

The Poly Optimist

Special Senior Edition
John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MAY 2016

Parrots Spread Their Wings

Magnet's *Peter the Great* Heads East

By Melanie Solis
Staff Writer

Magnet Poly Senior, Peter Matsumoto heads to Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts in the fall from which he received an early acceptance March 14, 2016, two weeks earlier than the standard date of March 30th. He was also accepted to UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis, and UC Santa Cruz, but Williams was his first choice.

Williams was his first choice because they have all the programs Matsumoto was looking for. It's a small college and they helped him with financial aid. Williams is the "number one Liberal Arts college in the nation" said Matsumoto. Williams is the primary feeder school to all the Ivy League colleges including Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, Cornell, and Yale to name a few, among those Matsumoto hopes to attend graduate school.

In addition Matsumoto added it's also on the East coast and he wants to be "as far away from home as possible."

His classes start in September and he plans on majoring in economics. He said "I originally signed up as undeclared, but when I went to visit Williams I walked into one of the economics classes for the upper division courses, and even though it was a 4th year level, and I didn't know anything that was going on in there, I realized this is what I wanted to know."

[Continued on page 3]



Peter Matsumoto

Show Me the Money

By Karina Avila and Diana Garcia
Staff Writers

Many students have one goal in their senior year: getting into college. Fellow student Keith Lemus has achieved that goal. He will be attending the University of California, Merced in the Fall of 2016 with the majority of his tuition paid.

Lemus was accepted to Sacramento State, California State University, Los Angeles, and the New York Institute of Technology, but said, "I feel like at Merced I can really envision being a student there -I can see myself going to that campus." His first choice was Sacramento State, but UC Merced offered more financial aid.

The UC Merced campus is approximately four hours from Los Angeles, requiring Lemus to live on campus, a bittersweet feeling for his parents. He said he visited the campus during spring break of 2015 with Upward Bound Sun Valley and his first impressions were of the isolation of this campus. However, Lemus believes it is that very isolation that will help him stay focused on his studies.

Another obstacle he will face, like many, is homesickness. However, his parents

[Continued on page 4]



Keith Lemus

Dreams Made Real In Massachusetts

Future engineer

By Diana Garcia
Staff Writer

Petra Juliahn Hernandez joins Poly alumni at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.

MIT has been her dream school since she was in 7th grade when she first "fell in love with the nerdiness of the school" through a television show and research.

Hernandez was also accepted to Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of California, Santa Barbara, UC Los Angeles, UC Riverside, UC Berkeley and Carlton College, but chose MIT because it is her first choice college and for its prestigious reputation. She plans on pursuing either chemical or mechanical engineering.

Hernandez wants to produce renewable energy without hurting the environment. Because chemical engineering is a broad field, Hernandez says you can work in diverse areas such as solar power and petroleum energy.

Hernandez is a member of the robotics club where she likes to build robots by combining Calculus, Physics, and Chem-

[Continued on page 3]



Petra Juliahn Hernandez

Valedictorian pursues passion

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

Valedictorian and Magnet student, Yhiedania Santiago will be heading off to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on September 2016 to pursue her passion for engineering.

Santiago has been accepted to a number of universities including Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Northridge, CSU San Luis Obispo, UC Irvine, UC Merced, Tufts University, UCLA and is on the waitlist for Columbia University and Johns Hopkins.

She plans to major in Biomedical Engineering to "solve real world problems." Santiago's interest in this field began when she was just in 5th grade and evolved as she took advanced placement classes in high school such as AP Biology with Mauricio Alonso.

Santiago spent her 11th grade summer as an intern at Children's Hospital Los Angeles with the prestigious Samuels Family Latino and African American High School Internship Pro-

[Continued on page 3]



Yhiedania Santiago Photos by Michael Manzano

Listen for the Heartbeat

Poly Seniors win contest for baby app

By Michael Manzano
Staff Writer

Poly's very own seniors Evelyn Gomez and Bryan Rocha won the Congressional App Challenge contest with their app called "Infant Monitor" on February 23, 2016. The 2015 Congressional App Challenge was a challenge open to high school students who were given the opportunity to essentially "show-off" their programming talents by creating a STEM based application from scratch. A total of 1,700 students signed up for the contest and 119 winners were selected based on their school district.

"AP Computer Science teacher

Gilbert Ovanessian suggested that we enter the competition," said Rocha, "and Evelyn and I decided it would be a good opportunity since we had a few weeks to complete the project."

The Infant Monitor is an application designed to help parents monitor their infants whenever they need to step out of the room or to alert the parents if there are any serious health problems. A heart monitor is embedded within the program as well as force plates that can read in values to make educated predictions about a baby's health. For example, if an infant's heart beat per minute rise gradually over a certain amount of time, the screen will flash red

alerting the parents that the baby needs additional care.

"We went into this competition with the mindset of not being able to win within our district due to the lack of time and resources," said Gomez, "so we were both surprised when we saw that our app was selected."

One of the most difficult tasks Gomez and Rocha faced was optimizing the application to work for portable devices, since there were multiple data tables to fit into a small screen.

"The hardest task of this project was creating the framework that would display and animate objects such as the baby or the heart monitor," said Rocha, "there were

times where we had to recreate some assets from scratch due to miscalculations."

Gomez and Rocha met up with the United States Representative for California's 29th congress-

sional district, Tony Cárdenas and field representative Jaqueline Serrano and were awarded certificates for their application.

"Overall, it was a good experience for us," said Gomez.



United States Representative Tony Cárdenas Photo Provided By Bryan Rocha presents awards

CHECK OUT THE SENIOR MAP pages 6 & 7

Oh The Places We Will Go



2016 MEMORIES PAGE 5 AND 8



OPINION

EDITORIAL

Writing Miracles

It was the summer of 2005, when former Poly principal Dr. Jan Fries-Martinez handed me an application for a full scholarship to the University of Texas, Austin School of Journalism Summer Program presented by the American Society of Newspaper Editors. She wanted to see The Optimist back on campus. To anyone who knew Dr. Martinez, she had a way of empowering her faculty and helping us to grow and challenge ourselves. Starting the Poly Optimist up again was certainly going to be that for me as faculty adviser. At that time, it was still “cut and paste”, graphic storyboards, and taking the paper over physically to be printed at the publisher’s press.

I returned from Austin, Texas armed with a new digital graphic publishing program In-Design, 3 computers, and a new student from Brazil, Pedro Oliveira who had been in this country for a year who promised he’d serve as our Editor-in-Chief. Pedro’s father had been jailed in Brazil for his work as a journalist which provided the impetus for Pedro to take on this task. He later wrote professionally, both for the Wisconsin Badger U of Wisconsin, Madison and later the New York Post and served with the foreign press for several months abroad in Berlin, Germany. Most recently attending Columbia University’s Graduate Program for International business.

Raymond Suravech loved to write about sports, and took the lead for our sports coverage and soon Raymond Carillo joined us as our cartoonist. Raymond’s artwork is still on the walls of Ms. Elias room, The Parrot Zone. Room 92. Together with countless classrooms of students, we made The Optimist happen year after year.

When Poly went to a single track, I recruited John Blau, former LA Times Journalist, from Poly’s History department to continue the mission.

At the recent High School National Journalism Conference in Los Angeles in April, LA Times Award Winning Sports Writer Bill Plashke implored the student writers to “Write the miracle, be the miracle.” As I reflected on these past years as the adviser for The Optimist, I realized how I’ve been blessed to be part of the miracle of watching students write every month through this journey of words; I’ve had the honor to work with writers, photographers and editors who truly are the miracles of this

next generation - writers who embrace the power of the written word, art and photography-student writers who gave voice to the many powerful stories within our school community, and many without a voice.

Finally, I want to thank my current Editor-in-Chief, Kate Martinez, whose attention to detail is a gift and who has put in countless hours after school and at home to help get our newspaper out on time. Kate will continue to explore a degree in writing and news next year at Cal State LA’s Journalism program.

