



*Latinos Unidos, one of many clubs featured at the Club Fair, enticed students with treats and festive decorations.*

## Club Fair welcomes newcomers to the wide range of student-run clubs, organizations

By ANDREW MECUM  
News editor

The Upper School recently hosted its annual Club Fair, where students and faculty gathered on Arden Lawn to see what clubs the 2016-2017 school year has to offer. Organizations such as FEMED and the Ornithology Club were just two of the diverse collection at the fair. Newer organizations such as the Conservative Club added to the variety established by historically prominent clubs such as the Girl's Service League and the Men's Service League.

Senior Sam Clark said, "I truly believe that student organizations are the heart and soul of Poly, and I'm always glad to see the Club Fair get a bit bigger every year. This year was no exception. I'm glad to see new faces and clubs contributing to the Upper School community."

FEMED Co-President Harper Oreck said, "We're very excited about the new year, and hope that by having conversations about various issues regarding feminism, gender, and intersectionality, we give people a new perspective on issues in society that they may not have noticed before or had experience with. We're also looking forward to supporting advocacy for gender equality within Poly by promoting change and awareness of gender-related issues and encouraging participation in community events."

Each club adds its unique flavor to Poly, with focuses on building community, facilitating discussion and providing learning opportunities. For example, the MSL hosts occasional Big Brother-Little Brother lunches and family meetings, and similarly, the GSL plans Big Sister-Little Sister activities, which aim to help underclassmen acclimate to the Upper School and foster connections between underclassmen and upperclassmen. In both organizations, seniors are paired with freshmen, and sophomores with juniors.

Other anticipated club activities include the joint presidential debate viewing sessions, hosted by both the Conservative Club and the Clinton Club. Conservative Club Co-President Nikhil Adarkar said, "We want to foster healthier, balanced discussions about politics in our meet-

ings, and hope that these joint debate viewings not only promote political participation, but also enhance the collaborative nature of Poly's community by providing an arena for free speech."

Clinton Club Co-President Jack Fleming added, "We are very much looking forward to viewing the final presidential debate in the library. While we want students to applaud and cheer comments and ideas that resonate with them, we will not tolerate profane comments by the students viewing the debates. We want the discourse to be civil, and hope that we can promote an atmosphere of unity through these events."



*Students and faculty on the GIP Vietnam and Cambodia trip visit the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. See GIP page 2.*

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## September Bulletin

### Fall tailgate kicks off new athletic season with several wins

Poly hosted its annual fall tailgate on September 3, featuring many fall sports teams including football, girls volleyball, boys water polo, cross country and the dance team.

Both the football and water polo teams won their games, the volleyball team placed second in the tournament and the cross-country team finished with many medals.

Sophomore Ella Cornwell said, "The tailgate is one of the few opportunities we have to bring the entire Poly community together. It's great to see everyone enjoying the event, from kindergarteners and middle school students to upper school seniors and alumni. Everybody was just there, having fun!"

### All-school assembly highlights new faculty

Students and faculty across all campuses filled up Gamble Gymnasium decked out in orange t-shirts, provided by the Student Athletic Leadership Council.

Head of School John Bracker opened with a nostalgic reflection about what it's like to be a Poly student, asking the seniors to look back at the kindergarten students to remind themselves where they came from. Similarly, he asked the kindergarten class to look up to the seniors in anticipation of their futures at Poly. Other highlights included new faculty introductions from fifth graders, eighth graders, and seniors.

The dance team closed the assembly with the Poly spell-out and the campus-wide favorite, the Color Shout.



Earlier this month, Upper School students disguised as animals and explorers flooded Founder's Hall on the North Campus for "Welcome to the Jungle," the annual back-to-school dance hosted by the ASB cabinet.

Senior Darren Yang and junior Mateo Taylor DJed the night and attendees were treated to a special appearance by the Upper School's resident rapper, senior Big L.C.T. Outside of the dance floor, members of the ASB organized an enormous gorilla themed obstacle course race. Winners received stuffed jungle animals.

"It was a great way to bring everyone together to kick off the school year," said senior Lucy Harvey. "Being on the dance floor with all my friends was definitely the best part."

*Courtesy of Oliver Penner*

## Global initiatives travel program: Baja California, Mexico

By BEVERLY SHEN  
News editor

This past June, Upper School teachers Renee Larrios and Nathan Stogdill led a group of 13 students to the heart of Baja California Sur, Mexico, as part of Poly's Global Initiatives Program. Participating students not only enjoyed the breathtaking natural beauty of the peninsula, but also had the opportunity to interact with locals through community service.

With a focus on giving back to the environment and the local population, the trip began at the El Refugio ranch in San Dionisio and worked its way around the peninsula.

For the first few nights, the students enjoyed the hospitality of Don Cata and his wife Doña Luz on their family ranch. While there, the students helped them build a new palm frond roof, called a *palapa*, for a dining area. During their time on the ranch, the students took part in workshops involving candy

making and leather working.

After three days in San Dionisio, the students headed to Todos Santos, where they relaxed by the beach and had the opportunity to surf in the beautiful waters of Los Cerritos, one of the best surf breaks in Baja. While there, they met up with traditional Mexican medicine expert Omar Piña, who led a workshop on using native and natural ingredients to prepare medicine.

During their stay, the students also played volleyball, ultimate Frisbee and spent time with children at the Hogar del Niño, a local orphanage that aids kids whose parents are incarcerated or incapacitated by addiction.

The second half of the trip was primarily spent experiencing Baja California Sur's rich ecological diversity. Students attended presentations on marine

biology held by faculty members of the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur. Students also counted fish species and collected algae specimens with the local fishermen. During their down time, the students snorkeled in the waters, stargazed and shared stories in the evening.

To wrap up the trip, the students headed to Espiritu Santo National Park in the Sea of Cortez. Part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the island is home to hundreds of marine life species, covering almost everything from whales to manta rays. Above the water, blue-footed boobies, reddish egrets and great blue herons roam the island's skies and shores.

"My favorite part of the trip was snorkeling and paddle boarding in Espiritu Santo. I also learned a lot about marine biology and ranchero culture," said sophomore Betsy Foker.

## Global initiatives travel program: Vietnam and Cambodia

By ANNETTE LEE  
Assistant news editor

This summer, 18 students traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia through Poly's Global Initiatives Program.

The trip was a collaboration with Peace Works Travel, a company aimed at providing travelers with socially-conscious travel programs. Students creating meaningful connections with locals via a "people-to-people" exploration of history and the region's recent cultural renaissance.

During the two weeks, students had the opportunity to visit Ho Chi Minh City, Trang Bang, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, where they explored acclaimed architectural landmarks, experienced new cultures and bonded with the local people. Sites included the home village of Kim Phuc, subject of an iconic Vietnam War photograph and recent Poly speaker, and the Tonle Bati Seometry Montessori School.

Throughout the trip, students kept a blog of their experiences, recording their thoughts and giving an overview of their journey through pictures and captions.

Senior Peter Denham shared his experience at a Buddhist temple in Siem Reap and described the rituals he experienced when he met and connected with the monks.

Denham reflected, "This was an amazing experience that gave us an inside look into the life of a monk and into Buddhism, which I surely will never forget."

Students not only made new connections, but also reconnected with people such as Arn Chorn Pond and Kalyanee Mam, who both visited Poly before the trip. Ann Diedrich, co-director of GIP, explains how it was an honor to meet them again in their home countries.

"Learning about the material, meeting the individuals there and then reconnecting with them was a truly real and wonderful experience. I'm still in touch with the tour guides. I write them notes on a weekly basis. I'm also in touch with Pond. It's someone whom Poly has made a profound connection with that will hopefully continue in the years to come."

Senior Maya Barajas-Tavera said, "On the trip, I made so many formative and unforgettable relationships with the people of Cambodia and Vietnam that will stick with me forever. From the outside, the traditions, culture and people lost during the genocide make Cambodia seem fractured and incomplete. And yet, I was nevertheless able to experience firsthand the country's pride and investment in the future because of its broken past. I believe we are so lucky to have had this opportunity and to have witnessed the beauty of perseverance and hope."

## GIP Summer Travels Captured



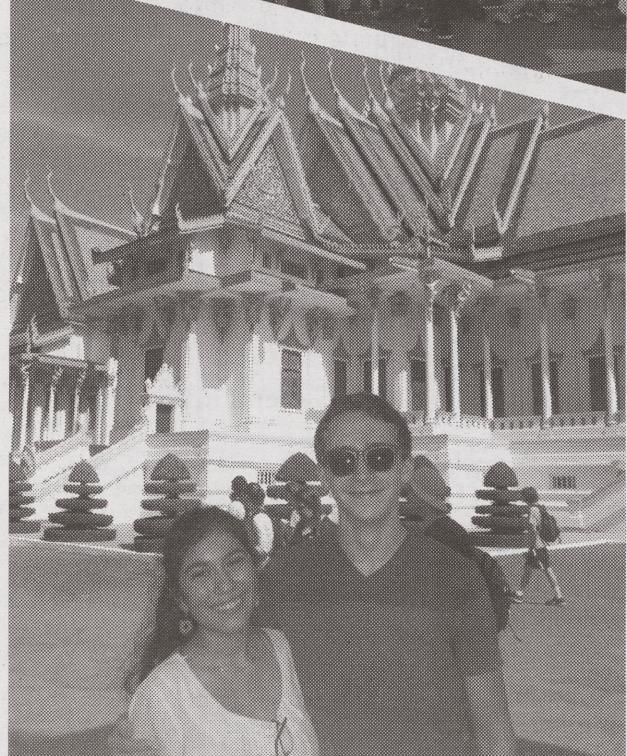
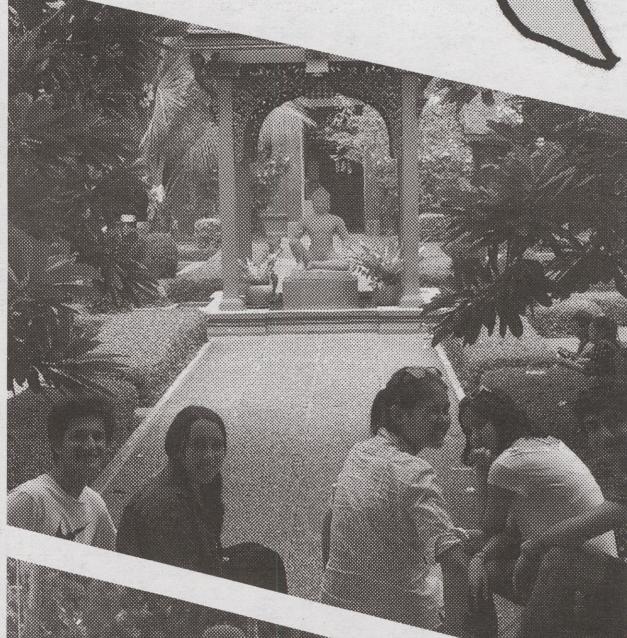
*Baja California, Mexico*



*Courtesy of Nathan Stogdill*



*Graphic courtesy of Beverly Shen*



*Vietnam and Cambodia*

*Courtesy of Dan Diederich*

# New Faculty

Poly welcomes new faces to the Upper School

*Remaining new faculty will be featured in an upcoming issue of The Paw Print*



Courtesy of Kelcey Logan/The Paw Print

## Andrea Rasmussen

Andrea Rasmussen returns to the South Campus as the Upper School counselor after a five-year hiatus.

Rasmussen grew up in San Marino and went on to receive her B.A. in Hospitality Management from Washington State University and her M.S. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern California.

Rasmussen worked at Poly from 2009-2011 as the Assistant to the Upper School Director, managing day-to-day operations such as assigning substitute teachers, overseeing new employee hiring and writing weekly bulletins for the Upper School. Rasmussen also served as the Director's liaison to parents, students, alumni and donors.

Rasmussen appreciates the connections that she made with the faculty and students during her first stint at Poly.

"What made my experience so special was that though I was not a teacher nor grading students, I was still so involved in the students' lives. I'm still speaking pretty regularly to the students I had when I was the Assistant to the Upper School Director," she added.

Because of her husband's work in the United States Secret Service, Rasmussen left Poly and moved to Virginia. There, she was a manager at a career center before becoming the school counselor at John Champe High School.

When Rasmussen moved back to California, she immediately wanted to return to the Poly community. She looks forward to fostering new connections with the students and the faculty.

Outside of school, Rasmussen's two- and four-year-old children occupy her free time. She also enjoys seeing live sporting events, especially girls' soccer.

—Angie Liu



Courtesy of Kelcey Logan/The Paw Print

## Neelamjit Dhaliwal

Neelamjit Dhaliwal joins the Poly community from Illinois this year to teach tenth and eleventh grade math.

Born and raised in Chicago, Dhaliwal attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before coming to Poly, Dhaliwal taught ninth through twelfth grade math at a Chicago public school where she was the only math teacher in the entire institution. She then moved on to teach eleventh and twelfth grade math at The Latin School of Chicago.

Coming from a school where she taught hundreds of students, Dhaliwal is looking forward to a new change where she can teach students in a smaller, more intimate setting. When she is not teaching, Dhaliwal loves spending time with her friends and family. Additionally, Dhaliwal is proud of learning how to swim by competing in a triathlon.

Dhaliwal is excited to work with her students in the school year ahead. Finally as seniors begin their college application process, Dhaliwal wants to remind students to not let colleges define who they are and to continue to be passionate and curious learners.

—Chanel Shen



Courtesy of Kelcey Logan/The Paw Print

## Patricia Levin

The Poly community welcomes Patricia Levin to the Upper School this year. Levin will be joining the Language Department, teaching Spanish II, III and AP Spanish Language.

Levin grew up in Argentina and went on to teach Spanish at an independent all-girls school in Boston, Massachusetts. She first taught at their middle school for several years before deciding that she preferred to teach high school students. After 12 cold winters in Boston, the warmer west coast weather drew her to Pasadena.

