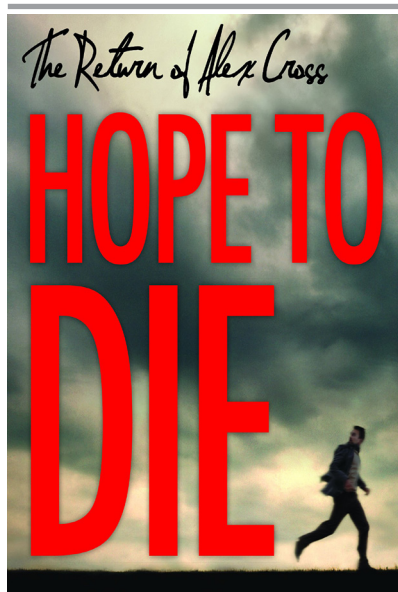
Mac Demarco “Salad Days”: Canadian singer Mac Demarco’s second album has a laid back seventies vibe that seems to

parallel that of “The Beach Boys” or “Steely Dan”, but with more nuances that make his music original and fresh. The off rhythm and out of tune twangs off the guitar create a beachy sound and with Demarco’s raspy yet soft voice, the album makes for a smooth and easy listen. The laid back, beachy vibe seems to be Demarco’s defining traits, but “Salad Days” is more refined and ample while still carrying the same characteristics fans are familiar with.

of a retelling of Bush’s “inspiration” for his presidential decisions depicting a “Father like Son” story. Love him or hate him, George W. Bush has remained at number one in hardcover nonfiction for three consecutive weeks. Whether or not Americans are burning “41” in their local piers or reading comfortably on a leather sofa, “41” is selling out across the country.

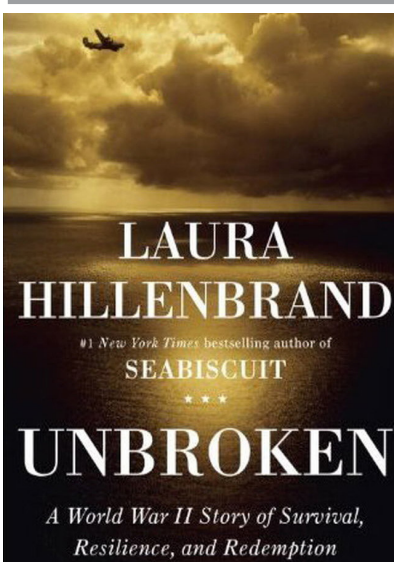


41
A PORTRAIT OF MY FATHER
by
George W. Bush



Critically acclaimed as one of the greatest crime thrillers of our time, “**Hope to Die**” by James Patterson, has retained the number one bestselling fiction book title for four weeks. “Hope to Die” follows detective Alex Cross in his journey to save his

family from a psychotic stalker. Cross finds himself being the “hunted” instead of the “hunter” as his family is targeted by the suspect of his case. “Hope to Die” reads as a written version of the popular movie, “Taken,” action included.



Media may have beaten the subject of WWII with video games and movies coming out about it every other day but, “**Unbroken**” by Laura Hillenbrand, brings a fresh new view of the war through real experiences. “Unbroken” leads the reader through the life of Louis Zamperini as he aspires to perform in the Berlin Olympics but is forced

to join the struggle against the encroaching Nazi force. Zamperini’s tale brings new life to the subject through his emotional recount of his struggles as a fighter pilot against the Nazi army. Hillenbrand reached number one in nonfiction paperback and remained there for 18 consecutive weeks.

ENTERTAINMENT

“Interstellar” Travels Deep into Space and Human Emotion

Christopher Nolan goes From Dark Knight to Space Pioneer

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

Yet again, Christopher Nolan releases a mind bottling tear jerker that is truly “stellar”.

Nolan known for “The Dark Knight” and “Inception” takes some notes from Stanley Kubrick’s “2001:A Space Odyssey” to create this mind sweeping film.

“Interstellar” is ambitious while still being familiar. The story is something most people can sympathize with, one of a father working hard to save his daughter, not to mention the millions of others on Earth.

The movie is set in the future and begins in the middle of a famine. The world is crumbling apart, major dust storms are hitting towns, crops are dying, and the importance of education is decreasing.

Matthew McConaughey plays Cooper, former NASA engineer turned farmer. Underground scientist, Professor Brand (Michael Cane), gives Cooper a daunting choice, journey into space to find a

safer planet to inhabit, or stay with his family as the world perishes.

McConaughey is authentic in the role and as he leaves his daughter every tear that falls can be felt by the audience. He does not know when he will be back or when he will see his daughter. The subtlety of his acting makes his character relatable and even more compassionate.