Michael Manzano, served as our Lay-out Editor these past two years and has never wavered in his commitment to our paper and his school community. Michael’s natural gift for finding that “perfect headline” has been invaluable, facing tight publishing deadlines.

A special thanks to current staff writers Diana Garcia, and Melanie Solis whose commitment to our publication has been steadfast under difficult circumstances.

Along the way, we have won seven First Place Certificates awarded by the American Scholastic Press Association, including this year, competing with over 2300 college and university newspapers across the country.

Working with words and stories takes commitment, patience and perseverance. I have been deeply honored to share a lifetime of stories of our faculty and students life journeys. I sought to always be true to the principles of journalism, and to tell the story with integrity. I have been challenged to tell those truths on occasion, when that truth was inconvenient and uncomfortable.

Like every newspaper, ever published, every day in this country. We made errors. But, corrections were always published and acknowledged and we continued to learn from our mistakes.

I have enjoyed the support of Poly’s administration over these many years, and would like to take this opportunity to thank principal Ari Bennett whose support for me and The Optimist has never wavered and for that I am grateful.

Finally, in the words of the great American journalist, Edward R. Murrow, “Good night, and Good luck.”

Ethel Matlen
Journalism Adviser

Writing, Editing and Growing

Committing myself to the Optimist was personal to me because journalism is the one thing I have continuously been engaged in for the last two years.

I’ve questioned my skills and my ability to handle pressure that comes with being on the Optimist staff and I can honestly say breaking out of my comfort zone and fighting my counselors to stay in this class was worth it.

The adventures (believe it or not, we do have fun in the newspaper room) were life changing. I’ve met professional reporters, heard their stories, and their journey and I’ve also shared stories from our Poly school community. This has helped me decide what I want to do after high school.

I’ve fought and laughed with the Optimist staff. I’ve learned to work with a team. In the end, no matter how close we came to deadline, we got the job done.

When I was struggling to balance school and my own personal matters, I believe being a part of the Optimist helped me stay grounded. The class is so busy and requires

my undivided attention such that my stress is overpowered by the frenzied writing and editing required by all.

I won’t lie and say my experience as a journalist was all fun; it was tough writing articles, writing essays for English class, planning interviews, scheduling time to study for tests, editing, editing, editing...

If I had any regrets this year it would be not finishing my articles fast enough to work on more.

To our readers, thank you for reading and helping The Optimist reporters and staff grow with each edition.

To my adviser, Ms. Matlen, thank you for putting up with my procrastination and my attitude. I may have tested your patience one too many times, but you never gave up on me, even when I was ready to quit.

As my mother told me, “do what you love,” and I’ve loved being a journalist and will continue to do what I love.

Kate Martinez
Editor-in-chief

Parrot Squawk: Blog Posts

Regarding the ” History must include all voices ” I strongly agree that the material should be introduced to students because it is a part of world history. That becomes a strong tool in our life that we can apply to everyday situations.

Guadalupe Rosas

I believe it is a good idea for the story of Korean Comfort Women to be taught in history classes because history is history, it does not matter how cruel a group of people may seem because of it.

Jesus Naranjo

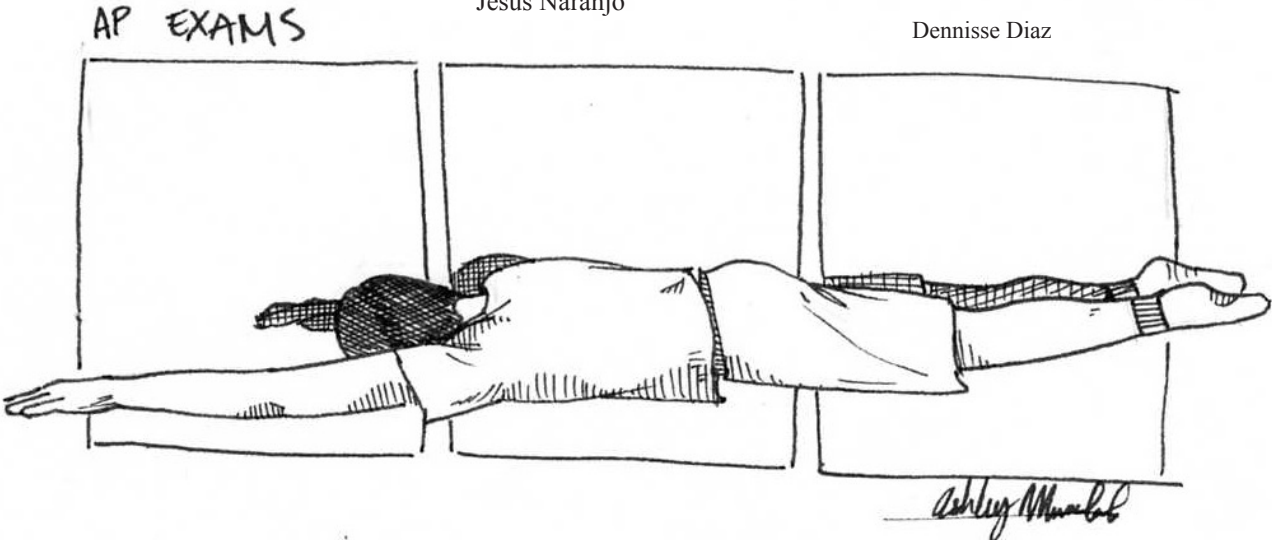
“History Must Include All Voices”

First of all, great topic. I think this is a great idea to talk about history in other parts of the country. This will give some history to all of us here in the United States. Some awareness about what happened in other countries that the Government does not want exposed and kept quiet.

Alex Leon

Some say that teaching this part of history may seem uncomfortable for some readers, but one must accept that history cannot always be pretty. This is a major part of history that must not be silenced.

Dennisse Diaz



Thank You and Farewell to Poly’s Own “Bob the Builder”

By Larry A. Carstens

Greetings to Poly students and faculty, and congratulations to the Class of 2016 from Mr. Carstens, 10th Grade English Teacher and UTLA chapter chair.

I’d like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Bob Scott who is retiring this year. I refer to him as “Bob the Builder” because he did a lot of building here at Poly: just not the kind that uses brick and stone. A couple years back, you may have read in the Optimist about how Poly became a “Pilot School.” That means that our school has greater say over what’s done with the money we get from the federal government, and greater autonomy in how we do things. That means we don’t just have to blindly follow everything the district (LAUSD) tells us to do; we can do some things the “Poly way.”

Mr. Scott worked hard, getting people on board, not only at Poly, but from the district and the teachers’ union as well.

Why else do I call him “Bob the Builder?” As an educator, he has helped to build the future by educating young minds in science and computers. And he has helped build relationships among colleagues.

Bob Scott and I have competed for the position of Chapter Chair over the years.

Throughout this challenging process, he has maintained a friendly and positive demeanor to all. Even when we were opposed to each other, he never failed to take time out of his day and talk with me. I admire his professionalism and service to Poly.

I also admire his life of service to our country when he served in the very unpopular Vietnam War. Mr. Scott did his duty to our country and risked his life to answer its call.

As a former opponent, and long time colleague of Mr. Scott, I would just like to say thank you for your service, Mr. Scott. Thank you for being a friend. And I wish you a wonderful, happy, long and well-deserved retirement. I hope you have many great experiences with your wife, your dog and your hog. I hope you travel to interesting places and experience many wonderful things.

God bless You.



the
OPTIMIST

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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.

Letters To The Editor
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 room.14 or Ms.Matlen's box.

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CAMPUS

[Continued from Peter pg 1]

Matsumoto said Magnet teacher Dr. Lehavi’s classes in AP Euro, Political Science 1, 5, and 7 solidified his interest in this area of study.