Levin's decision to teach at Poly was ultimately determined by the positive impression left by Poly students when she taught a demo lesson during the application process.

Levin loves how Los Angeles offers a large variety of events and activities. Outside of the classroom, Levin has been exploring new hiking trails and museums. She and her husband also often visit their son in Santa Barbara.

After teaching at Poly for close to a month, Levin still stands by her initial statement about the students here.

"Everything has been really above my expectations. The kids are really good—they are smart, they are funny and they are kind."

—Jennifer Lu

## the paw print



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Change is a strange word. Linguistically, it falls into the peculiar group of words that are both a verb and a noun. Perhaps such a duality is emblematic of the very nature of the word—change is a choice. As a community, we have been thrust into the thick of a new year, and we must accordingly embrace the presence of change by taking advantage of the opportunities it affords us.

As an ASB cabinet, our mandate is clear. There is a strong tendency for change to be met with a retreat toward the familiar, an instinct that more often than not stifles advancement. At the same time, the impulse to preserve is one founded in a deep commitment to rich Poly traditions.

In essence, we must commit in equal measure to both preserving what we know and love about our school and having the courage to better it. Rivalry Week, morning meeting, Outdoor Education trips and the many other traditions form the bedrock of the Poly community we seek to uphold, representing the moments our school is truly united.

With the commitment to these storied traditions, we hope to further knit the upper school together. To this end, the ASB wants to take advantage of the changes occurring this year, and in doing so, create the next generation of Poly traditions.

Firstly, Poly has experienced an influx of new faces, both in the form of the class of 2020 and the many new faculty members. By making town hall meetings a monthly occurrence and increasing

ASB communication, we seek to integrate these new members of our community into the dialogue at the heart of Poly. Indeed, these conversations are the catalyst for true and lasting change, and in recognition of that fact, the ASB hopes to broaden their scope and reach. By inviting the administration to town halls, we have the ability to foster transparency between students and faculty

the rise of a new sense of community interlace together to create an environment truly catalytic to change. More so than perhaps ever before, we can change Poly. The ASB must embrace its role not only as a representative force but also its more subtle duty to spur on conversation.

The best ideas, the ones that weave themselves into the fabric of Poly, are the results of these community-spanning dialogues.

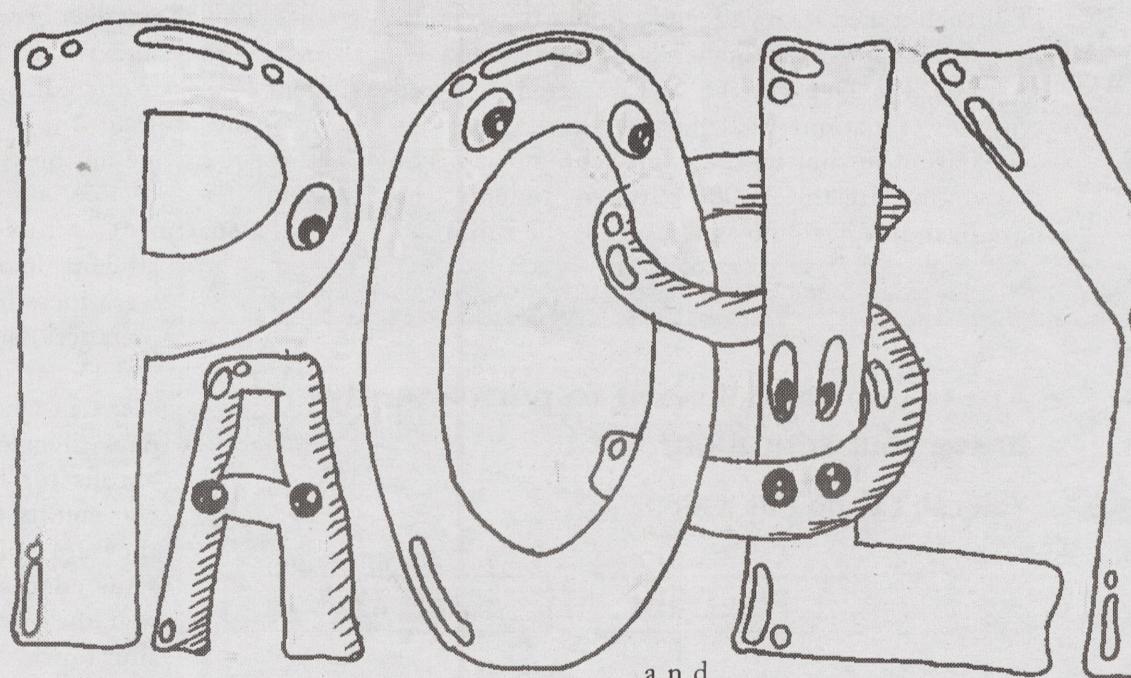
Rivalry Week did not spring fully formed from the mind of some ASB president of yore; rather, it was changed and molded as a community effort.

So, in celebrating the traditions that make us Poly, I would argue that it is equally important we understand the nature of their creation. What is created in a vacuum is doomed to act in that vacuum. Being an ASB officer does not lend some supernatural sheen of legitimacy to the ideas we put forth. The truly significant Poly ideas come from the community at large and are the final product of a collaborative effort underpinned by a collective belief in the school. Poly needs your vision, and it is our deeply held hope that you will share it with us.

I realize that requests for student ideas on the part of the ASB are often extended and rarely needed—I never once approached a member of the ASB with ideas over the course of my three years here—but perhaps in this year of advancing toward the new and holding fast to the old, silence is one tradition worth letting go of.

Thus, we as an ASB urge you to embrace the opportunity heralded by change. Anyone can experience change. The truly strong community not only refuses to fear it, but also harnesses it.

- Sam Clark, ASB cabinet



Graphic courtesy of Matthew Roychowdhury

and fight the perception of the Poly administration as a faceless bureaucracy. Through a culture of two-way communication, channels can be established to not only further an informed student-teacher-administration dialogue, but also to blur those lines of distinction.

To this end, one of our primary aims is to continue working with the administration to create a student presence on the board, and to discuss ways to further include student voices in areas of decision-making.

Finally, we as an ASB cabinet have a responsibility to treat the year as it is: an opportunity absolutely unrivaled by anything in recent Poly memory. The implementation of a new schedule, the welcoming of new faculty, and

# Google and the intellectual safe space: smarter learning at Poly

By JACK WALLIS  
Assistant opinion editor

Teamwork. It's a word heralded on school campuses and in corporate work spaces for its cathartic connotation as well as its practical application towards boosting productivity. After all, studies have long shown that people working in teams tend to innovate faster and catch mistakes more quickly than those that work alone.

Especially at a place like Poly, where a strong sense of community is rhetorically enforced on a high-achieving group of students, teamwork would seem the obvious answer to simultaneous demands for social unity and academic performance. Yet despite the apparent utility of teamwork towards both education and the corporate world, the quality of a team is something so abstract that even the best managers struggle to use anything but corporate dicta to describe it.

In an effort to move good teamwork out of the abstract, Google set out to discover what makes a team effective. The study, called Project Aristotle, was started in 2012 and revolved around mass data collection surrounding Google employees and rigor-



The quality of a team is something so abstract that even the best managers struggle to use anything but corporate dicta to describe it.

ous analysis of those data.

The analysts in Google's People Operations Department initially looked for trends about the types of people that make a good team. Were the proverbs about separating the extroverts from the introverts true? Is it important that a team have only one person from management instead of two?

Surprisingly, the first year of the study provided no meaningful results. No one could match the

makeup of a team to its productivity, and much of the data collected was contradictory. It was clear that the analysts needed to shift their focus, so they instead decided to study how team members interact with each other instead of who they were. Quickly, trends emerged among the 180 Google project teams and "sales pods" being studied.

Using both qualitative (interviews) and quantitative (sales numbers) data, the analysts discovered five unique characteristics of the group dynamic in effective teams. The most important was psychological safety, or the ability of team members to feel safe taking risks and being vulnerable in front of one another.

As it turns out, fear of adversely impacting how others perceive one's competence greatly reduces the effectiveness of a team. In other words, the dread of receiving negative judgement precludes team members from taking risks, thereby hampering innovation, making team members less accountable and increasing turnover (at Google at least).

On the other hand, teams that had a high psychological safety rating admitted mistakes much more readily (thereby offering solutions faster), harnessed diverse ideas from every team member, were rated as much more effective by executives and ultimately brought in more revenue. Clearly, the group dynamic of a team is far more important than who is on it.

I've heard the call for safe spaces on the Poly campus countless times since my arrival freshman year, though whether that safe space was in a Human Development class or a club meeting, I don't think I've ever heard its advocacy framed in terms of increasing productivity.

We've acknowledged the importance of establishing safe spaces to allow for emotional risk-taking, but I think Poly severely underestimates their applicability, especially in a competitive environment where insecurities about intelligence can be magnified by the constant testing and evaluation we endure as students.

Not only are safe spaces useful for creating the sort

of emotional padding that encourages vulnerability, but they are also an essential part of everyday academic life. Specifically, we need to encourage their application to counteract the same fear of critique that Google identified in poorly-performing teams.

To be clear, I'm not referencing the construed



The best way to facilitate this ideational exposure is to promote a culture of intellectual safe spaces.

connotation of "safe space" with hazard lights and neon yellow trigger warnings. I'm actually advocating the opposite. I, like most at Poly, think that in an academic context, the content students engage with shouldn't be filtered at all. The best way to facilitate this ideational exposure is to promote a culture of intellectual safe spaces. Not only will this put doubts about academic prowess to rest—it will result in tangible improvements in the learning process.

Poly needs to reinforce a culture that encourages students to ask questions and make mistakes in the classroom, in front of their teachers and peers. I know that many of my teachers actually started off the year promoting this type of atmosphere in class, but the school as a whole should do more to help students resist academic pressure that fosters insecurity over learning. The fear of the unknown has for too long ruled classroom discourse.

I acknowledge that this issue has been identified by Poly as a source of general angst for the student body, but I think the full impacts of a conscious shift in policy towards academic safe spaces have gone unrealized by the Poly administration. The administration needs to make a concerted effort to create intellectual safe spaces in every classroom at Poly—it is only then that effective learning at Poly will be the norm.

## The Department of Education's obligation to ITT Tech students

By MATT ARENA  
Assistant opinion editor

When we were children, daytime television was replete with ITT Technical Institute commercials. In those pre-DVR dark ages, all we could do was endure. Soon, more advertisements popped up out of obscurity. Now, we can hardly fast-forward quickly enough past the SNHU, DeVry, University of Phoenix, Sentinel University, Grand Canyon University and Everest commercials.

I've had a rotten feeling about for-profit colleges for a long time. An educational institution should never prioritize money over the quality of an education, just as a student should never hire a tutor who is solely helping him or her for the money—the end result is apathetic and often unhelpful advice.

Sadly, many American students are not nearly as privileged as we are at Poly. Often their choices are limited when it comes to higher education, and they must choose between community colleges and for-profit universities. Often, community colleges are so overcrowded that students must fight for a spot. Large for-profit universities such as ITT Tech take advantage of this vulnerability and recruit students aggressively, promising degrees with plenty of job opportunities, enabled by affordable student loans—though little of these promises are true. Yet shady business practices alone did not justify government action—sketchy business is business nonetheless.

However, when the Department of Education noticed an abnormally high student loan default

rate on federal loans (which accounted for the majority of student loans) at ITT Tech, it launched an investigation. The Department discovered that ITT Tech issued its own loans and hid the defaults from investors—a textbook example of fraud. Afterwards, the Department of Education enforced crippling sanctions that forced the exploitative corporation to shut its doors on September 6. The real victims are the 35,000 enrolled students who have been left in limbo as a result of the ruling.

(often exorbitant) student loans.

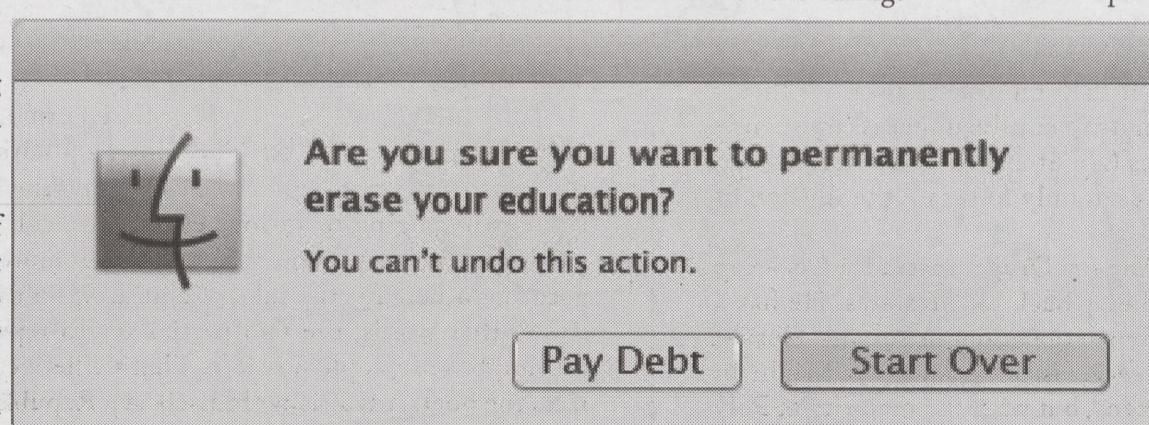
Alternatively, if the student chooses to discharge their federal loans, they lose all of their credits. The choice has been difficult for students to make—they understand that the rates on their student loans are incredibly high, but many have been in the program for multiple years. Starting back at square one not only feels crushing but also wasteful.

The Department of Education knows that the student loan rates at ITT Tech were incredibly high, and in some instances, simply un-payable. Yet, the Department still allows for a scenario where the former student pays them off. If an ITT student enrolls for his or her last year in community college to get a degree, they are still graduating with the same education and circumstances that the government attempted to shut down.

Some former students have taken action: 170 have pledged to stop paying their federal student loans.