Nolan gracefully mixes the grand idea of space odysseys with love connections. This movie is an intimate journey into space; it goes into a deeper level than other sci-fi films have. “Interstellar” brings out the human side of these journeys and the actors do a great job of showing it.

Amelia Brand (Anne Hathaway), accompanies Cooper on the mission. She is aloof and independent, but she too is missing someone special, again circulating the theme of love.

Jessica Chastain plays Cooper’s grown up daughter, Murphy who is now the same age her father was when he left, each of her scenes drip with angst and longing. Chastain does a wonderful job, gracefully exuberating tenacity through the screen.

Though visual affects were a part of the film, Nolan did not rely on



Matthew McConaughey in “Interstellar”

Photo Provided by Google Images

them. Nolan and his brother, Jonathan, put more importance on story than production.

The secret to “Interstellar” may be that though the concept is grand and almost unexplainable, the message isn’t. Behind the science fiction lies a story of a father and daughter, something almost everyone can

relate too. Setting such a soft and humanistic plot, in a fascinating new world makes for an interesting three hours.

All this science and space may boil to one common force, love. Love is what drives someone to do anything. Love for a daughter, or love for a whole planet coincide

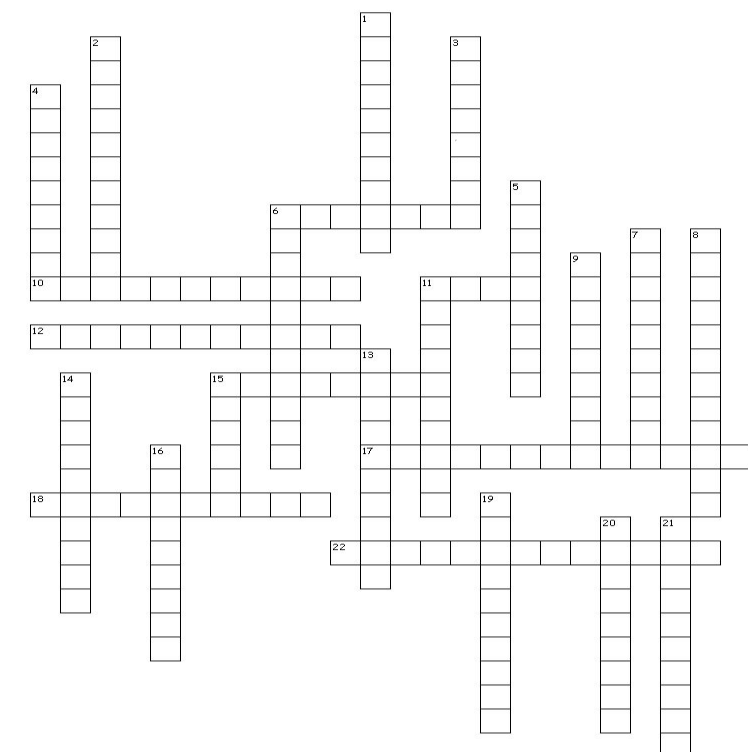
with one another.

“Interstellar” is truly a whirlwind of emotions, ideas and almost anything a viewer could possibly imagine. Though the viewer may come out feeling puzzled, they will certainly think of their loved ones.

SAT Crossword Puzzle

Word Bank

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| abbreviate | antagonist | circuitous |
| adulation | adversary | clairvoyant |
| adversity | arid | collaborate |
| aesthetic | assiduous | compassion |
| amicable | asylum | compromise |
| anachronistic | benevolent | condescending |
| anecdote | camaraderie | conditional |
| anonymous | censure | congregation |



Down

- to settle a dispute by terms agreeable to both sides
- depending on a condition, e.g., in a contract
- friendly, agreeable
- pertaining to beauty or the arts
- persistent, hard-working
- trust, sociability amongst friends
- indirect, taking the longest route
- a crowd of people, an assembly
- high praise
- to shorten, abridge
- sympathy, helpfulness or mercy
- friendly and helpful
- sanctuary, shelter, place of refuge
- nameless, without a disclosed identity
- the act of refraining from pleasurable activity, e.g., eating or

drinking

- misfortune, an unfavorable turn of events
- foe, opponent, adversary

Across

- to criticize harshly
- to cooperate, work together
- extremely dry or deathly boring
- exceptionally insightful, able to foresee the future
- short, usually funny account of an event
- out-of-date, not attributed to the correct historical period
- person who complies with accepted rules and customs
- possessing an attitude of superiority, patronizing



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	6		4		5		9
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2	5						8 7

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SPORTS

Poly Basketball Travels to Sin City

Poly Basketball Team Travels To Las Vegas.