Arriving in Massachusetts this spring, Matsumoto said he didn’t expect the area to be so green and cold. “So I showed up in shorts and I was dying.” The place was “really pretty - all the buildings were old style architecture. Inside the buildings however, everything was modernized and it looked completely different from what you would expect from the outside and that was cool. I enjoyed the experience.”

Matsumoto described the mascot which is a purple cow. “It’s the ugliest mascot. It’s the worst. It’s cool though. And they call it an “Eph.”

The environment is completely different from the valley. The whole city of Williams is three blocks on one street and they have two stores and a restaurant and the city is really tiny. The skies are very clear so you can smell the fresh air.”

His biggest inspirations are his father who always encouraged him in his studies and supported him. He counts David Bowie, as inspiring because he was “the greatest musician that ever lived.” Matsumoto recognizes Dr. Lehavi because he’s the teacher he “knew the best and always took care of me. He always encouraged me to do better things and he wrote me a letter of recommendation and has always made sure that I was doing what I was supposed to be doing.”

Dr. Lehavi says that they built a connection immediately when they first met because he was “the only one who understood my sense of humor.”

Lehavi adds “Peter was never arrogant, even though he might’ve been the most intelligent person in the world. He is intellectually intense, but friendly. He has a rare generosity of character, pleasant personality, nonlinear thinking. He embodied the kind of mythical perfect student that I always wanted to teach” said Lehavi.

One of the achievements from Poly, Matsumoto will always remember was playing the lead in the Princess Bride and Guys and Dolls and attended the Thespian Festival. He adds he’s also very proud of making films with Mr. Madrigal, and the friends he’s made at Poly.

Dr. Lehavi adds “He is one of the most brilliant students I have ever had to teach. He was a Renaissance man, somebody who isn’t good at just one thing, but has a great variety of pursuits whether it’s acting, writing, athletics, he’s great at everything.”

A Story, A Strategy, and A Song to The Class of 2016
Passage for the Preludes

By Principal Ari Bennett

There were a multitude of opportunities and much more flexibility in choosing classes and my schedule at UCSB. This was liberating at first, but I quickly learned that a large university is not an easy place to navigate. I hadn’t developed the skills in high school to aggressively pursue opportunities, activities, or even to meet new people. I went to a university that I was already familiar with from visiting my brother. My choice was specifically made because it was safe. This was a mistake. It wasn’t until later that I learned if you don’t knock down the walls of your comfort zone, they will collapse on top of you. Without going into the details, this put me in a dangerously vulnerable position including many precarious moments until finally earning my degree almost 7 years after I started.

So with this context, I want you to know how proud I am of you. Don’t let anyone tell you differently, you deserve it, you’re smart, and your potential is unlimited. Your path to high school graduation has been almost definitively harder and more complicated than mine was, and I had a much larger margin of error. Your persistence alone at this age is a good sign for the future. Unfortunately, in life the Grand Canyon exists between potential and achievement. Whether you are moving onto university, community

college, or a job, reflect on what you’ve learned and inventory your strengths and weaknesses. Believe in your ability to enhance your strengths and address your weaknesses. I didn’t do this until I was confronted with a bleak future that I could never have imagined. Focus on growth and development. Write down your short term and long term personal, academic, and professional goals. Work everyday to make a little progress. The impact that making small progress each day will have over the course of a few years is as profoundly large as the mouth of the Grand Canyon.

I know what you’re thinking. “Bennett, I’ve heard this same song a hundred times before.” So allow me to alter the tune just a bit. Don’t listen to me. Imagine the 40 year old you advising the 18 year old you of today. It’s similar to the good advice you’d be able to offer the 9th grade you. The reasons adults are always proffering advice that students often don’t ask for, is not out of arrogance or the belief that we’re better or know better; it’s because of the extensive evidence we’ve collected in the form of our failures, our obstacles, and our setbacks. We fear our children and our students (who we often think of as our children) will make the same mistakes and feel the same pain we did. At Poly, we’re continually trying to get better at preparing you



Photo by Michael Manzano

Principal Ari Bennett

for whatever comes next in your lives. Most of you don’t know how much we care. Advice, even if given in a moment of grumpiness, comes out of the hope and anxiety that is the fiber of our passion to help you succeed and make good choices in your lives.

As you move on to the next stage in your lives, just know that you are not alone. We will still be here for you to give advice, encouragement, or a little inspiration. Your contributions have enhanced our Poly Pride and increased our school’s reputation within the community. Incredibly, your achievements are just a small sample of how your class will impact the world.

[Continued from Santiago pg 1]
gram (LA-HIP).

LA-Hip has accepted 134 students since 2006; Santiago was one of the fourteen student admitted to the program in 2015.

During her time in the internship she had the opportunity to expand her knowledge and satisfy her love of learning on the subject of stem cell regeneration.

Santiago credits her mentors during her internship, Dr. Cambrian Liu and Dr. Phil Dube, and Poly AP Biology teacher Alonso for inspiring her to explore this course of study.

Alonso made biology important to me and something I could connect with,” said Santiago.

“For a long time I thought I wanted to be a civil engineer but I discovered my love for Biology in LA-HIP,” said Santiago, “I like being in a lab room, putting on a lab coat, and working with cells. I want to take what I do in a lab and be able to apply it to help patients in real life.”

Santiago’s eagerness to work in a lab influenced her decision to go to MIT because of the resources available for research, such as MIT’s Undergraduate Research Outreach Program (UROP), “They make

it easy to reach out to professors and request to be considered to work in their lab.”

Although, Santiago stated that every school she has visited she has always found something to love. “I think you will find amazing people everywhere, a group you will click with”

Santiago’s parents and two brothers, Poly student Jeorgeluis Santiago and Ismael Santiago are elated for her success.

“My dad is very excited for me, he said to go out and explore the world.”

On April 7th Santiago had the opportunity to feel the chilly air of Massachusetts on her three day stay at the Campus Program Weekend (CPW) with over 700 programs offered during the future freshmen’s stay.

At MIT, collegiality requires collaboration from all its students, and Santiago found this to be true and felt at ease with current students, in what could be an intimidating environment.

Santiago will be joining Poly’s eleven alumni attending MIT and bringing that same studious commitment in her new life in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

[Continued from Hernandez pg 1]



Poly seniors leave together for same destination

Photo by Michael Manzano

istry.

She has also been in Poly’s rock band since 9th grade as a singer and occasionally a guitarist, bass guitarist, pianist, and drummer.

In the summer of her junior year, Hernandez participated in the summer science program from June 28 to August 4. There she studied astronomy where she observed asteroids and used physics to locate their position. From the data they collected, they would predict if any asteroids will hit earth.

Mr. Gomez’s chemistry class inspired Hernandez by enhancing her interest in chemistry.

From April 7 to April 10, Hernandez visited MIT for a campus preview weekend where she says incoming freshman were allowed to visit classes, clubs and other events on campus.

“I want to be able to stay somewhere where I feel comfortable. Somewhere where it feels like home,” says Hernandez. She describes the environment as a great balance between fun and academics.

Hernandez’s mother was also an inspiration to her because of the way she cared for the environment. When she was younger, her mother made a composting machine in their backyard and grew their own vegetables.

Her family is supportive of her attending MIT, but her father will be sad to see her go.