They claim the government failed to properly regulate and manage ITT Tech, ultimately leading to them being misled about job opportunities and the cost of their education.

The Department of Education became involved with ITT Tech in an effort to ameliorate the situation of thousands of struggling students, yet still keeps them on the hook for paying the very same exploitative loans. If the Department of Education really wants to do right towards those who have been wronged, it should forgive the loans of all students who were misled by ITT Tech. Until then, the Department will have done very little to actually help those who need help most.



ITT Tech is arguing that it was the victim of a corrupt system that denied it due process of law. Calling the Department of Education's ruling a "lawless execution," ITT Tech contends that the Department didn't prove a single allegation in a court of law before imposing the fatal sanctions.

Regardless of whether the Department of Education was justified in bankrupting the university, the government is now responsible for the future of 35,000 students. Currently enrolled students have been given a choice: transfer of academic credits, or forgiveness of federal student loans. If a student wants to continue with his or her credits from ITT Tech, they can transfer to a community college with their credits but are still on the hook for their

Graphic courtesy of Jack Wallis

# Student spar: voting third-party

By DESMOND MANTLE  
Staff writer

America is being pulled apart in a tug of war between the two most unpopular major-party presidential candidates in history. Public figures ranging from Stephen Colbert to Mitt Romney—as well as countless everyday people—have lamented the apparent defeat of reason and civility in American politics.

Amidst this wailing and gnashing of teeth, many Americans simply don't realize that they have another choice. Or, more commonly, they pass off third-party candidates because they don't want to "waste their votes" on candidates that "don't have a chance." Yet, rather than perpetuating this two-party duopoly, voters can eschew the established two-party system and support a third-party candidate. By doing so, voters not only avoid supporting either of this election's flawed candidates, but also promote a future where opinions need not be confined to a choice between just two parties.

As for what your "different" options are, there are two third-party candidates with a national presence: Jill Stein of the Green Party and Gov. Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party. Of these, only Johnson has qualified for ballot access in all 50 states and D.C.

Though Stein has remained outside the headlines, Johnson has drawn much attention recently—most of it negative—for his recent "What is Aleppo?" gaffe. Yet this pales in comparison with the faults and foibles of two nominees with full ballot access.

Donald Trump has demonstrated a far more concerning ignorance regarding foreign policy (such as confusing the Kurds with the Quds), and has never apologized for his mistakes. Johnson, however, has not only apologized repeatedly and explained what his plans are for Syria, but has pledged to educate himself more and make use of the many experts available to him if elected.

Although Hillary Clinton does not lack foreign policy knowledge, she compensates for this with an extremely unpalatable foreign policy position. During her time as a senator, Clinton repeatedly voted for war and increased military spending. As Secretary of State, she mishandled not only the Benghazi Consulate's repeated requests for supplies in the time preceding the incident, but also botched the statements that followed the deadly attack there.

Comparatively, Johnson's plans resemble something of a breath of fresh air. Laughing at the idea of a wall, Johnson wants to vastly expand our work visa program with the aim of giving immigrants an incentive to be documented and become contributing Americans.

On foreign policy, Johnson believes that ISIS represents a serious threat and should be dealt with. However, he wants to cut the unnecessary spending in our military, namely obsolete bases (about 20% of the total number of U.S. bases) and unwanted equipment used only to create the illusion of military robustness.

Furthermore, Johnson opposes the War on Drugs, instead advocating for a return of drug legislation responsibility back to the states. He has a moderate position on abortion, and fully supports feminism and closing the wage gap. Most of his opinions on social issues seem to fall right in line not only with the majority of Americans, but with the majority at Poly as well.

However, Johnson's starker difference from the two major party candidates is that he wants to balance the budget in a simple and feasible way. The Clinton campaign is, in fact, telling the truth when it says that Trump's tax and spending plans would create a massive deficit. What is heard less often but is equally true is that Clinton's plans would continue to increase our national debt, which is already unsustainable.

Johnson, on the other hand, successfully balanced New Mexico's budget as its two-term governor. His primary method of budget-balancing was simply scrutinizing all spending measures and ensuring that they did not exceed the state's revenue. Indeed, New Mexicans still love him, a Republican reelected by a landslide in an overwhelmingly Democratic state, as evidenced by his current 25% support there.

Nobody's perfect, but this election cycle in particular has made perfection seem a distant concept indeed. Therefore, in this election of all elections, choose to escape the two-party stranglehold and instead consider a third option. Vote for competence. Vote for honesty. Vote for capability. Vote for Gary Johnson.

By GEORGE WHITFORD  
Student contributor

The upcoming elections have brought about a desire for a third party alternative to the Democratic and Republican presidential offerings. Neither is ideal. Trump is a seemingly impulsive and unqualified candidate who speaks like a cranky "Men's Rights" activist. Clinton has the opposite problem. She seems to be an inauthentic career politician, testing every word that comes out of her mouth in front of a focus group.

Third party candidates seem to be the perfect alternative to today's two-party dilemma. They support your unique, fringe position and never get sucked into the polarized political system the way that Republicans and Democrats do. Yet this idealistic approach to democracy doesn't bear fruit. Voting third party effectively sacrifices that vote and partly invalidates the voices of the rest of America.

The first problem with third-party candidates is that they lose. Examples are abundant, the most prominent occurring during the 2000 election between George Bush, Al Gore and Ralph Nader. Nader, the Green Party candidate, provided a more orthodox alternative to

Al Gore, Bill Clinton's vice president.

While it's hard to simplify his appeal, it was similar to that of Bernie Sanders, who resisted compromising his progressive ideals despite being a politician. Unfortunately for Nader, not everyone was as radical as he.

Come election time, Nader received around 3,000,000 popular votes and no electoral votes. While such small numbers usually wouldn't matter, Al Gore lost the election to George W. Bush by the slimmest of margins. Nader's candidacy meant that even though a majority of Americans preferred a liberal candidate, the election went to the neoconservative whose policies did not reflect the views of that liberal majority.

Today, the "Bernie or Bust" platform hosts a similar group of voters, who feel trapped by the idea of a compromise: voting for Clinton. I doubt they want Trump to be president, but by sacrificing a vote to a fringe candidate like Jill Stein they make a Trump presidency even more

Graphic courtesy of Matthew Roychowdhury

likely.

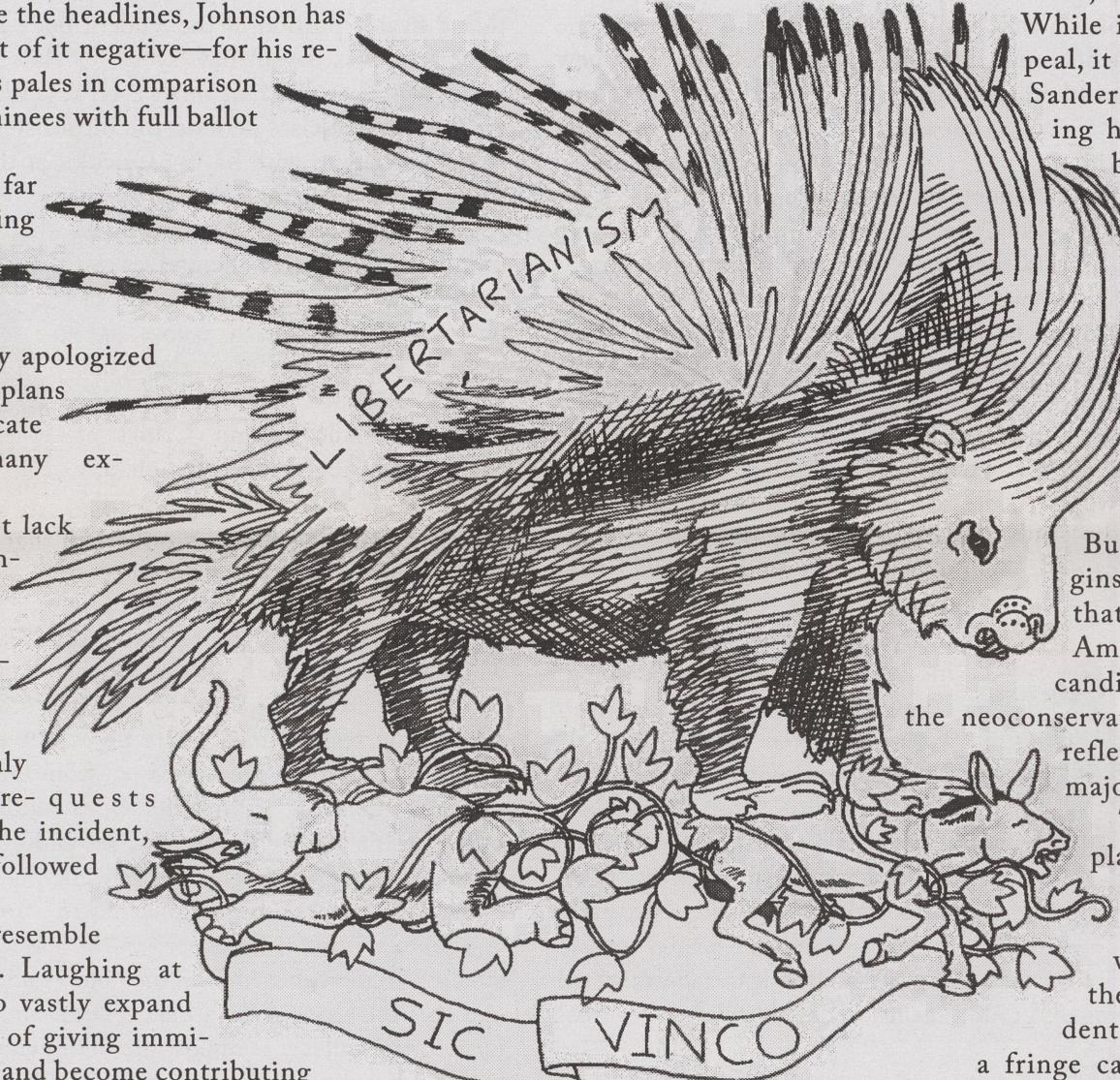
Furthermore, by unflinchingly voting only if every one of their ideals lines up with one candidate, third-party diehards miss what democracy is about. America is a diverse nation with citizens belonging to various ethnicities, cultures, races and classes. Both parties are in a situation that requires compromising some ideals and advocating others for the sake of appealing to the most people.

In other words, the two parties try to represent the will of the greatest number of people possible. That's where candidates like Gary Johnson miss the boat. Advertising himself as a Republican without the social views of a southern grandpa, he ignores the fact that there are still Republicans who exist and who stand by such seemingly archaic ideals—in doing so, he belittles a large demographic of socially conservative individuals.

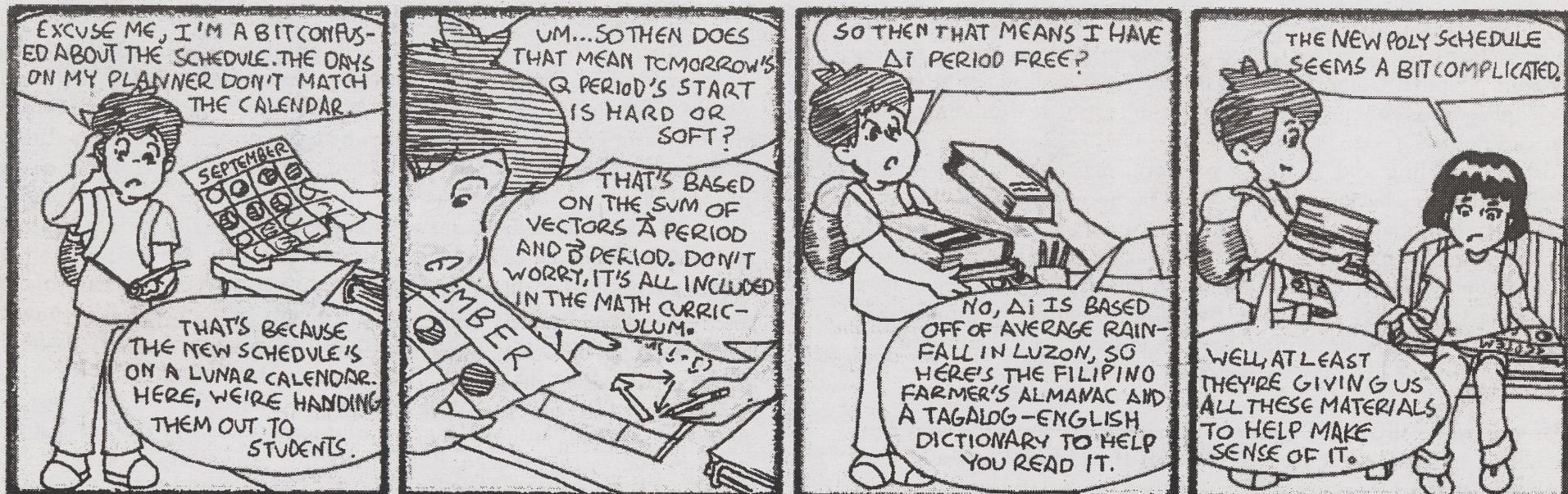
It's not old bipartisan politics that stand in the way of Johnson's Libertarian revolt; it's old people who still hold those 'old' beliefs. Compromising and voting for Trump is hard, but losing an election because you neglect to recognize other people's existence is worse.

If there were a party for everyone's perspective, everyone would be unhappy and we'd have instability every election cycle. Democracy is too multifaceted to cling to an ideology come hell-or-high-water.

Ultimately, Jill Stein and Gary Johnson can't win. Their ideologies are too far outside of the political mainstream—they appeal to too few voters. Democracy is about compromise. Choosing third party candidates just because of disagreements with Clinton or Trump not only jeopardizes this election—potentially handing it to a candidate you detest—but also fails to create lasting and fundamental change in the dominant parties. In both the short and long terms, voting third party is an idealistic, but ultimately undemocratic, waste.