By Ashley Tulle
Staff Writer

Poly's Basketball team will be going to Las Vegas on Dec. 17 for a National competition.

The team was invited to

play because of their last two successful years and last season Cesar Reyes was named 1st team Los Angeles All-City player and this pre-season, All-Area Selection Player.

The team will face a very tough competition playing against the best top-level teams from the country like

Philly and Utah because they are an undersized team which could cause a problem against teams whose players are seven feet.

Leading Poly to a possible chance to win are four impact senior players Cesar Reyes, Jose Esqueda, Francisco Mariscal and Jacob Peyton.



Players practice for Las Vegas.

Photo by Michael Manzano

Poly Wrestling takes their Stance.

Poly wrestling team loses first non-league boys match 18-54.



Jazlyn Avila performs "Head in arm hold."

Photo by Victor Garcia

Senior Quarterback's Last Pass

By Jonathan Femat
Staff Writer

Varsity quarterback Scott Diaz finished the season with 11 touchdowns, and 17 interceptions and overall passing 1800 yards.

Diaz started playing football in middle school where he developed an interest in the game. Diaz stated, "My older brother recom-



Scott Diaz Photo by Victor Garcia

mended I try the sport because he used to play at Poly in the 2010-11 season as a defensive cornerback. He said that I was good so I tried it out."

Diaz was inspired by Drew Brees, New Orleans Quarterback.

Diaz said football for him is a "really fun sport, to be part of getting people to work for the same goal."

Diaz suffered a minor injury to his Achilles-tendon injury this past season that kept him out only one game.

Diaz plans to pursue a Marine Biologist degree in college, but wants to focus on his academics going forward.

More Than A Team

For Tejada, One Becomes All.

By Jonathan Femat
Staff writer

Former senior football player Eduardo Tejada played his 1st football game in junior year as a wide receiver & outside linebacker where he scored three solo tackles and one assist against San Fernando high school in the 2013-2014 leagues.

This year Tejada came back as a wide receiver and safety where he scored a total of four touchdowns, fourteen catches and a total of 25.0 receiving yards.

Tejada played amateur football with friends before joining the Poly football team. Tejada stated, "The reason I joined is because I would always here trash talking about the football team from people who

Practice Makes Perfect

Tennis Player Angela Lawenko Perseveres.

By Juan Garcia
Staff writer

Poly junior, Angela Lawenko started playing tennis in ninth grade.

She heard about tennis through Kristine Aqui who is also on the team.

Although she could not join the team because the season had already started, Lawenko practiced with the team everyday for two weeks.

Lawenko officially started playing tennis when the season started in her sophomore year of high school.

Lawenko states that she never played tennis before high school, "When I was in eighth grade I would come visit my sister. I would always see two guys playing. They were really good; I'd never seen tennis up close I thought I would try something new."

Lawenko also talked about her inspiration to continue tennis. "In professional terms Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic inspired me to

play."

She stated that her father also played tennis in the Philippines before coming to the United States.

To Lawenko, her father acts as a separate coach who offers her both support and advice as she continues to play.

Lawenko aspires to make a professional career in the medical field.

Her top choice for schools is the Johns Hopkins Medical School. Second choices include UCLA and UC San Diego.

"I want to make a career

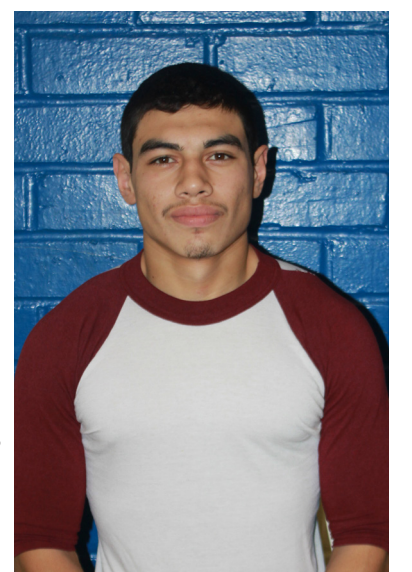


Photo by Victor Garcia
Tennis Player Angela Lawenko

as a surgeon/physician or a nurse. I like working with people and helping them relieve pain from injuries," said Lawenko.

season."

Tejada stated, "I'm not playing in college because I want to focus more on studies. I want to be a registered nurse in college the reason is because all the times I have been in hospitals so many times I found it interesting how there is always some one there to help me."



Eduardo Tejada Photo by Victor Garcia