Petra Juliahn Hernandez (right) and Yhiedania Santiago (left) join former Parrots at MIT

Photo provide by Yehiedania Santiago

CAMPUS

Teacher of Many Talents Retires This Year

Science teacher and former UTLA Rep Bob Scott retires

By Diana Garcia
Staff Writer

Science teacher Robert Scott retires this year. Scott grew up in Poly’s neighborhood and attended Sun Valley Middle School. He graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1966 after transferring from Grant High School his sophomore year. Scott attended Santa Monica Community College for two years. He earned his BS in psychology and teaching credentials from California State University,

Northridge and his MBA in Business from National University. Scott served in the Vietnam War for a year as a convoy escort. Scott worked as an systems analyst for Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc., where he would install computer networks around the United States and train people on how to use the systems. When that job was over, Scott became interested in teaching and joined the Teaching Fellows Program. Poly was Scott’s first teaching job in 2003 when he was in need of a job. He taught 9th and 10th

grade Biology, Integrated science and currently teaches Computer Ed at the Freshmen Center. The best part about teaching is, “The very strong feeling that I contributed in some small way to my student’s success,” states Scott. He says the feeling that he’s made a difference has been the greatest reward. The most challenging part of teaching for Scott has been managing classes. Scott says “he will miss the bond he has created with his students.” When Poly was transitioning to a pilot-charter high school, Scott was Poly’s United Teachers Los Angeles(UTLA) union representative. He states that through these years, “Poly changed from one of the worst high schools in the San Fernando Valley to one of the most improved.” Scott has been married to his second wife for ten years. He was a single parent to his son Johnny who was married last year to a recent law school graduate and she is now specializing in Trust and Eldercare, while son Johnny is an interior designer. Scott plans to travel, take up photography and perhaps do some consulting as a facilitator-trainer. However, he states, “Who knows what the future will bring.”

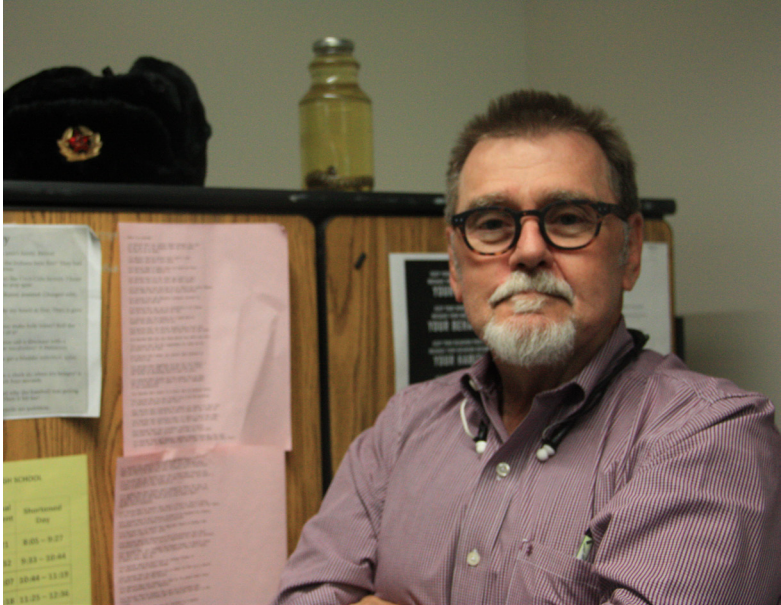


Photo By Michael Manzano

[Continued from Lemus pg 1] support his decision on leaving. “They have an unlimited amount of support for me,” Lemus said. Lemus believes that being homesick is something everyone faces, no matter how strong a person is. “But I feel what defines your strength is how you handle that moment of weakness,” he stated. Lemus was originally granted a Cal Grant A through Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). When his parents filed their taxes and updated his information, however, his Grant money was reduced to a

“But I feel what defines your strength is how you handle that moment of weakness”

Cal Grant B, lowering his financial aid package. Rather than giving up, Lemus appealed directly to UC Merced officials and prevailed. UC Merced told Lemus he would be receiving Cal Grant A but the Student Aid Commission told him he would only qualify for Cal Grant B because of his GPA. If Lemus were to receive Cal Grant B, he says he would have to pay \$10,000 out of his own pocket which simply wasn’t an option. With the confusion over the Cal

Grants, Lemus decided to email UC Merced about his situation. UC Merced responded by reducing the Cal Grant and increasing the Bobcat Grant to \$17,869 which would make up for the \$10,638 reduction in his grant. Lemus plans on majoring in Sociology with an emphasis on criminology inspired by his older brother and his LA Mission College professor Mr. Anderson who elaborated on the criminal side of human behavior. Lemus credits 10th grade math teacher, Lawrence Ziehler who challenged him to excel in his

academics. “Keith has a lot of ability and I just wanted him to reach his potential,” Ziehler said. Lemus is a part of Leadership, Film Production Club, Upward Bound Sun Valley, one of the Senior Representatives for the Principals Student Advisory Council and our very own mascot, Joe Parrot.



UC Merced campus

Photo by Google Images

Teacher by Accident Master of linguistics leaves classroom

By Diana Garcia
Staff Writer

Magnet English teacher, Mischia Martin retires after sixteen years at Poly. Martin attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and majored in Italian and Theater. She also received her Masters degree in Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When asked how she knew she wanted to teach, Martin responded, “I didn’t. It was an accident.” Martin didn’t have experience in teaching but was in need of a job. At the time, there was a shortage of teachers. Martin took the National Teachers Exam in English and Social Studies with an “emergency credential.” Her first teaching job was at John Adams Junior High then at Jefferson High School in South Central where she taught for seven years. Magnet social studies teacher, Dr. Ron Lehavi and Martin taught together at Jefferson High School then at Poly. Martin wanted a different experience in teaching outside of South Central and that was when Dr. Lehavi encouraged

her to apply for an opening in the magnet program at Poly in 2000. “I wish she could stay here forever,” says Lehavi. She currently teaches Honors 10th grade English, AP English Language, and AP Psychology in

the Magnet Program. “The best part about teaching is the students,” Martin says. It is rewarding to her when students come back to thank her for making them read because it helped them survive in college. She will



Photo by Michael Manzano

miss her students and colleagues the most, but won’t miss grading papers. The most challenging task she faced was having to learn a “whole new skill set to teach in Poly’s Magnet Program,” as opposed to her work at Jefferson High School in South Central. Many years ago, Martin, Lehavi and Magnet AP History teacher Juan Morillo accompanied students on a trip to Western

Europe. Morillo recalls learning that she is fluent in French and Italian. “It was all a revelation to me,” says Morillo. Poly Magnet students will miss Martin’s expertise in her lunchtime seminars on Medieval Literature including Dante’s Inferno and the Italian Renaissance and French Literature including such titles as Candide. Lehavi says that Martin is responsible for her students’ admission and success in college. “Nobody could do what she did with the students,” says Lehavi. Morillo expresses that it will be a “great loss to the school and community.” Overall, he is happy for her and has had a good experience working with Martin. Lehavi concludes with, “It’s been the greatest honor anybody could ever have to work with her.” Martin has a 37 year old son who was a former student of hers who she adopted 22 years ago. She is not married, she says because “I forgot.” Martin is planning on becoming a hypnotherapist to help people with issues such as pain management, smoking cessation, and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Martin concludes with “I’m glad I’m retiring while I’m still really happy with my job.”