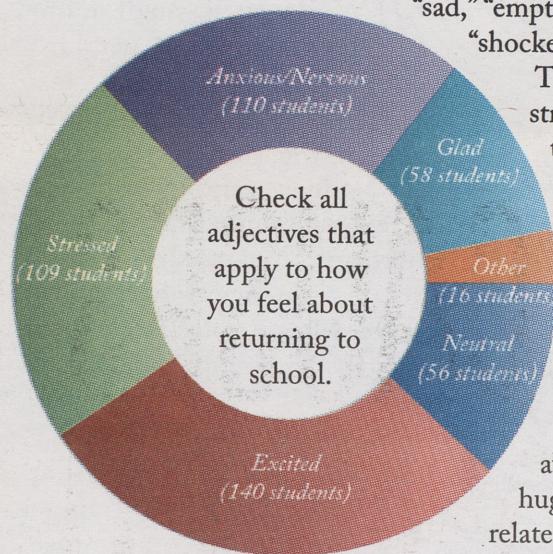


With the new school year off to a lively and eventful start, The Paw Print surveyed first impressions, emotions and general opinions around the South Campus. In addition to polling their overall feelings about being back in class, we also were curious to see how students have adjusted to the new administrative changes. In a section directed at freshmen only, we inquired about their comfort level on the South Campus and asked them to comment upon their experience as part of the Upper School thus far. Out of 224 respondents, 67 were freshmen, 64 were sophomores, 41 were juniors and 52 were seniors.



The back-to-school season evokes a variety of reactions. Parents are overcome with pride and nostalgia, and teachers may be itching to get to know their new students and jump back into the grind of lecturing, grading papers, and mentoring. But, without question, teenagers leaving fun-filled, homework-free summers experience the widest range of emotions.

In a survey sent out to the Upper School, students were asked to check all adjectives that would apply to the individual's feelings about returning to campus. Over half said they were excited, 58 said they were glad, and more concerningly, just over a hundred expressed that they were stressed and/or nervous or anxious. Respondents also had the opportunity to list descriptors of their own. These included "depressed," "worried," "stoked," "angry that no one else feels the way I do," "sad," "empty," "happy," "a mixture of everything," "shocked," "dead" and "unenthused."



Those who indicated that they were stressed or anxious were then asked to elaborate upon how faculty and/or their fellow students could help alleviate those feelings. A few of the responses were as follows: "Get me into a good college (laughing/crying emoji)," "Lessen the busy work," "Shorten sports practice," "Increase sensitivity," "Get a fan for the senior patio," "Stop scaring kids away from taking risks," and "Group hugs." Unsurprisingly, answers often related to social anxiety and resignation to the inevitability of college-related unease.

Many students cited themselves as the source of the pressure and stress they were feeling and found it difficult to articulate how those feelings could change.

Along with the new school year came a number of changes, the most significant being a six-day rotating schedule. Each day now starts consistently at 8:00 am, and with the rotation, students rarely attend all of their academic classes in one day.

In addition, the schedule prioritizes building relationships between faculty and students. Advisory groups meet for longer sessions with the hope of fostering meaningful discussions focused on student wellbeing. A designated "Communal Time" for assemblies and club meetings takes place five days a cycle, and three times a week, students have the option of using academic "Lab" periods to meet with their teachers or to simply take advantage of a quiet study hall. Teachers have eagerly adopted the new "Lunch Is Lunch" policy, and faculty have donned stylish T-shirts with the slogan in a bold font to promote the value of setting aside time to enjoy each others' company without meetings and campus activities threatening to bleed into meal times.

Thanks to the hard work of the many administrators and consultants who have listened intently to student complaints and needs, the majority of the survey's respondents are receiving the changes well. The abundance of free periods in between classes and the added community bonding time are especially popular. Satisfied students find themselves managing their time more efficiently and say they lead better balanced social and academic lives.

79 out of the 224 responses were checked "I need to get used to it," indicating

that a sizable portion of the student body is still grappling with what is, frankly, a rather complex day-to-day layout for classes. No two days are identical, and letter periods meet at different times each day. While it will take time to acclimate to the arrangement of class periods, the inconsistent scheduling was intentional. Now, if a student struggles with having Calculus at the end of a long day, for example, he or she may only encounter that circumstance once per

cycle.

Although students have had less than a month to familiarize themselves with the rotation, as with any introduction of the

new and unfamiliar, it comes as no surprise that a number of them have already expressed adamant objection to the schedule revamp. Critics of the restructuring are mostly unhappy with the lack of routine and the difficulty of fitting in arts electives of their choosing. One student opposed to the academic L period argued that "students have the right to waste time," while another pointed out that because one period per cycle is designated as a lab science

science courses still meet more times a week than all other subjects. One response in this area stood out from the rest: "We need more class time."

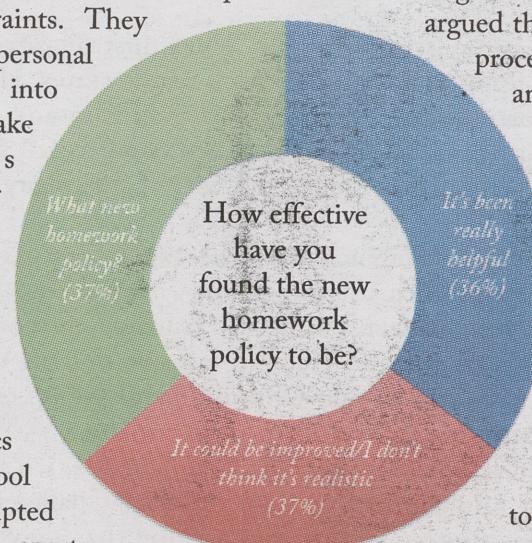
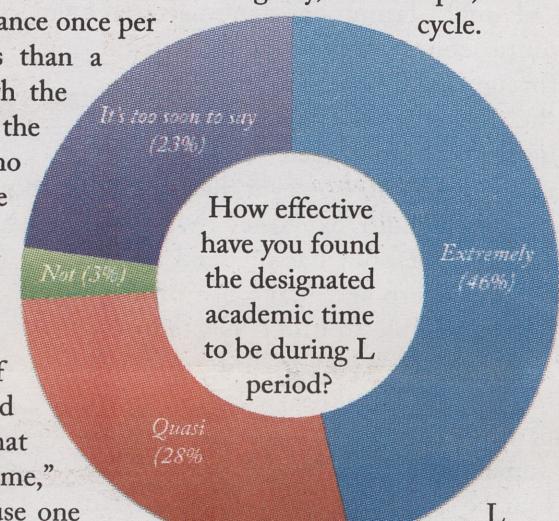
After countless complaints from students that teachers were assigning an unreasonable load of homework, yet another big change to academic life has come in the form of a universal homework policy. For freshmen and sophomores, the homework load has been truncated to 30 minutes per night per class. For juniors and seniors, it has been capped at 40 minutes per night per class. When asked how effective students have found the policy to be, 79 said that it has been very helpful, 63 said that they have reservations about it and 82 said it didn't affect them in any way, further proof that it is impossible to draw up an all-inclusive blueprint for a student body with a diversity of learning abilities and curriculums. The revised assignment guidelines do not account for Advanced Placement (AP) or accelerated course loads.

A follow-up question asked those who indicated that they felt the homework policy is not realistic or could be improved to expand on their reasonings and theorized solutions. Many said that as slow workers (some with learning disabilities), they are finding it difficult to complete the work assigned to them within the strict time constraints. They

inherently personal force it into ironically, make Others of their to the AP classes a bout having had to learn the

As side and athletics Upper School survey attempted upcoming sports such as the fall and exhibits, the December dance show, Cabaret Evening and the spring musical. Results showed that students are just about equally spirited for sporting and arts events. While the majority of pollies ranked their enthusiasm somewhere in the middle of the spectrum, only two percent and three percent have no interest at all in attending games and shows respectively.

The final section of the survey was directed at freshmen. Interested in how



welcoming upperclassmen and faculty have been to the newest members of the Upper School, we first asked that they share their level of comfort as ninth graders on the South Campus. 38 said that they are completely comfortable, 53 said that they are very comfortable, 33 said that they are more or less comfortable, eight said that they are not quite comfortable and one said that they are not at all

comfortable. These statistics are important to keep in mind as we continue to ease into our respective routines. Older students are encouraged to take the initiative to interact with their younger counterparts, and all members of our community should prioritize contributing to a welcoming and friendly environment for all.

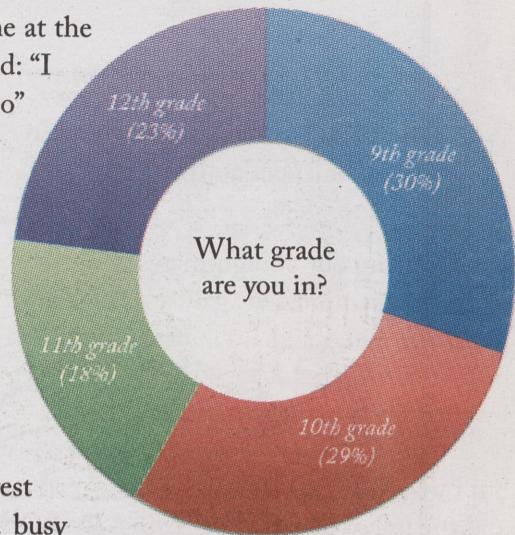
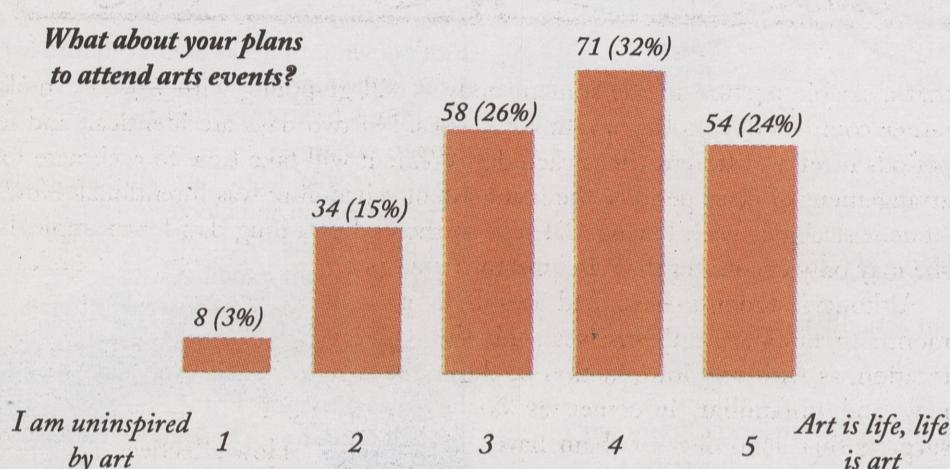
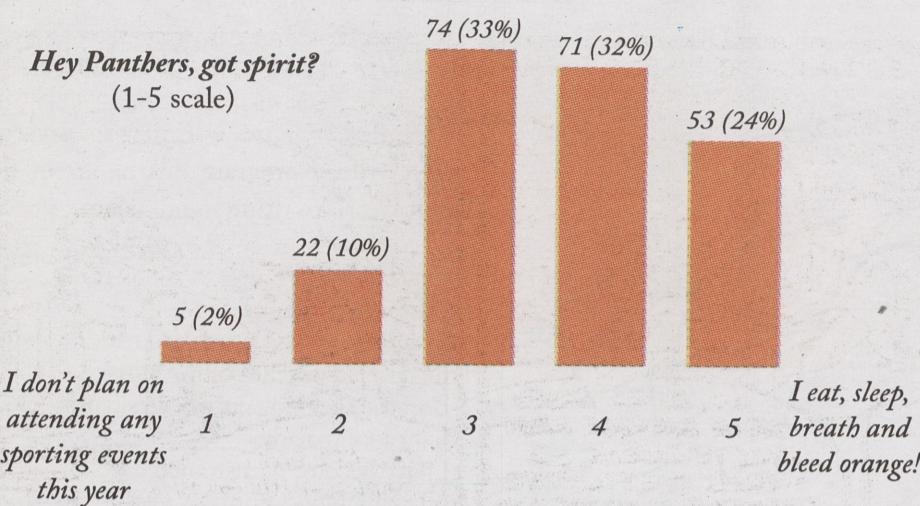
As a follow-up, we added a section for freshmen to

add any extra comments about their time at the Upper School thus far. Answers included: "I know that it's tradition to kind of "boo" the freshman, but it's not easy having to adjust to a whole new campus and schedule," "It's been lit," "The seniors are super cool," "I luv u Mateo" and "It's really hard being new, but I haven't had nearly as much trouble because everyone has been so nice."

Perhaps the most telling question posed to pollies sampled the student body's level of optimism about the rest of the school year having completed a busy month back in session. Most self-evaluations fell somewhere between "I CAN'T WAIT" and "I am filled with dread," with most acknowledging imminent challenges in the months ahead, but knowing that come June of 2017, they will be alive and well.

If the 2016-2017 school year were to be summarized using just one word, it would be "new." The new year brings with it a new schedule, new teachers, a new homework policy, a new lunch policy, a new freshmen class, a new ASB cabinet, a new Upper School Director, and with all these changes, new perspectives. As expected, students expressed a variety of reactions to these changes. Some lauded the changes as healthy progress, others criticized the changes as steps in the wrong direction, and most found themselves somewhere in between. Whether this year's changes ultimately prove beneficial or detrimental is yet to be seen, as the school year has only just begun. If The Paw Print's survey results say anything, however, it's that change at Poly will inevitably bring with it a diversity of opinions.

- BC, JL and WM





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# Life Lines

## Summer Creative Poetry Feature

### Shivani Chatterjee, "September"

Wrote poetry and music over the summer independently.

fading in and out of nightmares and daydreams, i found myself pressed against a red wall. hot in the sun, rough and uneven, beautiful, deep red. i wanted to live in the color.

but i was wearing black and white, and the lull of daylight was dying. i found myself pulled into the sunset. cool now, velvety, smooth. it left me a walking silhouette.

and so, three things remain. freedom, painted on the pavement, anxiety, sour on the tongue, and the faintest whisper of hope floating in on the breeze.