BEST OF 2015-2016



From Dreams

California State University, Northridge(CSUN)

ISABEL CEBALLOS
JOSELYN AGUILA
JESUS AGUILAR
ESMERALDA ALFARO
GIAN AMARILLO
HALEY AVILA
KRISIA BARAHONA
JOSE BAUTISTA HERRERA
CESAR CASTANEDA-CASTANEDA
CARLOS CASTILLO
MIRNA CASTRO
CRYSTAL CHAIDEZ
DIANA CORTEZ
RICARDO CORTEZ
VANESSA DELGADO
RANDY DIAZ
GABRIELA DUBON
JASFER DUMAOP
VICTORIA FAJARDO
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MICHAEL GARCIA
DIANA GARCIA
BRANDON GARCIA
AMBER GUZMAN
JONATHAN JUAREZ
DANESSA LEMUS
SHANNA LERMA
AUGUSTINE MARTINEZ
HELEN MARTINEZ ARTIAGA
JULI MAZARIEGO
RONALD MENENDEZ
ERICK MOLAN
RENE NOVA
YANETH OCAMPO
RACHEL OCHSENREITHER
CRISTIAN PADILLA
ENINTON RAMIREZ
DANIEL RAMIREZ
ASHLEY RAMOS
ANGEL REINOSA
ELVIA RENTERIA
ADAM REYES
JESUS RIVERA
ANTHONY RIVERA
SERGIO RODRIGUEZ
ELOY RODRIGUEZ-BERTHAUD
DANIEL ROSILLO
MARLE SALAZAR RODRIGUEZ
MARTIN SANTANA
KIMBERLY TORPOCO
CHRISTIAN TRUJILLO
DAVID VALENCIA-SANCHEZ

JAMIE VELASCO MARTINEZ
JOSE VELAZQUEZ
JASMINE VILLA
ENOCK VILLALOBOS
HECTOR ZAPATA
URIEL ZARAGOZA
CRISTIAN REYES

Santa Monica College

CHRISTINE ACOSTA-TORRES
DARLENE CASTELLANOS
HEATHER FRANCO
MADELINE MARQUEZ
LIGIA MONROY

California State University

JUAN ACUNA
JUSTIN LABUCAY
SEBASTIAN MAGANA MEDINA
CATHERINE OLALDE ALFARO
JACQUELINE PEREZ
SAMANTHA SANTOS

Mission College

PRISCILLA AGUIRRE VELA
JESUS AYON
JOCELYNE CANO
NICK CUELLAR
ELSA ESPITIA
JOSE GOMEZ
AUBREEY JOHNSON
JENNIFER LOPEZ
ANGEL MENDEZ
THOMAS NAVAS
JOSSELINE OLIVO
GEORGE RAMOS MEDINA
JOHANA ROMERO

Humboldt State University

ESTRELLA ALAMILLO
DIANA PILA-SANCHEZ
MARIO DEL RIO-VELIZ

Los Angeles Pierce College

BLANCA ALEJOS
NEIL ANINO
PATRICIA AVINA
RICKY CASTRO
BRENDA CERON
JOSHUA DIAZ
ROSENDO ESPINOZA
FRANCISO FIGUEROA
DAISY GONZALEZ

NATALIE JIMANAROJ
MICHAEL MANZANO
FRANCESCA MENDOZA
JOHANNA NAMBO
DAISY ORTEGA
ALONSO PARRA
ELVIS PINEDA AREVALO
FERNANDO REGALADO
MANUEL RIVERA
PEARLA RUIZ
RODRIGO SUAREZ SANCHEZ
MAGALY VARGAS
STEPHANIE VITAL

Los Angeles Valley College

ADOLFO ANGUIANO
ANTHONY BARRON
SEBASTIAN CASARES
NABOR GARCIA
CRISTIAN GONZALEZ GOMEZ
LIZBETH GONZALEZ MORALES
JOSE LARA GARCIA
ALONDRA LEDESMA IBARRA
JENNIFER MERCADO
ANDREA MORA
SARAN PHADUNGWIT
ARREAGA MIRANDA BERENISS

Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising

JASMINE APARICIO

California State University, Fullerton

RONALD APARICIO

University of California, San Diego

KRISTINE AQUI
GABRIELA GUTIERREZ
BRANDON GARCIA
AYSIA SAADIA

University of California, Riverside

JORGE BARAJAS-AMADOR
LIZZETH CANO
PRABHJOT CHAMBER
JENNIFER GALVAN
JONATHAN GARCIA
KARINE GASPARYAN
MARTIN MORENO
JACQUELINE PERDOMO

To Reality

ROSITA PARRA
VICENT RENTERIA JIMENEZ
YAILIN RENTERIA SORIANO
VANESSA VALLADARES

University of California, Santa Barbara
ALEXIA BARRERA DOMINGUEZ
LEILANI VILLALVAZO CABERA

Los Angeles Trade Technical College
GABRIEL BAUTISTA

University of California, Irvine
JOCELYN BERUMEN
ERIKA MEJIA LOPEZ
BRYAN ROCHA
OSCAR SANCHEZ-HERNANDEZ
KIMBERLY QUIROS-ELIAS
MIGUEL RUIZ

California State University, Sacramento
ELIJAH BONDS

California State University, Dominguez Hills
KAREN CABRERA
EDUARDO CONTRERAS
ANDREA A. MORAN LOPEZ

Mount St. Mary’s University
EMELIN CARCANO
KIMBERLY NAMBO
VANESSA NAVARRO
EVELYN PEREZ

San Francisco State University
GUADALUPE CASILLAS
EMILY GALICIA
FATIMA GONZALEZ
GENESIS MORALES
LUIS JIMENEZ

College of the Canyons
BERENIS CASTANEDA
RENE GARCIA
OSCAR PALACIOS
JAKY PLEITEZ

ANTHONY SANCHEZ

California State University, Los Angeles
VERONICA CERNA
KAREN GARCIA
KATE MARTINEZ
JACQUELINE MARTINEZ
CYNTHIA RODRIGUEZ
LESLEY ROSALES
MARINA TURCIOS
WILLIAM VIZCARRA

California Lutheran University
RAFAEL CORTES

California State University, Channel Islands
DEISY DONES
STEPHANY LIZARRAGA
ANGEL SANDOVAL
ANDY VAZQUEZ

University of California, Los Angeles
JOANNA FIERRO
JENNIFER MEJIA PEREZ

Glendale Community College
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
JAVIER MORAN
GERARDO PEREZ
JUAN URQUIDEZ
STEPHANIE LEON

University of California, Davis
LUIS GALVAN
LUISA GONZALZ
JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
LUIS SABAN

University of California, Merced
ELIZABETH AGUILAR
MIGUEL GONGORA MELARA
BELLA HAMBARDZUMYAN
ISAAC HINOJOSA
EMELY HERNANDEZ YAC
KEITH LEMUS

California State University, Chico
JENNIFER GONZALEZ GALVEZ
MARIELA MARQUEZ

Manchester University
JUAN GUZMAN

San Jose State University
ALAN INTERIANO
KATHY MANCILLA
STEFANY RANGEL

Pasadena City College
RAFAEL MARTINEZ GOMEZ
ALONDRA MORENO
EVELEEN PEREZ

University of Oslo
ROBERTO QUINTERO

University of California, Berkeley
ANDREA TIRADO
CHRIS LAMB
ANGELA LAWENKO
IVAN CHAVEZ

Full Sail University
ROBERT UMANZOR

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
PETRA JULIAHN HERNANDEZ
YHIEDANIA SANTIAGO

Williams College
PETER MATSUMOTO

California State University, East Bay
MARUIN GARCIA

California State University, Bakersfield
IRTEZA NASIR

University of California, Santa Cruz
DANIEL BULLECER

BEST OF 2015-2016



CAMPUS

The Fun Comes to an End A hard act to follow

By Melanie Solis
Staff Writer

Toby Bachenheimer, one of Poly’s longtime P.E. teachers, is retiring after 32 years. Bachenheimer’s been teaching since January 1984. She started her career as a long term substitute at Pacoima Middle School. Her first permanent position as a teacher was at Hollenbeck Middle School for two and a half years. She was recommended for a position at Byrd Middle School where she taught P.E. for seven years. She was tired of middle school and thought it would be a good experience to teach at a high school. Bachenheimer’s expectations were that she thought it would be different than junior high. But it wasn’t really that different because she had ninth graders in Byrd and she had ninth to tenth graders here. “What was different was that the seniors were adults. There is a big difference between ninth graders, tenth graders and seniors,” said Bachenheimer. Bachenheimer has had several