### Lukas Zmuidzinas, "My Sandman"

Did a lot of independent creative writing, focusing on short stories, a comic script and poetry.

A boy with sea-glass eyes and sandy hair waits by the ocean for me. I can see him now, his saltwater flesh soaking up the sun and warming to a golden brown that only stays for summer. He sits on a throne of trinkets: Seashells, smooth round stones, and bits of sea-glass piled onto one another, collected throughout a lifetime. The waves sting the stone-cut soles of my feet as my sand-caked toes drag through the water, slowly. Someday I'll run to my sandman, emerging from the foam-tipped waves. Running towards crumbled land and chiseled masculinity. But for now, an estrogen anchor holds me below the soft, curving tide, Drowning me in a sea of my own saltwater blood.



### Matilda Berke, "E. OXYPETALUM"

Spent more time thinking about poetry than actually writing it.

There's a tree across the way that stands staring like a stranger: island pine, three stories tall, evergreen, subtropical, not drought and drain and smoking sky.

Today I learned about the ceroid cactus, void for three hundred and sixty-four days each year. Barren, hard-lined, expecting the worst, well-versed in apathy and fear —

now that's an LA native. On the one night it blossoms, the dirt crests white and we all forget how we shut out the stars, how they screamed when we turned away,

how we live in a wasteland of our own creation where I still wouldn't trade these scrappy landscapes for unsmogged sky. You'd know that (being one yourself:

a green leaf pressed in Irish springs and California dust and your best years run riverbed-dry, the right to go tearless), you'd know the beauty in a few petals heady

with solitude, the greatest sense of place. Old deserts are sown in the emptiest space, and I can live with that. There are flowers that bloom in the quiet kinds of heat.

### Bel Cahill, "elegy"

Worked at the Los Feliz Ledger and wrote lots of sub-par poetry surrounded by angsty ghosts at Kenyon College.

I had a dream last night

That I was pregnant with your baby

That when it kicked the wall of my belly

Everything echoed. I didn't know

How to explain this to you, how to

Draw the loneliness I felt onto your palms

Upon waking to an empty womb.

Like when we stood outside a yellow house

And I tried to convince you I was good enough

To be loved, like when my body forgot

How to remember itself. All this

Is to say I am not immune

To the maw of your unrest. Please,

Be patient with me. I am

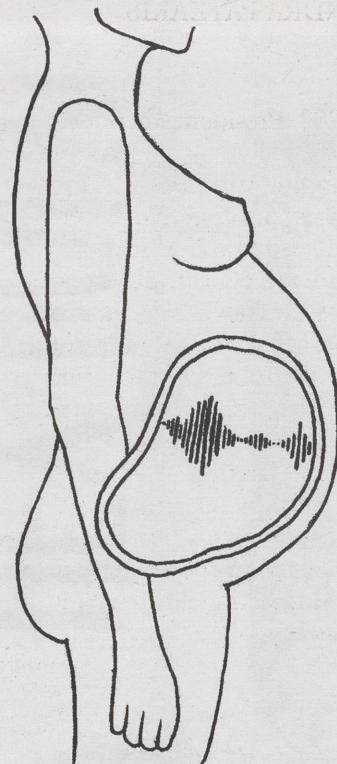
Still learning how to sleep outside of your skin.

Compiled by ANDY RICKERT  
Assistant Life editor

### Ellie McAfee, "The Shield"

Attended a 5 week Emerson pre-college writing program on the art of fiction, scriptwriting and slam poetry.

I bite my tongue  
Scraping bristled pearls against  
the charred peaches of my gums  
Because speaking encourages words  
that cause malady.  
I have become accustomed  
to licking blood from my teeth  
Because ears are too soft for the truthful  
honks of veracity.  
Droplets, blended with the ruins  
of our misled society,  
Pitter down my cheeks unnoticed for I act  
as the mediator.  
The bullets fired at you run straight  
through my heart.  
I act as the shield, but I am still composed  
of the same flesh and blood  
That makes you. I bleed when I crash,  
so I try to remain standing  
To fall is to be weak, to be weak is to fail...  
So I don't fall.  
But my legs grow frailer every day —  
the bones turn more brittle —  
through times rough as stone, leaving me  
in battered fragments, I acted as a shield  
for you — But even the shield needs  
a crutch.



### Andy Rickert, "Brimstone"

Spent two weeks in Ohio at the Kenyon Young Writers workshop studying poetry and creative nonfiction.

he runs through the mad Los Angeles night  
sky the same color as wine  
as it comes up again  
he makes a fist squeezing out the seconds  
until they bleed through his fingers  
and trickle down along the back of his hand  
which he runs through her hair  
rocking back and forth in the cool dusk of an era  
it's gonna be alright  
two fools dancing in the cockpit  
of a plane as it crashes into a tower  
at least we found beauty while there was still a word to  
describe it

# Artist of the issue: Aidan Rawlinson

By ANDY RICKERT  
Assistant life editor

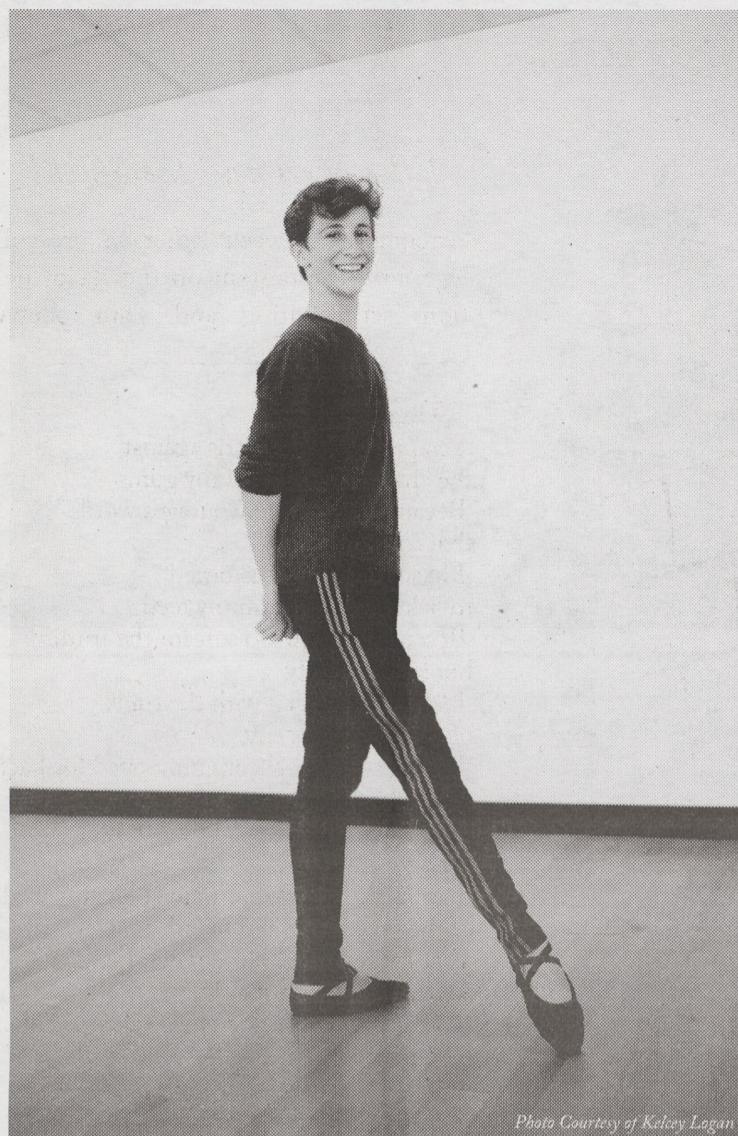


Photo Courtesy of Kelley Logan

While most boys at Poly lace up a pair of cleats or running shoes after school, freshman Aidan Rawlinson slips on a pair of leather slippers and hits the dance studio. Since elementary school, Rawlinson has cultivated a passion for ballet, performing in major international competitions and participating in prestigious summer programs.

After seeing a performance of the Nutcracker in 5th grade, Rawlinson was inspired to try out a ballet lesson at the Dance Conservatory of Pasadena. He won a dance scholarship the same year, and from there his ballet career took off.

During 8th grade, Rawlinson finished third place in the Youth American Grand Prix, the largest international student dance competition in the world. While in New York, he shared the stage with dancers from Japan, China, and France.

When asked what drew him to ballet specifically, Rawlinson responded, "I like ballet more than other types of dance because in ballet you get to play a character." He explained that this performance element of ballet allows its message to be universal. Whether in Pasadena or across the Pacific, the story of ballet can be appreciated because, as Rawlinson describes, "ballet is a worldwide art."

Back at home, Rawlinson manages to balance his rigorous

dance schedule with his transition into the Upper School. On any given week, he trains at least fifteen hours, often times more if he has an upcoming recital.

However, he is quite used to dancing at such a high level. Rawlinson attended the American Ballet Summer Intensive this summer, where he spent three weeks practicing eight hours a day.

Rawlinson looks forward to participating in theatre productions at Poly, but, for the most part, his heart is set on ballet. He already has aspirations to join a dance company later in life and perform ballet professionally. We look forward to seeing where ballet will take Rawlinson over the next four years of high school.

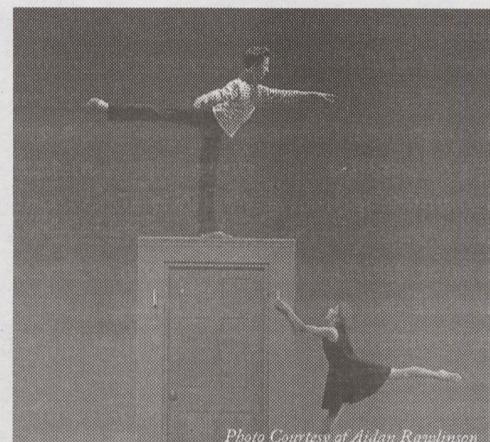


Photo Courtesy of Aidan Rawlinson

## A late celebration of the National Park Service Centennial

By ALEXANDRA PATZAKIS  
Life editor

In May 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt accompanied John Muir on a three-day camping trip through Yosemite. On their first day together, Muir and Roosevelt visited the Mariposa Grove and camped beneath the great expanse of the Grizzly Giant sequoia. Roosevelt and Muir spent their second night near the Sentinel Dome during a fierce snowstorm that blanketed the park—and the two campers—in more than five inches of snow.

On their last night, at the edge of Bridalveil Meadow, Muir initiated a campfire conversation about the necessity of preserving national forests and voiced his concerns about the California State Grant of Yosemite

Valley and the Mariposa Grove, which was severely lacking in state care and support.

This discussion ultimately led Roosevelt to sign the Yosemite Recession Bill in June 1906, which withdrew the park from state supervision and instead placed it under federal protection. During his presidency, Roosevelt went on to establish five national parks, 18 national monuments, 55 national bird sanctuaries and wildlife refuges and 150 national forests.

Roosevelt and Muir's three-day Yosemite visit is still recognized today as the most important camping trip in U.S. history.

On August 25, 1916, President

Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act, which created the National Park Service to oversee, maintain and protect the growing number of national parks.

Just last month, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial. In the 100 years since its creation, the Service has grown to encompass 412 sites across the country, including seashores, trails and battlefields. Spread across a combined 77 million acres, these landmarks have attracted more than 307 million visitors.

While national parks serve as the nation's "common ground," they also encapsulate the differences in the varied American landscape. Whether central Alaska's Denali National Park, or the Everglades in southern Florida, or Grand National Park in the desert of Arizona, each brilliantly unique park is home to a diverse collection of flora and fauna.

By offering unpolluted

glimpses into America's natural landscape, our national parks feed our spirits and heighten our curiosity about the terrain that existed before paved roads, industrialized cities and climate change. They reveal the past and tell stories of who and what was here before us.

Historically, the most beautiful land was reserved for the elite, but the tremendous efforts of the National Park Service have brought people together, temporarily destroying our divisions and allowing many to enjoy the splendors of American scenery.

In June, New York City's Stonewall Inn became America's first national monument to the LGBTQ civil rights movement. And, as of recently, Yosemite has expanded to protect 500 more acres of land, including Ackerson Meadow.

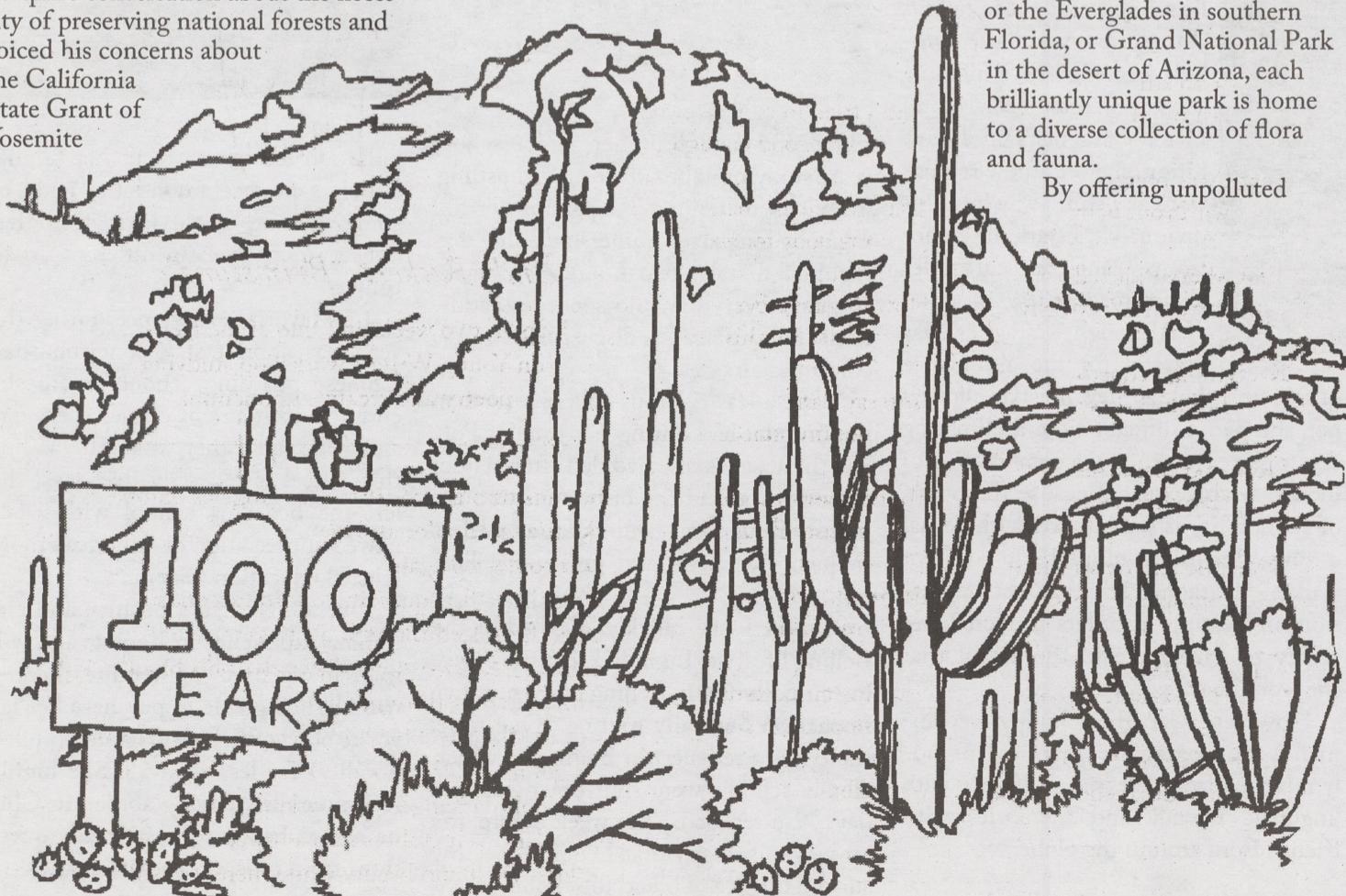
The National Park Service also launched an anniversary campaign, "Find Your Park," to encourage others to explore our diverse national parks and to visit unfamiliar sites.

Grace Hamilton, an Upper School English teacher, discussed the importance of national parks in her own life.

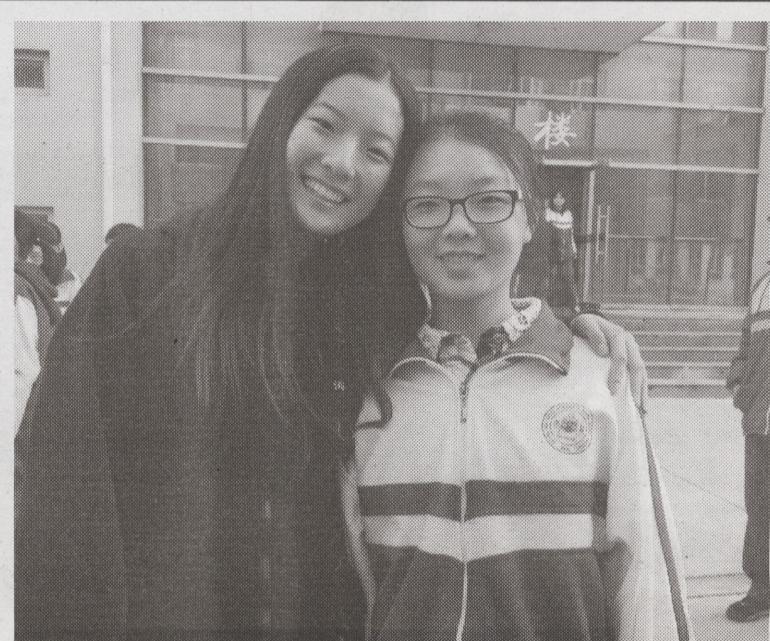
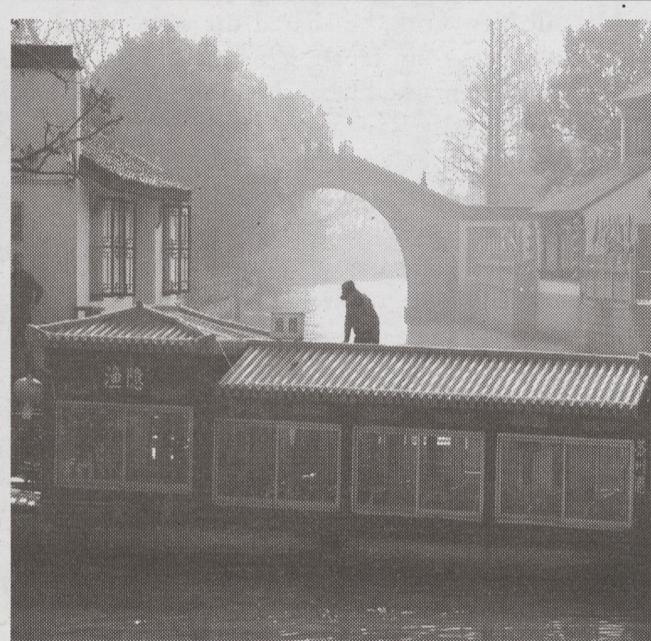
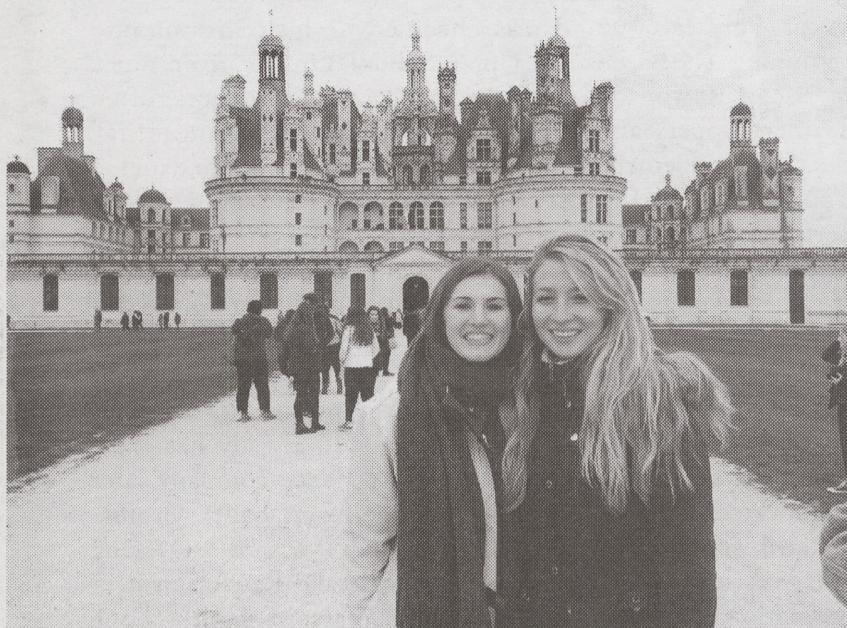
"Almost every Memorial Day weekend, I climb Telescope Peak in Death Valley, and that park was where I took my sister when our mother died. It is a place of peace and quiet. Each park has its own charm, challenges and beauty. A national park is created because it has something special—whether geographical, geological or historical—so all are unique," reflected Hamilton.

In his book, *The Yosemite*, which was published in 1912, John Muir writes that, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

Some of the references in this article were derived from the New Yorker piece entitled "Obama the Conservationist."



## A World Apart: Seniors return from School Year Abroad in France & China



### Shaelyn Caragher



larized leadership, moved to ban religious attire, especially in light of the terrorist attacks in Paris, which occurred during the November of her stay. These changes affected the communities around her.

"I had to be more aware of my surroundings. In public schools and out in public, you cannot wear any symbols of religious affiliation, such as a cross necklace or a hijab," Caragher said. In addition, she sees these regulations as a shift away from individuality, a stark difference from American attitudes about freedom.

Although Caragher was grateful for the abundance of free time that her new lifestyle allowed her, she had a difficult time acclimating due to the emergence of a combination of mental health issues. Because the bustle of French life is punctuated with casual outings, drawn-out dinners and constant walking, Caragher felt that her depression and eating disorders hindered her ability to participate to the extent that she would have wished.

However, Caragher highly recommends the program to others, and proudly returned from her year in France with linguistic fluency and memories with friends from around the globe.

- Sarah Ohta

Shaelyn Caragher spent her junior year abroad in Rennes, France, with the hope of achieving fluency in French and gaining a refined knowledge of the political and cultural climate in the country. She immersed herself in humanities courses taught in French, ranging from French Politics to Art History. Through her French Politics class, Caragher had the opportunity to interview Syrian refugees at a local center and compare their viewpoints to those of the students attending her school.

Caragher was particularly intrigued by the way government overlapped with daily life in France. She noticed firsthand how France, with a history of secu-

### Jennifer Lu



Jennifer Lu spent her junior school year studying abroad in the bustling, lively city of Beijing. As part of her full Chinese-language immersion, she was required to take two hours of Chinese language every day, and spent two additional hours per week discussing Chinese current affairs.

With a less rigorous course load than the one she had during her time at Poly and the absence of scheduled after-school activities, Lu had the opportunity to explore various local landmarks, as well as frequent concerts and museum galleries.

Although she quickly adjusted to the Beijing lifestyle, Lu noted that the growing air pollution in Beijing had a negative impact on her daily routine. "One time, there was a red alert in Beijing, in which all the schools were shut down for two days," Lu recalled. "The week before, the air was so smoggy that I couldn't see my surroundings as I biked to school."

Lu's experiences with the effects of

pollution led her to focus her Global Scholars project around the issue of smog, honing in on legislation that affects smog levels in different urban centers.

Lu's favorite experience during the year was a brief stay at a suburban Chinese boarding school, where she endured 13 hours of classes every day alongside 60 other students. While this ordeal lasted only five days, she left the boarding school with a renewed appreciation of America's more relaxed education system.

Overall, Lu had a positive and enriching experience in Beijing, and will miss many parts of her life there—namely, being able to purchase her favorite bowl of Lanzhou lamian (pulled noodles) for less than \$5. She highly recommends studying abroad in China and is happy to answer any questions from prospective participants.

- Sarah Ohta

*¡Viva España!***Nicole Larios**

Senior Nicole Larios returned to Poly from Zaragoza, Spain, where she spent her junior year studying, bonding with friends and her host family and experiencing Spain's vibrant culture.

Larios studied at SYA Spain, where she participated in full Spanish-language immersion by completing classes and conducting social interactions in Spanish.

Larios also lived with a Spanish host family, including a teenage host sister who did not speak English. This allowed Larios to quickly become comfortable speaking Spanish at home and helped her grow close with her host family.

"My host mom and sister became my two best friends in Spain, so that was a really important part of my year," Larios recalled.

As she adjusted to life in Spain, Larios mastered Zaragoza's public transportation network and explored the country, which allowed her to connect

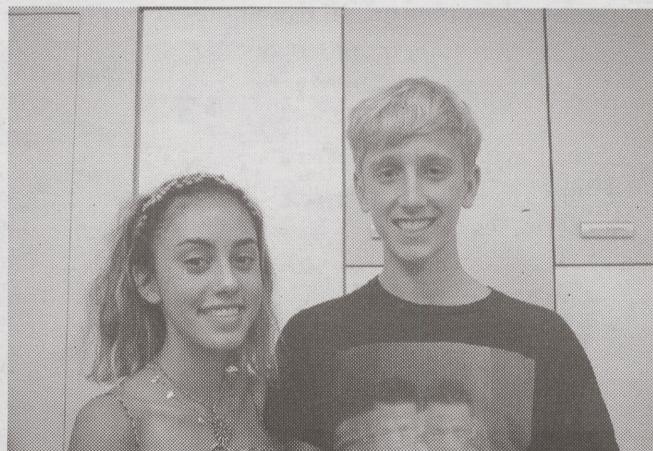
with local students and visit landmarks across Spain. On one of these outings, Larios and several classmates travelled to the Strait of Gibraltar and conducted a research project on the region's unique geopolitics.

Most notably, Larios enjoyed her independent weekend trips to cities throughout the country and the European Union, including Valencia, Barcelona, Madrid and Berlin. During these trips, she partook in cultural festivities, such as a Brazilian festival in Berlin, visited landmarks and saw concerts, including Kygo in Madrid.

Larios said of her experience abroad, "I felt completely at home. I loved being in a different culture, and I wish it was something that everyone from our school could do—it really changes you into a more mature person."

She plans to return to Spain this coming summer and hopes to reconnect with her host family.

- Harper Oreck

**Charlie Molz**

Senior Charlie Molz returned to California from his year abroad in Zaragoza, Spain, with an appreciation of independent travel and new insights into Spanish life and culture.

As Molz readjusts to life at Poly, he fondly remembers his time in Spain. His host parents, Ernesto and Teresa, had previously raised children of their own and welcomed Molz into their home with warmth and kindness. Over the course of the trip, Molz and his host parents became close, whether they were hitting the beach for the weekend or simply watching TV at home together.

Molz attended school at SYA Spain, where he took the majority of his classes in Spanish, and quickly became adept in Zaragoza's unique Spanish dialect.

Molz also enjoyed being immersed in Spanish culture and exploring its many cities, such as San Sebastián, Madrid, Barcelona, Girona, Plasencia, Cartagena and nearby cities throughout the Aragón area, and had some of his most memorable experiences on independent trips throughout Spain. He especially enjoyed visiting the beach in Cartagena in the southeast of Spain and was fasci-

nated by the architecture in the different cities that he visited.

These excursions, including a five-day trip outside of Zaragoza through SYA's "Cinco Días" travel program, gave Molz the opportunity to experience Spain's traditions, improve his Spanish fluency and make friends with local students.