different positions at Poly including, serving as a dean at Poly for three years, coached JV girls Softball for ten years and taught P.E. The best and most challenging thing here at Poly is the kids, “most of the time,” says Bachenheimer. The biggest reward for her was that “a kid would come back a few years later and they remembered enjoying the class or learning something.” She always loved sports and thought that if you really loved sports then you should become a P.E. teacher. While growing up in the 70s, there weren’t many opportunities for a girl if you wanted to do something with sports. “If you really liked sports, you would become a P.E. teacher.” She graduated from Downey High School in 1974. Right after high school, she moved to Israel for a year to volunteer and to travel. She returned and afterwards went to Cerritos Community College for two and a half years , then went to CSUN for two and a

half years. SLC Coordinator, and former long time Athletic Director, Kim McEwen, reflects on Bachenheimer’s career. McEwen says, “One of the things I really respect about Ms. Bachenheimer is what an outstanding teacher she has been through the years. Teaching a quality physical education program is a very physically demanding job. Ms. Bachenheimer has the same enthusiasm and work ethic now for teaching that she had here 20 years ago.” Bachenheimer isn’t going to miss the fact that she has to wake up at 5am. Bachenheimer says, “The best thing about high school is that on Fridays, everyone would get prepared for a football game, a track meet, or a softball game, cheer would be practicing, drill would be practicing, and band would be practicing. I’m going to miss all that stuff going on.” Reflecting on the difference between middle school and high school, Bachenheimer said, “In high school, almost every teacher



Toby Bachenheimer

Photo by Michael Manzano

has something else going on. Every teacher is either a sponsor of a club, or tutoring. And at the end of the day, everyone in middle school just goes home.” In addition, McEwen has always respected Bachenheimer’s attention to the maintenance and upkeep of the P.E. facilities. McEwen says, she “really admires the pride Bachenheimer shows in keeping the P.E. facilities safe and clean for both students and adults.”

“I wish the person who replaces Ms. Bachenheimer lots of luck. She’s going to be a really hard act to follow,” said McEwen. Bachenheimer’s future plans are to volunteer 3-4 days a week with the ASPCA, Meals on Wheels, LA Olympics, and National Council of Jewish women. Even during school, she would volunteer for the Special Olympics. She also plans on travelling to Israel to visit her family more often.

Education is the Most Powerful Tool College Counselor Leona Warman says Au Revoir to Poly

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

College Counselor Leona Warman retires this year, after thirteen years serving Poly students, in particular Poly Seniors. The time for Warman has gone by fast, “when you love what you’re doing you don’t think about the years.” Warman came to Poly from Reseda High School where she worked for eighteen years as an ESL teacher and then as the bilingual coordinator. Former Poly Principal Dr. Jan Fries-Martinez offered her the job when she found out Warman was working on her Masters of Science and Counseling. The most rewarding part of her job is “without question the awesome students that I get to meet and know, particularly when writing that letter of recommendation.” Warman says she always found this an uplifting experience because she gets to know “the student, the family and the student’s challenges and aspirations.” Warman is Canadian born and grew up in Montreal, Quebec. She attended Sir George Williams University (now known as Concordia University) and later McGill University where she majored in biology, specifically zoology, and earned her teaching credentials. Her first teaching job was as an English as Second Language (ESL) teacher to French speaking students for six years. Warman learned French in 3rd grade and is bi-lingual. Warman has always tried to understand her students’ struggle, particularly with

academics. She empathizes with struggling students reflecting on the fact that she was not always “the most stellar student in high school, finding college more enjoyable.” Her favorite class in college was history, but found botany and zoology in her 2nd

year of college and “really loved that” so that’s what she decided to major in. She loved the study of life, whether it’s plant life or animal life, it’s all around you. Warman said I really enjoyed dissecting specimens and looking at the arteries, veins and muscles of animal life.



Photo by Michael Manzano

Warman hopes to be a docent or volunteer at a zoo, or aquarium because she never had a chance to teach biology. As a volunteer instructor, Warman says “when schools come by I can teach them about plant, sea and animal life.” The most challenging part of her role as college counselor is the volumes of paper work and emails. During college acceptance season, Warman says she will usually have to take work home. Warman coordinates the annual Senior Awards Night, as well as gathers data on where students will be going for college and tries to encourage students who don’t yet have plans to take some kind of post-secondary education. The best part for Warman is “seeing the smile on a student’s face when they tell you where they’ve been accepted.” Warman is a committed life-long learner and plans to take college classes. “ I don’t know anything about the planets and the stars so astronomy and culinary arts classes” are on her to-do list. She says she may even consider “picking up an instrument.” Warman has been married for 41 years and her and her husband plan to travel including an African safari, having already toured Europe and Asia. Her favorite quote is “education is the most powerful tool to change the world” by Nelson Mandela. She adds the “more educated you are, the more choices you have, the more things you can do.”

CAMPUS

Berkeley Bound
Lamb nuclear fusion vision

By Diana Garcia
Staff Writer

Magnet student, Christopher Lamb will be attending the University of California, Berkeley in the fall of 2016. Lamb was also accepted to the University of California, San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Luis Obispo, California State University, Northridge, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Lamb plans on majoring in nuclear engineering where he wants to focus on “creating and implementing a more efficient power source such as nuclear fusion.” Schwagle and Magnet Chemistry teacher Ra-

mon Gomez introduced Lamb to nuclear science. AP Physics taught by Magnet Physics teacher Jim Schwagle and AP Calculus taught by Magnet Math teacher Devon Richter have better prepared him for his interest of study. He is the President of robotics club but says that it is more of a hobby than it contributes to the field he wishes to pursue. Upon receiving his acceptance letter, Lamb says, “My family was really excited when they heard that I had gotten into Berkeley.”



Christopher Lamb Photo by Michael Manzano

Reaching for New
Higher Notes
Final drum roll for the Drum Major

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

Emerging from the busy chatter of a classroom and the field of drum rolls, magnet student Jesus Barrera will be retiring his four year position in Poly’s marching band to join Johns Hopkins University, a private research university in Baltimore, Maryland to begin his studies in engineering. Barrera plans to major in engineering with a concentration in biomechanics, which will allow him a wide variety of career options. “I enjoy math and science a lot,” said Barrera. His choice of major was a result of his rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) classes which included Physics with Jim Schwagle, Chemistry with Ramon Gomez, Biology with Mauricio Alonso and Calculus with Devon Richter. “Gomez’s teaching style is very engaging. He led you to want to do more, figure out more!” said Barrera. Barrera has even taken summer classes at Valley College to expand on his knowledge for Calculus by attending the Multivariable Calculus course. Barrera has spent many of his summer days satisfying his intellectual curiosity. During his 11th grade summer vacation he participated in the math and science summer program,



Jesus Barrera Photo by Michael Manzano

Cosmos, at University of California, Irvine (UCI). The 160 students explored a deeper understanding of chemical biology by receiving active lab experiences with two professors, Dave Van Vranken and Rachel Martin from UCI. “We focused on extraction and analysis of plant materials,” Barrera said. Although Barrera has not determined what he would like to do with his major, the broadness of his major will give him lots of opportunities to explore.

“I like the idea of using what I know to make something tangible, knowing that the things I will design will eventually be made; there’s a certain gratification in that,” said Barrera. Aside from his passion in the STEM field, Barrera keeps his high school life interesting by adding in music. Barrera is well versed in flute. He also plays the saxophone and was the drum major for one years. Though Barrera has to move east, his family is supportive of his choice of university.

Fast Learner
Andrea Tirado master of communication

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

Senior student Andrea Tirado’s journey of a college bound student going to UC Berkeley began five years ago, with her personal challenge of abruptly adapting to a new culture and language moving from Mexico to the US. Tirado arrived in the middle of her 7th grade year, not knowing any English. “It was frustrating,” said Tirado, “everyone already had their own group of friends and I couldn’t properly communicate with any of them.” She remembers her middle school teacher Mr. Carlos

who challenged her in class to improve her English. “I hated his class, but now I’m thankful that he gave me a hard time because he was the only teacher that really challenged me.” Tirado broke away from her comfort zone by engaging in conversations with non-Spanish speaking students to practice her language skills even outside of class. The habit of taking her education beyond class time continued in high school. Tirado spends her summer vacations taking college classes and advancing classes. She credits her hardwork-

ing nature to her parents, who determinedly support her education. “My dad works two jobs; he wakes up at 2:30 am and gets home around late noon. And his hard work has reflected in me,” said Tirado. Tirado also helps her parents financially by selling homemade ice popsicles (still doing this) at her apartment complex. “It helped me learn to be independent and appreciate every little thing in my life. And I make pretty good profit!” Tirado aspires to be a doctor and will be attending the college of letters and science of UC Berkeley to major in biological science. She discovered her interest in science by taking courses such as AP Biology and Physiology with Irene Maliwan, and AP Chemistry with Angela Campbell. Tirado was drawn to UC



Andrea Tirado Photo by Michael Manzano

Berkeley for its scholarly reputation and political activist environment.

“I’m proud of myself and my parents who work tirelessly for my sake,” said Tirado.

CAMPUS

Poly Science Teacher Goes International
Albanian calls Campbell

By Diana Garcia
Staff Writer

Science teacher Angela Campbell has been invited to teach in the science department at the Albanian College Durres in Tirana, Albania, beginning August of 2016.

This international school conducts its instruction in English to students from grades K-12. The curriculum is mandated by a program called International Baccalaureate, which is respected worldwide for providing a rigorous, university-focused education.

Campbell was asked to apply for the position by the director of the school, Andy Dailey, who found her profile on the International School Services website. After two interviews, Campbell was offered a renewable two year contract.

Her husband is excited about her position at the Albanian College. He has also had the opportunity to live in other countries for work purposes.

Campbell is not yet sure what topic, whether Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, and grade level, from Middle through High School, she will be teaching but is prepared for the curriculum of all three topics.

When asked why she decided to accept the position, Campbell said she always wanted to work at a school such as the Albanian College. Being able to travel around Europe with her children



Photo Provided by Google

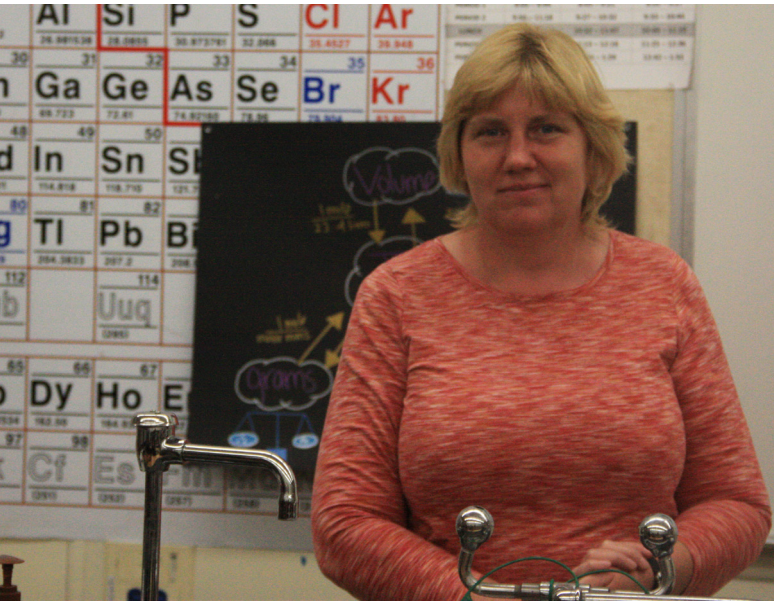


Photo by Michael Manzano

is another reason she took the position.

Campbell has two daughters, ages 11 and 13 who will be joining her at the Albanian College Durres, free of charge. Campbell’s husband however will not be joining his family because there is not a NASA office in Albania. He will stay here in Los Angeles and continue his work at JPL.

They plan to take family trips around Europe whenever possible

and fly back to the states during the summer next year. For the months in between Campbell and her daughters will be communicating with her husband via Skype.

Campbell says, “We want our kids to have an international experience.”

For a week in October Campbell and her family will visit Greece and meet again in Vienna during Christmas break.

Dream Catcher
Poly Alumna shares
AB540 story

By Dayana Rojas

Dear Reader,
My Name is Dayana, and I am a Dreamer, an AB540 student. I graduated from John H. Francis Polytechnic in 2012. As an alumna I wish to share with you a reflection that deeply impacted me and those around me. My status affected me greatly during my high school years. Even though I tried to blend in hopes of being “normal”, it only kept me from many opportunities and joyful experiences. I thought that if I studied and maintained good grades, my immigration status would somehow change. When my friends invited me to travel with them, I made up excuses not to go. The times I would receive numerous letters from universities, I never responded. I was afraid of being judged and stigmatized. I thought that if I didn’t stand out too much, no one would know I was undocumented. It worked, no one knew; but my isolation eventually led to my close friends drifting apart; and I was left with my own fear.
Currently I am an Architecture student of Cal Poly Pomona. I have one more year left to accomplish my Bachelor’s Degree. Uneasiness and anxiety governs my head once more as I prepare to step back into the real world. There are some moments when I question my own strength: Why do I even do this? I spend my weekends working, and barely sleep; I often think that I just can’t take it. These are however moments when I stop to reflect on my life and myself: “I have come so far, I won’t let this fear consume me”. Thomas Edison once said, “Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time”. That is what I tell my little sister and brother, and that is what I wish to share with you. You are great; you are capable. If you fail, learn from your failures. Polytechnic had a major influence on me, and from my own experience there, I know some staff and teachers not only teach you from textbooks but also in various small moments they will share great wisdom. Take it as a gift, for one day it will come in handy.

Dreams and Goals Reach For the Sky

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

Poly’s brand new College center held its grand opening ceremony on March 31st from 4:00 – 5:00 pm with live performances, food trucks, local dignitaries and over 200 students, faculty and staff present.
Los Angeles Unified School Local District Board of Trustee member, Monica Ratliff attended together with representatives from college outreach programs including Upward Bound, College Summit, Project Steps (UCLA) as well as CSUN Sororities who offered resources and information booths.
The ceremony featured performances from Poly’s Band and Cheer and special guest performers from CSUN’s Hip Hop Crew and Salsa Libre.
Poly Principal Ari Bennett reflected on the value of this investment in Poly’s students and the community to ensure better access, service and visibility for all students to continue their academic careers in college.
“We wanted our students to feel how much we believe



Photo By David Simms

in them and understand that this center was an investment in them, in their future, and in Sun Valley” said Bennett.
Bennett sees the college center as a way to continue to encourage a college bound culture for all Poly’s students.
“Most of our students will be first generation college-going students, providing them tangible resources to support their effort is critically

important. We wanted to do more than just give them a bigger room with more computers. The goal was to create a space that inspires our students” he said.
College Counselor Tamika Lewis who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this opening believes the formal opening infuses a powerful, positive can-do attitude for our students to go to college. Bennett said Lewis led the

design team with the goal of making the college center look “different than any other center or classroom in LAUSD. She received support from so many at Poly and the District.”
“I was thrilled by the level of excitement and positive energy at the college center grand opening.” said Lewis.
In keeping with opportunities for college, Scholarships were awarded to all grade levels of Poly students. The winners who each received \$200 included 12th grader Luis Jimenez, 11th grader Katherine Pineda, 10th grader Fatima Zuniga and Magnet Mariela Barraza Saucedo.
The ceremony concluded with a formal release of balloons in which “everyone wrote a dream or goal” on a balloon before its release.
Bennett emphasized the importance of this College Center not just for Poly’s students, but one which benefits the community. He wants “every single resident in Sun Valley and beyond to know that the work we do every single day is for them. It’s our investment in their future.”