Molz also made friends within his community through the "un día aquí, un día allí" exchange program, in which he spent a day attending a local high school. He also bonded with fellow Poly student Nicole Larios over their mutual experiences acclimating to daily life in Zaragoza. He notes that the most prominent cultural differences were the business hours of shops in Spain, the food and the different "siesta" sleep schedule, where many Spaniards take a brief nap in the afternoon and only sleep 5-6 hours each night.

Molz found his year in the beautiful culture of Zaragoza incredibly exciting and recommends the SYA Spain program to anyone who "wants a good adventure."

- Helen Deverell



Photos courtesy of Nicole Larios

# Football defeats Mary Star 35-10, remains undefeated

By MATT KIM  
Assistant sports editor

Poly's varsity football team has started the season with a promising 4-0 record, including decisive victories over Temple City (42-14), Brentwood (28-14) and Mary Star of the Sea (35-10).

Against Mary Star, Poly controlled most of the game on both sides of the field. Despite conceding an early first quarter field goal, the Panthers bounced back with rushing touchdowns from junior Cameron McFarlane and senior Brady Carter. Mary Star soon came back with a touchdown, making the score 14-10 in favor of Poly.

After a scoreless third quarter, senior John Genske connected with junior Jackson Hayes for a 55-yard touchdown, followed shortly by a fumble recovered by junior Zane Behary for a touchdown. In the fourth quarter, junior Matt Loomis cemented the victory with a ten-yard touchdown pass to Hayes.

On the defensive side of the ball, junior Graham Olson, Carter and senior Patrick Woodsome applied a relentless pass rush, combining for three sacks. Carter also recovered a fumble and senior Jack Wilson had an interception.

Senior Will McConnell said, "We came into the game anticipating Mary Star to be one of our toughest matchups of the year, so to come away with a decisive victory on the road against them was really big. I felt like we started a bit slow, but in the second half we were really firing on all cylinders."

The loss of many key seniors, including standout running-back Jack Queen and receiver

Tim Matthiessen, hasn't had a significant effect on the Panthers' performance.

Coach Chris Schmoke said, "I never really think of it as filling holes because each kid you have in the program is an individual kid with individual skills. I just look at each different year as a different team. Some have strengths that others hadn't, and others have weaknesses that others hadn't."

The team features eight new members, all of whom are juniors. The help of the veterans alleviates the new players' transition to the varsity level.

Schmoke added, "They're really good at being welcoming. Especially in the game of football, you need each other. They recognize that you have to make it an easy transition."

Coming off of last year's early CIF playoff exit, the Panthers look to remain focused and humble throughout the season. They play their first Prep League game against Firebaugh on October 21.

McConnell said, "We have a lot of playmakers on both sides of the ball, but more importantly, everyone takes their role very seriously and contributes to the team."



Senior Brady Carter searches for an opening in the Brentwood defense. The Panthers defeated the Eagles 28-14.

Courtesy of Poly Communications

## Victory over Rio Hondo propels volleyball to a 4-3-1 record

By AUSTIN LEE  
Assistant sports editor

The Poly girls varsity volleyball team stands at 4-3-1 at the start of their season following their 3-0 victory against league rival Rio Hondo Prep.

In the 27th Annual Poly Invitational Tournament, the Panthers split their first match against St. Anthony 1-1, earning them the second seed in their bracket and a spot in the tournament playoffs.

In the semi-final match, Poly quickly won their first two sets against Western Christian to set up a rematch against St. Anthony. This time, the squad lost in straight sets to finish second overall in the tournament.

Although the Panthers haven't performed as well as they had hoped, they remain optimistic about their season. The losses of key seniors Kennedy Cameron, Carolyn Shanks and Carter Woodruff have left this year's team with only 11 players, one of the smallest varsity teams in

recent memory. The players have still been trying to adjust and find each other's natural fit and position while learning the others' style of play.

Senior Lucy Harvey said, "Because it is still the beginning of our season, we have had to make many adjustments in line-ups and positions which has been sometimes confusing and frustrating. However, we all trust each other and our coaches, so the changes are proving to be very beneficial to the success of our team."

"Each time we play together, we grow as a team and strive to get better. During our Poly invitational tournament, we were able to spend a lot of time together on the court adjusting to each other's playing style. Every girl stepped up during the games and helped improve our team," Harvey added.

The team's overall inexperience is highlighted by the team's four freshmen, including standouts Ella and Zoey Mao. With the relative lack of depth, the squad has looked to the twins to fill in the roles of departed seniors.

Senior Morgan Shafia said, "The most difficult part of the year for us has been dealing with the loss of two of our setters. After losing both Cameron and Shanks, we have been looking to find someone to fill their role. Fortunately, we have Ella and Zoey Mao, two freshmen who are inexperienced in setting but are incredible all-around players who are willing to fill that void."

With the CIF dominance of fellow Prep league competitors Chadwick (11-1) and Mayfield (10-2) last year, the former of which lost in the championship match against Village Christian, the Panthers have a tough league schedule ahead of them this year.

After placing fourth in league last year behind Chadwick, Mayfield and Westridge, the Panthers, with a 1-0 league record, look to continue their strong start in league play against Westridge on September 20.



Senior Morgan Shafia (left) and junior Natalie Clark (right) jump up to block Temple City's attack. Poly won 3-1.

## Water polo struggles defensively in a 15-5 loss against Chadwick

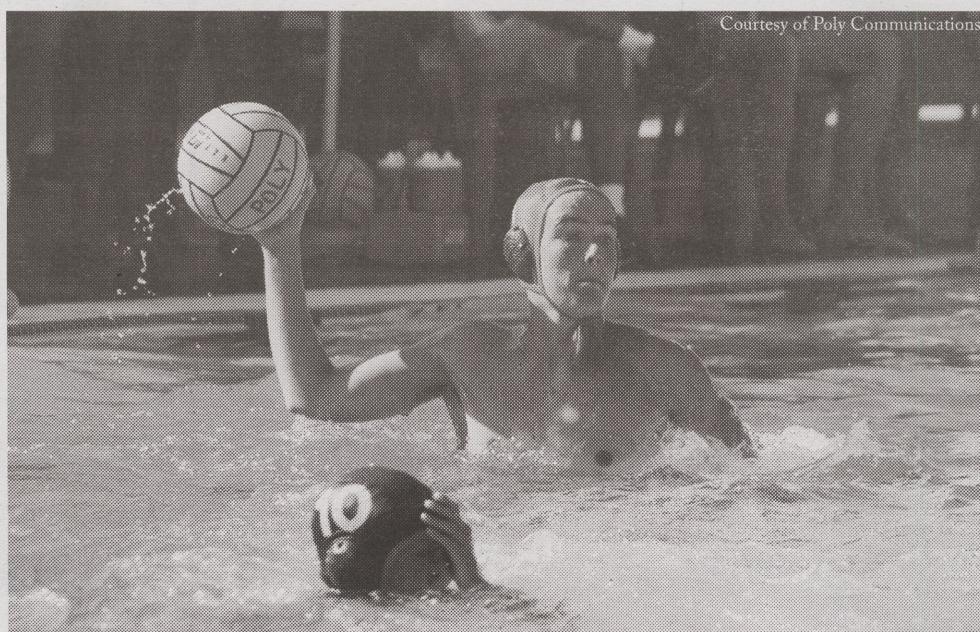
By ROBYN LEE  
Sports editor

A 15-5 loss to Chadwick in the 7th Annual Varsity Conqueror Classic dropped the varsity boys water polo team to a 6-4 record in pre-league play.

Coming off a three game win streak, including blowout wins against St. Francis (16-9) and Mark Keppel (14-4), the Panthers struggled to maintain their momentum against stronger opponents. Last Friday, the team fell to Carpinteria High School (15-3), followed by the loss to Prep league competitor Chadwick.

Senior Isaac Harris said, "Those two schools had teams that were a lot bigger and stronger than us. We knew we were going to have to step up and play against those more aggressive teams, but we got out of playing our game."

After a disappointing fourth place finish in league last year, the Panthers have their eyes set on making a deep playoff run. These pre-league games



Junior Ollie Penner scans the pool for an open teammate against Mark Keppel.

are especially crucial for a team that is in the process of strengthening its team chemistry and developing its skills against superior opponents.

Junior Joe Masters said, "Our captains have stepped up the intensity of our program and introduced a new standard of teamwork."

The Panther tailgate win against St. Francis was the first glimpse at the squad's refocused team dynamic paying off. The Panthers took advantage of their key strength: a roster stacked with well-divided offensive skill and versatility at many positions.

"It was in the St. Francis game that we saw our team really come together, with six players scoring," said Masters. "One of the best things about our team is that there is no selfishness, and everyone on the team is ready and willing to sacrifice themselves for the overall success of the team."

Senior Dean Johnson added, "Communication has really improved this year. We have been able to quickly adapt to the defensive and offensive schemes of our opponents in our first few games."

Against Mark Keppel, Harris and Masters continued to lead the team with three and five goals, respectively. Sophomore Diego Jaime and four other teammates backed them up with six other goals, while junior goalkeeper Oliver Penner contributed six saves.

The combination of upperclassmen talent and a deep roster has the Panthers hopeful and ready to face Milken on September 20 for the start of league play.

## Veteran cross country runners set a fast pace at Rosemead

By JUSTIN AUH  
Sports editor

Poly's cross country team ran its most successful race this season at Rosemead on September 9, with the boys team winning the varsity competition. In addition, fourteen Poly runners earned medals and sixteen runners set personal records.

The varsity boys team was anchored by junior Xian Shively, who finished fourth among all runners. Shively broke the Poly record for the Rosemead course and set a new personal record with a time of 15:22. Seniors Michael Yen, Jeffrey Silver, Andy Rickert and Aidan Crochetiere rounded out the top five Poly finishers and also set new personal records, a testament to their changed mindset.

Crochetiere said, "Heading into the race, the team met with Dr. Chavez, who helped us concentrate on focusing on our goals and environment during our races. It really helped me and my teammates out during the Rosemead race on Friday. Despite falling towards the back of the pack early on, I used the tactics he taught me to focus rather than lament about my discomfort. I felt really good that day, and I could sense when the people in front

of me were lagging or hurting and used that to my advantage. It was one of the highlights of my four-year cross country career."

The girls team was led by sophomores Vivian Wheeler and Shaya Naimi and junior Sophie Schleifer. Wheeler, Schleifer and Naimi set the second, third and fifth fastest Rosemead course times in school history.

Both the boys and girls teams set their fastest collective times in their five years running at Rosemead, a testament to their commitment and emphasis on physical and mental preparation during practice.

Silver said, "This year we are working a lot on focus and practicing with a purpose. I think this mindset has translated to the success of our team as evidenced by our varsity win at Rosemead."

"It's really easy to lose your focus during the second mile because it is the most mentally challenging. At the start, everyone feels fresh, and at the end, everyone anticipates the finish and musters the energy to sprint. The middle of the race determines how well we do as a team," added Silver.

The Panthers hope to sustain their early-season momentum and continue to improve in preparation for Prep League finals in late October.

## Sophomore standout Annette Lee earns E rating

Annette Lee placed third at the recent College of the Desert tournament, earning her E rating. Fencers who compete in the United States Fencing Association begin unranked but can be awarded ranks from E to A based on success at tournaments.

Lee competed in the mixed foil division against 23 other fencers. After winning four out of her five pool bouts, Lee received a first round bye. She then defeated Theo Schenck and Patrick Donez to advance to the semifinals, where she lost to Michael Perry, an A-rated fencer.

Lee joins her senior teammates Mark Xu and Michael Hatch as the only current E-rated fencers from Poly.

- Austin Lee

## Young tennis team hopes to find tempo, opens season with a 2-2 record

By AUSTIN LEE and MATT KIM  
Assistant sports editors

After opening their season with consecutive losses to South Pasadena

and Temple City, the girls varsity tennis team bounced back with dominant showings against Mark Keppel and Westridge, winning both matches by a score of 14-4.

The young squad, which has six freshmen, has looked early and often to the leadership of senior Shalini Haupt, the number one singles player and lone senior on the team.

"Shalini is a great team captain. She inspires us to do our best before each match and practice and always sets a great example. With so many freshmen on the team this year, she has really stepped up to help guide the young team and make them feel comfortable with the new environment. Shalini is a real asset to the team, both with her incredible tennis skills and her strong leadership," said sophomore Tara Adarkar.

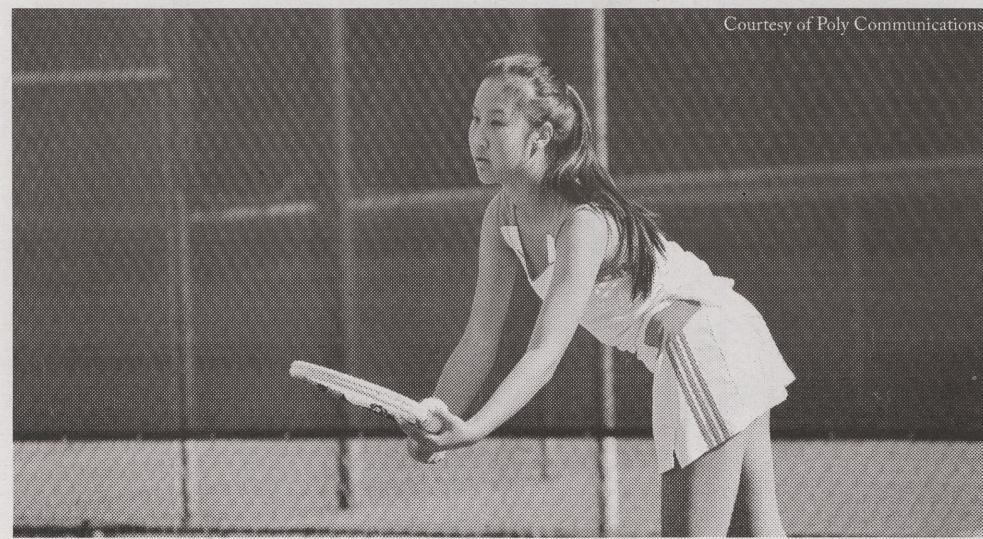
Despite their inexperience, the six freshmen add depth and versatility to the tennis team that is especially

handy in tight matches. All six have been playing at a high level while adjusting to the high school game, providing the team with a strong core to rely upon in future seasons.