A look at Poly’s college center

Photo By Michael Manzano

SPORTS

Victory for Poly Seniors



Poly Parrots take the gold at an away conference against the Arleta Mustangs. Parrots win 7-0 against Arleta on May 4th

Hoops and Scores



Photos Provided by Ileya Rivera
By Diana Garcia
Staff Writer

Senior basketball player Ileya Rivera is Poly’s Female Athlete of the Year.

At the age of four, Rivera joined her first basketball team in a park league. She realized she loved the game when she was nine years old. Rivera has continued to play on park leagues and is now in two leagues, a boys and girls team and a high school

inter-varsity girls team.

Rivera likes the intense competition of the sport. In Middle School, she would practice for two hours almost daily. In high school, Rivera practiced an additional hour outside of school.

Rivera says it was hard for her to balance school and sports because practice would exhaust her, but she still managed to get her homework done.

She also joined track her freshman year. Rivera’s coach for both basketball and track is 10th grade English teacher Tremeka Batiste.

Rivera’s favorite track event is the relays. She is undefeated in the event.

Batiste reflects on Rivera’s playfulness with teammates and perseverance through each game. “It’s been a pleasure to have her on the team,” Batiste said.

Her favorite professional basketball player is Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls.

Rivera will continue to play basketball at Los Angeles Valley College with a basketball scholarship she was rewarded.



Rivera hard at play

Soccer Season Star

By Melanie Solis
Staff Writer

Christian Trujillo is Poly’s Male Athlete of the Year.

Trujillo thought he had a good chance of being awarded Athlete of the Year, but he also knew some of the other great athletes and wasn’t sure if he was going to win or not.

Trujillo’s win was not without its setbacks. In his sophomore year, he



Fancy foot work

Photo provided by Christian Trujillo

tore his ligament and was out for the whole year. He returned to the field halfway through his junior year.

“It makes me feel that everything I had worked for this past year is coming back from my injury. It made me feel appreciated and worth it” said Trujillo.

Trujillo plays primarily center mid-field and is captain. He has played on other clubs and leagues outside of school as well.

Trujillo was recruited by a junior college and offered scholarships but they were either too far, or didn’t have the major he wanted. UC Merced sent him a late email telling him that he could still apply to their school because they saw him as a qualified UC level student. He is going to CSUN to major in Civil Engineering. He is planning on trying out for the soccer team.

His favorite soccer teams are Real Madrid, America and Mexico.

Soccer is his passion and if he had the chance to he would be a professional soccer player.

Trujillo says his dad is his inspiration because his father has played his whole life. Trujillo grew up playing soccer “before I could walk I was already kicking.”

Trujillo said, “my team is the best and I couldn’t ask for anything better.”

“With the great coach I have, Acosta, it was easy for me to come back and my coach always believed in me. I have a great support group.”

Acosta reflects on Trujillo “More than anything on the field, he managed to keep the team together. He was the glue that connected all the pieces together.” He will miss Trujillo’s leadership. During his injury he fought on and overcame it. He has a second to none work ethic, very dedicated. Whatever he does he will always be successful. He’s very driven and hardworking. If it’s soccer, or whatever in life he attempts. He is going to be very successful.

Trujillo thinks his senior year “couldn’t have been any better because of how far we went - it wasn’t something that has happened in awhile.”

Trujillo would like to thank his coach for being patient and giving him a chance when everyone else doubted him.

Poly Soccer Shares Potential for Greatness

Soccer is Way of Life for Coach Acosta

By Kate Martinez
Staff Writer

Poly’s soccer team had a great season this year, ranking in the 13th seed division and conquering the 4th seed division. The Parrots made it to the semi-finals by knocking off San Fernando. Parrots also won against Monroe High School for the first time in four years. Varsity Soccer Coach Adolfo Acosta credits their success to the mature team he managed this year.

This year is Coach Acosta’s third year coaching soccer. “I see potential for greatness in this team. I see my players growing up to be productive citizens,” said Acosta.

Acosta bases his coaching by copying the coaches he looked up to when he used to play soccer; his high school coach Ron Melin, and college coach Berhane Andeberhan.

From Melin he learned to let the Captains lead the team, and from Andeberhan he learned to train his players to play intensely every game.

But safety is still his top priority. “This year I experimented too much on a player’s position when I should’ve been [honing] their skills on a certain position. Next year I will experiment less, especially defense,” said Acosta.

“My high school, Belmont high school, won the City Championship in 1986,” said Acosta.

Acosta attended CSULA, majored in Math, and played soccer for one year.

He decided to take up the soccer coach position when former coach Rafael Loza invited him because he’s been away from soccer for years and wanted to get back into it.

“Soccer is a way of life, it’s entertaining and it teaches you discipline,” said Acosta.

In regards to the results of this year’s soccer season Acosta believes in every game they’ve played, Poly was the better team.

“Every game counts and the first few that we lost really hurt us in the end, we only lost because of silly mistakes and loss of concentration but I told them they should be proud of how they played,” said Acosta.

He emphasized how proud his players make him by giving 100% every game.

Acosta manages his team by giving the power to his three captains; Rigo Zamora, Chris Trujillo, and Fernando Figueroa. Together with his captains the team’s practices, workouts, and disciplines are decided.

Acosta is grateful for all the support the team has received from the admins, especially Principal Ari Bennett and Athletics Director Gabriel Cerna.

“If the players are enjoying the game and having a great time then the results will follow,” said Acosta.



Photo by Michael Manzano

Parrot plays with pros

By Melanie Solis
Staff Writer

Poly 10th grader, Leonardo Rodriguez had the opportunity of attending a professional soccer camp in the City of Valladolid, near Madrid, Spain from February to March this year, to train like a professional soccer player.

Rodriguez enjoyed the experience of playing with soccer players from other countries, cities and states in the U.S.A. These included players from across Spain as well as Arkansas, and the City of Chicago.

There were two divisions in the camp, ages 14-15, and the division for adults from ages 18 and up.

In competition against other teams from Spain, Rodriguez’ team won 3 out of 4 games. He played midfielder and defensive line-man.

The team would train every day except on weekends when he and his new friends had freedom

to explore the City of Valladolid. The team enjoyed a formal tour of Madrid, including the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium or also known as the Real Madrid Stadium.

In order to keep up with his studies at Poly, Rodriguez worked with his teachers online.

Rodriguez said although he speaks Spanish, he had trouble communicating with the Spaniards because they speak Castilian Spanish, a different dialect than his Mexican Spanish.

Among the soccer skills he learned was to always look up when passing for more accuracy and direction.

Back home in Sun Valley, Rodriguez said he misses the soccer camp, but had “fun and could have more freedom” there, but ultimately, he was glad to be home.

Since participating in this professional led camp, Rodriguez is determined to pursue his dream of becoming a professional soccer player.

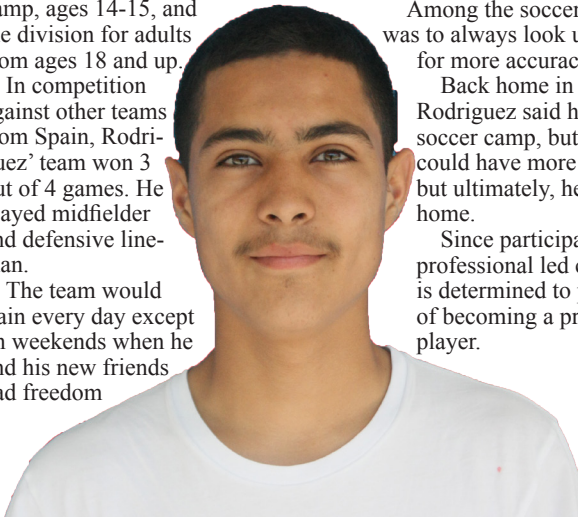


Photo by Michael Manzano