"While we haven't had a stellar start to the season, we've done pretty well, and as the freshmen adjust to their doubles partners and the general atmosphere of high school athletics, we should be one of the top teams in the Prep League by the end of the season," Haupt said.

Adarkar added, "The freshmen on the team are really strong and helpful. They all are great at tennis and have great personalities that really bring the team together. With such a strong team already, the future looks bright."

Courtesy of Poly Communications



Junior Caitlyn Wu winds up for a serve in a singles match against Valencia. Poly won 10-8.

## Athlete of the Issue Isaac Harris

On a team with many experienced upperclassmen, senior captain Isaac Harris has distinguished himself as a leader of the varsity water polo team inside and outside of the pool.

Harris leads the Panthers with 34 goals and ten assists in the team's first ten games. He was instrumental in leading the team to a fifth place finish at the 7th Annual Conqueror Classic, which featured formidable nonleague competition. Harris had 18 goals during the tournament.

Despite not joining the varsity team until his junior year, Harris has quickly developed his offensive repertoire and asserted himself as the team's most consistent scoring weapon.

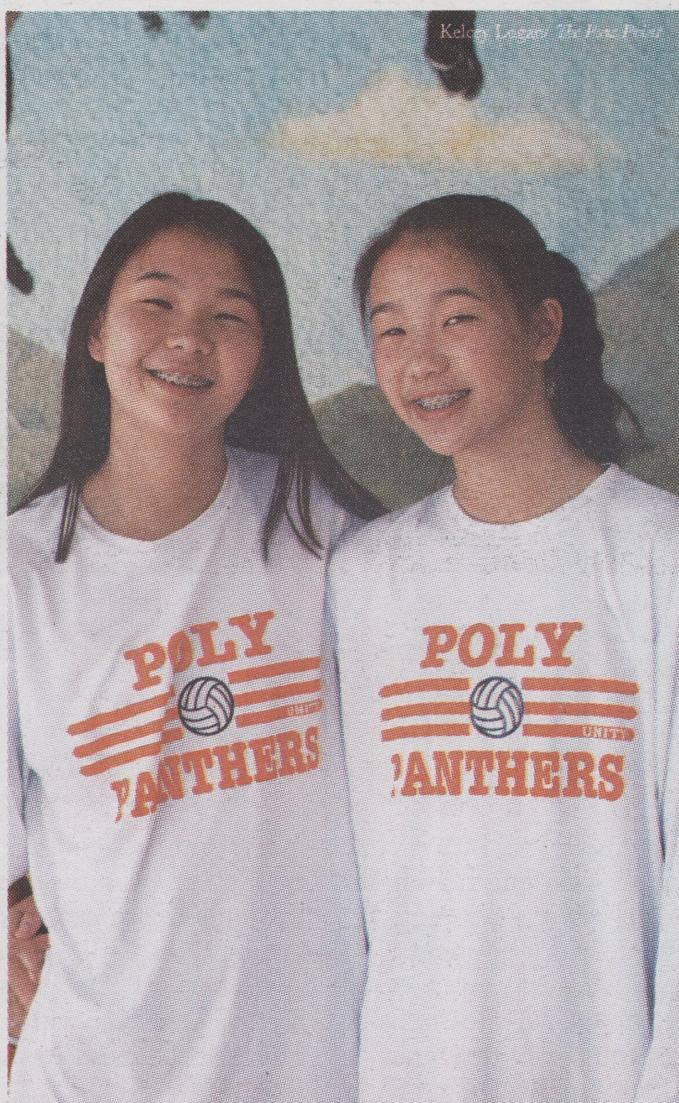
Senior Matt Arena said, "Isaac shows up with the most energy in the pool. He is a versatile player who can either post up or play from the outside and score from both locations. I've also seen him gain a lot of speed over the past three years."

Additionally, he sets an example for the rest of his teammates through his leadership in practices and games.

Senior Dean Johnson said, "Whether during a game or a hard set in practice, Isaac is there motivating us to push harder. Not only does he embody the spirit of the team, but Isaac always gives his 110% in the pool. With his combination of strength and agility, he is a force to be reckoned with versus any team."

Harris will continue to anchor the team's offense and mentor the team's underclassmen as the Panthers head into league matches against Flintridge Prep and Milken.

- Matt Kim



## Athlete of the Issue Shalini Haupt

As the only senior on the girls varsity tennis team, senior Shalini Haupt will lead this year's young team by example and experience.

Haupt, a four-year varsity veteran, went undefeated in league doubles matches as a freshman. Haupt and her partner advanced to the 2013 CIF tournament as the sole representatives from Poly.

Haupt continued her dominance in her sophomore year, finishing undefeated in league doubles matches again and ending the season with a CIF championship. She was a crucial piece of the championship team, winning one of two clinching games in the championship match.

Kim Weber, head varsity tennis coach at the time of Poly's CIF win, said, "My fondest memory of Shalini is from her sophomore year, when the girls won the division. Shalini kept her composure throughout the set, even though she was down early, and she and her partner stayed focused, battled back, broke back and eventually won the match."

In her junior year, Haupt was the team's top singles player and carried the team to another CIF berth. She looks to carry on her individual and team success in her senior season at Poly, and aims to cement her legacy as one of the most prolific athletes in program history.

- Thomas McConnell and Sam Salvati

## Athletes of the Future Ella and Zoey Mao

Poly students have a lot to look forward to this volleyball season thanks to the addition of freshman twins Ella and Zoey Mao. Ella and Zoey, both setters, represent the bright future of Poly's volleyball program.

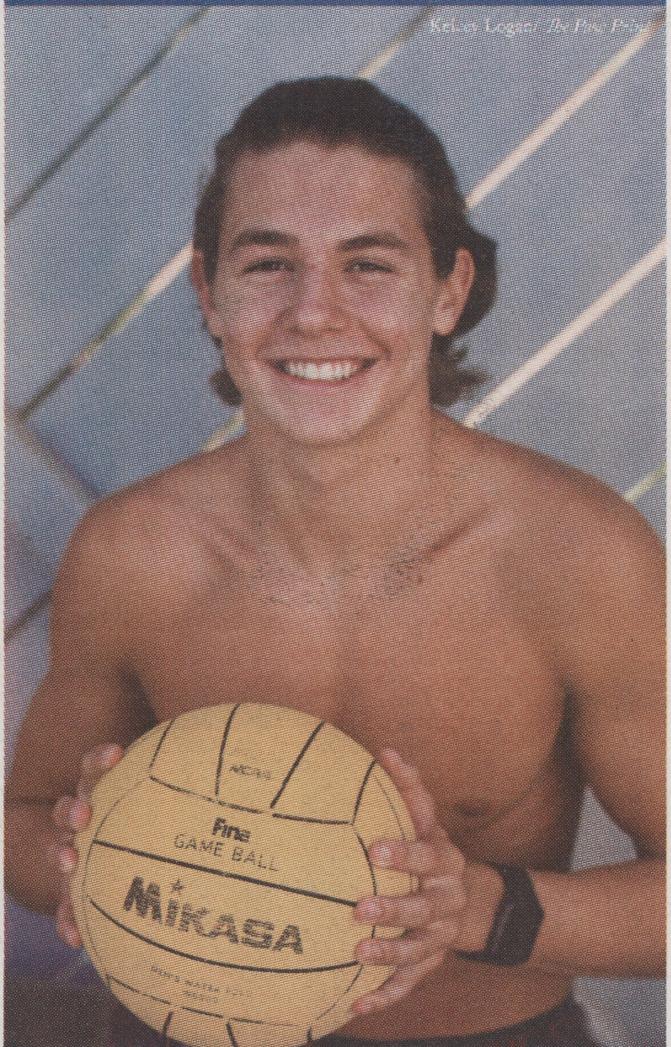
Despite this being their first year playing high school volleyball, Ella and Zoey Mao have had years of experience on San Gabriel Elite Volleyball Club. Their club experience has helped them quickly assume leading roles on the young Panthers squad.

The Panthers have gotten off to a 6-4 start this season with a 1-0 Prep League record largely due to the Mao twins' skill and versatility. The squad's lack of depth has forced the twins out of their traditional roles as outside hitters, but they have filled their new positions admirably.

The Mao twins bring both skill and character to the table. Freshman Maggie Jameson said, "I'm so lucky to be able to play with such incredible volleyball players, and they're even better friends. Ella and Zoey have an uncanny ability to put a smile on everyone's face on and off the volleyball court."

With league games quickly approaching, the Panthers will continue to rely on the Mao twins' on-court abilities as they aim for a Prep League title.

- Wiley Roberts and Spencer Wilson



## Save the Date

### POLY VS. CHADWICK VOLLEYBALL

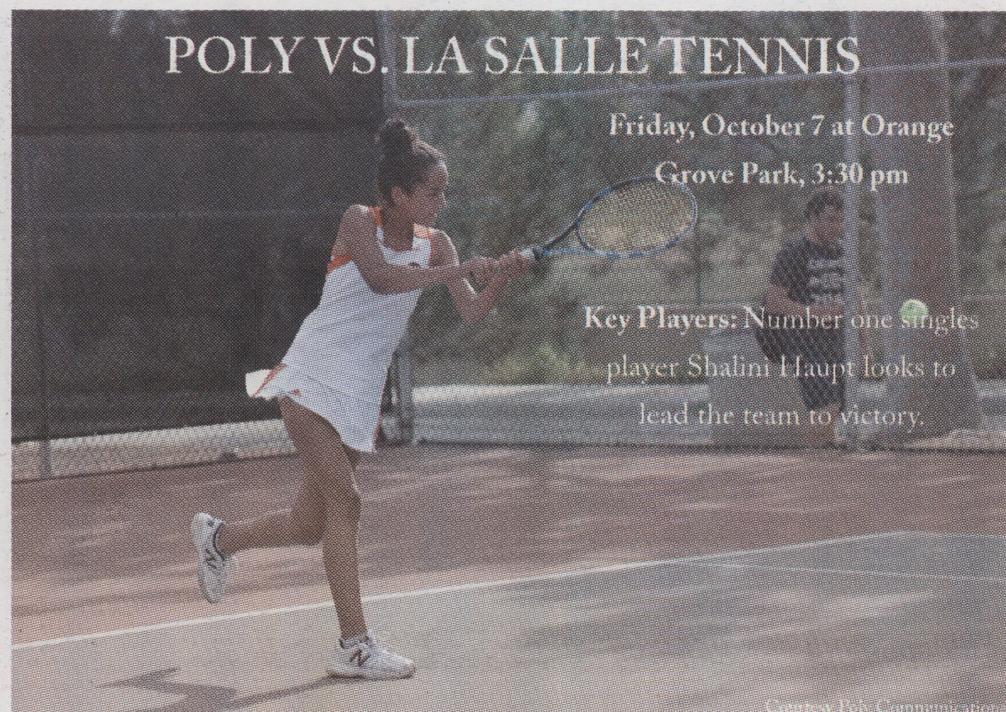
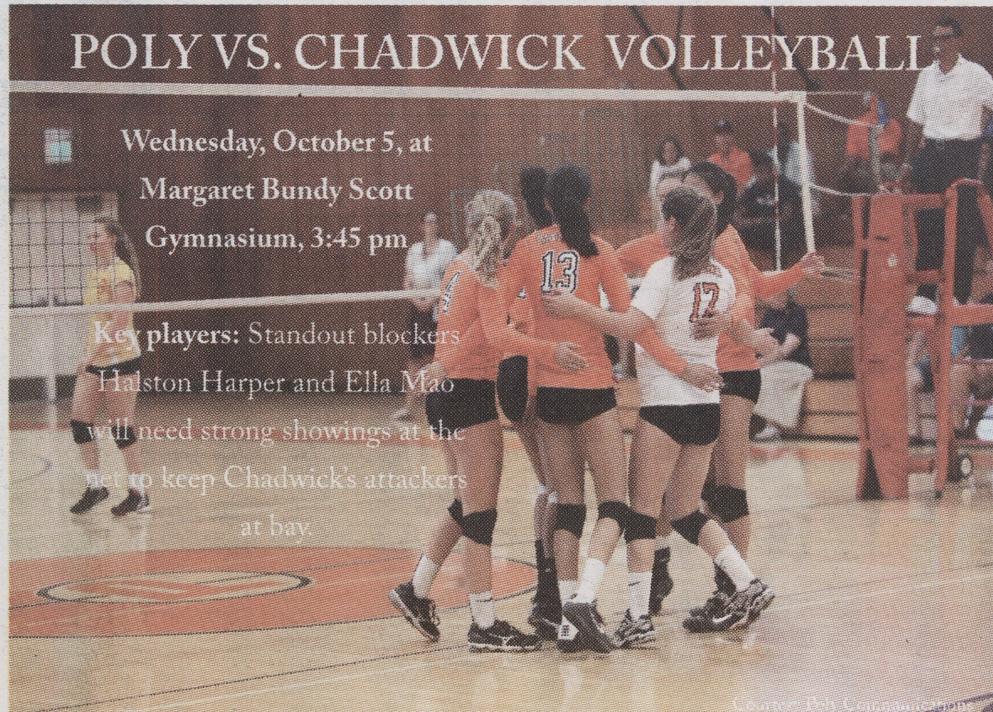
Wednesday, October 5, at  
Margaret Bundy Scott  
Gymnasium, 3:45 pm

**Key players:** Standout blockers Halston Harper and Ella Mao will need strong showings at the net to keep Chadwick's attackers at bay.

### POLY VS. LA SALLE TENNIS

Friday, October 7 at Orange  
Grove Park, 3:30 pm

**Key Players:** Number one singles player Shalini Haupt looks to lead the team to victory.



Courtesy Poly Communications

Courtesy Poly Communications